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INNOVATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION

November 13, 2025

OHSU Innovates



LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

As we approach the end of the year, we reflect on the progress made across Oregon's innovation community and the people who make it possible. Our researchers, clinicians, entrepreneurs, investors, industry

partners and many others are working together to advance discoveries that improve lives and strengthen our regional community.

This season's newsletter highlights how OHSU and its collaborators continue to drive innovation and talent across Oregon's growing life sciences ecosystem and each story reflects the shared purpose that connects our community. Earlier this month, we had the opportunity to attend the Calvin and Mayho Tanabe Address with Dr. Vivek Murthy, an author, physician, and former two-term U.S. Surgeon General. Dr. Murthy emphasized that community and connection are essential to building a strong and resilient society.

Looking ahead to the new year, we remain focused on building partnerships, supporting innovators and fostering an environment where ideas can thrive. Thank you for your continued engagement, collaboration and commitment to discovery.

Wishing you a season of reflection, connection and gratitude.

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

Senior Director, Technology Transfer

Aditi Martin, Ph.D.

Senior Director, Collaborations and Entrepreneurship

INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT

OHSU Drives Innovation and Talent at Oregon Bio 2025



Danica Bojovic, doctoral student in neuroscience at OHSU, presents her research on astrocytes and brain health at the OBA 2025 Innovation Showcase, earning both the Judges' and People's Choice Awards in Translational Research. (Photo courtesy of Ryan Doan)

OHSU researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs came together at the [Oregon Bio 2025 Conference](#) to highlight the university's role in shaping Oregon's life sciences future. Held Sept. 29–30 in Portland, the event brought together industry leaders, policymakers and scientists to showcase innovation, entrepreneurship and the sector's expanding economic impact.

The Oregon Bioscience Association, host of the event, announced its rebranding as [Oregon Life Sciences](#) to reflect Oregon's growing life sciences ecosystem. The organization's mission, supporting innovation and economic growth across the state, remains the same.

Helping Startups Turn Research into Reality

Conference sessions explored workforce development, sector innovation, funding opportunities and partnerships. A key panel, “From Research to Reality: NCI SBIR/STTR Funding Pathways for Bioscience Ventures” featured OHSU startup founders Connor Barth, Ph.D. ([Trace Biosciences](#)) and Worapol Ngamcherdtrakul, Ph.D. ([PDX Pharmaceuticals](#)), along with OHSU Technology Transfer and National Cancer Institute Small Business Innovation Research program representatives.

Panelists highlighted resources to help startups translate discoveries into real-world impact, including [TABA Funding](#), which supports small businesses navigating commercialization challenges, the [CARE Program](#), which connects startups with FDA and regulatory specialists, and the [STEP Program](#), which provides business and entrepreneurship training for early-stage innovators.

Connor Barth Named Bio Entrepreneur of the Year

Connor Barth was honored at the inaugural 2025 Bioscience Excellence Awards as Bio Entrepreneur of the Year. Barth co-founded Trace Biosciences with OHSU researchers [Summer Gibbs, Ph.D.](#), and [Lei G. Wang, Ph.D.](#), developing real-time surgical imaging agents to help prevent nerve injuries during surgery. His recognition underscores the supportive environment OHSU provides for researchers translating discoveries into real-world solutions.

Other honorees included Jenn Klotz (Bio Woman of the Year) of Genentech and Rep. Daniel L. Nguyen (Bio Legislator of the Year).

