



San Antonio expected to become bigger global research player as result of Cytocentrics deal

[Cytocentrics'](#) decision to relocate its headquarters to San Antonio from Germany should foster greater collaboration among San Antonio institutions, while attracting more top-level talent to the region.

Cytocentrics is advancing research on ion channels present in the membrane of human cells.

“By reading what is going on in those pores, we can figure out what’s happening to a cell when it is interacting with a drug,” the company’s CEO, James Garvin, said. “By understanding that better, we can change the face of medicine.”

Cytocentrics has applied for a new patent for machinery which medical personnel could roll to a patient’s bedside and then extract from that patient a biopsy of his or her particular cancer tumor. Medical experts could then run tests on that biopsy without leaving the patient’s bedside.

“What takes months (with chemotherapy treatment) could take a few hours with this technology,” Garvin said.

The impact of Cytocentrics research could help redefine the way drugs are screened and the treatment patients ultimately receive.

“This is not just about the jobs that Cytocentrics will create. It’s also about the indirect effect (of its research efforts), both scientifically and commercially, which will be very big,” said Targeted Technology co-founder [Paul Castella](#), when asked what impact the company will have on San Antonio.

Garvin said Targeted Technology played a critical role in bringing [Cytocentrics](#) to San Antonio.

For San Antonio to raise its stature in the biosciences, it must continue to attract more research talent. Both the University of Texas at San Antonio and the [University of Texas Health Science Center](#) at San Antonio will collaborate with Cytocentrics through the Center for Innovative Drug Discovery, a joint venture of the two Alamo City institutions.

“From a UTSA perspective, as we are rising to Tier 1 (research status), one of the main ingredients of this is getting top-level people from around the country to come here as faculty,” said Mauli Agrawal, vice president of research for the university. “This partnership will catapult us. For this company to come in ... it will help provide great incentives for researchers and will help us attract more faculty.”

Health Science Center President William Henrich is equally optimistic that Cytocentrics’ presence in San Antonio will prove to be a game-changer.

“This will open up new opportunities for research. It will deepen relationships and fortify ties between institutions, including our ties with UTSA, the city and the bioscience industry,” Henrich said.

Henrich said Cytocentrics’ technology will accelerate drug screening and position San Antonio as a place where more pharmaceutical companies will look to send their candidate drugs.

“It’s my belief that this will open up new inroads to research,” Henrich said.

Source: http://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/news/2015/06/12/san-antonio-expected-to-become-bigger-global.html?ana=e_du_pub&s=article_du&ed=2015-06-12&u=vUeD0b7URYSKgsU505ky4LII6Z4&t=1435224242

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