

The Introduction of the Life and Health Science and Innovation Highland in Zhejiang

In recent years, Zhejiang Province has consistently placed S&T innovation at the core of its developmental strategy, fully implementing strategies to enhance S&T innovation and to become a leading region for talents through extraordinary investment, systematic planning, and comprehensive reform. Significant breakthroughs have been achieved in the construction of three major science and innovation highlands and innovation policy sources in Zhejiang, leading to historic achievements and transformative changes in S&T innovation. Since the initiation of the construction of the Life and Health Science and Innovation Highland in 2018, Zhejiang has accelerated the reshaping of the provincial science and technology innovation system for life and health, focused on strengthening strategic scientific and technological forces, devoted full effort to overcoming key and core technological challenges, and sped up the integration of innovation chains, industrial chains, capital chains, and talent chains in Zhejiang. This has continuously enhanced the overall effectiveness of innovation, with the construction of the highland in Zhejiang achieving notable success. In 2022, the pharmaceutical industry in Zhejiang achieved a total

industrial output value of 295.9 billion RMB, jumping from 6th to 4th place nationally. The ratio of R&D expenditure to operating income of pharmaceutical enterprises above designated size in Zhejiang reached 5.55%, ranking at the forefront among all industrial categories in the province. The number of high-tech enterprises in Zhejiang reached 3,200, doubling the number since 2018; 9 hospitals in Zhejiang were selected into the top 100 national hospitals in terms of scientific and technological capacity (ranking second in the number of selections among all provinces and regions in the country), with the capability for medical S&T innovation in Zhejiang leaping to the forefront nationally.