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Biomedical campus gets \$15M for animal research facility

Phoenix Business Journal - by [Angela Gonzales](#)

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The University of Arizona's medical school in downtown Phoenix is moving ahead with plans to build a \$15 million underground animal research facility on the **Phoenix Biomedical Campus**.

The **University of Arizona College of Medicine - Phoenix** in partnership with **Arizona State University**,



Jim Poulin/Phoenix Business Journal

The Phoenix Biomedical Campus is getting \$15 million in stimulus money to build animal research facilities.

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received a \$15 million grant from the **National Institutes of Health**. The funding was made possible by an increase in stimulus funding, said Dr. William Crist, UA's vice president for health affairs. The university had applied for the funding in a competitive bidding process for construction grants.

UA also responded to two other \$15 million request for proposals to expand two other projects on its Tucson campus. One is to renovate space in its pharmacy school and the other is to expand its optical science research space.

"The grants are to allow you to make rapid progress in an area," Crist said.

The Phoenix project will encompass a 22,000-square-foot laboratory to house a vivarium, or animal quarters for rodents, rats and mice, Crist said.

"You can't do research without animal quarters," he said. "Medical schools typically need animals. We don't have any on this campus."

He said the research facility will be shared with other tenants on campus, including the **Translational Genomics Research Institute**, or TGen.

"TGen doesn't have enough animal quarters as it is," Crist said. "We're going to build enough animal quarters to serve the whole campus when it's complete."



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The project will be underground in the middle of the Phoenix Biomedical Campus, he said.

“You won’t even see it connecting to the existing buildings,” Crist said.

Dr. Raymond Woosley, president and CEO of The **Critical Path Institute** in Tucson, said animal research is crucial.

“Careful, humane, efficient research that involves animals and conducted by properly trained scientists is absolutely essential for human health and the development of new therapies for serious human diseases,” he said. “Without this research, none of the medical advances we enjoy today would have been possible.”

Robert Green, president and CEO of the **Arizona BioIndustry Association**, said he is impressed with the collaborative efforts among Arizona researchers.

“The recently awarded \$15 million stimulus grant to the College of Medicine-Phoenix by the National Institutes of Health is testimony that not only is this collaborative spirit working here in Arizona, but that it is nationally recognized and supported,” Green said.

Jack Jewett, president and CEO of the **Flinn Foundation**, said he is glad to see the the project creating jobs. In addition to the 250 construction jobs, an additional 33 permanent research jobs will be created.

He said the project represents “new jobs, millions of dollars coming into Arizona, and a step forward in building an essential component of Arizona’s pursuit in the knowledge-based economy.”

University of Arizona: www.arizona.edu.


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