



Introduction

In the Bluegrass Region and Kentucky, Lexington is a hub for the life sciences industry. Lexington has leveraged its culture of innovation and commercialization, a superior business climate, top ranked research programs at the University of Kentucky (UK), and an expansive network of medical centers to provide an environment where any market niche of the life sciences industry can grow. The life sciences industry has two components: direct patient care and biotechnology.

Direct patient care includes hospitals, nursing facilities, and medical centers, and it is a prominent market in Lexington with a strong base of health care facilities, employers, and resources. There are several major medical centers including Baptist Health, Shriner's Hospitals for Children, St. Joseph Hospital (part of KentuckyOne Health), and the UK Medical Center. In fact, the UK HealthCare System is an extensive network that includes four hospitals, over 80 specialized clinics, more than 140 outreach programs, and six health professional colleges. In 2016, the UK HealthCare network served over 650,000 outpatient visitors and performed 32,700 surgeries¹. The Lexington Clinic, a multi-specialty medical group with 25 locations throughout the Bluegrass Region, employs 200 physicians and provides services to more than 2,000 patients every day and 600,000 patients every year².



¹ UK HealthCare Annual Report 2017.

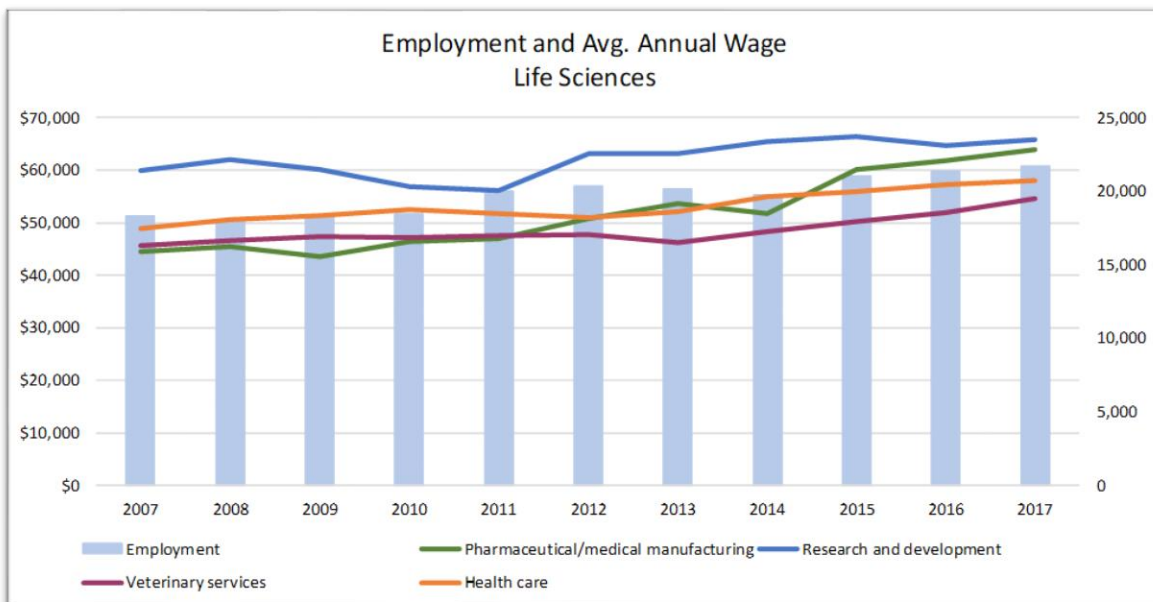
² <https://www.lexingtonclinic.com/aboutusoverview2.html>

Direct patient care is a major employment industry for Lexington, with a high-quality stock of human capital for medical professionals. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, over 19,480 people were employed as health care practitioners and technicians in 2017, including 300 family and general practitioners, 130 obstetricians and gynecologists, 80 optometrists, 50 Surgeons, 1,230 specialty therapists, and 7,250 registered nurses.

Biotechnology includes institutions involved with animal and plant science research and designing and manufacturing medical/veterinary products. Biotechnology is one of the fastest growing industries in the United States, and Lexington is committed to fueling its growth in the Bluegrass. In fact, over 50 biotech companies have chosen to locate in Lexington.

