

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. Learn more at <http://utrf.tennessee.edu/>.

UT Researchers Honored at Innovation Awards



UTRF President and CEO Dave Washburn (left) and Stephen Wheeley (right) present J. Douglas Birdwell and Tsewei Wang with the B. Otto and Kathleen Wheeley Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer.

Sixty-five University of Tennessee researchers were recognized Friday for their discoveries at the 2013 University of Tennessee Research Foundation (UTRF) Innovation Awards. Each of the inventors honored at the event had, in the past three years, received a patent from the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), developed a technology that was licensed to an outside company, or in some cases, both.

"The University's strategic plan calls for us to promote the application and commercialization of research to improve the economy and expand business and industry in the State of Tennessee," said David Washburn, president and CEO of UTRF. "This celebration gives us the opportunity to recognize the innovators at UT who are making major contributions that improve

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UTRF Activity

(7/1/13 - 9/26/13)

Disclosures.....	46
U.S. Patents Filed.....	21
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Licenses & Options.....	4
Startups.....	2

Upcoming Events

Patent Basics Seminar - October 3, noon, UT Health Science Center, 910 Madison, Suite 502, Memphis, Tenn. RSVP to cdicker8@uthsc.edu.

Life Science Tennessee Conference & Venture Forum - Conference featuring national and state speakers from the drug discovery, medical device, diagnostics, biologics, bio-agriculture and venture capital industries. October 9-11, Nashville Music City Center, Nashville, Tenn.

More Info/Registration:
<http://lifesciencetn.org>

Maturation Fund Proposal Deadline - Proposals must be submitted to your campus research office by 5 p.m. October 18.

Submissions Period Open in Annual UTRF Maturation Funding Program

The University of Tennessee Research Foundation (UTRF) is announcing a call for submissions for the seventh annual UTRF Maturation Funding program. Proposals are due into your Research Office (UTHSC - through TERA PAMS) by close of business October 18, 2013. The program helps UT researchers further develop technologies that have potential for commercial success. Up to \$15,000 in direct costs will be awarded to the highest ranking proposals.

Guidelines

- Open to all UT researchers, faculty, staff and students at all campuses and institutes.
- Projects must be related to an existing UT invention/creation disclosure, OR a proposal can be accompanied by a new UT invention/creation disclosure.
- All proposals should generate new data that validate the technology and increase its commercial readiness. They should clearly describe how the expected results will increase the commercial opportunities for the technology.

- Proposals that only generate basic research results should not be submitted.

- Identification of potential commercial partners for collaboration on this proposal is encouraged.

Proposal Requirements

- Proposals should describe the technology and its existing data, plan of work, expected results, budget, and an assessment of how the expected results will increase the commercial opportunities for the technology.
- Funds should be directed to labor, materials, and services necessary to achieve the proposed deliverable(s). Indirect costs are not allowed.
- Funds may not be used for PI salary, but may be used for student, post doc, or technical staff support.
- Proposal should not exceed 3 pages, excluding references, which may be included as a 1-page appendix. Therefore, the proposal plus the appendix must not exceed 4 pages.
- Proposal should be received by the campus-specific research office

(UTHSC - through TERA PAMS) by close of business October 18, 2013.

Judging Criteria

A panel of technical and business experts from inside and outside of the university will rank-order projects based on the following criteria:

- Demonstration of a path for commercial development
- Market potential
- Stage of development

Deadlines:

Proposal receipt:

Oct. 18, 2013 at 5 p.m.

Awards announced:

Nov. 18, 2013

Project start date:

Dec. 9, 2013

Project completion date:

Sept. 12, 2014

Final report due:

Oct. 10, 2014

To see list of past maturation fund recipients, visit <http://utrf.tennessee.edu>.

