



## RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY TO BREAK GROUND THIS FALL

With design plans completed, a major new addition to the UT-Baptist Research Park is now targeted for groundbreaking this fall. The \$22 million Memphis Specialized Operations Lab will be a 26,000-square-foot facility that will be used for research and development for biotechnology companies trying to get products approved by the FDA. Construction should take 14 to 16 months including time for commissioning, or testing and balancing air-handling equipment and making sure the building operates up to standards – a critical step for bioscience laboratories.

Architects on the project are Self+Tucker Architects in Memphis, and Perkins+Will from Houston, a firm that has done numerous high-level laboratory projects across the country. The general contractor is Flintco LLC.

When completed, the facility will feature 14 labs specially designed for the testing and potential commercialization work that companies need to do to get products approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. While other research labs exist in the market, this will be the first of its type targeting the testing work of companies in Memphis and throughout the region.

Estimates by Memphis Bioworks Foundation indicate local biomedical companies spend between \$3 million to \$5 million per year for research that now takes place in laboratories and research facilities outside of Memphis. Keeping that work local not only keeps the dollars spent on research in the market, it also will provide a foundation of work and experience that can be used to attract other research to Memphis.

The facility will incorporate several sustainable features and is designed to be LEED certified. An example of a unique “green” approach will be the sodding and landscaping of the roof, which will benefit energy consumption by reducing HVAC costs and also providing an amenity for the Research Park campus.