

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Springfield-based Pioneer Valley Life Sciences Institute expands**

The Pioneer Valley Life Sciences Institute announced today that a significant expansion of its Springfield-based research laboratory has begun. When completed, the \$4.3 million project will add 8,000 square feet of research space to the existing 17,000 square feet which was developed in 2002 to transform an old engineering manufacturing building into a state-of-the-art biomedical research facility. The construction project consists of internal alterations to the building that will expand the wet lab, core facilities, offices, and conference room spaces.

“We are very happy to get this project underway,” notes the Institute’s executive director, Dr. Paul Friedmann, “Of course, financing has been a challenge in the current economy and we are especially grateful for the support of the late Senator Kennedy, Congressman Neal and Baystate Health’s CEO, Mark Tolosky, in securing the necessary funding. In addition to the jobs we anticipate creating directly, our plan calls for this facility to support biomedically-based opportunities which will indirectly lead to more businesses and jobs in Springfield, throughout the western Massachusetts region and beyond.”

Dr. Lawrence Schwartz, PVLSI’s science director, observes, “The much needed space created by this project will enable us to enhance and expand our research team as well as our microscopy, imaging, and research core facilities. This will increase our research capacity, allowing us to compete even more effectively for federal research grant funding and to accelerate our work with industry collaborators.”

Dr. Friedmann and Dr. Schwartz expect the expansion to be completed later this year. When finished, the new space will allow them to add 30 jobs to the 45 currently employed at the 3601 Main Street facility.

**About the Pioneer Valley Life Sciences Institute (PVLSI)**

PVLSI was created in 2002 as a joint venture of Baystate Medical Center and the University of Massachusetts Amherst with the dual missions of biomedical research and economic development. Drawing on each of the founders as well as its own researchers, the Institute brings together physicians, scientists, and engineers to create interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary teams focused on the molecular mechanisms of disease and the development of new diagnostic and therapeutic tools. For more information, go to [www.pvlsi.org](http://www.pvlsi.org).

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