UTRF Staff Directory

Dave Washburn - President & CEO

Knoxville Office

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Nghia Chiem, Ph.D. - Licensing Associate

Teresa Cooper - Accounting Specialist

Kimberly Hood - Marketing Manager

Pamela Howell - Business Incubator Coordinator

Samantha Jeffers - Business Manager

Maha Krishnamurthy, Ph.D. - Licensing Associate

Susan McCue - Patent Coordinator

Patrick Reynolds, Ph.D. - Licensing Associate

Mary Ann Warwick Russell, J.D. - Staff Attorney

Jeanie Snider - Office Manager

Memphis Office

Richard Magid, Ph.D. - Vice President

Lakita Cavin, J.D., Ph.D. - Staff Attorney, Licensing Associate

Janet Ralbovsky, Ph.D. - Licensing Associate

Cynthia Brown - Senior Administrative Coordinator

UTRF Launches Business Plan Competition for Academic-Affiliated Startups

The University of Tennessee Research Foundation (UTRF) has announced the formation of a new business plan competition aimed at academic-affiliated startup companies. The competition, named Tennessee Venture Challenge (TVC), will be held in April 2014 and is designed to encourage students, researchers and community members to create new, sustainable businesses in the state of Tennessee.

TVC is open to startup companies engaged in commercializing intellectual property created at the University of Tennessee. Finalists in the competition will pitch their business opportunity to a panel of venture investors for a share of the \$25,000 in cash to be awarded.

“The Tennessee Venture Challenge is an exciting, demanding and reward-

ing contest designed to encourage all members of the UT community to create new sustainable businesses in the state,” said David Washburn, president and CEO of UTRF. “The contest develops entrepreneurial spirit through teamwork and competition while helping to convert cutting edge research into solutions that make the world a better place.”

In conjunction with TVC, the Anderson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at UT Knoxville will host a series of venture development workshops beginning in the spring semester. Attendance at these workshops is mandatory. Each team must have at least one representative present at each session. These workshops will help prepare teams for the challenges of venture creation. Mentors also will

be available to provide assistance in the venture creation process.

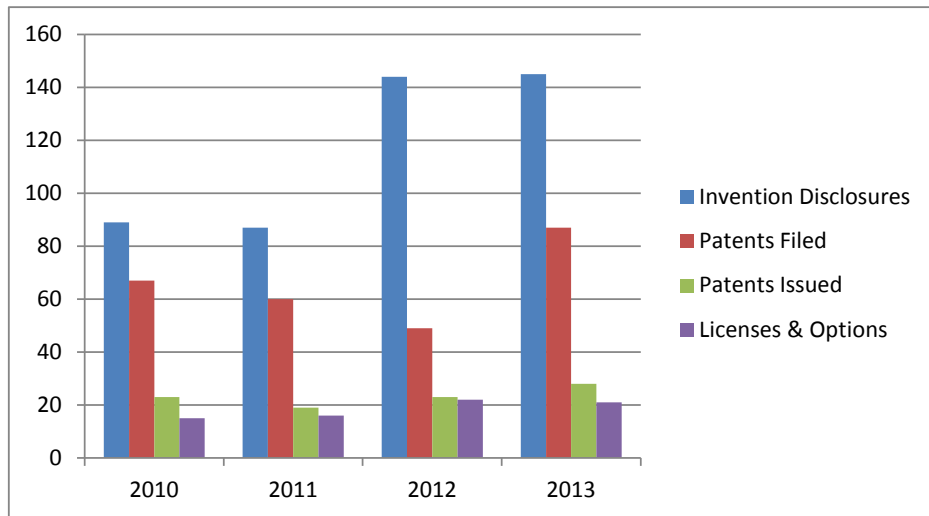
The competition is for new, independent ventures in the seed, startup, or early growth stages. Teams may have business ventures centered on intellectual property from any campus in the UT System. Venture ideas may focus on a technology, consumer product, service, or social venture. Various prizes of cash and valuable in-kind services provide for a wide range of opportunities. More information regarding eligibility and specific prizes is available online at <http://utrf.tennessee.edu/TVC>.

The deadline for entry into the competition is Monday, Dec. 16. Application forms and additional information will be available online. Visit <http://utrf.tennessee.edu/TVC> for more details.



