



KECK GRADUATE INSTITUTE  
*of Applied Life Sciences*



# The Center for Rare Disease Therapies

# Keck Graduate Institute *of Applied Life Sciences*

Keck Graduate Institute (KGI) is the only graduate institution in the U.S. created exclusively to educate scientists and engineers to be leaders in the bioscience industry.



KGI.edu

# Why KGI as a Site for the Center?

***KGI is a unique organization established to deliver programs differently from traditional research institutions.*** We are setting the standard for team-based, hands-on, real world education at the intersection of science and business.

***Mission:*** KGI is dedicated to education and research aimed at translating into practice, *for the benefit of society*, the power and potential of the life sciences.

***Faculty:*** most faculty come to KGI with industry experience and focus on applied development

***Students:*** our students prepare to become new leaders of the biotech and biomedical industry, including a required industry internship..

***Curriculum:*** Every class focuses on industry challenges, from management to drug discovery, from bioprocessing to bioethics.

***Industry Relationships:*** KGI has extensive industry relationships through its Board of Trustees, Advisory Council, sponsored research and team master's projects.

***Team Master's Projects (TMPs):*** Industry-sponsored real world projects are required as part of the MBS (Master of Bioscience) degree program

# The KGI Capstone: Team Masters Project (TMP)



Team Masters Project: Amgen



Team Masters Project: Beckman Coulter

## Real-world projects with life science companies

62 projects to date

Participating companies include:

- **Beckman Coulter (7)**
- **Amylin (4)**
- **Amgen (3)**
- **Gilead Sciences (5)**
- **Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics (2)**

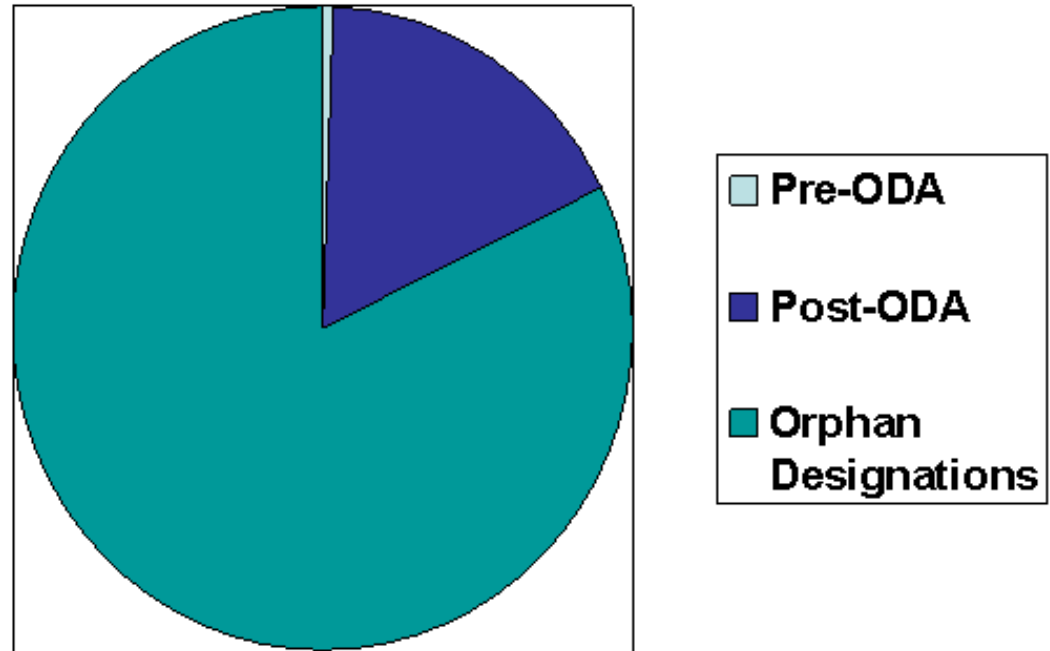
# The Challenge: *much more to be done*

- Over 7000 known rare diseases

## Orphan Drug Designations

Since 1983:

- Over 2400 orphan drug designation requests
- 1700 orphan drug designations
- Over 300 approved orphan products





# The Center for Rare Disease Therapies

## MISSION

*The mission of the Center for Rare Disease Therapies is to promote the development and commercialization of treatments for rare diseases.*

*By matching promising technologies with corporate and philanthropic partners, the Center will act as a catalyst for reviving potential therapies and fostering new ones.*

# Our Goal: more therapies for rare diseases



# Functions of the Center:

*What will we do?*

- **Profile Rare Diseases** - information on the basic science of the disease, research programs to date, published clinical data, and prevalence studies.
- **Identify promising opportunities** – investigate orphan drug filings, outreach to patient advocates, engage key companies.
- **Assess drug leads and prioritize** – aim is to pursue leads with the greatest chance of making a difference: *severity of disease – potential of treatment – access to asset-holder.*
- **Facilitate licensing, development, and/or partnership options** through non-profit alliances with corporate and philanthropic partners.
- **Sponsored projects** – reducing opportunity-cost by helping companies address issues at key stages of drug development.



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