



California Biotechnology: The Value of HEALTH

Imagine a day when there is a cure for cancer, treatments to overcome Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, and therapies that allow people with spinal cord injuries to walk again. That day will soon be a reality thanks to remarkable medical breakthroughs by California's biotechnology industry.

California is the proud birthplace of the biotechnology enterprise that has led the world in transforming science into medicines for the past three decades.

- It was here that the first biotech medicine was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and where the world's first-in-class treatments for cancer, heart disease, diabetes, AIDS, organ transplants, neurological and many other illnesses are developed.
- Biotech is the second largest industry in the state with nearly 2,700 California-based companies, and a workforce of 267,600—more than in telecommunications, aerospace and the motion picture industry combined.
- With more than 800 new medicines now in California's research and development pipeline, our biotech companies are on the cutting edge of the next wave of medicines and devices that will revolutionize health care throughout the world.
- These life-saving medicines will drastically alter the way health care is delivered by saving lives, limiting costly hospitalizations and surgeries, and reducing visits to the doctor.

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California's biotech scientists hold the promise of medical miracles. Saving and improving lives by pioneering new approaches to the prevention, treatment and cure of diseases is the ultimate goal of the life sciences industry.

Biotechnology moves far beyond the average prescription drug, utilizing human DNA to produce therapies that treat virtually every known medical need. New advances in technology mean disorders previously untreatable can be managed and, in some cases, cured:

- Cures for cancer, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and spinal cord injury most likely will be found in the next five to ten years –and most likely by California-based companies.
- Deaths from heart disease have dropped sharply with the introduction of biomedical pacemakers, stents, statins and clot-busting drugs.
- Breakthrough biotechnology treatments have helped transform HIV infection from a deadly diagnosis into a manageable chronic disease for most patients.
- Prior to the discovery and production of human insulin by California's biotech industry, patients had to rely on insulin derived from pig and cow pancreata to treat diabetes, which often caused severe side effects.