

## Wauwatosa technology center adds lab space ZyStor's arrival jump-starts expansion

By Kathleen Gallagher

The arrival of a St. Louis biomedical company at the Milwaukee County Research Park's business incubator has jump-started the creation of more lab space.

Since ZyStor Therapeutics Inc. said in November that it would move to the park's Technology Innovation Center in Wauwatosa, the facility has added 6,600 square feet of lab space, of which 4,200 square feet is available for new tenants. It is the first time since the center started in 1993 that it's had a substantial amount of readily available, state-of-the-art lab space, according to Guy T. Mascari, the center's director.

The Technology Innovation Center is a business incubator run by a non-profit company set up by Milwaukee County. The new lab space was built for about \$600,000, Mascari said.

Mascari said he considers the expansion premium lab space because of large windows that let in a lot of natural light, ample work surfaces and cabinets, a modern ventilation system, vent hoods, purified water and certain types of scientific equipment such as a sterilizer.

"Inventory is important in the incubation business, and we're going to market it aggressively," Mascari said.

Having ready-made lab space makes it easier to lure scientists to the facility because they like to see what they're getting, said Mark D. Bugher, director of University Research Park in Madison, a 1.6 million-square-foot park that has about 25,000 square feet of lab space available.

"The availability of this space will give them the ability to attract types of bioscience companies they've been unable to get here before," said Frank Langley, chief executive officer at PointOne Systems LLC, a company in the Technology Innovation Center that specializes in computer analysis.

Along with the lab space, the incubator has 8,500 square feet of office space available in the five-story building, Mascari said. The 138,000-square-foot building is nearly 100 years old and was previously a



**John Maga**, a scientist with ZyStor Therapeutics, prepares solutions to be used in research he is doing on enzyme replacement therapies last week. ZyStor has new lab space in the Technology Innovation Center in the Milwaukee County Research Park in Wauwatosa.

*Photo: Michael Sears*

tuberculosis sanitarium and then a mental health hospital, he said.

ZyStor, which is developing therapies for rare genetic disorders, raised \$8.5 million from mostly Wisconsin-based venture capital firms, led by Mason Wells Biomedical Fund 1 of Milwaukee. A financing condition was that ZyStor move to Wisconsin. ZyStor moved into its new space last month and will hold an invitation-only reception Thursday. ZyStor had been considering moving to either Milwaukee or Madison, said Loren Peterson, the company's chief executive officer.

Dan Broderick, a managing director of Mason Wells, said he thought the Technology Innovation Center would be ZyStor's least favorite space of all the locations the company considered in Wisconsin.

But Peterson and ZyStor's chief scientific officer, Jonathan H. LeBowitz, worked with Mascari to renovate the space for the company's offices and labs in less than 10 weeks, Broderick said.

ZyStor has a three-year lease in the center, Mascari said.