Healthcare is a $3.3 trillion annual problem in the United States and DRI has not had a presence in health research. The IHI is a not-for-profit LLC formed by Renown Health in response to the growing relationship between Renown Health and DRI that resulted in the 23andMe facilitated population health and genetics program launched in September 2016.

A key to better understanding health problems and outcomes, and making these outcomes scalable to people in all places of the planet, is to understand the broad geographic, ethnic, cultural and socio-economic diversity of northern Nevada. Northern Nevada’s unique and diverse healthcare catchment represents this diversity. The catchment spans 100,000 square miles, which covers the same area as New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, and serves almost 1 million community members. It is a unique healthcare area in the United States – the population, the comprehensive provider network, electronic healthcare data and innovative combination of research tools makes the formation of this institute timely and beneficial to both institutions.

The IHI was formed as a partnership between Renown and DRI – the benefits to Renown are increased community partnerships, access to DRI expertise in data analytics and environmental science – the benefits to DRI are access to a corpus of health expertise that can be used to expand its research portfolio. The IHI has three main goals per the Renown Health strategic plan:

1. Increased clinical trial numbers and efficiency
2. Increased research and development
3. Harness the value of Renown’s electronic medical record data

Meeting these objectives directly benefits DRI in the following ways:

1. Access to health research and clinical trial revenue
2. Access to a viable R&D pipeline in healthcare services, biotech and medical research
3. Access to the enormous financial benefits of a longitudinal healthcare database
4. Increased enterprise value that can drive talent acquisition and recruiting

The IHI will integrate environmental and socio-economic determinants, which is important given some unique environmental problems that Nevada faces. The promotion of health education and participation of community members to drive sustainability and future investments is a win-win to DRI’s brand.