OHSU Innovates Shine at Innovation Showcase

OHSU researchers also shined at the Innovation Showcase. Danica Bojovic, Ph.D. student in neuroscience, won both the Judges' and People's Choice awards in Translational Research for her work on astrocytes and neurodegenerative diseases. [Kenneth Riley, Jr.](#), Ph.D. candidate in biomedical engineering, earned both awards in Basic Research for developing a first-in-class epigenetic sequencing platform for cancer diagnostics. Other participants included OHSU neuroscience Ph.D. candidate Arielle Isakharov, OHSU M.D. and M.P.H. candidate Tim Valuev and Daniel Gareau, Ph.D., founder of OHSU startup [SurgiVance Inc.](#)

OHSU Experts Shape Conference Conversations

OHSU leadership and faculty contributed to broader conversations on research, innovation and emerging technologies. [Bonnie Nagel, Ph.D.](#), Interim Chief Research Officer, joined a panel on sustaining U.S. research excellence amid shifting funding and talent landscapes. [Steven Bedrick, Ph.D.](#), explored how artificial intelligence is transforming health care, from discovery to clinical impact. [Travis Cook, M.S., M.B.A., CLP](#), Senior Director for OHSU Technology Transfer, shared insights on translating discoveries into successful startups and navigating funding pathways.

Life Sciences Fuel Oregon's Economy

Oregon's life sciences sector continues to grow with OHSU at the center. According to the [Oregon Life Sciences 2025 Economic Impact Report](#), the industry generated \$11.5 billion in direct output in 2023 and \$9.7 billion in indirect and induced activity, for a total of \$21.2 billion. The sector employs more than 28,000 people in high-paying jobs averaging more than \$100,000 annually.

OHSU's participation in Oregon Bio 2025 highlighted its leadership in research, startups and developing the next generation of scientific talent while demonstrating the university's central role in Oregon's life sciences ecosystem

Bringing Wet and Dry Labs to Accelerate Discovery



The OHSU Foundation is highlighting the work of computational biologists [Katie Blise, Ph.D.](#) and [Sam Sivagnanam, M.S.](#) for their groundbreaking approach to combining experimental and computational research. Their innovative software helps scientists make sense of massive biological datasets and accelerate discoveries to improve patient care.

Blise and Sivagnanam are breaking down barriers between experimental ("wet") and computational ("dry") research. Their tool allows researchers to quickly visualize and interpret complex data, transforming analyses that once took months into hours.

Recognized as New Innovators of the Year at the 2025 OHSU Innovation Awards, they are advancing their work with support from the [Biomedical Innovation Program](#) and aiming to make their cloud-based software accessible to researchers worldwide. By simplifying complex data analysis, their software empowers scientists to uncover insights that can accelerate discoveries and improve patient care.

[Read the full story from the OHSU Foundation.](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Registration is open for the 2026 OHSU Innovation Awards



Join us on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the [Robertson Life Sciences Building](#) in Portland for the annual OHSU Innovation Awards ceremony.

This signature event celebrates the OHSU researchers, clinicians and collaborators who are advancing transformative technologies, forging powerful partnerships and turning bold ideas into real-world impact. It's also an opportunity to connect with leaders in health care, science and entrepreneurship across Oregon's innovation ecosystem.

Be part of a proud tradition that has honored innovation at OHSU for more than 20 years.

[Register today.](#)

Applications now open for SBIR/STTR Grant Preparation Workshop



Thursday, February 12 and Friday February 13, 2026
OBI Event Space | Suite 230

Sponsored by



Hosted by



Applications are now being accepted for the SBIR/STTR Grant Preparation Workshop, happening Thursday, Feb. 12 and Friday, Feb. 13 at the [Oregon Bioscience Incubator](#).

If your company is planning to pursue NIH SBIR or STTR funding, this workshop is designed to move you from *"this seems overwhelming"* to *"I have a clear path and the next steps in hand."*

Applications are due Thursday, Jan. 29. The workshop costs \$125 per person and payment is due upon application approval.

[Learn more and apply through the Oregon Bioscience Incubator website.](#)

Congratulations to the latest ASCEND Award recipients

Two innovative projects were selected for funding in the most recent round:

- Advancing Equitable Breast Cancer Care for African Immigrant Women through Culturally Responsive Digital Solutions (Catherine Ngaingne, master's student, Division of Management, School of Medicine)
- Developing Practical Offloading Footwear for Chronic Ankle Pain in Low-Income Workers with Mobility-Limiting Conditions (Joshua Vanderpool, doctoral student, Biomedical Engineering, School of Medicine)

The ASCEND Award supports bold, practical ideas that aim to make a real-world impact in the community and the professional growth of OHSU innovators. This quarterly funding opportunity offers up to \$4,000 for activities such as innovation training, conference travel, prototype development or materials.

