

## Intro

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Altasciences is a mid-size, integrated, full service preclinical to clinical contract research organization (CRO), focused on the early phases of drug development (from discovery to proof of concept).<sup>1</sup> Their multiple sites in North America include a preclinical facility in Seattle, WA, two clinical pharmacology units in Overland Park, Kansas, and Montreal, Canada, and head office/bioanalytical/research services located in Laval, Canada.<sup>2</sup>

In January 2020, Altasciences acquired Alliance Contract Pharma, a Contract Development & Manufacturing Organization (CDMO), adding new services to their integrated line-up of early phase drug development offerings.<sup>3</sup>

Altasciences employs over 1,000 employees across their locations.

## The Organization

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### ALTASCIENCES

Altasciences refers to multiple entities offering services spanning the early drug development cycle. It includes Altasciences Company Inc. (Québec, Canada), Altasciences Clinical Kansas Inc. (Overland Park, Kansas, U.S.A.), Altasciences Preclinical Seattle Inc. (Seattle, WA, U.S.A.), and Alliance Contract Pharma (Harleysville, PA, U.S.A.)<sup>2</sup>

### HISTORY

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Algorithme Pharma in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, represented the beginnings of what is now Altasciences. It was founded in 1992<sup>2</sup> by a small team of researchers from the pharmacology department of the Université de Montréal. Upon inception, it offered software to facilitate trial data analysis, hence the name “Algorithme” (French version of algorithm). Within a few years, the two founding partners realized that a need existed beyond the analysis of trial data, in the conduct of clinical trials. The partners established a clinic and screening center, also located in Montreal, dedicated to conducting early phase clinical trials for the small molecule generic drug industry. In order to support the analysis of samples being produced in the Montreal clinic, a bioanalytical facility was built in Laval, in close proximity to the Montreal clinic. For the next 15 years, the partners strengthened the scientific foundation of the company.

In 2007, founder-led Algorithme Pharma was bought by Kilmer Capital, a private equity firm based in Toronto, Canada. Kilmer implemented a growth strategy for the company, including a goal of expanding clinical operations beyond the Canadian border. In 2009, the company opened a clinic in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A (operations discontinued shortly thereafter), and acquired another in Wales, U.K.

In 2010, following a change in leadership, the company implemented new processes and invested in commercial and scientific resources to appeal to the expanding innovator market. Altasciences divested the clinical pharmacology unit in Wales and in 2013, purchased a North American pharmacology unit focused on innovator trials, Vince & Associates Clinical Research, in Kansas, U.S.A.<sup>11</sup>

In 2013, the ALTASCIENCES name for the group of companies was officially created. It included Algorithmme Pharma's clinic and laboratory facilities in Montreal and Laval, Quebec, Canada; and Vince & Associates Clinical Research in Kansas, U.S.A. In 2015, a new clinical unit, Algorithmme Pharma U.S.A. in Fargo, N.D., U.S.A., was added to the group (operations discontinued in 2019).<sup>8</sup>

In June 2017, Audax Private Equity acquired Altasciences from Kilmer Capital Partners.<sup>10</sup> Aligned under a single identity, with a presence in both the generic and innovator early phase clinical markets, the company next decided to expand their services to include preclinical offerings. In 2018, Altasciences acquired SNBL U.S.A.'s preclinical testing business based in Seattle, W.A., U.S.A., and implemented an integrated, end-to-end early phase service offering, to take small and large molecule innovator drugs from discovery to proof of concept.<sup>9</sup>

In 2020, Altasciences added manufacturing capabilities with the acquisition of Alliance Contract Pharma based in Harleyville, PA, U.S.A.<sup>3</sup>

Also See [Altasciences.com](http://Altasciences.com) [LinkedIn](#) [YouTube](#) [Twitter](#)

According to the Altasciences' website at [www.altasciences.com](http://www.altasciences.com), the company reports the following:

ALTASCIENCES COMPANY INC.

