

San Antonio biotech firm CEO is heading west

[StemBioSys](#) President and CEO [Bob Hutchens](#) is packing his bags and preparing to soar the friendly skies to La Jolla, California, where he will be among the presenters at the 2015 Partnering Forum next week.

The conference will bring together senior executives and top decision-makers from the scientific community engaged in the advancement and translation of cutting-edge research. It's part of the Stem Cell Meeting on the Mesa, a three-day event that is expected to attract nearly 800 attendees, including leading cell therapy, gene therapy and tissue engineering companies, as well as large pharma and biotech industry investors.

StemBioSys could get a boost from the extra exposure. So could San Antonio, which is seeking to lure more biotech companies and investors.

I asked Hutchens recently what it will take for San Antonio to gain more ground on major bioscience hubs like Boston, San Diego and San Francisco.

"Probably our biggest challenge is the head start that these cities have. Boston and San Diego, for example, have an enormous critical mass of universities and bioscience companies. This critical mass translates into simple things like having sufficient, appropriate space for emerging companies, and to more complex things like a robust venture capital network and a large base of qualified people to draw from," he said. "We are making progress, but we still have a ways to go."

StemBioSys has licensed proprietary and disruptive technology from the [University of Texas Health Science Center](#) at San Antonio for the enhanced isolation, growth, and delivery of stem cells for research, diagnostic and therapeutic applications.

StemBioSys has captured the attention of more industry peers and investors over the last several months. In April, I reported that the company had closed on \$8 million in Series A preferred stock financing to support the launch of its initial product — the HPME, or High Performance Microenvironment advanced stem cell culture system.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/news/2015/09/30/san-antonio-biotech-firm-ceo-is-heading-west.html>

September 30th 2015