

Health innovation: Tec and Ragon Institute (MGH, MIT, and Harvard)



This is the first partnership the Ragon Institute of Mass General, MIT, and Harvard has formed with a Latin American institution

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Tec de Monterrey has signed an agreement with the prestigious **Ragon Institute of Mass General, MIT, and Harvard** to develop more researchers and promote innovative solutions for tackling health challenges in Mexico.

This is an **institution** that conducts **advanced biomedical research in the area of immunology**, founded in 2009 as a collaboration between the hospital network of **Mass General Brigham and the universities of MIT and Harvard**.

The **agreement was signed** by authorities from that institution and directors from **Tec de Monterrey** and **TecSalud** on Wednesday, November 13, at the institute's headquarters in Boston.

“At the Tec, we imagine a future in which research translates into solutions for the world. This association is proof of our commitment to excellence and dedication for tackling these challenges,” said **Ricardo Saldívar, Chairman of the Board at Tec de Monterrey**, during the signing.

For his part, **David Garza**, Executive President of Tec de Monterrey, added: ***“through this collaboration, the Tec’s students and researchers will gain access to advanced technologies, development programs for students and faculty, and research projects.”***

Bruce D. Walker, Director of the Ragon Institute; Marcela del Carmen, President of the MGH; David Garza, Executive President of the Tec; and Guillermo Torre, Rector of TecSalud. Photo: Paul Batista



Bruce D. Walker, Director of the Ragon Institute of Mass General, MIT, and Harvard, added: ***“we feel that we’re in a position where we can really help to establish a world-class immunology center at Tec de Monterrey. They can help us through interactions with the talented students who come from the Tec.”***

*“This is the **first relationship we’ve formed** with a Latin American country, **with a Latin American institution**,”* highlighted **Facundo Batista, Associate Director and Scientific Director of the Ragon Institute of Mass General, MIT, and Harvard.**

International health partnership

The agreement between **Tecnológico de Monterrey** and the **Ragon Institute of Mass General, MIT, and Harvard** will enable greater capacity-building and enhance cell therapy research within the Tec’s ecosystem.

The partnership centers around **four main areas**:

- **Research collaboration:** *initiatives in cell therapy and immunology, focused on the treatment and possible cure of global diseases such as cancer and diabetes.*
- **Health solution innovation:** *development of next-generation treatments, leveraging the experience of both institutions.*
- **Opportunities for students and researchers:** *access to student exchanges, collaborative projects, and advanced technologies, fostering academic and scientific growth.*
- **Global leadership in biomedical research:** *reinforcement of Tec de Monterrey’s commitment to research, contributing to health solution advancements on the world stage.*

Specifically, **the partnership also includes**:

- Development of **postdoctoral immunology programs**
- Creation of a **seed fund** for common **research** projects
- **Tec student access** to cutting-edge laboratories
- Establishment of an **annual joint research symposium**

*“I believe that there is clearly a **possibility to innovate and perform “nearshoring” in science**, and this relationship with the Ragon Institute will enable us to do even more and **expand this potential**,”* said **Guillermo Torre, Rector of TecSalud**, about the agreement.

Eva Fernández, Director of Social Impact at FEMSA, added: “we believe that **this collaboration is going to enable many young scientists to get involved in the work of research on future health matters.**”

Signing of the agreement

The international agreement was signed on November 13 in the city of **Boston, Massachusetts**, in the United States, with the participation of:

- **David Garza Salazar**, Executive President of Tec de Monterrey
- **Guillermo Torre Amione**, Rector of TecSalud
- **Bruce D. Walker**, Director of the Ragon Institute of Mass General, MIT, and Harvard
- **Marcela del Carmen**, President of the Massachusetts General Hospital
- **Facundo Batista**, Associate Director and Scientific Director of the Ragon Institute
- **Alison Ringel**, principal investigator at the Ragon Institute

The work of the Ragon Institute of Mass General, MIT, and Harvard

The **Ragon Institute of Mass General, MIT, and Harvard** is a biomedical research institution dedicated to **finding innovative solutions for infectious diseases.**

Its main focus is on immunology research, tackling diseases such as **HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and other emerging infections**, and seeking to develop **effective immunological therapies and vaccines.**

Besides its work on HIV, the Ragon Institute of Mass General, MIT, and Harvard is also developing research in the area of **immune response to COVID.**

The institute includes scientists from disciplines such as **biology, medicine, engineering, and computer science** to tackle biomedical challenges through an

interdisciplinary perspective.



Bruce D. Walker, Director of the Ragon Institute of Mass General, MIT, and Harvard. Photo: Paul Batista

The Tec and health research

Tecnológico de Monterrey has established **promoting research** as one of its **priorities for 2030**.

It has also announced that it seeks to develop **cutting-edge medical education** with the new **Health Sciences Campus** being built in Nuevo León next to the Zambrano Hellion hospital of TecSalud, the Tec's health system.

This project will seek to include three major areas for health advancements: the **training of highly qualified professionals**, **high quality medical attention**, and **advanced scientific research**.

The Health Sciences Campus will focus on strategic areas such as **immunotherapy, transplants, and cell and gene therapy.**

The Tec is also making significant efforts in areas such as **cell therapy research for diabetes**, led by **Dr. Per-Olof Berggren**, and the search for **innovative immunological treatments for patients with cancer**, developed by **Dr. Alejandro Madrigal.**

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