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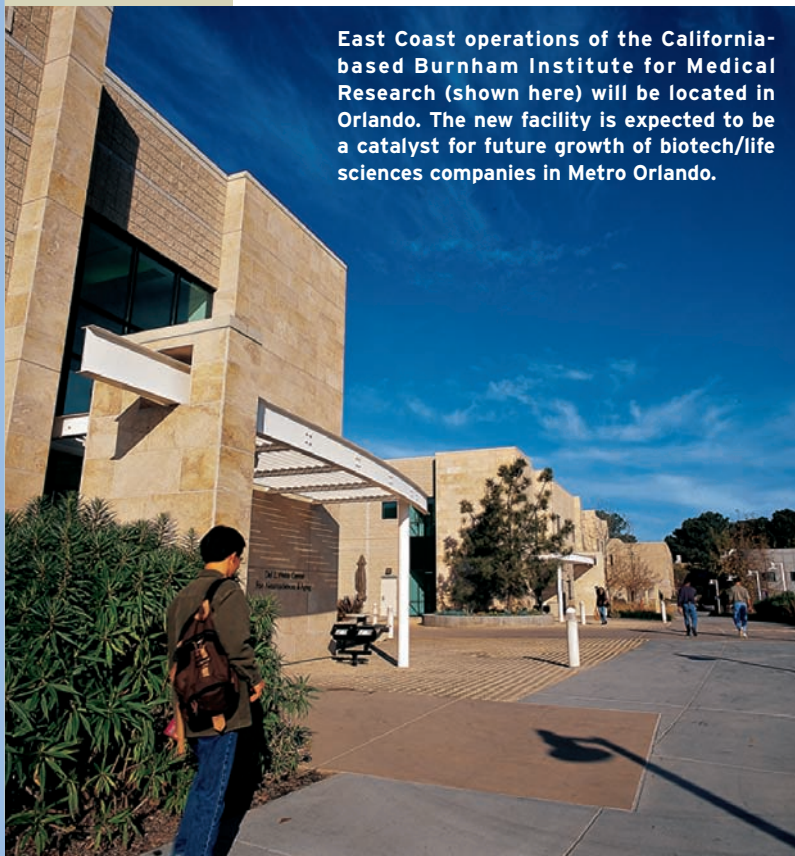
# The Burnham INSTITUTE

By Jennifer Wakefield

SETTING THE STAGE FOR A BIOMEDICAL CLUSTER IN METRO ORLANDO.



Few tasks are more worthy than working to unravel the mysteries of diseases that affect those we love. At the Burnham Institute for Medical Research, scientists work day in and day out trying to find treatments and cures for Alzheimer's, cancer, diabetes and a myriad of other diseases that may one day help those we care about most.



East Coast operations of the California-based Burnham Institute for Medical Research (shown here) will be located in Orlando. The new facility is expected to be a catalyst for future growth of biotech/life sciences companies in Metro Orlando.

It is a righteous mission. One that leaders in Metro Orlando and throughout the State of Florida recognize and embrace. That's why Florida has scrupulously courted biotechnology companies in recent years. And why an outpouring of community pride was felt when Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Dr. John Reed, president and CEO of the Burnham Institute for Medical Research, announced that Metro Orlando would become the future home of its East Coast operations.

## WHAT'S TO COME

Within the next few years, Burnham plans to create 300 research jobs and build a 175,000-square-foot facility in Orlando's Lake Nona area. The company's goals for their Florida location include expansion of capabilities in chemistry, pharmacology, and functional genomics, themes that will complement and fortify the Institute's

current commitments to cancer, degenerative diseases and infectious diseases, while allowing expansion into other areas, such as diabetes and obesity research.

## HOW IT HAPPENED

The effort to lure Burnham was the result of partnership between many different organizations, universities and governments. The recent approval of the University of Central Florida's medical school helped to solidify Burnham's choice of Orlando.

This prestigious company's choice also speaks volumes about the quality of the area's research and science communities, from the groundbreaking work being done at UCF, now the nation's 6th largest university, to the breakthrough treatment provided through two of the largest hospital systems in the world, Florida Hospital and Orlando Regional Healthcare, both of which are headquartered in Orlando.

"The expansion of The Burnham Institute's world-class biomedical research and operations into Florida illustrates the strength of the state's international reputation as a hub for cutting-edge biomedical research and development," according to Gov. Bush.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

In addition to the obvious worthiness of the medical advancements to take place, the announcement of Burnham's decision to locate in Metro Orlando has an enormous economic impact on the region.

The Burnham announcement will go down in Orlando's history as a milestone event. With the arrival of Burnham, Metro Orlando is instantly catapulted to the forefront of the nation's biomedical/life sciences efforts.

"The entire Metro Orlando community is excited ... this positions our state at the nexus point of some of the world's leading medical research and provides an opportunity to diversify our economy in a critical and much needed direction," says Ray Gilley, president and CEO of the Metro Orlando Eco-

omic Development Commission.

The Burnham Institute will bring high-wage, high-value jobs to the area with an average annual wage for positions to be created between \$60,000 and \$70,000, with some positions reaching as high as \$175,000. In comparison, the average annual wage in the Metro Orlando region is approximately \$35,000.

The facility will anchor the region's new 'medical city' in Orlando's Lake Nona community, which will also include the University of Central Florida's new medical school and a University of Florida medical research lab, with more to come.

In addition, the prestigious Burnham Institute is expected to be a catalyst for future growth of biotech/life sciences companies in Metro Orlando. Already home to 150 such companies, since the announcement in August, interest in biotech in the region has already significantly increased.

In 10 years, experts estimate job creation from additional developments in the realm of life science and health technology could exceed 10,000 jobs.

## FLORIDA'S BLOOD CENTERS, A BURNHAM PARTNER

**While the Lake Nona facility is under construction, through a partnership with Florida's Blood Centers (FBC), Burnham's east coast operations will be temporarily housed at the FBC's headquarters located on the corner of John Young Parkway and Sand Lake Road.**

**"We're excited to be able to assist in bringing such a prestigious institution to Orlando," says Anne Chinoda, CEO of FBC. "A partnership like this is an example of the impact that the Burnham Institute will have on this community. It will open many doors for Central Florida in years to come."**

**Florida's Blood Centers is the largest blood bank in Florida and the fourth largest independent blood bank in the nation. Additionally, FBC was one of the first blood banks in the country to implement new capabilities and services such as: frozen blood storage, a national clearinghouse system for exchanging blood, community branches, and bloodmobile collection. Closer to home, FBC is also the sole supplier of blood and blood products to 70 healthcare facilities in a 21-county area and collects more than 360,000 units of blood and blood products each year. To learn more about FBC, visit [www.floridasbloodcenters.org](http://www.floridasbloodcenters.org).**

## PARTICIPATION KEY

"The willingness of Florida universities to partner...has played a huge role in our decision," says Dr. John Reed, president and CEO of The Burnham Institute for Medical Research.

Three universities have begun a distinct collaboration specifically for this project. To expand R&D capabilities with Burnham, the University of Florida is bringing a significant research arm to Orlando. Burnham will be located adjacent to the new University of Central Florida medical school. And, Florida State University is also considering relocating their existing Orlando medical school program to the Lake Nona area.

## LOOKING AHEAD

In the future, when the medical community meets to discuss advances in containing infectious diseases, or a cancer patient's family rejoices over a critical breakthrough in treatment, Orlando will share in their celebration, knowing that this area has contributed to the success of Burnham scientists working to benefit not only the citizens of Metro Orlando, but the citizens of the world. 