



THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE

RESEARCH FOUNDATION

AN INDEPENDENT 501(c)3 ORGANIZATION

A newsletter of the
UTRF Technology Transfer Office

April 15, 2012

Vol. 1 | Issue 2

About UTRF

The UTRF Office of Technology Transfer moves inventions from the lab to the market, turns ideas into products, creates new industry partnerships and starts new companies that grow new jobs.

Visit our new website: utrf.tennessee.edu/techtransfer

A Note from Dr. Gourley on Otto Wheelley Award



Dick Gourley, PharmD

Dear Colleagues,

This is the second edition of the UTRF newsletter. We hope you enjoy the letter and respond to our request for nominations for the Otto Wheelley Award. The award will be given

this year and recognizes two faculty members who have made significant contributions to the development of new technologies while at the University of Tennessee. We welcome nominations from individual members of the faculty, department chairs, deans, vice chancellors and others.

The enclosed announcement is very specific about the requirements and we look forward to receiving your nominations for the awards. This year we will award two faculty awards of \$5,000 each

as well as two new awards. The new awards are \$1,500 each and represent awards to graduate students, post-doctoral fellows or residents (medicine, pharmacy and dentistry). We want to instill in our graduate students, as well as our faculty, the desire to develop new technologies that result in improved quality of life and/or health of our citizens in Tennessee and the nation.

Please take time to review the announcements and nominate someone who you feel is deserving of receiving the Wheelley Award. Nominations are due in my office by June 30, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. You can send by campus mail, email or deliver nominations in person to:

Dick R. Gourley, Pharm.D.
UT Conference Center, Suite 211
600 Henley Street, Knoxville, TN 37996
dgourley@tennessee.edu

UTRF Activity

7/1/11 - 4/15/12

Disclosures.....	98
Patents Filed.....	47
Patents Issued.....	37
Licenses & Options.....	17
Startups.....	4
Licensing Revenue.....	\$1,136,227*
* reported on an accrual basis	

Upcoming Events

Financial Planning & Cash Flow Insights - 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., April 24, 2012, Business Incubator Room 210

Governor's Innovation Conference - April 26 - 27, Nashville

The Wind Up and the Pitch - 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., May 1, 2012, Business Incubator Room 210

"Ethical, Legal and Practical Issues Related to the Patenting of Human Genes: BRCA1 and Beyond"
- 8 a.m. - Noon, May 1, 2012, Office of Human Subjects Protection Annual Spring Conference, Student Alumni Center, Room 302 (UTHSC)

Venture Capital 101 - 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., May 8, 2012, Business Incubator Room 210

The B. Otto and Kathleen Wheeley Awards for Excellence In Technology Transfer

The B. Otto and Kathleen Wheeley Award is given to a University of Tennessee faculty member(s) who excel in the commercialization of university-based research results. The B. Otto and Kathleen Wheeley Foundation provides the award stipend, through an endowment fund which was established in 1989. The award is specifically intended to recognize faculty who take a direct and active role in the commercialization process. Criteria for the award include:

1. The technological and/or scientific significance of the invention or creative work being commercialized;
2. The market success of the product or process;
3. The degree of active involvement of the faculty member in the commercialization process; and
4. The faculty member's overall con-

tribution to the University's missions of teaching, research and service.

Otto Wheeley, a University of Tennessee graduate, was deputy chair of the Koppers Company and President of Kopvenco, a venture capital subsidiary of Koppers in the early 1980s. Eager to promote technological entrepreneurs in Tennessee, he returned to the state and founded Venture First Associations, Inc., and formed a close alliance with his alma mater to promote the commercialization of university-developed research.

There will be two awards given in 2012 of \$5,000 each.

The deadline for submission is: Friday, June 29, 2012.

Nominations should be sent to:
Dick R. Gourley, PharmD
UT Research Foundation

600 Henley Street, Suite 211
UT Conference Center
Knoxville, TN 37996-4122
Phone: 865-974-1882
Fax: 865-974-2803

Nominations must include: the nominee's curriculum vitae and a 2 page description of their technology transfer achievements. The technology transfer description must include: the company (or companies) that have licensed the technology; information on the market to which the product is directed and its success in the market place; the innovative/unique qualities of the product or process and its benefits to society; and, the nominee's active and direct involvement in the commercialization process.

The award will be made in September 2012.

