



2023

# OHSU Innovation Awards





The 2023 OHSU Innovation Awards honor a successful group of scientists that work with the OHSU Innovates network to disclose new technologies and collaborate with external partners to advance innovative healthcare solutions. These awardees span a variety of career stages and diverse research programs, from the development of new research tools for the study of neurons to the advancement of clinical diagnostics for ophthalmology. What the 2023 awardees share, is a dedicated drive to advance innovative science programs in collaboration with OHSU Innovates network partners.

We look forward to continuing our work with the outstanding OHSU members recognized this year and building new relationships in 2023 to foster a diverse and robust innovation ecosystem here at OHSU.

Congratulations to all of the awardees and thank you for helping build an ever-more-vibrant OHSU innovation community.



**Travis Cook, M.S., M.B.A., CLP**

**SENIOR DIRECTOR, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**

**Aditi Martin, Ph.D.**

**SENIOR DIRECTOR, COLLABORATIONS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**



## CREATORS OF LICENSED TECHNOLOGY

Nabil Alkayed

Moriah Arnold

Isabelle Baconguis

Keith Beadle

Zachary Beattie

Luiz Bertassoni

Arpita Bharadwaj

Jessica Castle

Sunghee Chai

Sarah Clark

Michael Cohen

Craig Dorrell

Brian Druker

David Farrell

Khashayar Farsad

Rochelle Fu

Eric Gouaux

Markus Grompe

Amy Huddleston

Thomas Jacob

Peter Jacobs

John Kaufman

Sanjiv Kaul

Jeffrey Kaye

Steve Kazmierczak

Akram Khan

Jonathan Lee

David Lewinsohn

Yuexin Li

Shannon McWeeney

William Messer

Clara Mosquera-Lopez

Lisa Muir

Scott Naugler

Christie Naze

Edward Neuwelt

Aaron Nilsen

Ryan Olson

Tracy Petrie

Thomas Riley

Michael Riscoe

Bill Rooney

Martin Smilkstein

Gerda Teglassy

Amita Tiyaboonchai

Henryk Urbanski

Tania Vu

Richard Weleber

Leah Wilson

Melissa Wong

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS OF NON-CLINICAL  
INDUSTRY SPONSORED RESEARCH

Nabil Alkayed	R. Stephen Lloyd
Ted Braun	Daniel Marks
John Brigande	Ahmad Masri
Benjamin Burwitz	Julia Maxson
Fergus Coakley	Richard Maziarz
Michael Cohen	Owen McCarty
Lisa Coussens	Amanda McCullough
Brian Davidson	Hiroyuki Nakai
Brian Druker	Martha Neuringer
Guang Fan	Saket Sanghai
Betsy Ferguson	Rosalie Sears
Jack Ferracane	Mark Slifka
Summer Gibbs	Daniel Streblow
Michael Heinrich	Cristina Tognon
Jon Hennebold	Elie Traer
Monica Hinds	Jeffrey Tyner
Hiroshi Ishikawa	David Wilson
Aaron Janowsky	Marina Wolf
Janice Jou	Melissa Wong
Yan Li	Scott Wong
Evan Lind	



## INVENTORS OF ISSUED U.S. PATENTS

Andrew Adey	David Huang
Tapasree Banerji	Yali Jia
Connor Barth	Yan Li
Kimberly Beatty	Daniel Malouli
David Castro	Rory Morgan
Fergus Coakley	Hiroyuki Nakai
Michael Cohen	Jay Nelson
Sky Ferrara	Louis Picker
Klaus Frueh	Jonah Sacha
Summer Gibbs	Ravi Samatham
Jessica Grant	Thomas Scanlan
Markus Grompe	David Sheridan
Yukun Guo	G. Michael Silberbach
Xiao-Yue Han	Ou Tan
Meaghan Hancock	Lei Wang
Matthew Hansen	Wassana Yantasee
Scott Hansen	Hannah Zane
Theodore Hobbs	

## NEW COMPANIES BASED ON OHSU TECHNOLOGY

Advanced Molecular Targeting Science, Inc.  
RyboDyn, Inc.  
Life Analytics, Inc.  
Tilikum Therapeutics, Inc.





# EARLY CAREER INNOVATOR



## Matthew Rames, Ph.D.

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW

CANCER EARLY DETECTION ADVANCED RESEARCH CENTER,  
KNIGHT CANCER INSTITUTE

The Early Career Innovator Award is presented to an OHSU employee such as a student, postdoctoral fellow, medical resident or other early-career professional 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.

At the Cancer Early Detection Advanced Research (CEDAR) center, part of the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, Matthew Rames, Ph.D., is working with a team being co-led by Kai Tao, Ph.D., on a new way to conjugate labels to antibodies for multiplex imaging. With further development, the project has the potential to overcome current limitations in multiplexed antibody labeling, and could be performed in a fraction of the time of current comparable products on the market.

Rames' level of engagement is foundational to a strong project and commercialization team. Together, they are committed to bringing to market a unique, fast, highly efficient bioconjugation strategy poised to improve antibody multiplex labeling with broad utility and applicability in clinical and research settings.



# CAREER INNOVATION EXCELLENCE



## Yali Jia, Ph.D.

JENNIE P. WEEKS PROFESSOR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY,  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

PROFESSOR OF BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING,  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The Career Innovation Excellence Award is presented to an OHSU employee who, over the course of their career, has shown themselves to be an accomplished inventor and entrepreneur, demonstrated a true passion for innovation, been successful in engaging and cultivating partnerships with industry, and worked tirelessly to translate their discoveries into solutions for real-world problems and the benefit of society.

Yali Jia, Ph.D., is a pioneer of optical coherence tomographic angiography, and has been included as a contributor on over 30 new technology disclosures submitted to OHSU Technology Transfer. These new methods for detecting structural and vascular abnormalities in the eye have led to 15 issued patents, several of which have been licensed to leading optical coherence tomography manufacturers for further development.

Jia's achievements and success in innovation have been widely recognized both within and outside the OHSU community. In 2021, Jia was the recipient of an OCTRI Biomedical Innovation Program grant, and in 2018 she was named New Inventor of the Year by OHSU Technology Transfer. Jia has also been inducted as a Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering and a Senior Member of the National Academy of Inventors.



# NEW INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR



## Timur Tsintsadze, Ph.D.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW, STEPHEN SMITH LABORATORY

DIVISION OF PULMONARY AND CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE,  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The New Innovator of the Year Award is presented to an employee relatively new to the innovation development process at OHSU, but who demonstrates true passion for advancing technology development and has made great strides and efforts in collaborating with various innovator ecosystems within and outside of OHSU. They demonstrate an eagerness to see their discoveries translate into tangible solutions for societal benefit.

As a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of [Stephen Smith](#), M.B.B.S., Ph.D., Timur Tsintsadze, Ph.D., has worked to develop a novel device for neuroscience research. As a first-time inventor, Tsintsadze's device was, impressively, disclosed to OHSU Technology Transfer as a fully functional prototype that addresses a practical need for scientists studying the electrical properties of neurons.

To increase its commercial potential, Tsintsadze continued to work on this prototype after disclosure, so that it would be compatible with existing amplifiers. The Smith laboratory was awarded the Early Stage Technology Award in 2022 to further develop the device for commercialization and patent applications.



# PARTNERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARD



## Beth Habecker, Ph.D.

PROFESSOR OF CHEMICAL PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY,  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

PROFESSOR OF ANESTHESIOLOGY AND PERIOPERATIVE  
MEDICINE, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

PROFESSOR OF CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE, SCHOOL OF  
MEDICINE

The Partnership Excellence Award is presented to an OHSU employee who has a demonstrated entrepreneurial spirit and works closely with the OHSU Innovates commercialization network to foster and encourage collaborations. They demonstrate a successful track-record of establishing and developing new partnerships to advance innovative research.

**Beth Habecker, Ph.D., is the co-director of the Pacific Northwest Biomedical Innovation Co-laboratory (PMedIC), a long-standing and successful collaboration between OHSU and the U.S. Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Launched in 2018, this partnership has led to several collaborative grants and the establishment of the large joint National Institutes of Health Pacific Northwest Cryo-EM center.**

Habecker has worked closely with the OHSU School of Medicine Strategic Alliances office on the PMedIC partnership, to guide mutual interest and milestones for the partnership. Research from Habecker's lab has also led to disclosures to OHSU Technology Transfer and subsequent patent applications around new therapeutics for nerve regeneration, one of which formed the initial basis for the OHSU startup company NervGen.



# NAI FELLOW



## Erik Tucker, Ph.D.

ADJUNCT RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIOMEDICAL  
ENGINEERING, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

MEMBER OF KNIGHT CANCER CENTER FOR EXPERIMENTAL  
THERAPEUTICS, KNIGHT CANCER INSTITUTE

CEO AND CO-FOUNDER OF OHSU STARTUP COMPANY ARONORA

Fellows of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) are recognized for their prolific spirit of innovation in creating or facilitating outstanding inventions that have made a tangible impact on quality of life, economic development and the welfare of society. Election to NAI Fellow status is the highest professional distinction accorded solely to academic inventors.

In late 2022, [Erik Tucker, Ph.D.](#), was elected as a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, recognizing his significant contributions toward developing anti-thrombotic therapeutics. Tucker's graduate work at OHSU led to scientific discoveries around coagulation factors, which formed the foundation for new blood thinners that could revolutionize the treatment of blood clotting diseases. This work led to the development of the OHSU startup company [Aronora](#), for which Tucker is the co-founder and chief executive officer.

Tucker has demonstrated a prolific spirit as an innovator and is an inventor on fourteen issued U.S. patents. Three of these patented drug candidates are in late-stage clinical development, including at Aronora, to improve outcomes for patients with blood diseases.



INDUCTEE IN THE OHSU CHAPTER OF  
THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF INVENTORS

Ou Tan

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE





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