The next proposal deadline is Tuesday, Dec. 31.

Read the full [Request for Proposals](#) for more information and the [Application Form](#) to apply (OHSU username and login required).

The OHSU Center for Women's Health 2026 Research Funding Opportunity

The OHSU Center for Women's Health [Circle of Giving](#) is accepting submissions for its 2026 women's health research funding opportunity. The award is \$125,000 in unrestricted funding for one year that supports OHSU faculty conducting innovative basic science, clinical investigation, population health or behavioral research in women's health.

Apply via the [Competitive Application Portal](#) by 5 p.m., Pacific Time, on Jan. 7, 2026.

Please view the [Competitive Application Portal](#) for the full RFP (under supporting documents) or the [Circle of Giving webpage](#) for additional information.

FEATURED EVENT

Getting Started with Tech Transfer Essentials: Foundational Knowledge for Researchers

OHSU INNOVATES FOUNDATIONS: NAVIGATING RESEARCH TO IMPACT

Getting Started with Tech Transfer Essentials: Foundational Knowledge for Researchers



Kenneth Riley, Jr.
Biomedical Engineering PhD Candidate
Cancer Early Detection Advanced Research Center (CEDAR)
OHSU Knight Cancer Institute



Travis Cook, M.S., M.B.A., CLP
Senior Director
OHSU Technology Transfer

Nov. 20
1 to 2 p.m. PST



Register now for the launch of OHSU Innovates Foundations: Navigating Research to Impact, a new virtual seminar series designed to support early career researchers.

The first session kicks off with an interactive discussion introducing the university technology transfer process, offering a high-level overview of discovery, disclosure, intellectual property protection and commercialization.

OHSU doctoral candidate [Kenneth Riley, Jr.](#) recipient of the Early Career Innovator Award at the 2025 OHSU Innovation Awards, and [Travis Cook, M.S., M.B.A., CLP, Senior Director of OHSU Technology Transfer](#), will lead an engaging discussion exploring how ideas move from research to real-world impact. Their conversation will set the stage for future webinars in the series that delve deeper into the path from lab to innovation.

This free webinar is open to anyone interested in learning more about technology transfer, whether at the beginning of a research career or exploring the field more broadly.

[Register through Zoom.](#)

WHEN	Thursday, Nov. 20 from 1-2 p.m., Pacific Time
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WHERE	Virtual
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WHO	Open to all
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COST	Free
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OHSU Innovates Drug Discovery - Making it Patentable: Intellectual Property and Translational Impact

OHSU INNOVATES DRUG DISCOVERY

Making It Patentable: Intellectual Property
and Translational Impact

Dec. 11
12 to 1 p.m. PST



What makes a discovery patentable? How can researchers better align their science with the realities of IP and commercialization?

Join us for a candid fireside chat between [Monika Davare, Ph.D.](#), and OHSU Senior Patent Manager Steve Eck as they explore how academic labs can think more strategically about intellectual property and translational impact.

Topics will include:

- Why IP matters (even if you're not pursuing a startup)
- How publishing timelines can affect patentability
- Understanding inventorship vs. authorship
- What gets Tech Transfer to say "yes"

Part of the OHSU Innovates Drug Discovery Seminar Series.

