

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cortex Innovation Community to Launch Initiative to Reshore American Pharmaceutical Manufacturing

- ~75% of active pharmaceutical ingredients in FDA-deemed essential medicines have no US-source for manufacturing
- Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) Innovation Center @ Cortex will deliver US-made active pharmaceutical ingredients and foster job growth
- The API Innovation Center will seek to create industry partnerships to advance the mission of securing the U.S. essential drug supply

ST LOUIS, MO. – The Cortex Innovation Community today announced the formation of the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) Innovation Center @ Cortex. The API Innovation Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to delivering market-competitive commercial supply of US-made APIs to address health security and foster job growth in the St. Louis region. The Center will bring together supply chain partners – innovators, researchers, established market leaders, subject matter experts, and public and private enterprise – to collaborate and deliver sustainable solutions faster to address US healthcare security.

Tony Sardella, Chair of the non-profit API Innovation Center indicates, “The API Innovation Center at Cortex is dedicated to addressing the fragility in the US API supply chain and the risks to health security. Missouri, as the number-one-ranked state in the country for production of pharmaceutical APIs, is uniquely positioned to help secure the domestic supply chain. Promising advancements, such as continuous flow manufacturing technologies, offer the opportunity for the US to address our health security risks. The Center will steward the necessary collaborations for these innovative technologies to realize their full potential.”

The API Innovation Center joins the Global Center for Cybersecurity @ Cortex as the latest innovation-focused nonprofit organization formed to address major security challenges. The API Innovation Center will focus on programming with industry leaders, researchers, and supply



chain management professionals, and eventually will partner on a research and development facility to drive at-scale manufacturing for the United States.

Sam Fiorello, Cortex President and CEO said, “The API Innovation Center will address a national public health need as well as bring manufacturing jobs to St. Louis. Cortex is pleased to welcome this group of innovators and will work to convene partners in industry, academia and other support areas to meet this critical need.”

Fiorello said that initial participants include Cortex, BioSTL, Mallinckrodt Specialty Generics, Continuity Pharma, AMIC and Apertus Pharmaceuticals.

The API Innovation Center will seek to create similar partnerships to advance the mission of securing the U.S. essential drug supply by enabling the delivery of market competitive commercial supply of US-made drugs through advancements in API manufacturing technology. Together, the API Innovation Center and Cortex will work to complete this mission through collaboration, research, innovation, technology, and development of a diversified workforce.

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About the Cortex Innovation Community

Founded in 2002 through a collaboration of Washington University in St. Louis, BJC Healthcare, the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Saint Louis University, and the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Cortex Innovation Community (CortexSTL.com) is a nationally and internationally recognized hub of innovation and technology commercialization. It serves as an anchor in St. Louis’ growing ecosystem of innovative startups and established companies. [Cited by the Brookings Institution](#) as a Best Practice among global urban innovation districts, Cortex is home to 425 technology-related businesses, and it provides a deep pool of entrepreneurial support programs available to the entire St. Louis community.

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