

Oregon Legislative Assembly
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support investment in the UO science campus

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

We encourage you to support investment in the UO science campus this biennium. Specifically, we hope you will do so by including \$100 million in bonding authority in your budget for the University of Oregon's Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact, which is both a university construction project as well as an investment in our state's current and future innovation economy. As a research spin-out, we know first-hand how important the combination of private and public investment can be to creating the civic and economic infrastructure that will transform Oregon's economy.

Founded in 2011, our company, NemaMetrix, has its roots in federally funded research conducted by University of Oregon faculty. Our company sells a palm-sized device known as the NemaMetrix ScreenChip System. The ScreenChip System is a disruptive high-throughput, low cost, and easy-to-use platform for drug development based on physiological monitoring of the model organism *Caenorhabditis elegans*, a tiny organism that measures 1 millimeter long and 50 microns wide, which has a strong genetic application to humans. Faster and cheaper than traditional mouse-model organism systems, the WormChip not only provides key data faster, streamlining the drug development pipeline, but it also enables the economic screening of therapeutics for orphan and word-health diseases. Our customers use the ScreenChip system to study diseases such as Alzheimer's and Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

The road from discovery to commercialization is complicated. UO's science campus will be a way to encourage, support, and make scientific entrepreneurs' vision's a reality while bringing societal and economic benefit to the state.

We recognize that establishing a tech company and making an impact requires a combination of supports and investments. We have grown our company with support from the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute (ONAMI), the Oregon Translational Research and Development institute (OTRADI), Oregon BEST, Business Oregon and \$2 million in seed investment by Oregon based investors and investment funds.

An investment in the UO science campus is the next giant step that will strengthen our innovation culture in Oregon and create more opportunities for entrepreneurs to help build Oregon's economy through economic development and job creation.

Sincerely,



Matt Beudet, CEO
NemaMetrix Inc



Janis Weeks, CSO
NemaMetrix Inc.
UO Professor Biology



Shawn Lockery, CTO
NemaMetrix Inc.
UO Professor, Biology