For Graduate Students, Medical and/or Pharmacy Residents, or Post-doctoral Fellows

The University of Tennessee is committed to the development of new intellectual property through its faculty, students, and post-docs. This will be the first time that the B. Otto and Kathleen Wheeley Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer will be given to a graduate student, medical and/or pharmacy resident or post-doc. The award is being given to stimulate the development of commercialization of products, concepts and ideas by graduate students and post-docs. Criteria for the award include:

1. The technological and/or scientific significance of the invention or creative work being commercialized or developed;
2. The potential market success of the product or process;
3. The degree of active involvement

of the graduate student, medical and/or pharmacy resident or post-doc in the development of the disclosure, patent and/or the commercialization process; and

4. The graduate student, medical and/or pharmacy resident or post-doc's contributions to the University's missions of teaching, research, and service.

There will be two awards given in 2012 of \$1,500 each.

The deadline for submission is: Friday, June 29, 2012.

Nominations should be sent to:
Dick R. Gourley, PharmD
UT Research Foundation
600 Henley Street, Suite 211
UT Conference Center
Knoxville, TN 37996-4122
Phone: 865-974-1882

Fax: 865-974-2803

Nominations must include: the nominee's curriculum vitae and a 2 page description of their technology transfer achievements to-date. The technology transfer description must include: any companies that have licensed the technology; information on the market to which the product is directed and its potential success in the market place; the innovative/unique qualities of the product or process and its potential benefits to society; and the nominee's active and direct involvement in the process. A letter from the nominee's major professor and/or mentor must be included with the letter of nomination.

The award will be made in September 2012.

UTRF Board of Directors

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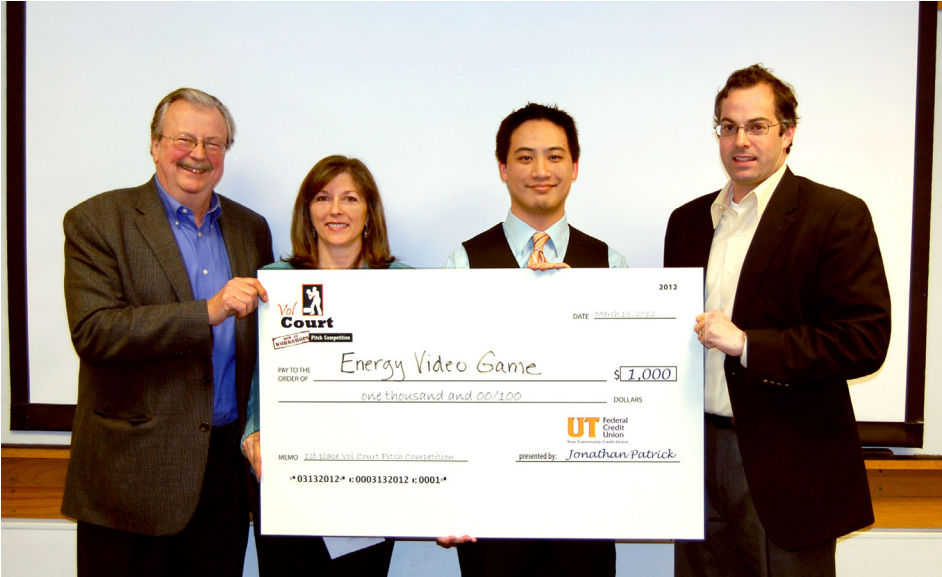
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Video Game Idea Wins UT Vol Court Business Competition



From left, Tom Graves, director of operations for the Anderson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation; Joy Fisher, Vol Court managing director, Charles Chin, Vol Court winner; Jonathan Patrick, UT Federal Credit Union.

A video game idea designed to get children interested in energy sciences and technology has won this semester's Vol Court pitch competition at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Charles Chin, a UT graduate student, took top honors. He also secured \$1,000 in start-up money for a company that will produce and sell the new educational video game, which will teach children about energy management.

Vol Court is a speaker series and pitch competition presented by the College of Business Administration's Anderson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. The goal of the program is to help

people develop new business ideas and gain entrepreneurial skills. It is sponsored by UT Federal Credit Union, UT Research Foundation, and the Terry Adams Law Firm.

A second-place \$500 prize went to Anthony Smith, a junior majoring in public relations, who is developing a low-cost marketing package for small companies. Sarah Hurst, a doctoral student at the UT Institute of Agriculture, received honorable mention for a new Type 2 diabetes treatment.

Chin, an energy science and engineering fellow in the new Bredesen Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Graduate

Education, said his winning idea was a result of his love of video games and his experiences in the energy program.

