



Cytocentrics has big plans for San Antonio

Cytocentrics has passed on better financial offers, choosing to move its headquarters from Germany to San Antonio because of the collaborative opportunities available in the Alamo City. That decision could provoke other bioscience companies and talent to consider a move to South Texas.

One thing is certain: Cytocentrics plans to create more high-wage jobs in its new home.

“The vast majority of jobs will be laboratory technicians,” Cytocentrics CEO James Garvin said. “These will be white-lab-coat jobs.”

But the impact of Cytocentrics’ move to San Antonio could be more far-reaching as the company advances its research on ion channels present in the membranes of human cells. Garvin said that work could have a significant impact on the drug development industry — and on San Antonio.

“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,” Garvin, said. “By understanding that better, we can change the face of medicine.”

Cytocentrics will collaborate with multiple Alamo City organizations, including the University of Texas at San Antonio and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, to advance its research. Garvin said the company will also work closely with the Center for Innovative Drug Discovery, a joint venture of UTSA and the Health Science Center.

“This partnership will catapult us,” said Mauli Agrawal, vice president of research for UTSA. “It will help provide great incentives for researchers and will help us attract more faculty.” Health Science Center President Dr. William Henrich said the collaboration with Cytocentrics will open 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.

He 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.

“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 Paul Castella, co founder Targeted Technology, which played a key role in attracting Cytocentrics to San Antonio.

Source: http://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/print-edition/2015/06/19/cytocentrics-has-big-plans-for-san-antonio.html?ana=e_ph_prem&u=xwaEjfzicoSEklpSFGfyN5CB%2FzV&t=1434720035#i1

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