



Report
Staff Report
The Corporation of the City of Brampton
2/19/2025

Date: 2025-01-29

Subject: **Wet Lab Feasibility Study**

Contact: Martin Bohl, Sector Manager, Economic Development

Report number: CAO's Office-2025-120

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the report from Martin Bohl, Sector Manager, Economic Development to the Committee of Council Meeting of February 19, 2025, re: **Wet Lab Feasibility Study**, be received;
2. That Council endorse the Attachment to this report titled Identifying the Needs for Lab Space in Brampton, dated November 7th, 2024, prepared by CBRE and Santis Health; and
3. That staff be directed to work with medical ecosystem partners to apply to funding programs (either federal or provincial) to support the infrastructure development for wet labs in Brampton.

OVERVIEW:

- **The City of Brampton's MedTech Task Force initiated a Request for Proposals (RFP) in May 2024 to explore whether establishing and operating a wet lab in the city would be financially viable and sustainable.**
- **The study considered potential public sector subsidies in case the private sector could not fully fund the project.**
- **The study also assessed possible partnerships with private sector entities, not-for-profits and other stakeholders to ensure long-term financing and management.**
- **The RFP process was competitive and concluded in July 2024, with CBRE and Santis Health selected as the consultants.**
- **During the summer and fall of 2024, the consultants conducted interviews with key stakeholders, including life sciences professionals,**

academics, government representatives and MedTech firms, to understand the demand and need for wet labs in Brampton.

- **The draft findings of the report were presented to the MedTech Task Force in November 2024, marking a key milestone in the evaluation of this potential project.**
- **The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the final study and direction for staff to work with Brampton’s medical ecosystem partners to apply to available funding programs (either federal or provincial) to support the development of wet/dry labs in Brampton.**
- **There is no financial impact resulting from the adoption of the recommendations in this report.**

BACKGROUND:

The health sciences sector in Brampton is undergoing a significant transformation. With new and established companies calling Brampton home and the start of Toronto Metropolitan University’s (TMU) new medical school – the first new medical school in the GTA in 100 years – Brampton’s health sciences sector is on the cusp of an exciting phase of growth.

To build on this momentum, the City of Brampton established the MedTech Task Force in partnership with TMU and other key stakeholders from the MedTech, post-secondary, and development sectors. The Task Force aims to attract investment to support science, research, and commercialization, foster the growth of Brampton’s health technology ecosystem, and create highly skilled jobs and training opportunities in the medical industry.

As a collaborative forum, the MedTech Task Force shares information and best practices on wet lab development and operations while exploring innovative solutions in the MedTech and life sciences sectors. By bringing together government representatives, private sector leaders, academics, and MedTech firms, the Task Force facilitated valuable discussions that shaped the direction of a wet lab feasibility study. To advance this initiative, staff issued a public tender for a consultant through a competitive RFP process, ultimately selecting the joint submission from CBRE and Santis Health as the successful proposal.

Brampton and Ontario need a network of innovation hubs with wet lab facilities that are integrated with health research and development, funding opportunities, and talent development. These hubs should support start-ups and growing health science firms by leveraging scientific expertise and institutional strengths. In Brampton that includes the Innovation District partners, Brampton Angel Investors, stakeholder members of the Task Force on MedTech, health corporations such as Boston Scientific, Dynacare, Taro, and

Medtronic, local colleges and universities (Algoma University, TMU, and Sheridan College), and the new Brampton Medical School run by TMU.

CURRENT SITUATION:

The draft findings of the of the study were presented to the MedTech Task Force Committee Meeting on November 7, 2024. During this meeting, the William Osler Health System also presented plans for their new Osler Research Institute for Health Innovation and The Ontario Centre of Innovation (OCI) provided an overview of potential funding opportunities. Following these presentations, the MedTech Task Force directed that the City of Brampton, along with its Task Force post-secondary and institutional partners, work together with OCI to develop a business case for applying to and obtaining support from the Ontario Centre of Innovation Life Sciences fund to advance medical innovation in Brampton ([MTTF008-2024](#)).

In summary, the feasibility study recommends that, in partnership with TMU and other ecosystem partners, the City:

1. Work with supporters at Queen's Park to ensure that Brampton is a benefactor of its Phase II of Ontario's Life Sciences Strategy.
2. Identify opportunities to access funding from the Federal Economic Development Agency (FedDev).
3. Raise awareness of the Brampton life sciences ecosystem.
4. Encourage collaboration between Brampton's anchor institutions.
5. Work with anchor institutions to determine their ability to integrate their future programming into a multi-tenant facility.

Encourage institutional labs and research requirements to come together in a collaborative, multi-tenant facility along the Queen Street Corridor.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

There is no financial impact resulting from the adoption of the recommendations in this report.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA:

Health and Well-Being: Focusing on citizens' belonging, health, wellness and safety. The Wet Lab Feasibility study is key to building on the momentum of the new TMU Brampton School of Medicine so that it can grow and thrive in Brampton.

Growing Urban Centres and Neighbourhoods: Focusing on an economy that thrives with communities that are strong and connected. The establishment of the Med Tech Task Force, the new TMU Brampton School of Medicine and the completion of the Wet

Lab Feasibility Study underscores the growing importance of the Health & Life Sciences sector in Brampton.

CONCLUSION:

The feasibility study reinforces Brampton’s commitment to advancing the health and life sciences sector, particularly with the new medical school and the ongoing work of the MedTech Task Force. By acting on the study’s recommendations, Brampton is poised to attract investment, foster innovation, and create a thriving ecosystem for health technology.

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Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Identifying the Needs for Lab Space in Brampton, dated November 7th, 2024, prepared by CBRE and Santis Health