

UMass bets big on a 'Cambridge West' biotech hub



ARAM BOGHOSIAN FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Brianna Malaguti participated in a study analyzing core motion.

By [Robert Weisman](#) | GLOBE STAFF NOVEMBER 17, 2016

AMHERST — Can the University of Massachusetts grow a viable life sciences cluster from scratch almost 100 miles west of the Boston and Cambridge biotech hub?

A lot of taxpayer money, and some reputations, are riding on the answer.

UMass Amherst last month opened its Institute for Applied Life Sciences in a new 275,000-square-foot building perched on a hill. Funded by a \$95 million grant from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center and \$55 million in university investments, the institute is filled with research labs and student training programs focused on drug delivery technology, therapeutic targeting, and personalized health monitoring.

In a wearable technologies lab on a recent afternoon, computer science professor

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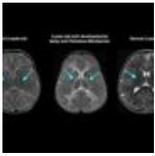
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