

## Media Backgrounder

Tradition Center for Innovation (TCI) is a 150-acre, privately owned research park in the master-planned community of Tradition in Port St. Lucie, Florida. TCI is in the heart of southeast Florida's "Research Coast," a biotech and life sciences hub strategically located between key life science organizations in Orlando and Palm Beach (Figure 1).

### Key Members

TCI's first member was **Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies** in 2006, when the institute moved its headquarters from San Diego. The president of Torrey Pines Institute then recruited long-time collaborator Oregon Health & Science University's **Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute** (VGTI), which announced it would open a facility at TCI in 2008. Another member is **Mann Research Center**, which is planning a 410,000 square-foot life sciences complex adjacent to both facilities. **Martin Memorial Health Systems** is also planning on building a medical campus at the park. See **Table 1** for an overview of the park's members and leadership.

### A Culture of Collaboration and Commercialization

One of TCI's chief goals is to translate innovations from lab to the marketplace, with a focus on attracting world-class institutions specialized in drug discovery, immunology, medical devices and healthcare. The expertise and research programs of TCI's current members provide a solid foundation along the translational research continuum, from Torrey Pines Institute's rapid drug discovery methods to Martin Memorial Health Systems' experience in conducting clinical trials.

A spirit of cooperation bonds the members of TCI. Torrey Pines Institute is collaborating with Florida Atlantic University, the University of Florida, the University of Central Florida and the Scripps and Burnham Institutes, among others, on an array of projects. VGTI has basic and clinical research collaborations with several institutions, including Martin Memorial Health Systems, Moffitt Cancer Center, University of Miami, and Kaiser University.

A culture of entrepreneurship is also critical to moving an idea to the marketplace. VGTI and Torrey Pines Institute both encourage technology transfer and help their researchers obtain patents and spin off companies. In 2010, members of TCI formalized their culture of collaboration and commercialization by forming Florida Innovation Partners (FIP). FIP will direct TCI's growth by recruiting institutions that complement existing research programs, promoting collaborations with world-class institutions outside the park and promoting the commercialization of new discoveries made within the park.

### Fast facts



**Founded** 2006  
**Location** Tradition, a planned community in Port St. Lucie, Florida  
**Web site** [www.tciflorida.com](http://www.tciflorida.com)  
**Twitter** [www.twitter.com/ResearchParkFL](http://www.twitter.com/ResearchParkFL)

**Research focus**

- Drug discovery and manufacturing
- Immunology
- Medical devices
- Healthcare

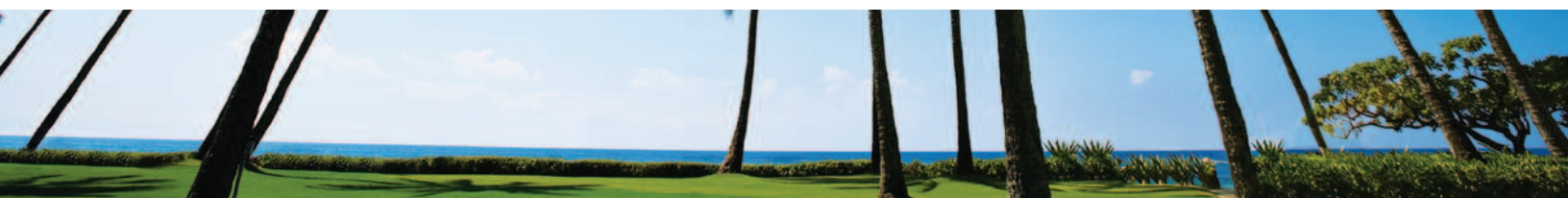
**Secured public funding for current institutions**  
\$201.5 million

**Expected economic impact by 2030**  
\$6 billion in gross state product,  
\$400 million in state revenues,  
and 9,000 direct and indirect jobs  
(Enterprise Florida)

**Research Park Area**  
150 acres

**Previous Name**  
Florida Center for Innovation

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## Private Research Parks Produce Results Faster