"I wanted to create a product that could not only highlight the challenges of energy sciences and technology, but also garner the interest of kids in primary education," he said. "I've long thought that educational games often take themselves too seriously, so instead of just talking about it, I am making games people want to play."

"I'm from an engineering background," Chin added, "so the business side of the world is completely new to me. Vol Court gave me a great crash course on what challenges and hurdles I would have to deal with, and it also gave me more confidence in this idea. Having the judges see the value in this project has really given me the push to take this through to the end."

Vol Court's popularity has been increasing, with more than 30 percent growth this semester in both number of attendees and number of teams that pitched the idea.

"We had some business and nonbusiness participants pair up to pitch their ideas, which often helps accelerate the time it takes to bring ideas to market," said Joy Fisher, Vol Court managing director.

Vol Court is offered every fall and spring semester and is open to students, faculty, and the general public.

UTRF in Memphis Sponsors Lunch 'N Learn Series

UTRF in Memphis is sponsoring a Lunch 'N Learn Seminar Series for faculty, staff and students. The goal is to educate the UTHSC community about the technology transfer process and related areas. The seminars are informal and provide a forum for questions and discussion. Over the past year, topics have included "Invention Disclosures," "Patent Basics," "Research

Tools," "The Supreme Court Decision in *Stanford v. Roche* (2011)," and "Licensing." Seminars are given every other month and speakers include UTRF licensing staff as well as speakers from outside the university. In January, Zachary D. Cary, MBA, Ph.D., Director of Business Development at KeraFAST, presented an overview of his company, and described how they

are reaching out to universities to license research tools. In April, William N. Hulsey, an Intellectual Property Lawyer, discussed the impact the U.S. Supreme Court ruling *Mayo Collaborative Services v. Prometheus Laboratories* may have on the biotechnology and medical technology community. UTRF plans to resume this series later this summer.

UTRF Multidisciplinary Office Licensing Associate: Maha Krishnamurthy, Ph.D.



Maha Krishnamurthy, Ph.D.

Maha Krishnamurthy is a licensing associate for the University of Tennessee Research Foundation - Multidisciplinary (Knoxville) Office.

She is responsible for intellectual property portfolio management and commercialization of UT's technologies from plant biotechnology, college of engineering, arts and sciences. Maha's expertise includes bridging the gap between research and business by evaluating patentable inventions to identify suitable

commercial partners, and coordinating a variety of interactions with companies and individuals interested in commercializing UT's technologies.

Prior to joining UTRF, Maha was an intellectual property commercialization, licensing and maturation consultant with clients such as the Oak Ridge National Laboratory; she provided essential support to ensure successful technology commercialization. Before that stint as a consultant, Maha was a postdoctoral research associate with the University of Tennessee and published over twenty top cited peer reviewed papers.

Maha has a doctor of philosophy in

physics from Colorado State University, as well as a MBA from the University of Tennessee.

Now a United States citizen, Maha was born in Mumbai, India and first came to the U.S. 14 years ago at Colorado State University and Stanford's Accelerator Center. Prior to coming to the U.S. Maha received a master's degree in laser and plasma physics from University of Mumbai, India.

Outside of work, Maha enjoys reading, hiking and travelling, and she is fluent in four languages.

Maha is married to Dr. Stefan Spanier, and together they have two children, Ishani Maria (age 9) and Avani Maya (age 4).

UTRF Health Science Center Office Licensing Associate: Janet Ralbovsky, Ph.D.



Janet Ralbovsky, Ph.D.

Janet is part of the UT Health Science Center (UTHSC) team and is responsible for licensing University technology.

She enjoys working with the faculty, students and staff at UTHSC and is impressed with the wide range of inventions coming out of the Health Science Center.

"It is rewarding to assist the inventors in the patenting and commer-

cializing of their technologies. I get caught up in their enthusiasm, and I am learning so much from them," she says.

Prior to joining UTRF, Janet worked in drug discovery as a medicinal chemist and project leader at a small pharmaceutical company in Connecticut, Cara Therapeutics, focusing on new therapies for pain. Before that, she was a medicinal chemist working in the research areas of oncology and enterology at Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development.

Janet holds a B.A. in chemistry from Smith College, a M.S. in or-

ganic chemistry from the University of Rochester and a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the Pennsylvania State University. She is a registered patent agent with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Janet grew up in upstate New York and moved to Memphis two years ago. So far she is enjoying living along the Mississippi River. In her free time she enjoys playing golf, attending local theater products and going to the Memphis farmer's markets – which she says, have the best peaches and blueberries she's ever eaten.