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Based in Montreal and Laval, Quebec, Canada, Altasciences Canada includes:<sup>4</sup>

- Montreal Clinical Pharmacology Unit
- 265 beds, stays of up to 40 days
- Suite of 10 on-site driving simulators
- Purpose-built inhalation facilities
- Laval bioanalytical labs for large and small molecules
- Full range of research Services

## ALTASCIENCES CLINICAL KANSAS INC.

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Altasciences Clinical Kansas (formerly Vince & Associates Clinical Research) was founded in 2001 and was acquired by Altasciences in 2013. It includes:4

- Kansas clinical pharmacology unit
- 140 beds
- Specialized capabilities for human abuse, opioid, drug dependency trials
- Purpose-built inhalation facilities

## ALTASCIENCES' CLINICAL SERVICES

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The company reports the following clinical offerings, combined across their clinical locations in Canada and the U.S.A.:<sup>4,5</sup>

### **Clinical Pharmacology Solutions**

- First in Human
- Proof of Concept
- Relative Bioavailability
- PK/PD
- Cognitive Testing
- Drug-Drug and Drug-Alcohol Interaction
- Bioequivalence (NDA and ANDA)
- 505(b)(2)
- Biologics/Biosimilars
- Cannabis
- Driving Simulation
- Thorough QT
- Renal and Hepatic Impaired
- Human Abuse Potential
- Physical Dependency

### **Support Services:**

- Scientific, Regulatory, and Strategic Guidance
- Protocol Development
- Project Management
- Bioanalysis (small and large molecules)
- Data Management
- Biostatistics
- Reporting
- CDISC
- Archiving

The company reports experience in the following therapeutic areas:

- Abuse-Deterrent Formulations
- Cardiology
- Dermatology
- Gastroenterology
- Hematology
- Immunology
- Infectious Diseases
- Metabolism and Endocrinology
- Neurology
- Oncology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopedics
- Psychiatry
- Respiriology
- Rheumatology
- Substance Use Disorders
- Urology
- Women's Health

#### ALTASCIENCES' PRECLINICAL SERVICES

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Based in Seattle, WA, U.S.A., the preclinical facility is 210,000 square feet and includes.<sup>6</sup>

- 140 custom-designed animal rooms, including European housing
- Barrier facilities for NHPs, dogs, mini pigs, rodents and rabbits
- AAALAC-accredited, USDA registered, OLAW Assurance, BSL-2
- Client-dedicated NHP colonies available upon request
- FDA inspected
- Archive facility and services on site

The services offered at the site include:

- Scientific, Regulatory and Strategic Guidance
- Protocol Development
- Project Management
- Analytical Chemistry
- Bioanalysis (small and large molecules)
- Toxicokinetics
- Anatomic Pathology
- Clinical Pathology
- Reporting
- SEND
- Archiving

The preclinical study types available are:

- Lead Optimization
- Safety Pharmacology
- Pharmacokinetics/Pharmacodynamics
- Dose Range Finding/Maximum Tolerated Dose
- Acute Repeated Dose Toxicity
- Sub Chronic, Chronic Repeated Dose Toxicity

Routes of administration offered in the preclinical facility include:

- Oral (gavage, diet, capsule)
- Parenteral (intravenous, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intraperitoneal, intrathecal and intra-articular)
- Infusion
- Ocular
- Intranasal
- Topical
- Intravaginal
- Rectal

The company reports experience with both small and large animal species, rodent and non-rodent.

#### ALLIANCE CONTRACT PHARMA (an Altasciences Company)

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The company reports the following manufacturing and analytical capabilities:<sup>7</sup>

#### MANUFACTURING SERVICES CAPABILITIES

- Product development and manufacturing
- Controlled substance manufacturing
- Dosage type and process

30,000-square-foot facility

- Warehouse - 9,500 sq. ft.
- Manufacturing area - 3,300 sq. ft.
- Segregated ISO7/8 manufacturing area - 2,500 sq. ft. (capable of handling potent compounds)
- R&D formulations lab - 1,500 sq. ft.
- Analytical lab - 3,000 sq. ft.

#### ANALYTICAL SERVICES

- Development and validation of critical methodologies

- Drug product release testing
- Performance liquid chromatography (UPLC)
- Stability testing
- Controlled substance testing

## References

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