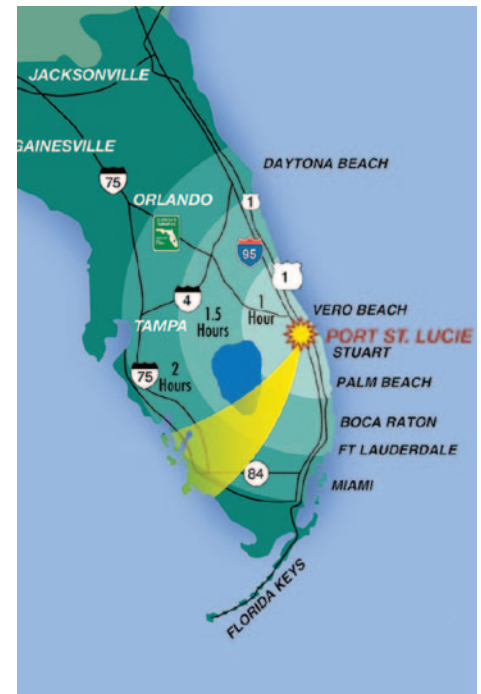
As a privately owned research park, TCI can work faster than public research parks. For instance, TCI moved from permitting to completing construction of Torrey Pines Institute's 100,000-square foot facility in 18 months. Another reason behind TCI's success has been the cooperation and support demonstrated by local and state government. Together, they provided more than \$200 million in funding to attract Torrey Pines Institute and VGTI as well as expedited permits for member institutions.

By 2030, research and commercialization endeavors at TCI are expected to generate more than \$6 billion in gross state product, \$400 million in state revenues, and 9,000 direct and indirect jobs.

## The Tradition Advantage

Tradition, named one of "America's 100 Best Master-Planned Communities," promotes a "24-7, Live, Work and Play" lifestyle that other research cluster communities can't match. Researchers who live in Tradition have an untraditional commute: they bike or walk to their labs, as well as shops, restaurants, hotels, schools, daycare and beaches. TCI's relocation programs for researchers' families also ease the transition and help secure jobs for spouses in Port St. Lucie, one of the fastest-growing and safest cities in America.

Strategically located near several universities and key research centers, TCI's members have access to an array of potential partnership opportunities and a ready pool of talent. Among the many nearby institutions is Scripps Florida, the East Coast facility of the world's largest non-profit biomedical research organization, The Scripps Research Institute. Close by in Jupiter, Florida is the Max Planck Florida Institute, the first U.S. center of the world-famous Max Planck Society.



**Figure 1:** TCI is strategically located in the heart of Florida's Research Coast between life science organizations in Orlando and Palm Beach.

**Table 1:** Anchor Institutions at Tradition Center for Innovation

Members	Research Focus	TCI Plans	Leadership
Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies	Basic biomedical research related to disease treatment with focus on drug discovery.	Opened its 100,000 square-foot research center at Tradition in early 2009.	Richard Houghten, Ph.D., founder and president
Vaccine & Gene Therapy Institute (VGTI) Florida	Rapidly develops vaccines and therapeutics for infectious disease, cancer, and immune diseases. Collaborative research groups span multiple disciplines, including immunology, cell biology, animal models, biochemistry, and mathematics.	Plans to build a 100,000 square-foot complex at Tradition to be completed by 2011. In the interim, VGTI Florida occupies part of the Torrey Pines Institute complex.	Rafick-Pierre Sékaly, Ph.D., co-director and scientific director Jay Nelson, Ph.D., founder and co-director
Mann Research Center	Leases and develops wet and dry lab space for mid-size and start-up organizations, in addition to medical offices.	Plans to build a 410,000 square-foot complex of research and development facilities at Tradition, including 100,000 square feet of medical offices.	John Del Russo, president Andy Favata, vice president
Martin Memorial Health Systems	Offers hospital care, cancer care, wellness and rehabilitation services as well as conducts clinical trials.	Plans to build a medical office complex and 300-bed hospital.	Mark Robitaille, president and CEO