

## Castle Biosciences, Incorporated

*Derek Maetzold, Founder, President, and CEO*



When Derek Maetzold, a leader in the biopharmaceutical industry for 25 years, had the opportunity to live and work almost anywhere he wanted, he chose Friendswood. Fifteen years later, his wife, Sharon, and their four children (all Friendswood High School graduates) are glad they did.

Derek has not only a happy family but a highly successful business, Castle Biosciences, founded in 2007 and located at 820 S. Friendswood Drive. It has 20 Friendswood employees and 50 more working in Phoenix and scattered across the country in home offices.

Derek moved here from New

Jersey in 2003 to lead the commercial organization of a public biotechnology company near the Galleria. "When the time came to establish and open our own business, there was never any doubt that we could attract the right talent if we located our business in Friendswood," Derek said.

Since then, Castle Biosciences has successfully overseen the discovery, development, and commercialization of five diagnostic and prognostic cancer tests. More are in the pipeline.

They currently offer two cancer tests commercially: for a rare melanoma of the eye and for patients diagnosed with cutaneous or skin melanoma. "DecisionDX-UM, the eye melanoma test, is the standard of care in the U.S. and is ordered in seven out of ten patients that are diagnosed each year," Derek



said. "This level of use of a prognostic test is unheard of and a testament to the clinical value that physicians who treat this disease receive from our test results," he added.

The skin melanoma test, "DecisionDX-Melanoma" has a market adoption curve similar to the eye test, due to the important clinical value of the test, Derek said.

Although the Maetzold's youngest child will soon graduate from Texas A&M, Derek said that he and Sharon plan to continue to Live Here, Work Here, "... because of the people and location."

That is good news for Friendswood because of the groundbreaking medical work Castle Biosciences is doing and because they are projecting a fifty-percent growth in personnel by the end of 2019.

