

Welcome to our June 2020 Newsletter!  
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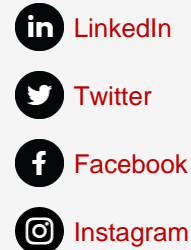
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### NSIV Website

Find all these stories and more on our website! Stay informed at [NSIV.org](https://www.nsilv.org).

### Keep Up With Us



## Message from Chris



All - Welcome back. On behalf of NSIV, I would like to thank our members, their teams, friends and families that have supported us and each other through the COVID-19 crisis to date.

At NSIV, we have a commitment to fostering economic development and impact, by nurturing ideas and individuals looking to bring those ideas into our lives. June marks the start of the 'new normal' as we can continue our mission to support early-stage, innovation-driven companies here on the North Shore of Boston.

Since March, we have been fortunate to keep NSIV open for our members deemed essential businesses, as well as plenty of remote engagement from our other members. We have learned a lot by operating the incubator in both labs and offices through the stay-at-home order. This has helped us develop a robust, responsive, and practical safety protocol for all of us at NSIV as we navigate through Governor Baker's four-phased re-opening plan for the Commonwealth.



We now open our doors to our broader members, graduates and the wider community in both life sciences and cleantech and look forward to inviting new members to join the NSIV community. As we allow for increased use of our facilities, we will come to understand how best to operate. InnoVentures U, office hours, and other programs and services will all return to support our community.

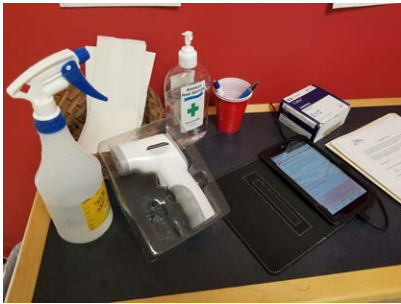
We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Continue to stay safe.

[Chris...](#)

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## How to Run an Incubator During COVID-19



As Massachusetts commences phase I of the [Governor's reopening plan](#), we plan to allow all of our members to access NSIV facilities while preventing infection between members, staff, and potential visitors. In order to do so, extensive disinfecting and social distancing precautions are necessary to limit the spread of this coronavirus and keep our members safe.

Essential precautions include wellness checks for all individuals who enter the shared space, required masks and PPE for use in labs, daily thorough cleanings by NSIV staff, social distancing and clean-in, clean-out policies.

Although reopening comes with its own challenges, NSIV is doing all we can to support our members through this time. Read more in our NSIV blog post [here](#).

## NSIV Members Focus on COVID-19



Cleantech member, [Gloucester Bio](#) has pivoted its business to the production of hand sanitizer to meet the increase in demand caused by COVID-19. As New England begins to open businesses and social activities, production is planned to increase to over 10,000 gallons a day under the brand name, and sell to healthcare facilities, high risk businesses, towns, schools, and retail outlets.

NSIV is glad to have a local supply of this scarce item at our check-in table.

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[Adeptrix](#), a life sciences member at NSIV, has developed Bead-Assisted Mass Spectrometry or BAMS, a technology that allows scientists, biologists, clinical researchers, and researchers at pharma and biotech companies to prepare their biological samples in greater detail than otherwise possible.

Because a virus, like COVID-19, is a biological sample, Adeptrix's technologies can help detect and characterize the virus more efficiently. Mass spectrometry is very powerful but requires complicated sample preparation; Adeptrix replaces those complicated steps so anyone can now use the power of mass spectrometry, according to Adeptrix CEO [Vlad Bergo](#).



Adeptrix is doing their part to combat the Coronavirus pandemic by partnering with companies like Avacta (more below) to allow for expansion of testing capacity for COVID-19. "The Coronavirus definitely created an opportunity for us. It's also an opportunity for us to put our technology called BAMs on the map so that people become more familiar with it," said Bergo.

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[Genomic Expression](#) is a life sciences member at NSIV that specializes in analyzing RNA using PCR and Next Generation Sequencing. They leveraged their novel sample prep method, OneRNA in oncology to improve cancer treatments, for COVID-19 testing first using PCR under an FDA EUA and are working on using Next Generation Sequencing instead of PCR.



By increasing the amount of testing, Genomic Expression can help people who have been exposed or who show symptoms know if they have the virus, and monitor a future outbreak much quicker and more effectively.

Genomic Expression has created a viral transportation medium (VTM) that stabilizes RNA, making the virus inactive and not contagious, which means that the sample can be shipped at ambient temperature. That is unlike the VTM currently recommended by the CDC which must be shipped on ice. This enables any healthcare provider to order a test online, swab the patient, and ship it back to Genomic Expression for analysis at NSIV. The alternative is to go to the hospital or a COVID-19 testing center. Genomic Expression has partnered with Quadrant Corporate Health, which is an organization that comes to any corporation, business, or household to swab individuals and test them for the virus. It is going to be essential to monitor the virus as the economy reopens. Quadrant health is also located at the Cummings Center.

Genomic Expression's next step is enabling patients to self collect in their own homes. This requires more experimentation, but will in the long run enable individuals to manage their health which is the key to reducing the cost of healthcare. COVID-19 self-collection will decrease the need to go to the doctor's office to get testing which may expose more people to the virus and other illnesses.

