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Helomics creates flexible wet lab space at its Lawrenceville headquarters

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Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse and Helomics Corp. have collaborated with each other.

Helomics, a contract research organization specializing in personalized medicine, is creating flexible wet lab space at its Lawrenceville headquarters, where pharmaceutical, diagnostic and biotech startups can bulk up while creating new products.

Helomics also offers an ecosystem of investors, researchers and others to nurture new companies in a way that hasn't been done before in the city, president and CEO Gerald Vardzel said.

"We have a foundation here, leading universities and a great work ethic," he said. "I think this is a huge step forward."

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Organizations such as PLSG can be invaluable in the growth of life science startups, said Bruce Freeman, co-founder of biopharmaceutical research company Complexa Inc., which has offices in South Side and Philadelphia.

But he advised researchers considering the entrepreneurial arena to limit overhead costs by using the lowest cost resources available, including lab space.

The news was originally reported by Kris B. Mamula for Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.