Travis Cook, M.S., M.B.A., CLP, has been appointed senior director of Technology Transfer at OHSU. Travis has substantial experience across the technology innovation spectrum and has worked with OHSU inventors and entrepreneurs to commercialize and protect their ideas. Travis has been at OHSU since 2014 and most recently served as the associate director of Tech Transfer. In that role, he led technology development and licensing, playing an instrumental part in intellectual asset management, technology licensing, startup formation and commercialization. Travis has been serving as the interim director since May 2021. You can read Travis’ bio on the Tech Transfer website.

Travis will be collaborating with other members of OHSU’s innovation leadership team, in particular Aditi Martin, senior director of OHSU Collaboration and Entrepreneurship. Together Travis and Aditi lead the
innovation units that represent the entire university.

OHSU researchers to develop nanobody therapeutics platform with funding from M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust

The ongoing battle with COVID-19 highlights the need for therapeutic strategies that can be deployed rapidly and easily adapted to tackle emerging viral variants.

OHSU researcher Fikadu Tafesse, Ph.D., pictured above, was awarded a Commercialization Initiation grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust to overcome these limitations and pioneer a nanobody platform to rapidly produce effective biologic therapeutics.

Tafesse is a leading researcher in infectious diseases and nanobody therapeutics that can neutralize and block viral and bacterial infections. Nanobodies are similar to conventional antibodies, but are roughly one-tenth the size. This smaller size makes them more efficient and precise, and they are easier and faster to produce and modify.

The Tafesse laboratory is developing a nanobody platform that significantly reduces the time needed to develop biologic therapeutics. In their proof-of-concept work, the team developed a SARS-CoV-2 nanobody that was easier to transport and store, and highly effective at neutralizing SARS-CoV-2 infections in vitro. The validation of this SARS-CoV-2 nanobody and continued development of the nanobody platform, including the production of variant-specific SARS-CoV-2 therapeutics, will be the focus of this grant awarded by the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust.

The University Venture Development Fund and the Innovation Development and Entrepreneurship Acceleration Fund provided a matching contribution to the Commercialization Initiation grant. OHSU Technology Transfer and the OHSU Foundation supported development of the grant application, and initial funding for proof-of-concept development of the SARS-CoV-2 nanobody was provided by the
Biomedical Innovation Program "COVID-19 Rapid Response and Digital Health," a partnership of OCTRI, OHSU Technology Transfer and OHSU Collaborations and Entrepreneurship.

Ultimately, this nanobody platform could allow for a more rapid response to develop effective therapeutics to new bacterial and viral infections and the flexibility to adapt to viral variants as they arise.

This technology is available for co-development, partnering and licensing opportunities. Interested parties should contact Lisa Lukaesko, technology development manager, at lukaesko@ohsu.edu.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Trunkey Center Research and Innovation awards

**What:** Supports progress on clearly articulated, early-phase research and innovation projects by providing opportunities for pilot testing, preliminary data collection, prototype development and feasibility or needs assessments or similar activities.

**Who should apply:** Teams of faculty, staff and students/residents either from or outside OHSU; each project team must include at least one OHSU member who serves as PI or Co-PI.

**Award:** Between $5,000 and $20,000/up to two years

**Deadline:** Jan. 14, 2022, midnight PT

**Apply through the CAP**

Note that each week, OHSU Research Development compiles a list of funding opportunities from internal sources, the government and private foundations. We publish the list [here](#) every Thursday.

MORE NEWS

New study confirms viability of innovative approach to neurosurgery
Research published by OHSU researchers has provided additional validation for nerve-specific fluorophores developed in the laboratory of Summer Gibbs, Ph.D., associate professor of biomedical engineering, OHSU School of Medicine.

These fluorophores could highlight nerves during surgery in real time to improve surgical outcomes. The study, published in Advanced Therapeutics, was led by Connor Barth, Ph.D., research scientist and CEO of OHSU spinoff company Inherent Targeting, and Gibbs (corresponding author). Image above (left to right): Gibbs, Barth and Broderick House, Ph.D., working on fluorescent nerve contrast agent development.

AstraZeneca Partner of Choice Program accepts six new research projects from Knight Cancer Institute

AstraZeneca has accepted six research proposals submitted by Knight Cancer Institute investigators as part of the Partner of Choice program. A total of 13 applications were put forth, hence The Knight’s success rate was nearly 50% for this call for proposals! Furthermore, among the nine institutions comprising the global Partner of Choice Network, The Knight far outperformed the average of 1.5 successful applications per site. Congratulations to our investigators — great job! Thanks to our dedicated AZ Partner of Choice team at The Knight — Liz Sturgill, Cristina Tognon and Dan Coleman — for all of their hard work vetting, tracking and managing these proposals. More details coming soon on the proposals. If you have any questions about this partnership, or would like the Partner of Choice team to give a presentation to your group, please contact Dan Coleman at colemada@ohsu.edu.