Health care and biotechnology are supported by strong ties to academic programs at the University of Kentucky. UK's College of Pharmacy is one of the nation's top pharmacy programs, ranked the 6th Best Pharmacy Programs by U.S. News³ in 2016. The cutting-edge medical research on disease and drug development performed by the graduate students and faculty has benefited the area and the nation. Graduates enrich the workforce and faculty members have created 25 startup companies since 1989. Furthermore, UK allocates nearly \$350 million to research and development annually, and the overwhelming majority of UK's R&D expenditures (over 70%) are devoted to the field of life sciences.⁴

Life science includes seven industries: pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing; medical equipment and supplies manufacturing; scientific research and development services; veterinary services; ambulatory health care services; hospitals; and nursing and residential care facilities. Fayette County is a major health care hub in Kentucky, with the second-most health care and social assistance establishments



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics, May 2017 Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Area Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates.

³ <http://grad-schools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-health-schools/pharmacy-rankings>

⁴ http://www.locateinlexington.com/Clex/media/Clex/CLED-BioBrochure2018_1.pdf;

and employees in the state earning the fourth-highest wages. In 2017, nearly 22,000 people were employed in the life sciences, earning an average salary of \$58,000.

Plant and Genetic Engineering

The Bluegrass Region has acquired a niche within the plant and genetic engineering segment of the life sciences industry, and many area companies are creating valuable pharmaceuticals. In 1980, scientist Dr. Pearse Lyons founded Alltech in Lexington, Kentucky. A top ten animal health company today, Alltech has bioscience centers in the U.S. and Ireland, offices and distributors in more than 120 countries, and nearly 100 production facilities globally, three of which are in Kentucky. In Lexington, the company is known for its beverage division. The Alltech Lexington Brewing and Distilling Co. produces an award-winning line of beers and spirits with a brewery and distillery in downtown Lexington and in Pikeville.

Naprogenix is a startup biotech research company that derives compounds from native Kentucky plants to develop new technologies. Plants have a variety of uses in food and medicine and Naprogenix enhances specific bioactivity and qualities of native plants through genomics and molecular pharmacology to increase their usefulness to the pharmaceutical, health, and agrochemical industries. Naprogenix's products are natural, giving the company a competitive advantage as consumers increasingly pull away from synthetic ingredients in both chemicals and medicines.

Similarly, ParaTechs Corporation recently developed a bio-insecticide targeting corn earworm moths, the highest crop-damaging pest in North America and the second-highest worldwide. ParaTechs's bio-insecticide is a mutated nudivirus, a sexually transmitted disease that sterilizes 100% of corn earworm moths it infects, compared to a 30% effectiveness rate when the nudivirus occurs in nature. In addition to increased effectiveness, ParaTechs's bio-insecticide reduces the need for chemical pesticides and is unlikely to affect other species that do not mate with corn earworm moths. As a startup, ParaTechs was originally housed in UK's Advanced Science and Technology Commercialization Center (ASTeCC) before moving to its current location in 2010.



ParaTechs's lab space, courtesy of Angelika Fath-Goodin.

A third Lexington company developing enhanced organisms is MosquitoMate. Founded by University of Kentucky researchers in 2010, MosquitoMate has developed a biopesticide to reduce or eliminate Asian tiger and *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes through sterilization. These pests carry several diseases that are harmful to people and animals, such as dengue, yellow fever, heartworm, West Nile virus, chikungunya

fever, and the Zika virus. MosquitoMate infects male mosquitoes with a form of Walbachia bacteria and releases them to mate with females, who are permanently sterilized by the Walbachia. As a result, the next generation of mosquitoes is reduced and the spread of disease is prevented. MoquitoMate's biopesticide is not transmitted to humans, animals, or other insects, and does not include chemicals or genetic modification.



Hera BioLabs Inc. is a Lexington-based Contract Research Organization (CRO) and a spinoff of Transposagen Biopharmaceuticals, which Commerce Lexington recruited in 2008. Hera BioLabs is a toxicology and personalized therapeutic testing company. Hera uses gene editing tools and services to manufacture genetically specialized products and services. The company utilizes their gene editing technologies to establish preclinical research models for oncology & immuno-oncology. In 2016, Hera announced an investment of \$1.8 million to move its operations from its current location on the University of Kentucky campus and establish a new headquarters, creating 23 new high-skill jobs in Lexington. In 2018, the company proceeded with a full launch of their OncoRat SRG platform and xenograft efficacy services.

Medical Application Technology

Application technology for the medical industry and pharmaceuticals is another segment of the life sciences industry being developed in Lexington. Several companies are headquartered in the UK Coldstream Research Campus, including Summit Biosciences and Intralink-Spine, Inc.

Summit Biosciences develops nasal delivery forms of pharmaceuticals traditionally manufactured as oral or injection products. Compared to tablets or capsules, nasal delivery uses a lower dose of the active ingredient and bypasses the digestive system, providing fast-acting aid. In many cases, nasal delivery can replace the hypodermic syringe and the biohazards associated with their use and disposal. In 2016, Summit Biosciences received FDA approval of the Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) for Sumatriptan Nasal Spray, a generic version of GlaxoSmithKline's Imitrex Nasal Spray to treat migraines in adults. Summit Bioscience developed Sumatriptan for commercialization by Lannett Company Inc. and will continue manufacturing the product at their facility in UK's Coldstream Research Campus.

Intralink-Spine, Inc. develops and manufactures Rejuve, an injectable medical device to treat degenerative disc disease (DDD), lower back pain, and related spinal disease by stabilizing and reinforcing tissue, joints, and spinal discs. Intralink-Spine located in Lexington after receiving an SBIR match grant from the state in 2010. Currently, Intralink-Spine is in the process of expanding clinical trials into the European market.

Piramal Pharma Solutions is a specialty pharmaceutical contract manufacturer of sterile liquid and lyophilized parenterals and injectables. Originally founded as Coldstream Laboratories by the University of Kentucky Research Foundation in 2007, the company was purchased by Piramal Enterprises Limited for \$35 million in 2015 to enhance Piramal's products by acquiring Coldstream's expertise in developing and manufacturing sterile injectables. Piramal kept operations in Lexington, where the company continues to thrive.

NX Development Corporation is a Lexington biotech company responsible for creating Gleolan (aminolevulinic acid HCL), the only optical imaging agent with FDA approval for use during fluorescence-guided surgery in patients with glioma. Gleolan is a supplement created to aid in the visualization of a patient's malignant tissue. NX Development's new technology makes it easier for surgeons to see tumors during their removal.

In nearby Versailles, ECM Biosciences develops antibodies and other biological reagents for life science research in neuropathology, cancer, immune dysfunction, and cardiovascular disease. ECM Biosciences also offers custom antibody testing and production services and works in collaboration with other researchers around the world.



There are several national and international corporations in the medical device manufacturing industry currently located in Lexington. For example, LexPlastics manufactures plastic injection molding components that are used in a variety of medical, dental, automotive, and industrial applications including hospital beds, intravenous delivery systems, and oxygen concentrators. LexPlastics exports to Asia, Mexico, and India.

Neogen Corporation is a biotech company that produces food and animal safety products and technology. Founded in 1982, Neogen has grown to more than 1,000 employees in multiple U.S. and international locations. Utilizing many technologies spun out of University of Kentucky-based research, Neogen develops, manufactures, and markets a diverse line of products dedicated to food and animal safety. Neogen's Animal Safety Division is located in Lexington and develops, manufactures, and markets diagnostics, veterinary instruments, pharmaceuticals, rodenticides, disinfectants, vaccines, and ELISA testing kits.

A cutting-edge animal health products company, MEP Equine Solutions recently developed an innovative parasite diagnostics and management tool, the Poop2Proof, with support from the University of Kentucky's Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center as a research facility partner. Poop2Proof detects and diagnoses parasites through on-site sample collection, filtration, and analysis using a smartphone app. The existing method of analyzing intestinal parasites required special equipment, user expertise, manually counting fecal eggs on a microscope slide, and several days of processing, but Poop2Proof is easy to use and produces immediate results on location.

Commercializing the Life Sciences Industry and Biotechnology in the Bluegrass

With an abundance of resources, the University of Kentucky is positioned to help companies with human capital and financing. Assisting companies with commercialization and technology transfer on the University of Kentucky campus are the ASTeCC/AgTeCC campus incubators, which provide lab space for startups and help connect researchers and entrepreneurs to economic development activities, such as commercialization and licensing. In addition, Lexington is home to the only research and development

business park in the state of Kentucky – UK’s Coldstream Research Campus. Coldstream, a 735-acre office park, was specifically designed for recruiting high-tech and biotech companies, university centers, and startups. Coldstream offers intellectual capital and resources from UK, as well as infrastructure for new and existing companies.

To further the progress of assisting life sciences entrepreneurs, Commerce Lexington Inc., the University of Kentucky, and the City of Lexington formed the Bluegrass Business Development Partnership (BBDP), which is funded by the City of Lexington. The BBDP’s goal is to be a one-stop, super-service provider, linking entrepreneurs with the information they need to be successful, including assistance in financial planning, business plans, funding sources, real estate, and service providers.