[Register through Zoom.](#)

WHEN**Thursday, Dec. 11**

from 1-2 p.m., Pacific Time

WHERE**Virtual**

WHO

Open to all OHSU researchers

COSTFree

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, Nov. 13 [2025 Oregon Entrepreneurship Awards](#)

Tuesday, Nov. 18 [Startup Business Essentials: Fostering the Next Generation of Entrepreneurship](#)

Thursday, Nov. 20 [Getting Started with Tech Transfer Essentials: Foundational Knowledge for Researchers](#)

Monday, Dec. 1 [2025 Angel Oregon Life & Bioscience: Investment Announcement Mixer](#)

Tuesday, Dec. 2 [Startup Business Essentials: Personal & Business Insurance Solutions](#)

Wednesday, Dec. 10 [OEN December PubTalk: Networking in Portland](#)

Thursday, Dec. 11 [Making It Patentable: Intellectual Property and Translational Impact](#)

TECHNOLOGIES

Newly Licensed or Optioned OHSU

Technologies

Congratulations to the inventors of these technologies, which were recently licensed or optioned to outside partners.

[OHSU 1740](#) - Tinnitus Functional Index

[OHSU 1771](#) - Materials from the BioLibrary

OHSU 2728 - Mechanical and bacterial oral simulator - bioreactor

OHSU 3096 - Enhanced Antiparasitic Activity of 596 and 598 Endochin-Like Quinolones (ELQs)

OHSU 3395 - 2-Aryl-Quinolones with enhanced antimalarial activity in vitro and in vivo

OHSU 3436 - 1-OH-caged ceramide

OHSU 3437 - Trifunctional ketodihydro ceramide w fatty acid modifications

OHSU 3438 - Trifunctional phosphatidylcholine derivative with diazirine at the head group

OHSU 3439 - Trifunctional 3-ketodihydroceramide derivative with functional groups in backbone

OHSU 3440 - Trifunctional dihydroceramide derivative with functional groups in backbone

OHSU 3441 - Trifunctional ceramide, functional groups in backbone

OHSU 3447 - Trifunctional dihydroceramide with diazirine in the fatty acid

OHSU 3448 - Caged dihydroceramide

OHSU 3449 - Caged ketodihydroceramide

OHSU 3450 - Bifunctional 3-ketodihydroceramide w fatty acid modifications

OHSU 3451 - Bifunctional 3-ketodihydroceramide w backbone modifications

OHSU 3452 - Bifunctional dihydroceramide w backbone modifications

OHSU 3453 - Bifunctional dihydroceramide w fatty acid modifications

OHSU 3454 - Bifunctional ceramide w backbone modifications

OHSU 3455 - Bifunctional 3-ketoceramide w backbone modifications

OHSU 3458 - Trifunctional 3-ketoceramide w backbone modifications

OHSU 3459 - Trifunctional ceramide with fatty acid modifications

OHSU 3460 - Caged keto-sphinganine

OHSU 3461 - Bifunctional 3-ketosphinganine

OHSU 3462 - Trifunctional 3-ketosphinganine

OHSU 3463 - Bifunctional 3-ketoceramide w fatty acid modifications

OHSU 3464 - Trifunctional 3-ketoceramide w fatty acid modifications

OHSU 3465 - Bifunctional ceramide w fatty acid modifications (pacFA-ceramide)

OHSU 3484 - Spanish language version - Harold Schnitzer Diabetes Health Center - Your Guide to Successful Living with Diabetes

OHSU 3488 - Caged 1-deoxyceramide

OHSU 3489 - Caged 1-deoxysphingosine

OHSU 3490 - Trifunctional 1-deoxyceramide (C16, backbone)

OHSU 3491 - Bifunctional 1-deoxyceramide (C16, backbone)

OHSU 3492 - Trifunctional 1-deoxysphingosine

OHSU 3493 - Bifunctional 1-deoxysphingosine

U.S. Patents Issued

Congratulations to the OHSU inventors of these recently issued U.S. patents.

[Patent 12,404,250](#) - PARP inhibitors for treating cancer and asthma

[Patent 12,441,757](#) - Platform for screening NAD⁺ binding proteins in a cellular context

[Patent 12,442,018](#) - Recombinant cytomegalovirus vectors as vaccines for tuberculosis

SPONSORS

Thank you to our current sponsors for their support of OHSU Innovates!



Questions? Contact us at innovates@ohsu.edu

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

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