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## Biotech firm brings R&D to Nashville

### Former BioMimetic exec leading Connecticut company's local operations

By Erin Lawley

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A New England biotechnology company has planted research and development operations in Nashville.

Advanced BioHealing Inc., based in Westport, Conn., has moved into 2,000 square feet of space in the **Cumberland Emerging Technologies** Life Sciences Center in Nashville to explore additional uses for its lead product, Dermagraft.



Led locally by **former BioMimetic Therapeutics Vice President and Chief Science Officer Charles Hart**, Advanced BioHealing also has leased 5,500 square feet of office space in the Overlook Building in Brentwood. The company intends to consolidate all its local operations into the Brentwood building in the future.

"The Nashville area is becoming more widely recognized as a home to the health care industry, and we are proud to join the growing biotechnology community here," said ABH senior vice president Dean Tozer in a statement. "Our investments in Middle Tennessee to expand our research efforts support our strategic focus on extending the use of Dermagraft into new indications and diversifying the company's product portfolio."

Dermagraft is a bio-engineered **skin substitute** that repairs damaged tissue and supports the body's healing process. It's currently FDA-approved for treating diabetic foot ulcers.

ABH, which also has manufacturing operation in La Jolla, Calif., is projecting more than \$120 million in revenue this year. A company spokeswoman said the firm has a total of 300 employees with just seven based in Nashville. It plans to hire a few more local workers by the end of the year.

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