Genomic Expression has been invited to file for a proposal with the National Science Foundation to develop a COVID-19 detection method on the Next Generation of Sequencing platform which will enable them to perform up to 1 million tests in one sequencing run, which will transform the current testing situation.

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NSIV member company, [Spectrus](#), is a bioanalytical chemistry service provider serving biotech companies across the US and Europe. To address the current challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Spectrus



embarked on a self-funded research project to measure viral particles in human samples using mass spectrometry. Viral particles can be detected post-infection and this can serve as confirmation of existing PCR based tests. Perhaps more importantly, direct measurement of viral particles can provide information on clearance rates and correlate this to transmission.

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**iHope Network** is a digital health company whose business boomed as a result of COVID-19. They provide cognitive behavioral therapy to patients, young and old, via videoconference so patients can receive psychotherapy in the comfort of their own homes. They are learning that a big part of a pandemic is mental health, so iHope is doing their part to help the increasing number of people experiencing anxiety, depression, insomnia, and more issues that come with a crisis. With referrals up by about 40%, iHope is doing more work than they have ever done before with more organizations in more states, according to CEO [Tom Hunter](#).



The Coronavirus has broken down barriers in the world of teletherapy and telemedicine because potentially reluctant doctors, nurses, and patients are forced to try the technology to limit the spread of the virus. This has given iHope the opportunity to show that their programs have many benefits and will be used during and long after the current pandemic. Not only can users not contract an illness through a computer screen, which is especially important for those in quarantine, but teletherapy is the future of convenient and accessible therapy without long drives or waiting rooms.

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## NSIV Has New Members!

North Shore InnoVentures is in the process of adding several new member companies. We'll be telling you more about them in the coming months. First up is [Antaya Group](#), a leader in advanced particle accelerator technology. Antaya has joined as a virtual member of NSIV. The company, located in Hampton, NH, is led by Founder and Chief Physics Officer, [Timothy A. Antaya](#), PhD. For more on Antaya's technology, please see their [website](#).



We welcome Antaya!

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## Keeping up with NSIV

News and updates from NSIV and member companies since March:

NSIV member [Adeptrix](#) has lots



to brag about these days. They had an article accepted and published (March 16, 2020) in the **International Journal of Molecular Sciences**, entitled *Affinity-Bead Assisted Mass Spectrometry (Affi-BAMS): A Multiplexed Microarray Platform for Targeted Proteomics*. An abstract and the full article are available [here](#).



Also in March, Adeptrix was chosen by the **Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities** (ABRF) selection committee for the **Waters Corporation 2020 ABRF Outstanding Poster Award** (shown here) during their annual meeting in Palm Springs, CA. The full poster presentation can be viewed [here](#) and enlarged to read the detail.



NSIV graduate **Siris Medical, Inc.** recently announced signing a contract with **Northwestern Medicine** to implement the use of Siris's InsightRT™ software as the primary treatment decision-support tool for the treatment of cancer patients.

This software suite is the only Artificial Intelligence (AI) treatment decision support system for use in radiation oncology. Read the full press release [here](#).



NSIV staff is happy to introduce **Leigh Appelstein**, our new Marketing Communications Summer Intern. Leigh is a rising sophomore at UMass Amherst majoring in Marketing and Journalism. She enjoys reporting and selling advertisements for the newspaper and is excited to start at NSIV in her role as intern.



**Expansion News:** NSIV has initiated conversations with architects, including **Olson Lewis**, to examine options and consider the opportunities for future expansion of our office and lab space at the Cummings Center. If these plans move forward, then occupancy by year-end could take place. We'll keep you posted.

Companies interested in incubation, please contact us at [info@nsiv.org](mailto:info@nsiv.org).

## What's Been Happening Around the North Shore

Two of NSIV's neighbor companies here at the Cummings Center in Beverly

have been making news. [LexaGene](#) is a biotechnology company developing a fully automated pathogen detection platform for use at the site of sample collection.



LexaGene's work on improving infectious disease diagnostics is making headlines with a focus on its LX Analyzer technology's ability to detect the Coronavirus RNA. Read press releases [here](#).

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In addition, [Thermo Fisher Scientific](#), formerly a tenant of Cummings in Beverly and based in Waltham, MA, announced on March 3, 2020 the acquisition of [Qiagen, N.V.](#)



Boards of directors of both companies and the managing board of Qiagen, N.V. have

approved the proposal. Get all the details in this [press release](#).

**Qiagen** is a leading global provider of molecular diagnostics and innovative sample preparation technologies with about 5,100 employees at 35 locations in over 25 countries. While based in the Netherlands, Qiagen has a Beverly location just down the hall from NSIV's headquarters.

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**And some very old news... Pi Day at NSIV** - No, we didn't celebrate on 3.14 (a Saturday) but NSIV didn't miss the chance to eat pie on Monday! Pictured here is Trish Fleming, NSIV's Director of Mentoring and pie lover, with her delicious Chocolate Stout Cream Pie. Even with social distancing, we found a way to quickly and safely devour the pie.

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