



VIB

VIB: outstanding research, excellence in tech transfer

VIB is an excellence-based life science research institute aiming to make an impact in medical and societal needs through breakthrough scientific research and proactive science translation and commercialization.

While excellence in curiosity-driven research is the cornerstone of VIB, the institute also aims to instill a passionate dedication to translation and innovation. VIB has developed a widely recognized and highly regarded technology transfer approach and actively seeks to grow its own intellectual property portfolio, with

Times Higher Education recently ranking them no. 1 in papers cited by patents. VIB's approach goes beyond intellectual property, however, and includes providing value-focused scientific counseling to its researchers.

VIB's business development team engages with its scientists to build opportunities and identify business partners. The aim is to achieve societal benefit by sharing expertise, supporting product development and securing investment in innovations. A pragmatic contracting approach, driven by experienced scientists, ensures efficiency in bridging the needs of academia and industry. This is reflected in VIB's successful partnering with companies such as Janssen, Oxyrane, Roche, Sanofi, Bayer, AB Inbev, BASF, Syngenta, Oxford Nanopore Technologies, Biocartis and Immunovaccine.

VIB's new ventures team coordinates the entire trajectory of spinning out a company — from identifying opportunities, attracting management and fund-raising, to final incorporation. The footprint of VIB is significant: in 2015 alone, the institute launched four new companies and a VC fund: Oncurious, Global Yeast, Confo Therapeutics, Orionis Biosciences and V-Bio Ventures.

V-Bio Ventures is a dedicated life sciences investment fund focusing on early-stage investments in the field of therapeutics, diagnostics and agricultural improvement. The fund will invest throughout Europe in start-up

and early-stage companies with high growth potential from both VIB's own research pipeline and elsewhere. VIB has also launched "VIB Discovery Sciences", an initiative enabling early drug and agro-biotech discovery, utilizing VIB targets. With the expertise of senior, industry-trained scientists, the organization's principal investigators can further research towards therapeutic, diagnostic and ag-bio innovations.

VIB is committed to supporting the growth of the biotech cluster in Flanders by attracting international companies. The Belgian entrepreneurial institute is a catalyst in housing life science companies, with 43.964 m² of dedicated bio-incubator space hosting 24 companies to date. VIB has established the FlandersBio network which, together with its partners, actively strives to grow the talent pool in the area through courses and entrepreneurial coaching programs, such as the MBI Life Sciences & Health.

VIB: the key facts

- » 1,500 scientists
- » ~75 papers published annually in tier 1% journals; ~200 annually in tier 5% journals
- » 234 active patent families; cumulative total of 1,148 granted patents
- » 55M€ business development income from 569 partnering agreements over the last five years
- » 18 life science start-up companies, raising >820M€ in equity capital
- » A life science-dedicated venture fund of 64M€



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