



INNOVATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION

JANUARY 2021



ANNOUNCEMENT



### **Michele Gunness Retiring**

Having contributed to OHSU Technology Transfer's success and growth for nearly 20 years — longer than any other OHSU member — **Michele Gunness, Ph.D., C.L.P.**, will retire at the end of January. Michele saw the office grow from just a handful of technology transfer employees to more than 20 members at one point. Her many career accomplishments include the 2019 Deal of Distinction Award from the Licensing Executives Society, which recognized her role in a creative technology licensing deal for a rare pediatric disease dataset.

Michele will be truly missed by colleagues, researchers and partners

across the world who have learned from and collaborated with Michele. As a mentor and collaborator, and as a coworker, she brings a consistently positive attitude to any project.

Growing up on the east coast, Michele received her B.A. in anthropology from Franklin Pierce University and her Ph.D. in biobehavioral sciences from the University of Connecticut. After completing a post-doctoral fellowship and working as an assistant professor at the University of Connecticut, Michele moved across the country to join OHSU and the Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center in 1990, where she ran a bone histomorphometry laboratory. Following an esteemed research career, Michele made the leap into the business side of science in 2001 by joining OHSU's small but mighty technology transfer office. Her career has flourished.

Many of you may know that Michele is an avid outdoors person who intends to take advantage of the ski slopes and hiking trails during retirement. She's also planning to spend more time with friends and family, including her grandchildren here in the Portland area. We all wish we could hold an in-person retirement celebration for Michele, but instead a virtual retirement event will take place on Jan. 21 to honor, recognize and remember all that Michele has done for the OHSU community and beyond.

Congratulations Michele!

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



### **Mobile Apps for Clinical Studies (MACS)**

The [Oregon Clinical & Translational Research Institute \(OCTRI\)](#) announces a new opportunity for researchers wishing to create a direct-

to-patient clinical research data collection “app” who may also have a long-term goal of developing a commercial mobile application.

**What:** Funding to leverage new the REDCap functionality MyCap to create mobile apps that allow clinical study participants to report outcomes/data via a smartphone; the program aims to help fill the pipeline for BIP Digital Health by allowing PIs to conduct preliminary research and obtain user experience data.

**Who should apply:** PIs who meet [OHSU Principal Investigator requirements](#) and want to create a mobile app for clinical or commercial purposes.

**Award:** Up to \$5,000/typically one year.

**Deadline:** Rolling; application will close when funding for the fiscal year is exhausted.

Submit your project intake form through REDCap [here](#).

#### FEATURED NEWS



#### **4 OHSU research projects receive Biomedical Innovation Program 2021 awards**

Childbirth outcomes, vascular disease, headaches and magnetic resonance imaging — these are targets of 2021 Biomedical Innovation Program funding in the device and diagnostic track.

This category of funding supports novel and innovative medical device and diagnostic technologies that address a significant clinical problem and aim to improve the quality of patient care, achieve cost savings, or

improve research efficiency.

The awards provide funds, project management and mentorship to support researchers moving innovative technologies from laboratories toward and into the clinic. Abstracts for all funded technologies can be found [here](#).

**Awardees:**

[Xin Li, Ph.D.](#), associate professor, Advanced Imaging Research Center  
“Improving practical activity MRI quantification”

[Austin Peters, M.D.](#), assistant professor Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine, School of Medicine  
“Self-administered palate stimulation device for non-invasive headache relief”

[Elise Erickson, Ph.D.](#), CNM, assistant professor Midwifery Division, School of Nursing  
“Deciphering the due date-using AI to predict and improve childbirth”

[David Warner, M.D.](#), research resident, and [Albert Lwin, M.D., M.P.H.](#), research resident, and [Cherrie Abraham, M.D.](#), faculty sponsor  
Department of Surgery, School of Medicine  
“Novel vascular doppler device for blood flow detection”

The [Oregon Clinical & Translational Research Institute, OHSU Collaborations & Entrepreneurship](#), and [OHSU Technology Transfer](#) jointly administer the Biomedical Innovation Program (BIP). Funding for BIP is made possible by OCTRI and the University Venture Development Fund. Interested donors are encouraged to email [Timothy Coffey](#).