Read the OHSU News story on the Knight’s selection for the Partner of
OHSU Technology Transfer kicks off its Innovative Technology video series

The Innovative Technology video series will highlight OHSU inventors and their new technologies available for licensing. The inaugural video features Adem Yildirim, Ph.D., discussing novel nanoparticle ultrasound contrast agents and their application as both cancer diagnostics and therapeutic agents. These contrast agents were developed by Yildirim and colleagues at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute’s Cancer Early Detection Advanced Research Center (CEDAR). See the video on the OHSU YouTube channel or the OHSU Technology Transfer LinkedIn page.

OHSU Startup announces collaboration

Luciole Pharmaceuticals, an OHSU startup developing novel therapeutics to repair damaged mitochondrial DNA was founded on discoveries in the laboratories of R. Stephen Lloyd, Ph.D., and Amanda K. McCullough, Ph.D. Luciole has entered into a research collaboration with Cylcica, which specializes in data-driven drug discovery. The collaboration aims to accelerate the discovery of small molecule agonists of the enzyme OGG1 (8-oxoguanine DNA glycosylase) for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases and other diseases of aging.
2021 Oregon Bioengineering Symposium: Regenerative medicine, rehabilitation, and artificial intelligence, Nov. 11-12

The third annual Bioengineering Symposium will highlight the latest research and applications related to regenerative medicine, rehabilitation, and artificial intelligence. Collaboratively organized by Oregon Health & Science University, University of Oregon, and Oregon State University, the meeting facilitates the exchange of ideas between students, researchers, industry partners and clinical practitioners in Oregon and the surrounding region. Registration will remain open until two days before the conference, but abstract submissions are now closed. Registration is free for this virtual event. View speaker schedule.

- **NOV. 1-8** Women in STEM toy drive
- **NOV. 4** Accelerate Biotech + Digital Health Virtual Happy Hour
- **NOV. 5** CHOC Adolescent to Adult Bridge panel discussion
- **NOV. 9** OCTRI Design Studio for career development awards
- **NOV. 10** Oregon Bioscience fall 2021 virtual career fair
- **NOV. 12** Biotech Summit 2021: Biomarker and the promise of precision medicine
- **NOV. 17** Lunch & Learn: Three sectors where digital is transforming patient care
Certified Licensing Professional certifications awarded

OHSU Technology Transfer’s senior technology development managers, Trina Voss and Anne Carlson, recently earned Certified Licensing Professional credentials. The certification represents “a professional designation intended to distinguish those who have demonstrated experience, proficiency, knowledge and exposure to licensing and commercialization of intellectual property through active involvement in patenting, marketing, valuation, IP law, negotiation, business development and intellectual asset management.” Trina and Anne join approximately 800 CLPs worldwide, including our own Travis Cook.

PSU School of Business seeking OHSU clients for the winter term Capstone Program
Are you interested in commercializing a medical device or product that is the result of your research, or could your medically related business benefit from consulting services?

If so, then PSU’s School of Business may be able to help you. They offer FREE business consulting services that are tailored specifically to your needs and project goals. These services are provided by senior business students (their last requirement before graduating) who work in teams to provide business services customized to your specific needs.

They ask that you meet periodically with your project team, attend a few presentations, review/comment on a few deliverables and fill out a client experience survey at the end of term. This all takes place within an 11-week window beginning in early January and ending in March 2022.

If you are interested or want to find out more, please contact Lisa Lukaesko before Nov. 15, 2021, at lukaesko@ohsu.edu.

**FEATURED TECHNOLOGIES AVAILABLE FOR LICENSING**

**OHSU 2626** - New method of targeted sequencing using CRISPR-Cas12a-mediated capture of nucleic acids
NEWLY LICENSED OR OPTIONED OHSU TECHNOLOGIES

**OHSU 1740** - Tinnitus functional index

**OHSU 1771** - Materials from the BioLibrary

**OHSU 1962** - Durable dental composites
(Carmem Pfeifer, D.D.S., Ph.D.)

**OHSU 2480** - Alpha substitute secondary methacrylamides dental adhesives (Jack Ferracane, Ph.D., Carmem Pfeifer, D.D.S., Ph.D.)

**OHSU 2482** - Polymerizable compounds for applications in dental materials (Jack Ferracane, Ph.D., Carmem Pfeifer, D.D.S., Ph.D., Ana Paula Piovezan Fugolin, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D.)

SPONSORS

We welcome and appreciate the collaborative nature of organizations that want to be a part of the ongoing innovative and entrepreneurial efforts at OHSU. Thank you to our sponsors!
Questions? Contact us at techmgmt@ohsu.edu.

This monthly publication is created in collaboration with OHSU Technology Transfer, OHSU Collaborations and Entrepreneurship, and the Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute.