



THE PLAIN DEALER

Health care conference drawing investors here

Saturday, April 26, 2008

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BioEnterprise, the region's health-care company developer, is putting the final touches on its second annual Global Healthcare Investing Conference.

The conference on Wednesday and Thursday at the InterContinental Hotel & Bank of America Conference Center in Cleveland will bring together about 250 venture capitalists from places like Israel, Japan, China, United Kingdom, France, Kuwait, Russia, India and Singapore.

The venture capitalists invest globally in health-care companies.

Investing in health-care companies and technologies across the world is a young practice done by only a handful of people, said BioEnterprise President Baiju Shah.

Most of those people will be in Cleveland next week attending inside-baseball sessions on trends in private health-care investing, tapping global capital and developing U.S. companies overseas.

"This is not a huge event," Shah said. "It's specifically for people [who] are playing at the cutting edge of trying to leverage the differences in opportunities in countries to speed the development of bioscience companies."

It's also for "finding interesting technologies from different countries and bringing them into the U.S. market," he said.

The conference is a way to acquaint the world's health care investors with the "vibrant health-care innovation environment we have here," Shah said. BioEnterprise folks also will work to connect the region's bioscience companies with potential investors.

You never know what might come from those connections.

Representatives from OrbiMed Advisors and Aisling Capital in New York, Fidelity Biosciences in Boston and Kearny Venture Partners in San Francisco attended the first global health care investing conference last year.

In February, the four health-care venture investors put \$25 million in a Gainesville, Fla., medical imaging and treatment technology maker ViewRay Inc. But there was a catch.

The investors required ViewRay to move to a center of bioscience innovation to get the money. Cleveland was among five regions the investors suggested.

ViewRay chose Oakwood.

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