MISSION AND VISION: The Utah-Inha Joint Research Center on Drug Delivery Systems & Advanced Therapeutics synergizes the internationally recognized expertise in polymer therapeutics, controlled release, and targeted drug delivery from University of Utah’s Department of Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Chemistry (USA) with the experienced clinicians, the regional clinical treatment and trials center, and preclinical research facilities at Inha University Hospital, Incheon, Korea. Established in 2009, the Joint Research Center is a Korean-hosted, jointly staffed nonprofit research center aimed at translating advances that improve drug therapies in preclinical disease models using novel polymeric formulations of small molecule, protein and nucleic acid therapeutics to improve treatment outcomes for those suffering from disease.

Accelerated translation of promising preclinical therapeutic approaches to human trials, pre-commercialization strategies, and regulatory approvals is a primary goal. Leveraging the experience of the University of Utah’s Technology Commercialization Office, the Inha Regional Clinical Treatment facility and research resources, and our partnerships with biotechnology, medical device and pharmaceutical industries, the Center endeavors to efficiently identify new therapies and rapidly translate to them to address the treatment needs of patients.
34 Clinical Departments
9 Specialized Clinical Centers
- Cancer Center
- Cyber knife/HIFU Center
- BM transplant Center
- DM/Obesity Center
- Health Promotion Center

Meet-You-All Tower B in Songdo Techno Park
Research Facilities

Floor Space: 741 m²

General Laboratories
Cell culture room
Animal experiment lab
Imaging room
Conference room
Research Equipment

Center Organization

Currently 17 researchers including 5 international researchers
Center Strategy

Center strength: on-site translational research
From FORMULATION to CLINIC

Synergistic cooperation between

U&I DDS

NCEED

In-house R&D

Privative Partnership

Univ. of Utah DDS Technology

Inha Hospital Clinical trial center

Licensing & Commercialization
Center Competence

1. Ulcer-targeted EGF hydrogels
2. Nano-based pharmaceuticals
3. Nanofibers for medical devices
4. Microfluidics & protein carriers
5. Liver fibrosis & HCC therapy
6. Theranostics for cancer
Why Korea?
Korea has a well-trained technical workforce with modern biomedical infrastructure and history in medical product development and marketing. Korea aims to rapidly create a knowledge-based economy that enhances entrepreneurship and facilitates global cooperation for joint technology development of key future growth engines, including the pharmaceutics and biotechnology sector. Under this vision, the Ministry of a Knowledge Economy, through its International R&D Start-Upfund Program, has invested in the Utah-Inha DDS & Advanced Therapeutic Research Center over the next four years.

Why Incheon?
Incheon is Korea’s 3rd largest city with 2.7 million people, within minutes of the modern Incheon International airport that also serves Seoul. This provides a strategic location in the heart of northeast Asia for trade, transportation, manufacturing and international cooperation. Led by the dedicated support from the powerful Hanjin Group and Korean Air, Inha University is ranked as one of Korea’s “Top 10” universities since 2001 and ranked 5th in patent and technology transfer among universities in Korea (2006). With over 20,000 students, the University has expanded to currently include 9 Colleges, 2 Schools, 8 Graduate Schools and the University Hospital. The Joint Research Center is located near the Incheon University and University Hospital complex in the Incheon Free Economic Zone (IFEZ, established 2003) in the Songdo Science Village, dedicated to high-tech foreign investment as a full-service research park and living community. The planned Songdo city, ~30 kilometers west of Seoul, features a working and living environment built to meet the standards of global companies. The first phase of the Songdo project included land reclamation work to create 12.11 million square meters of new coastal land, and completion of infrastructure facilities for mass transportation and quality living. IFEZ provides tax incentives, laboratory space and substantial capital investment for the incubation of the Research Center. Since its establishment in 2003, the IFEZ has signed a total of 41 memoranda of understanding for a combined $57.9 billion in foreign direct investment. Additionally, Songdo has been selected by the government to be developed into a state-of-the-art medical and welfare complex by 2020 – a project worth 3 trillion won in government investment. Songdo is aiming to build top-notch infrastructure that would make it a people-friendly and health oriented district.