

## U of R Growth Continues



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Rochester, N.Y. – The University of Rochester passed a milestone: it has more than 20,000 workers.

The area's largest employers registered 20,340 workers on December 31, 2011. The college has no plans to slow down.

"I don't think it's unreasonable to see growth in the area of 500 [employees a](#) year," said Peter Robinson, chief operating officer of the medical center.

Health care and research dollars are driving the growth. An aging population needs more medical care. In addition, the medical center is drawing patients from a larger geographical region, including northern Pennsylvania and Canada.

The U of R's impact on the regional economy goes far beyond its own payroll. A 2010 Center for Governmental [Research study](#) says the college is responsible for 47,000 direct and indirect jobs, which pay \$2.3 billion in wages.

Some of those spillover jobs are at companies that license U of R technology. iCardiac was founded in 2006 and now has 50 workers. The company tests the effect of new drugs on the heart.

Co-Founder Sasha Latypova said there could be many more spinoffs if access to start-up funding was easier.

"Everyone says U of R innovation, drives economic growth. It only drives it to a point," Latypova said. "U of R is providing a very crucial function. They're providing new technologies and investing in research. But there's a kind of a missing link. You can't just take research and put it directly into the market and hope that somebody will buy it."

CGR's Kent Gardner said there's huge potential for economic growth from U of R research.

"I think we're all looking for that company that turns into 300, 400, 500, 1000 employees," he said.

The U of R's challenges as it grows will be to maintain funding levels and manage infrastructure. The Route 390 Interchange project begins to address some of the needs regarding access to campus.

"With all of this growth comes a growing sense of responsibility to the community and to the local economy," said Robinson. "I think what we're trying to do is make sure that growth is thoughtful, it's done with respect, because we start to have a greater impact on the immediately surrounding community."

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