

Company Case Study: Life sciences



About Acuitas Therapeutics

Vancouver-based Acuitas Therapeutics, Inc. is a global leader in lipid nanoparticle (LNP) technology. The company partners with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, as well as non-governmental organizations and academic institutions, to advance nucleic acid therapeutics into clinical development and commercialization. Acuitas' LNP technology is clinically validated, enabling Alnylam Pharmaceuticals' ONPATRO® for the treatment of people with a rare genetic and otherwise fatal disorder known as transthyretin amyloidosis and the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, COMIRNATY®, which has protected billions of people in over 180 countries.

Acuitas helped to enable the first human proof-of-concept for genome base editing to treat a serious genetic disease. The company is currently focused on further innovations to its LNP carriers to advance the development of novel gene therapies, such as epigenetic medicines, to modulate gene expression without genetic editing to treat a range of diseases, including cancer. In addition, Acuitas works on identification of potent new lipids to enable partners to develop improved and new vaccines to prevent a range of infectious diseases (i.e., malaria, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis), multivalent vaccines, and novel therapeutic vaccines against cancer, including personalized cancer vaccines.

Why the Metro Vancouver Region?

Acuitas Therapeutics chose to establish and grow its operations in the Metro Vancouver region due to the unique combination of a robust talent pipeline, collaborative innovation culture, and high quality of life. Proximity to the University of British Columbia provides direct access to top-tier talent, with many graduates on the Acuitas team, all of whom contribute to the company's success. "We're fortunate to have so much expertise here," shared Miranda Lam, KC, Chief Legal Officer & Vice President, Business Development at Acuitas, emphasizing the abundance of talent and ideas in the region.

"We are in the business of innovation and, here in Metro Vancouver, innovation is plentiful,"

**– Miranda Lam, Chief Legal Officer &
Vice President, Business Development at Acuitas**



Talent Pipeline

The Metro Vancouver region's strong education system, including top-tier institutions such as the University of British Columbia, provides a steady influx of skilled and independent thinkers, ensuring access to a pool of highly qualified graduates ready to tackle complex challenges. This vibrant talent pipeline produces "market-ready" professionals who contribute to growth and innovation at Acuitas. Additionally, the Metro Vancouver region's reputation as a desirable place to live attracts top-tier talent from across Canada and around the world, further enriching the area's workforce diversity and expertise.



A Thriving Ecosystem for Innovation

As a platform technology company, partnerships are critical to Acuitas' success. The Metro Vancouver region offers a supportive ecosystem where collaboration flourishes. "We are in the business of innovation and, here in Metro Vancouver, innovation is plentiful," said Lam, highlighting that the diverse and broad population and the region's collaborative mindset contributes to the company's ability to innovate. Acuitas also benefits from the region's growing reputation as an LNP delivery systems hub, supported by organizations like Life Sciences BC and Trade and Invest BC. Beyond LNP expertise, Lam highlighted a number of innovations across the life sciences industry, and noted a number of recent successful exits as positive indicators of the scientific leadership locally, further solidifying the region's role as a global leader in life sciences innovation.



Quality of Life and Community

Beyond its professional advantages, the Metro Vancouver region offers a lifestyle that attracts and retains top talent. People thrive in an inclusive and welcoming community, with a high quality of life characterized by economic stability, safety, and access to natural beauty. "We know how important it is that the members of the Acuitas team feel good about their world outside of work – at home and in life," Lam noted. She added: "A diverse and supportive culture of collaboration is fundamental to Acuitas."

Looking Ahead

Acuitas Therapeutics has experienced strong growth over the past five years, driven by its innovative LNP technology and commitment to fostering a thriving life sciences ecosystem in the Metro Vancouver region. The company is focused on continuous innovation while strengthening partnerships with companies and NGOs around the world to advance next-generation therapeutics. As Acuitas continues to expand its impact globally, its roots remain a testament to the region's ability to support cutting-edge innovation, diverse talent, and world-class collaboration in the life sciences industry.

"There's a palpable drive to innovate here, fueled by the openness and support of the community."

**– Miranda Lam, Chief Legal Officer &
Vice President, Business Development at Acuitas**



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