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Orlando's 'medical city' at Lake Nona

A few years ago, a life science cluster was a dream for Orlando. Now, that dream is a reality as the Tavistock Group's Lake Nona development near Orlando International Airport is the home for an emerging 'medical city.'

With the 2006 announcements of a new University of Central Florida (UCF) College of Medicine and the Burnham Institute for Medical Research, Orlando was thrust upon the life sciences map.

Since that time, the Tavistock Group's Lake Nona – home to Orlando's 'medical city' – has been working on a master plan for the community bringing together the best of the best in everything. In addition to the UCF College of Medicine (with classes starting this fall) and the Burnham Institute for Medical Research at Lake Nona, several other facilities have decided to co-locate in this 'medical city' including:

University of Central Florida College of Medicine – This fall, UCF welcomes its inaugural class of 40 students, each of whom will receive a full four-year scholarship from nearly \$7 million in community donations.

Burnham Institute for Medical Research at Lake Nona – The Burnham Institute recently moved into their new building in Lake Nona's 'medical city.' This premier, non-profit, medical research facility focuses on treatments for cancer, Alzheimer's and other diseases.

MD Anderson Orlando's Cancer Research Institute (CRI) – By relocating its current facilities to Lake Nona's 'medical city', MD Anderson Orlando's CRI will partner with the UCF College of Medicine on research projects and some of the center's doctors will serve as faculty members.

Nemours Children's Hospital – Scheduled to open in 2012, Nemours' specialized hospital for children will be the central hub of a 60-acre pediatric health campus featuring a children's clinic, emergency department, diagnostic and ambulatory programs, education centers and research programs.

Orlando VA Medical Center – This \$600 million, state-of-the-art facility due to open in 2013 will increase accessibility to healthcare for approximately 400,000 Central Florida veterans and will be the first VA hospital built in the United States since 1995.

University of Florida Research Center – This 100,000 square foot research facility will be shared with the Burnham Institute and will enable the state's largest university to have direct collaboration opportunities with Burnham's top scientists.

By year 10 of operation, it's expected that Orlando's life sciences cluster will create 30,000 jobs and \$7.6 billion in economic impact.

With this emerging 'medical city' becoming a reality in 2009, Orlando has the right formula for growth for biotechnology and life science companies.

For more information, visit www.bioOrlando.com.