



THE PLAIN DEALER

Our ally, Pittsburgh

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Bioscience advocates in Northeast Ohio have begun working with partners near Pittsburgh to lure major-league venture capital and recognition.

Cleveland and Pittsburgh playing on the same team? Oddly enough, yes, because this idea really makes sense.

The two cities have complementary resources for turning high-tech ideas into drugs and other new products, for helping start-ups grow, for linking fledging firms with savvy management and for winning over investors based outside the Midwest.

Together, they boast more than 700 bioscience companies, more than \$350 million in venture capital finance and about \$800 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health. They employ more than 25,000 people in health-related fields.

When teamed, the region's statistics beat those of areas much better known for bioscience, such as North Carolina's Research Triangle or Minnesota, home of the Mayo Clinic.

By linking with Pittsburgh, just a two-hour drive from most of Northeast Ohio's medical research institutions and companies, this area could better sell its assets - especially to potential investors and employees who come from out of town and might not know the depth of the industry here.

The partners behind the idea, BioEnterprise Inc. and Pittsburgh's equivalent, the LifeSciences Greenhouse, have only just begun to work together. Already, they've received encouraging feedback from out-of-town investors.

We're confident this is one bioscience invention that won't require years of testing to demonstrate its effectiveness.