

## GRAND RAPIDS SMARTZONE: THE WEST MICHIGAN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

Centrally located along the 'Medical Mile' in downtown Grand Rapids, the Grand Rapids SmartZone<sup>SM</sup> is dedicated to helping science and technology entrepreneurs commercialize their discoveries. The Grand Rapids SmartZone, otherwise known as the West Michigan Science & Technology Initiative (WM-STI), or 'The Initiative,' is a place where new high-tech ventures, including biotech, life sciences, information technology and advanced manufacturing can access a host of services to grow their businesses. The business accelerator serves as a one-stop-shop from ideation through product development to market.

The Initiative partners with Grand Valley State University, the city of Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Community College, the Van Andel Institute (VAI) and The Right Place, Inc., the region's economic development resource. The partnership has also expanded to include health care providers such as Spectrum Health Center, Michigan Medical, PC., Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital and Saint Mary's Health Care.

### The West Michigan Science & Technology Initiative offers:

- Intensive network of business, professional and technical services
- Access to university faculty, undergraduate and graduate student research and student interns
- Links to sources of knowledge and expertise via the university and private industry resources
- State-of-the-art wet labs and office incubator space
- Coordination of community research resources
- Business development services
- Assistance with federal grants and capital acquisition
- Access to investors and preparation for presentations
- Assistance with technology, business and commercialization strategies
- Market research
- Research and development solutions
- Access to business and scientific advisors
- Management recruitment

- Professional legal services
- Matching entrepreneurs with regionally 'mined' technologies and ideas to create new business enterprises and expand into new markets

### RESOURCES AVAILABLE WITHIN THE GRAND RAPIDS SMARTZONE

#### WMSTI New Venture Center

The New Venture Center offers businesses and researchers access to state-of-the-art research and development facilities, including wet labs, tissue culture labs, a cold room, a warm room, a sterilization area, cell and molecular biology labs, offices and conference rooms. For more information, visit [wmsti.org/newventure.asp](http://wmsti.org/newventure.asp).

#### Van Andel Research Institute

This world-class research institute is dedicated to improving human health and cancer research is conducted here. For more information, visit [vai.org](http://vai.org).

#### Grand Valley State University Cook-DeVos Center for Health Science

The new Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences is now home to several health related programs and The Initiative, allowing technology businesses access to state-of-the-art resources and research.

#### Grand Rapids Community College

The 'first community college in Michigan' enrolls 24,000 students annually with programs in math, sciences, computer applications and manufacturing. For more information, visit [grcc.edu](http://grcc.edu).

#### Michigan Technical Education Center<sup>SM</sup> (M-TEC)

Assists regional business and industry by proactively training workers in core applied processes defined by area businesses. For more information, visit [MichiganAdvantage.org/M-TEC](http://MichiganAdvantage.org/M-TEC).

#### Regional Medical Providers

Recognized for their clinical programs, community service and patient care operations, health care providers such as Spectrum

Health Center, Michigan Medical, PC., Mary Free Rehabilitation Hospital and Saint Mary's Health Care, are all resources for life sciences companies looking to commercialize new ideas.

### GRAND RAPIDS SMARTZONE START-UP COMPANY SUCCESSES

Grand Rapids Aseptic Pharmaceutical Packaging (GRAPP)

Grand River Aseptic Pharmaceutical Packaging is a pharmaceutical contract manufacturing organization (CMO) supporting the rapid development of new biomedicines to the clinical stage in the State of Michigan.

### Center for Molecular Medicine (CMM)

CMM is a first-of-its kind joint venture between the Van Andel Institute, a leading independent medical research organization, and Spectrum Health, a nationally recognized health care delivery system with seven hospitals and 140 service sites. The CMM combines Spectrum Health's clinical resources, which serve 650,000 patient visits annually, and the Van Andel Institute's translational research and bioinformatics expertise with the latest in genomics and proteomics technology. Within this framework, the CMM offers the clinical and translational research communities access to robotic DNA and RNA extraction, DNA microarrays, multiplex protein detection, gene expression profiling and more.

### ClinXus

ClinXus is a non-profit community based alliance established in West Michigan to enable biomarker driven and innovative clinical trial designs as recently defined by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and European regulatory agencies. The alliance is comprised of existing community health care, clinical, research, and educational organizations. It seeks to establish a 21st century 'open-architecture' biomarker driven clinical trials network to serve the increasingly molecular-based medical applications. The ClinXus network is dedicated to improvement of the clinical trial process by applying solutions and services related to innovative patient access, biomarker implementation and trial designs.

### Avalon Laboratories

Avalon Laboratories designs and develops disposable medical devices for diverse customers in the healthcare industry. Avalon was founded in 2004 and has its offices in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

### Elkins Innovations

Elkins receives services through The Initiative to help develop prosthesis and medical devices, including SBIR funding assistance. They have received both Phase I SBIRs from NIH and NSF specifically for the development of an alternative hand prosthesis which wirelessly controls the foot. This offers multiple degrees of freedom in hand movement, creating a new paradigm for hand and arm amputees.

### SoyUltima

SoyUltima, LLC conducts research on soybean utilization for the development of new foods, beverages and ingredients with enhanced health benefits for functional foods and beverages. Proprietary SoyUltima soy powder has been commercialized as a base material in milk-free food and beverage, including flavored (fruit, chocolate and vanilla flavored) soymilk, soy-based yogurt, soy ice cream, soy-milkfruit juice blends and other dairy product analogues. The soy powder has also been formulated with potato-flakes to manufacture healthy salty snack foods.

### SMARTZONE CONTACT

The Grand Rapids SmartZone Web link is [wmsti.org](http://wmsti.org). The contact phone number and email address are 616.331.5840 and [wmsti@gvsu.edu](mailto:wmsti@gvsu.edu).

### Grand Rapids:

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[Click here](#) for a map of the Michigan SmartZone network.