KY Innovation, a division of the Kentucky’s Cabinet for Economic Development, funds the Kentucky Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Matching Funds program to help create, recruit, and retain small businesses, including high-tech and biotech. The SBIR/STTR Matching Funds Program is an innovative initiative that provides matching funds up to \$150,000 for Phase I and up to \$500,000 for Phase II for Kentucky businesses. To date⁵, more than 250 Kentucky SBIR/STTR Matching Funds have been granted to small Kentucky businesses, totaling over \$61.36 million in state funding and \$112.5 million in federal funds. Small businesses and startups can also find help from the Bluegrass Angels, a local group of angel investors willing to provide seed capital and management guidance to local regional startups and new businesses. The BBDP has attracted over 28 new companies to Lexington because of the state match program, UK research assets, and great quality of life.

Local Attributes

Aside from an established life sciences industry in the local economy and a unique support system that emphasizes innovation, Lexington has numerous attributes to support the life sciences. Lexington’s workforce, strategic geographic location, low cost of doing business, and high quality of life are among the city’s strongest assets.

The 2017 Census data ranks Lexington the 14th most educated city in the nation among cities with populations of at least 300,000 people, with 41.8% of the population 25 years or older holding at least a bachelor’s degree. Even more impressive, 18% have an advanced degree, ranking Lexington #11 for advanced degree attainment. These high levels of educational attainment are at least partially due to the 10 colleges and universities within 40 miles of Lexington. Nearly 70,000 students are enrolled in these institutions, graduating over 17,000 annually. Lexington has received numerous accolades for its educated population, including being ranked the World’s 24th Smartest City by *National Geographic* in 2014, #1 Best

⁵ October 2017.

Midsized City for New College Grads Starting Careers by *Onlinedegrees.com* in 2016, and #2 Best Midsized City for New Grads by *OnlineDegrees.com* in 2018.

The Bluegrass Region's central location places Lexington within a 600-mile radius of the majority of the nation's employment, retail sales, and population. In addition, Kentucky's excellent transportation system of integrated state-maintained roads, interstates, and parkways the Bluegrass within overnight range of more than half of the U.S. market. Central Kentucky boasts two major interstate highways, Interstate-75 and Interstate-64. I-75, a major north-south corridor, and I-64, a major east-west route, intersect north and east of downtown Lexington. Lexington is also home to the Blue Grass Airport and is within an hour's drive of the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport and the Louisville International Airport.

Lexington and Kentucky are nationally ranked as having one of the lowest costs of doing business in the United States.

- #8 City with the Lowest Startup Costs by *SmartAsset* (2016)
- #8 Best City to Start a Business by *Hero Pay* (2017)
- #7 Lowest International Business Location Costs in the U.S. Northwest/Canada Region by *KPMG* (Kentucky, 2014)
- #5 Best Cost of Doing Business by *Business Facilities* (Kentucky, 2017)
- #8 Lowest Industrial Electricity Rates by *Business Facilities* (Kentucky, 2017)

Kentucky enjoys a tremendous competitive advantage in the provision of energy, natural gas, and water supply. Kentucky's industrial sector energy costs are among the lowest in the nation, averaging almost 20% lower than the national average. In 2017, *Forbes* ranked Lexington #34 Best Place for Business and Careers and *Area Development* ranked Kentucky #10 Best State for Doing Business in 2015.

While Lexington is a first-class place to locate a business, it is also one of the best places to live and raise a family. In addition to a low cost of living, affordable housing, and low commute times, the region enjoys a wealth of natural beauty and offers various outdoor activities. Lexington boasts many outstanding lifestyle and cultural amenities of a major metropolitan area including premiere horse-racing, numerous museums, and prestigious athletic teams. (Read more about living in Lexington in our [Quality of Life](#) and [Visitor Industries White Papers](#).)

