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Ridley-Thomas Calls For Jumpstarting LA County's Bioscience Industry to Boost Innovation, Create Jobs

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas made the case Thursday for creating five bioscience hubs within Los Angeles County's medical research facilities, and urged private investors and scientific researchers to join in the effort.

Speaking at the Biotech Summit at USC's Health Sciences Campus, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas noted the bioscience industry accounts for a mere 1 percent of private sector employment in Los Angeles County. Though local universities annual produce more than 5,000 graduates in fields related to bioscience, most of them leave the county to work in San Diego and San Francisco.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said the county should create its own hubs at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, LAC+USC Medical Center, Olive View-UCLA Medical Center, Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Medical Campus.

"This concept of a biomedical park will be catalytic in terms of the number of positive things that would come from it," Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said. "It means jobs, the advancement of science and technology, better health outcomes, and economic development and community development."

"It's a game changer that's truly transformative," he added. "It's about the highest level of public private partnership, and I think it's very important that the state, the county, the city and the private sector do all it can to join forces."

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