Biotech Family Tree: A Selective Overview of UCSF’s Descendants

Since the founding of Genentech Inc., in 1976, the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) has given rise to more than 90 life science companies. Several of these have produced further offshoots, giving rise to later generation descendants of UCSF. A selective family tree of UCSF’s biotech descendants is shown here.

An Industry is Born

- In the 1970s, UCSF professor Herbert Boyer co-developed recombinant DNA technology and co-founded the world’s first biotech company, Genentech Inc., launching the second pillar of therapeutics and the biotech revolution.
- UCSF and Stanford University received the joint patent for Boyer’s co-invention with Stanford professor Stanley Cohen. The bedrock technology was licensed to more than 380 firms in the industry’s earliest years.
- UCSF’s contributions in new companies, patented technologies and first-rate entrepreneurial scientists make and sustain the San Francisco Bay Area as the largest, most vibrant biotech cluster in the world.
- The Bay Area biotech industry employs more than 85,000 people. Its ranks of companies and scientists are also fed by UC Berkeley and Stanford.

* Started in Cambridge, MA, with UCSF’s Cynthia Kenyon as scientific co-founder.