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Appendix A – Biotech Companies in the Bluegrass

Alltech | alltech.com
AnnuLox | annulox.com
Biological Prospects | biologicalprospects.com
Biomedical Development Corporation | biodevcorp.com
Bluegrass Advanced Materials | bgamaterials.com
Catalent | catalent.com
CoPlex Therapeutics | 502-767-1020
CytolInformatics LLC | karyn.esser@uky.edu
ECM biosciences | ecmbio.com
EmeraMed | emeramed.com
Enzymax | enzymax.net
Equine Diagnostic Solutions | edslabky.com
Equithrive | equithrive.com
Exaatherm, LLC | mc3corp.com
F6 Pharma | bloftin@f6pharma.com
Gibson Bioscience | gibsonbioscience.com
GISMO Therapeutics, Inc. | gismotherapeutics.com
Hera Testing Laboratories | jcrawford@transposagenbio.com
Hummingbird Nano | hummingbirdnano.com
Intralink Spine | intralinkspine.com
Invenio Therapeutics Inc. | jagarwamukesh@yahoo.com
LGC Group | lgcgroup.com
Mapigroup | mapigroup.com
Medmovie.com | medmovie.com
MEP Equine Solutions | mepequinesolutions.com
MiRx Pharmaceuticals | mirxpharma.com
Mosquite Mate, Inc. | mosquitemate.com
Murty Pharmaceuticals | mpirx.com
Nano-Mite Technologies | nano-mite.com
Naprogenix Inc. | maprogenix.com
Neogen Corporation | neogen.com
NX Development Corp. | nxdevcorp.com
Oraceuticals Inc. | 859-253-5357
Orthopeutics | orthopeutics.com
ParaTechs Corporation | ParaTechs.com
PDx Biotech | periodx.com
Piramal Pharma Solutions | piramalpharmasolutions.com
Quanteon | quanteon.cc
RedLeaf Biologic | redleafbiologics.com
Seikowave | seikowave.com
Signal Solutions | sigsoln.com
Solidagex, Inc. | solidagex.com
Summit Biosciences Inc. | summitbiosciences.com
TEC Biosciences | tecbiosciences.com
Topasol | topasol.com
Transposagen Biopharmaceuticals | transposagenbio.com
Tribo Flow Separations LLC | triboflow.com
US Equestrian Federation | usef.org
Venture Laboratories | ventlabs.com
W-Z Biotech LLC | 859-494-4134

Appendix B – A List of Life Science Businesses in Lexington, KY

Abell Eyes Refractive Solutions
Afton Community Day
Allergy Partners of Central Kentucky
Amada Senior Care of Lexington
ARC Personal Care Services & Transportation LLC
Assurance for Life, Inc.
Baptist Health
Biomedical Development Corporation
Bluegrass Dermatology, PLLC
Bluegrass Internal Medicine Group, PLLC
Bluegrass Orthopaedics, P.S.C
Bluegrass Oxygen, Inc.
Brookdale Richmond Place
Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital
Caretenders of Central Kentucky
Central Brace and Prosthetics, Inc.
Central Kentucky Research Associates, Inc.
Cooley Medical Equipment
Dermatology Consultants, P.S.C.
Easter Seals Cardinal Hill
Eckman/Freeman & Associates
Emergency Medical Training Professionals, LLC
Equine Diagnostic Solutions
Eye Consultants of Kentucky, PSC
Family Allergy & Asthma
Forcht Group of Kentucky
Fred A. Schroeder Cosmetic & Family Dentistry
Gibson Laboratories, LLC
Goodwill Industries of Kentucky
Grace Place, The Health Club for Seniors
Grogan's Healthcare Supply
Hayswood Health Services, Inc.
Health Management Associates, Inc.
Highgrove at Tates Creek
Home Helpers / Direct Link
ITN Bluegrass
Jackie L. Banahan, DMD
Karim & Branch PSC
Kentucky Center for Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, P.S.C
Kentucky Ear Nose & Throat - Head & Neck Surgeons
KentuckyOne Health
Kentucky Surgery Center
Kleinert, Kutz Hand Care Center
KVC Behavioral Healthcare Kentucky, Inc.
Lexington Clinic, P.S.C
Lexington Diagnostic Center and OPEN MRI
Lifeline Home Health, LLC
Magnolia Springs Senior Living
Medpro Safety Products, Inc.
Morning Pointe of Lexington
New Legacy Recovery

OWL, Inc.
Pediatric & Adolescent Associates, PSC
Pleasant Meadow Assisted Living
Provision Living at Beaumont Centre
Quality Assurance Specialists, Inc.
Redpoint Medical, PSC
ResCare HomeCare
Retina Associates of Kentucky
Revive Ministries
Sayre Christian Village
Shriners Hospitals for Children
Sorrell Home Medical Equipment LLC
Superior Van & Mobility, LLC
The Breckinridge
The Lafayette at Lexington Country Place
The Willows at Citation
The Willows at Fritz Farm
The Willows at Hamburg
UK HealthCare
Wheeler's Custom Compounding

*An expanded directory of life science businesses in Lexington can be found [here](#).