2013 UTRF Summary

In the 2013 fiscal year, UTRF received 145 invention disclosures, filed 87 patent applications, were issued 28 patents, and executed 21 license and option agreements. Additionally, four startup companies were created around UT technologies.



UTRF Board of Directors

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Frank J. Kinser, Chattanooga, Tennessee

David Washburn, President & CEO, UT Research Foundation

the quality of life in our state and beyond.”

The faculty members honored today are affiliated with UT Knoxville, UT Institute of Agriculture, UT Space Institute and the Graduate School of Medicine. In all, 48 patents have been issued from these inventions in the last three years. In addition, UTRF executed 31 license transactions in the same three year period. Some faculty members worked in teams, and some faculty members have more than one patent or license agreement. Faculty at the UT Health Science Center will be recognized in December in Memphis.

Patents are awarded for unique technologies and serve to protect inventions that can benefit society. On average, less than 20 percent of technologies created at UT are eventually granted patents from the USPTO. As a result, the faculty responsible for the discoveries that make it through this process are among the most innovative and dedicated researchers in the university system. Once a technology or idea is patented, it can then be licensed to outside companies for further development and commercialization. License agreements stemming from patented technologies generate revenue for the university and can be the basis for starting new companies, contributing to local and regional economic development.

UTRF also presented the B. Otto and Kathleen Wheeley Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer. The award is a cash prize given to the member of the UT faculty who

has had a major impact on the tech transfer success of the University. This year’s recipients are J. Douglas Birdwell and Tsewei Wang, both of UT’s College of Engineering.

Birdwell is a professor in the Department of Engineering and Computer Science. He has been a faculty member at UT since 1978 and is currently the director of the Laboratory for Information Technologies. He has over 100 publications and has directed over \$10 million in sponsored research projects at UT.

Wang is an associate professor emeritus in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. She joined UT in 1989 as a tenure track assistant professor in the Chemical Engineering Department. She has authored over 50 publications, presentations and peer reviewed journal articles and has directed \$5 million - \$7 million in sponsored research projects at UT. Wang retired from UT in December of 2012 but continues to be active with her research team.

Together, Birdwell and Wang have 23 issued patents, and licensing agreements on their technologies have generated \$1,124,012 in revenue.

“The work of Drs. Birdwell and Wang and their team has had a tremendous impact on the ability of law enforcement agencies around the world to exchange and compare forensic DNA evidence to help solve crimes,” said Washburn. “From inventions in parallel data processing architectures, DNA forensics analysis, and advanced DNA

database search techniques – their work aids in identifying missing persons and victims of disasters and crime.”

Inventors recognized for receiving a patent include:

Besma Abidi, UTK
 Raul Almeida, UTIA
 Gregory Armel, UTK
 John Birdwell, UTK
 Zhiyu Chen, UTK
 Ying-Ling Chen, UTSI
 Feng Chen, UTIA
 (Max) Zong-Ming Cheng, UTIA
 Suxiang Deng, UTK
 William Hamel, UTK
 J. Wesley Hines, UTK
 Roger Horn, UTK
 Rudi Hrcic, Graduate School of Medicine
 Baoshan Huang, UTK
 David Icove, UTK
 Juan Jurat-Fuentes, UTIA
 Stephen Kania, UTIA
 Richard Komistek, UTK
 James Lewis, UTS
 IDouglas Luther, UTIA
 Jimmy Mays, UTK
 Anatoli Melechko, UTK
 Stephen Oliver, UTIA
 Cristopher Oppert, UTIA
 Olga Ovchinnikova, UTK
 Jared Pendleton, UTK
 Hairong Qi, UTK
 Carl Sapp, UTK
 Xiang Shu, UTK
 Alan Solomon, Graduate School of Medicine
 Dale Stansberry, UTK
 C. Neal Stewart, UTIA
 Jonathan Wall, Graduate School of Medicine
 Tse-Wei Wang, UTK
 John Wilkerson, UTIA
 Rebecca Wilkes, UTIA
 Jie (Jayne) Wu, UTK
 Ning Xue, UTK
 Xia Ye, UTIA
 Michael Zemel, UTIA
 Nan Zhao, UTIA