Biotechnology in Health Research at Western University

With annual research expenditures exceeding $220 million and an international reputation for excellence, Western University is one of Canada’s top research-intensive universities. Home to Robarts Research Institute, and partnered with Lawson Health Research Institute and a robust hospital system, Western is a leader in Canada’s biotechnology efforts, including for teaching and research related to medical imaging, robotic technologies, neuroscience, chemical engineering, medicine, science, lab safety, biosafety, chemistry, meteorology, business and law.

Training
- Training tomorrow’s biotechnology leaders through university and joint college programs in science, engineering, medical and business aspects of biotechnology, including through the Biotechnology Program at Fanshawe College and at the internationally renowned Richard Ivey School of Business at Western
- Established research and teaching excellence in diverse fields at Western, Robarts and Lawson, including in various disciplines of engineering, science, law and medicine

Value-Added Services for Industry
- Preclinical trial capacity at unique, large-scale accredited animal care facilities
- Established international expertise in clinical trial design through Robarts Clinical Trials, led by Dr. Brian Feagan
- Capacity and incubators for new business start-ups and spin-offs, including the Stiller Centre for Biotechnology Commercialization and Western’s Research Park
- Established partnerships with large multinational companies
- Home to a regional office of the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (OAHPP) for monitoring, protecting and promoting health in Ontario

Research Highlights
- Biomedical Imaging Research Centre: more than $100 million in medical imaging infrastructure, including one of the most comprehensive imaging suites in the world – and one of only three global 7T fMRI systems
- Canadian Surgical Technologies and Advanced Robotics (CSTAR): world-class collaborative research and training facility setting international standards for robotic surgical technologies, treatment innovation and minimally invasive patient care
- Centre for Brain & Mind: widely recognized as an international leader in cognitive neuroscience research, carrying the field into a new era of pioneering discoveries, treatments and tools
- Ontario Ginseng Innovation & Research Consortium: advancing plant biotechnology for health innovations
- Nanofabrication Laboratory: used to advance research related to nanodevices and drug delivery systems
- Canada Research Chair Program in Powder Technology Applications, Jesse Zhu: powder-based applications for pulmonary drug delivery

Technology Development
- WORLDiscoveries: one of Canada’s top technology transfer initiatives, serving as the business development arm for both the University and the hospital system
- Centre for Imaging Technology Commercialization and Research (CITCR): national centre of excellence designed to remove roadblocks to the commercialization of existing and emerging imaging technologies
- Canadian Research & Development Centre for Probiotics: based in London, this national centre is developing novel, non-injectable drug delivery systems for vaccines (e.g. food, peptides) in coordination with large multinational companies

For more information, please visit: www.uwo.ca