



Birmingham is on the front lines of medical research: take a look at this incredible biotech startup

I went to Soluble Therapeutics this morning, a trip I've been looking forward to for a couple of weeks. It's located at Innovation Depot, which you can find on my #bhamtech public map [here](#). I met with John McCarter, who I've known for a while now. He's the Director of Business Development at this booming company and a great guy, all around.

John was born in Memphis, TN but spent most of his formative years in Virginia.

He went to Virginia Tech first and achieved an undergraduate degree in Marketing with a minor in Spanish.

He moved to Alabama with family in 2007 and went to work at the University of West Alabama while also completing another undergraduate degree, this time in chemistry.

In 2009 he landed in Birmingham and completed a masters degree in Biotechnology by 2011. Before he graduated, he went to work for Soluble Therapeutics as a lab intern. He moved to the business side of the company in 2012.

Let's talk about Soluble Therapeutics for a minute, because their technology is genuinely amazing:

What do they do?

Soluble Therapeutics is a biotechnology company that has developed a completely original method of optimizing protein solutions for use in many different industries, especially in the medical field.

Proteins are kind of finicky and don't do well in solutions. They tend to break down by destructively bumping into one another until the solution is useless. We need to find ways of keeping the proteins in good shape for long periods of time so that they are effective when they are delivered. And we need reliable methods of testing these solutions to make sure of this.

Soluble Therapeutics' method is incredibly efficient as compared to other methods of protein solution diagnostics. Literally saving the companies and institutions that use their tools and services hundreds of thousands of dollars and untold amounts of time, but returning just as reliable results.

Why this is important?

Biologics, some believe, is the future of medical treatment. Soluble Therapeutics' technology makes the reliable testing of those treatments much faster and cheaper than previous methods. In other words, they're making the future of medicine happen faster. And they're doing it right down the road on 1st Avenue North.

Proteins?

Yes, proteins.

To state it simply: every function in your body is the result of proteins carrying out the instructions of DNA (you remember DNA, right?). Sometimes, those proteins malfunction. That malfunctioning of proteins is what we call 'disease'. Cancer is a great example of protein malfunctions gone crazy.

John wrapped it up this way: "Biologics are the fastest growing type of pharmaceuticals in development - as we learn more about the biology of certain diseases and the protein signaling pathways associated with each pathology, more protein-based interventions will definitely make it to market."

These folks are on the cutting edge of that development.

Soluble Therapeutics are a spin-off startup of the research being done at UAB's Center for Biophysical Sciences and Engineering (CBSE), which is also on the #bhamtech public map. More on Soluble Therapeutics as well as some of the stuff going on at the CBSE, coming soon.

www.soluble-therapeutics.com

30 July 2014