OCTRI is supported by (UL1TRO02369) from the [National Center for Advancing Translational Science](#) at the National Institutes of Health.



## David Huang honored for co-invention of eye-imaging technology

Prolific OHSU inventor [David Huang, M.D., Ph.D.](#) was awarded a Visionary Prize from the [Sanford and Susan Greenberg Prize to End Blindness](#) during the live-streamed event on December 14th. Huang, a professor of ophthalmology in the OHSU School of Medicine and an associate director of the OHSU Casey Eye Institute, co-invented [optical coherence tomography](#), also known as OCT. The technology is used to diagnose macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma, and helps physicians decide how to best treat patients with blindness-causing disease. This technology is also increasingly used to evaluate treatments for multiple sclerosis and other diseases.

To learn more about the various innovations and technologies from Dr. Huang's team, please contact [Arvin Paranjpe](#).



## Autobahn to Initiate Clinical Development for ABX-002

OHSU startup [Autobahn Therapeutics](#) recently announced that it has successfully completed a pre-IND meeting with the U.S. FDA regarding the development plan for its lead candidate, ABX-002, a potent and selective thyroid hormone receptor beta agonist. Read more [here](#).



### **Vir Biotechnology, initiates phase I clinical trial**

[OHSU startup](#), Vir Biotechnology, initiates phase I clinical trial of a vaccine vector platform originally conceived and developed at OHSU. Read more [here](#).

#### FEATURED EVENTS



### **Registration Open: Biomedical Innovation Commercialization Readiness Program (BIP Corp)**

Taking your idea or technology from the lab/clinic is hard. BIP Corp is a 5-week experiential course designed to help you and your team assess and validate your biomedical technology. You'll gain the basic knowledge and tools to initiate innovation and commercialization of your technology, and a competitive business case to secure funding, partnerships, and further research opportunities.

March 5 – April 9, entirely virtual and offered at no-cost.

Register [here](#). View full course details and dates [here](#).



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**OHSU #1967** - Small Molecule Inhibitors of the Mitochondrial Permeability Transition Pore (PTP)

**OHSU #2347** - Human Oocytes Generated By Nuclear Transfer

**OHSU #2414** - MicroRNA inhibitors to enhance radiotherapy efficacy

#### NEWLY LICENSED OHSU TECHNOLOGIES

**OHSU #1771** - Materials from the BioLibrary

**OHSU #1937** - Anesthesia Tool Box Project, Inventor: Glenn Woodworth

**OHSU #2904** - Composition and methods for delivery of AAV, Inventor: Kei Adachi and Hiroyuki Nakai

#### U.S. PATENTS ISSUED

**Patent #10,857,174** - Morpholino oligonucleotides useful in cancer treatment

**Patent #10,857,219** - Compositions comprising soluble HLA/M. tuberculosis-specific ligand complexes and methods of production and use thereof

**Patent #10,865,181** - Small molecule inhibitors of the mitochondrial permeability transition pore (mtPTP)

**Patent #10,870,616** - Derivatives of sobetirome

#### RESEARCHERS IN NEW INDUSTRY-FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

**John Brigande, Betsy Ferguson** - Gene therapy targeting variants of the otoferlin gene

**Michael Cohen** - Screening inhibitors as potential cancer therapeutics

**Khashayar Farsad** - Collection of anonymized cardiac CT scans

**Monica Hinds** - Testing the antithrombotic activity of a therapeutic monoclonal antibody

**Paul Kievit** - Testing a repurposed drug for Type II Diabetes

**David Wilson** - Clinical services for a clinical study of gene therapy for CNGA3 defect-driven Achromatopsia

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN  
**11-13**

Redefining Early Stage Investments (RESI)  
virtual conference series

JAN  
**12**

OCTRI Design Studio for Career  
Development Awards

JAN  
**14**

Lunch & Learn: Best Practices in Medical  
Device Software & Firmware Design

JAN  
**29**

Racial Underrepresentation in Clinical Trials

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Questions? Contact us at [techmgmt@ohsu.edu](mailto:techmgmt@ohsu.edu).

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