OHSU’s research community remained strong and innovative during 2020. Through loss, uncertainty and unrest, this community has come forward with existing and newfound skills to create solutions and find ways to make things better and brighter. These efforts have been a bright note and counterpoint to the turmoil and disruption that we’ve experienced.

Together, we have celebrated new startup companies, collaborated with new and existing industry partners, continued to innovate as a community and have continued to push technology advancements forward—through new and challenging working environments. Your teamwork, resilience and determination make it a pleasure to do our part in the success of OHSU’s mission and vision.

Technology Transfer and Collaborations and Entrepreneurship are proud to recognize and honor many individuals involved in innovation, entrepreneurship, industry partnership and technology commercialization at OHSU during the past year. Thank you for being a part of OHSU and making us who we are.

Andrew Watson, Ph.D.
SENIOR DIRECTOR, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Aditi Martin, Ph.D.
SENIOR DIRECTOR, COLLABORATIONS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
CREATORS OF LICENSED TECHNOLOGY

Kei Adachi  Joe Gray  Thuy Ngo
Andrew Adey  Markus Grompe  Aaron Nilsen
Ramsey Al-Hakim  Matthew Hansen  Oregon Hearing Research Center
Tom Barbara  Samuel Huang  Susan Ostmo
Connor Barth  Wei Huang  Arvin Paranjpe
Christie Binder  Thomas Jacob  Ashok Reddy
Peter Campbell  Peter Jacobs  Michael Riscoe
Jessica Castle  Yali Jia  Bill Rooney
David Castro  John Kaufman  Tom Scanlan
Xiao Lan Chang  Knight Cancer Biolibrary  David Sheridan
Yiyi Chen  Dave Lawrence  Travis Smith
Albert Chi  Joseph Leitschuh  Charles Springer, Jr.
Aaron Coyner  David Lewinsohn  Philip Streeter
Craig Dorrell  Xin Li  Charles Thomas
Brian Druker  R. Stephen Lloyd  Henryk Urbanski
Joseph El Youssef  Amanda McCullough  Tania Vu
Diane Elliot  Whitney Menzel  Richard Wampler
Khashayar Farsad  William Messer  Lei Wang
Sky Ferrara  Irina Minko  Xiang Wei
Evan Fontaine  Brendan Moloney  Richard Weleber
Lina Gao  Ryan Mulqueen  Randy Woltjer
Summer Gibbs  Hiroyuki Nakai  Glenn Woodworth
Drew Gingerich  Scott Naugler  Wassana Yantasee
Eric Gouaux  Christie Naze

Oregon Hearing Research Center
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS OF NON-CLINICAL INDUSTRY SPONSORED RESEARCH

Ted Acott  Paul Kievit  Brian Scottoline
John Brigande  Jodi Lapidus  Tom Shearer
Kim Burchiel  Nicola Long  Heather Sidener
Benjamin Burwitz  Daniel Marks  Ov Slayden
Jessica Castle  Owen McCarty  Mark Slifka
Michael Cohen  Matthias Merkel  Daniel Streblow
Virginiua Cuzon Carlson  Justin Merritt  Cristina Tognon
Brian Druker  Gordon Mills  Elie Traer
Jacob Estes  Amy Moran  Mitchell Turker
Khashayar Farsad  Hiroyuki Nakai  Jeffrey Tyner
Betsy Ferguson  Craig Okada  Arthur Vandenbark
William Fleming  Alex Ortega Loayza  David Wilson
Jeff Gold  Cristina Puy Garcia  Xiangshu Xiao
Joe Gray  Phil Raess  Wassana Yantasee
Markus Grompe  Anna Reister Schultz  Craig Yoshioka
Donna Hansel  Maria Rodriguez  Mary Zelinski
Jon Hennebold  James Ross  David Zonies
Ann Hessell  Renee Ryals
Monica Hinds  Tom Scanlan

NEW COMPANIES BASED ON OHSU TECHNOLOGY

Boston AI Labs, Inc.
Capsigen, Inc.
eLoomix, LLC
Luciole Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
PromediX, Inc.
United in Heart
Connor Barth, Ph.D.
CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, INHERENT TARGETING, LLC
RESEARCH SCIENTIST, GIBBS LAB

The Early Career Innovator Award is presented to an OHSU employee such as a student, post-doctoral fellow, medical resident or someone else early in their professional career who possesses a passion for innovation and developing technologies to solve real-world problems. They work closely with the innovation ecosystems within and outside of OHSU to prepare their innovations for commercial success.

As a doctoral student in the lab of Summer Gibbs, Ph.D., Barth worked on the development of a new class of nerve-specific fluorescent dyes used to detect tumor margins during fluorescence-guided surgery. These near-infrared dyes were the foundation of Inherent Targeting LLC, a start-up co-founded by Barth, Gibbs and Lei Wang, Ph.D. They will be used to improve a surgeon’s ability to visualize nerves during surgery, therefore reducing the risk of nerve damage.

Since his graduation in 2018, Barth has continued in the Gibbs lab as a research scientist while, as CEO of Inherent Targeting, he focuses on the commercialization and clinical translation of the nerve-specific dyes. Barth, Gibbs and Wang have worked extensively with OHSU Technology Transfer, OHSU Collaborations and Entrepreneurship and the Oregon Clinical Translational Research Institute—as well as with external mentors—to move the technology forward. Through these efforts, Barth and his cofounders are guiding Inherent Targeting to successfully bring the nerve-specific near-infrared dyes to the clinic.
In his thirty years with OHSU, Markus Grompe’s research has advanced the clinical care of patients in significant ways. A prolific innovator, he has made major advancements in the development of platforms for treating single gene disorders through cell selection and gene transfer techniques. Grompe and his collaborators have conceived and developed ninety new innovations over the years, of which twenty-eight have been licensed by OHSU to industry partners such as LogicBio, Inc. (NASDAQ: LOGC), Cytotherapy, Inc., and Yecuris, Inc.

Among many key scientific achievements, Grompe showed therapeutic stem cells can be derived from adult bone marrow, developed effective screening and treatments for the rare liver disorder tyrosinemia type 1, identified and cloned a key gene linked to Fanconi anemia, and much more. He created a method of using mice to generate human liver cells—a capability useful in testing the effects of new drugs or diseases that led to the formation of Yecuris. Grompe is a scientific founder of Yecuris and Ambys Medicines, Inc., a portfolio company of Third Rock Ventures that is developing innovative treatments for liver disease.

In 2020, Grompe was inducted into the OHSU Chapter of the National Academy of Inventors for his innovative ideas and contributions to the scientific community.
As the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the globe in early 2020, health care professionals anticipated a serious shortage of the ventilators needed to keep the sickest patients alive. In response, Albert Chi, Evan Fontaine and Whitney Menzel designed a ventilator that can be widely produced for $10 USD in 3-10 hours with a 3D-printer. The device was designed to be used when clinicians must make life-or-death decisions about which patients are intubated with ventilators to improve their chances of survival.

In addition to collaborations within OHSU, this work was funded by OCTRI's Biomedical Innovation Program. The team worked closely with 3D-printing technology firms and had some assistance from engineers at Oregon-based Nike. The group filed for emergency use authorization from the US Food and Drug Administration to deploy the design across the country. In addition to its low price and rapid producibility, the device requires no electricity—only a standard oxygen tank. The future may see it used in austere environments such as military operations or sites of natural disasters.
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