



# THE PLAIN DEALER

## **Akron area's BioInnovation Institute is a bet on the future - editorial**

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There is, of course, no guarantee that Akron's newly announced BioInnovation Institute will become the global center of orthopedic and biomaterials research that its founders envision. But this is certain:

Regions that don't collaborate wisely, invest aggressively in building on their strengths and embrace the technologies of tomorrow will not move ahead.

So give Akron Children's Hospital, the Akron General Health System, the Summa Health System, the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine and Pharmacy and the University of Akron credit. They understand that, by working together, they have a chance to reach a scale of innovation and investment that will attract top researchers and seed new products and jobs that could revitalize this region's economy.

Thanks to investments from those partners, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the state of Ohio and private supporters including FirstEnergy Corp., the BioInnovation Institute has \$80 million in start-up money. It also has strong allies - including the business accelerator BioEnterprise - and an ambitious agenda to develop, test and market cutting-edge medical devices and products.

It's the kind of big bet a smart region makes to secure its future prosperity.

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