

# Hemex Health

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25 March 2025

Representative Daniel Nguyen  
House Committee On Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade  
900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Nguyen and Members of the Committee:

I am Patti White, the CEO and Co-Founder of Hemex Health based at the Oregon Bioscience Incubator. Hemex Health was founded in 2016 in Portland, Oregon. We develop affordable point-of-care diagnostics that quickly deliver reliable results. The company's diagnostic solutions are cost-effective for both low- and high-income countries, simple to use, and designed to provide reliable answers for clinicians to act.

Our solution is called Gazelle, a portable, battery-operated instrument that uses artificial intelligence, innovative optics, and miniaturization to enable a broader range of users to test for important diseases and conditions. Our initial focus is on chronic conditions that cause blood disorders. Gazelle is available for identifying hemoglobin variants, such as sickle cell disease and beta thalassemia, in over 40 countries. There have been over 2 million tests sold by Hemex Health in Africa, the Middle East, Europe and India. Gazelle is used in several India states for diagnosing sickle cell disease as part of the National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Program. We are adding additional tests to Gazelle such as Ferritin for iron deficient anemia. And this year we will be submitting to the US FDA for clearance to be able to market Gazelle in the US. In the US we see increasing demand for decentralized, affordable tests to diagnose and monitor chronic diseases.

I am writing to support House Bill 2417, the funding for the Oregon Translational Research and Development Institute (OTRADI) and the Oregon Bioscience Incubator (OBI), which have played a crucial role in fostering the growth of Oregon's bioscience sector

OTRADI is one of Oregon's Centers of Innovation Excellence. OTRADI is a non-profit institute funded primarily by the State of Oregon, under the umbrella of Business Oregon and the Oregon Innovation Council. OTRADI's mission is to fuel the economic development of Oregon's bioscience industry by enabling the translation of innovative research into products and companies that benefit human health and create high-wage jobs for Oregon.

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I would like to share our experience as a member of OBI and also to describe why this type of support is especially critical for bioscience development in Oregon.

**Value of Facilities and Job Creation:** OBI has been an excellent base for Hemex to get our start and to grow. It offered important lab space that was vital to our development process. Lab space can be prohibitively expensive to develop on your own in a generic rental. OBI and its supplemental services help make it more attractive and lower risk to start new bioscience companies.

By having our own lab we could then hire entry-level lab techs right out of college programs here in Oregon. We have trained and developed them to advance to positions in larger companies in the community and at OHSU.

**Helpful Expertise:** Since we develop our solutions under a regulated quality system that requires documented review by medtech experts, Hemex has been able to work with OTRADI's Entrepreneurs-in-Residence to have them participate in our design reviews. These reviews must be done periodically throughout the development cycle of the product and documented for our regulatory approvals.

OBI has also introduced us to investors and resource groups such as CTIP, a West-coast organization that is funded by the FDA and has helped us with funding and regulatory advice. Hemex has raised over \$33M in investment funding and \$12M in grants since we came to OBI. And we also employ 24 people here in Oregon. We have found OBI to be a very collaborative environment. We share our expertise and network as do the other organizations with us.

**Further Assistance Needed:** It's increasingly important to have visibility into Oregon-based grants, financial assistance, and emerging investors. With the recent leadership and policy changes at HHS, NIH, CDC, and the FDA, having local experts with federal insight or contacts is essential. Hemex has directly felt the impact—complete loss of a near-final USAID project and being unable to get any information on our \$1M NIH grant that's been delayed. In today's uncertain funding climate, continued support for OTRADI through the Centers of Innovation Excellence is vital to sustain this ecosystem and share best practices.

**Overall, bioscience is an investment that pays back to the state:**

- Each bioscience job creates additional positions in an economy
- Medical innovators bring in grant and equity funding to the state
- New bioscience solutions save in the cost and improve the efficacy of healthcare

In this current environment of change, it is more important than ever for our state to support our ecosystem to navigate these challenges. Hemex would like to voice our support for House Bill 2417 and for the Centers of Innovation Excellence.

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Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia White".

Patti White

CEO and Co-Founder

Hemex Health