



MEMORANDUM

Zealand Pharma to open new US research hub in Cambridge, Massachusetts – March 25, 2026

Aims to strengthen the company's position in obesity and metabolic health

Zealand Pharma [announced](#) this week that it will establish a new research hub in Cambridge, Massachusetts, expanding its global discovery capabilities and strengthening its presence in the US metabolic innovation ecosystem. The [Cambridge site](#) will serve as Zealand's primary US address and is expected to be operational by September 2026.

Leadership emphasized that proximity to Boston's dense biotech community will help accelerate drug design. The facility will support AI-driven discovery and next-generation molecule creation. Zealand CEO Dr. Adam Steensberg highlighted that the new hub complements existing research centers in Søborg and Copenhagen, Denmark.

Builds on Zealand's Metabolic Frontier 2030 strategy

The Cambridge expansion is a core component of Zealand's [Metabolic Frontier 2030](#) long-term R&D strategy, which aims to broaden the company's position in obesity and metabolic disease. The strategy includes: (i) five product launches in five years; (ii) more than 10 active clinical programs in metabolic health; and (iii) an industry-leading cycle time from idea generation to clinical entry taking place by 2030. This plan builds on the company's [25-year expertise](#) in peptide drug design by expanding into newer hybrid modalities, including antibody-peptide conjugates and siRNA-based therapies.

During the company's [December 2025](#) Capital Markets Day in London, management contrasted its approach with what it described as the ongoing "Weight Loss Olympics," where leading pharmaceutical companies are competing to develop a candidate that leads in both speed and magnitude of weight reduction. The company argued that the obesity treatment narrative has become overly focused on rapid, maximal weight loss, leaving key patient and physician needs underserved. These needs include: (i) durable weight maintenance; (ii) improved (ideally placebo-like) tolerability profiles; and (iii) the management of obesity-related comorbidities.

Metabolic disease footprint increases across the greater Boston area

Much like Roche's recent expansion at [Harvard's Enterprise Research Campus](#), Zealand's new Cambridge hub represents a major scale-up of its US R&D footprint and a deeper commitment to the Boston innovation ecosystem. With more than 600 biotech and life sciences companies in Cambridge alone, the new site positions Zealand to expand its collaborations, accelerate pipeline development, and integrate more closely with leading academic and industry partners.

Close Concerns' Questions

1. How does Zealand envision leveraging Cambridge's academic ecosystem to accelerate early-stage discovery and translational research?
2. What new AI-enabled or automation-driven capabilities will the Cambridge facility add that were not previously possible within Zealand's Denmark-based research network?
3. How will Zealand prioritize pipeline programs (particularly obesity, metabolic liver disease, and cardiometabolic targets) within its expanded footprint?

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