

R.A.V.E. Entrepreneur Honoree



John R. Swart, PhD
CEO of Cytotheryx

CYTOTHERYX 

Congratulations to John Swart and Cytotheryx, a startup biomedical research company in Rochester that formed in 2019, for being named a 2020 RAVE (Recognizing Awarding Valuing Entrepreneurs) honoree. The company focuses on the development of high-quality source of primary human liver cells.

Cytotheryx has the exclusive license to a patented, genetically engineered pig that serves as a bio incubator to produce human liver cells. Liver cells cannot be produced outside the body, and there is a significant unmet need for these cells in the research and medical fields.

The team at Cytotheryx is initially working with the toxicology and research markets, focusing on safety in drug development and hepatitis and malaria research, before expanding into the clinical markets, to address liver failure and the correction of genetic liver disease over time.

When did your business start?

February 2019

What has been the most challenging part of starting your business?

Unexpected hurdles that come along during the proof-of-concept phase

What has been the most rewarding part of starting this business?

The opportunity to positively impact the lives of those suffering from liver disease throughout our country and world

How many employees do you have in Rochester and do you plan to expand?

We currently have five employees in Rochester, and plan to expand with an additional four in the next 12-18 months.

Where is your business located in Rochester?

Our facility is in Northwest Rochester. Most of the space is a barrier facility which is home to our high-health herd of pigs. We also have lab space, surgical operating rooms and an office area.

What is the relationship between Cytotheryx and Mayo Clinic?

Mayo is one of our largest owners. We have a sponsored research agreement with a laboratory at Mayo Clinic and have utilized the Mayo Farm in the proof of concept work. We keep a close relationship with Mayo Ventures, working collaboratively to achieve success in the business.

What is your advice to entrepreneurs getting started with a new business?

Expect the unexpected; hire good people who can be flexible in their role; be confident in what you're building.

For more information on Cytotheryx, go to www.cytotheryx.com