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INNOVATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION

January 7, 2026

OHSU Innovates



LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

Here is our first newsletter for 2026 covering funding announcements for innovative projects at OHSU and a variety of exciting events coming up this year. Our Teams hope to see you at these events and we look forward to continue supporting innovation in 2026. Please reach out if we can help you navigate our innovation ecosystem.

With best wishes,

Aditi and Travis

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

Senior Director, Technology Transfer

Aditi Martin, Ph.D.

Senior Director, Collaborations and Entrepreneurship

FEATURED STORY

Biomedical Innovation Program awards three projects in device, diagnostic, and software track



(From left to right: Siyu Chen, Ginny Hsu, Hiroshi Ishikawa and Jeffrey Jensen.)

Now in its 14th year, the [Biomedical Innovation Program \(BIP\)](#) has funded 75 early-stage OHSU technologies with a focus on proof-of-concept development and commercialization. In addition to funding, the BIP provides project management, entrepreneur education and mentoring to accelerate development.

The projects each awarded \$40,000 funding and support in 2026 include optical coherence tomography (OCT) for dentistry, extended reality technology to improve poor vision and a non-invasive device to evaluate tubal patency and fertility.

[Siyu Chen, Ph.D.](#), assistant professor of ophthalmology and biomedical engineering, OHSU School of Medicine; [Ginny Hsu, M.S., B.D.S.](#), assistant professor of orthodontics, OHSU School of Dentistry

Next-Generation Chairside OCT: Wide-Field, Ultra-Speed Imaging for Precision Dentistry

Optical coherence tomography (OCT) revolutionized imaging in the field of ophthalmology by using light waves to create high-resolution, cross-sectional pictures of biological tissues, which dramatically improved diagnosis of retinal and optic nerve diseases. Now, Chen and Hsu are hoping to expand its application by developing a chairside system optimized for dentistry. The proposed system will use a miniaturized, ergonomically designed intraoral probe that fits comfortably within a patient's mouth, allowing imaging otherwise inaccessible areas within the oral cavity. The system will incorporate advanced image processing algorithms and AI developed by the team, to assist clinicians in identifying pathologies such as early caries, cracks, periodontal defects, and restoration margins.

[Hiroshi Ishikawa, M.D., FARVO](#), professor of ophthalmology, Casey Eye Institute, OHSU School of Medicine

Personalized Computer-Based Vision Aids for Various Low Vision Situations Using Extended Reality (XR) Headsets

Age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and glaucoma are the three leading causes of blindness and lead to a variety of low-vision conditions. Low vision is defined as a permanent, significant vision loss that can't be fully corrected by glasses, contacts or surgery, making daily tasks like reading, driving or recognizing faces difficult. With BIP funding, Ishikawa will develop a software-based support system that can be easily run on inexpensive gaming extended reality headsets. Not only will it be the only solution that addresses multiple low-vision problems on one device, but also the only one able to adapt to disease condition changes. With a working prototype already developed for scotoma (blind spots), the BIP project will focus on implementing a module for metamorphopsia (distorted images) and undertaking clinical testing.

[Jeffrey Jensen, M.D., M.P.H.](#), professor of obstetrics and gynecology, OHSU School of Medicine

FertChx, an Office-based Diagnostic Device for Infertility

Infertility affects approximately 15% of couples, and up to 30% of cases involve an issue with the fallopian tubes. Unfortunately, existing options for confirming tubal patency are costly, invasive and difficult to access. With FertChx, Jensen is developing a tubal selective delivery system, which would allow for routine, low-cost, office-based tubal patency assessment. With BIP funding, he will complete rigorous human factors engineering to optimize the device for safe, efficient use by obstetrics and gynecology clinicians.

FEATURED NEWS

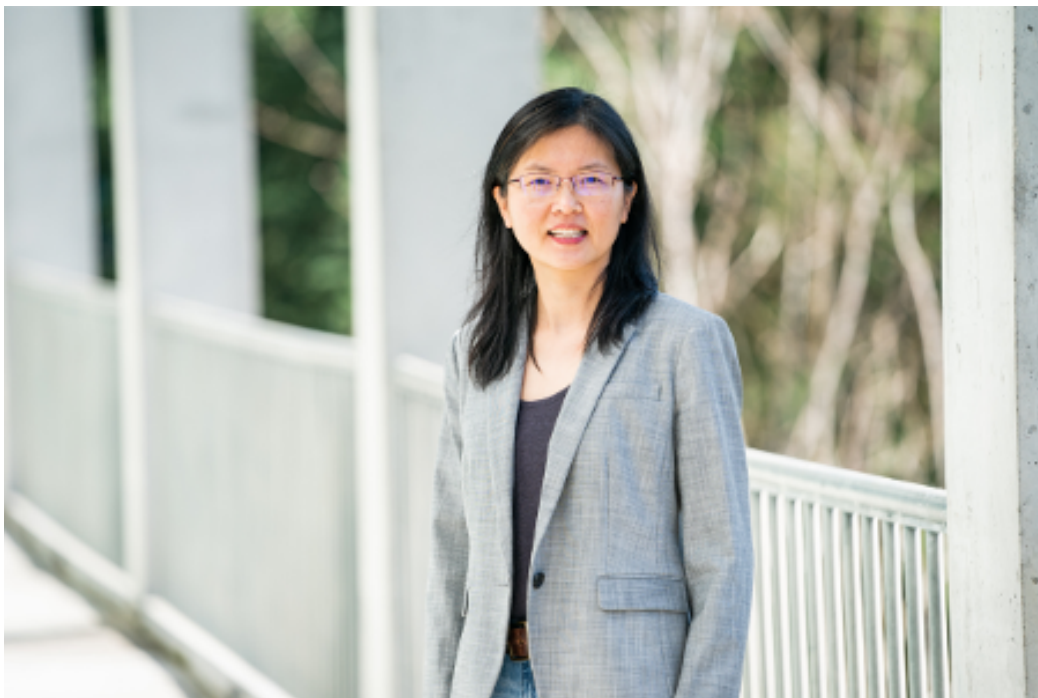
OHSU research leads to FDA approval for brain cancer imaging

OHSU researchers helped secure FDA approval for ferumoxytol (FERABRIGHT™) as a contrast agent to detect and monitor brain tumors. The work began nearly 30 years ago in the lab of Edward Neuwelt, M.D., and was carried out by the [Neuro-Oncology Blood-Brain Barrier Program team](#). Key contributors include Lisa Muir, M.P.A., H.A., C.C.R.P., Ramon Barajas Jr., M.D., Laszlo Szidonya, M.D., Ph.D., Amy Huddleston, M.P.A., H.A., Leslie Muldoon, Ph.D., and Rochelle Fu, Ph.D.

OHSU Technology Transfer helped move the research from the lab to FDA approval, making this new imaging option available to physicians.

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

OHSU Innovator Yali Jia elected fellow of the National Academy of Inventors



Congratulations to [Yali Jia, Ph.D.](#), professor of ophthalmology and biomedical engineering at OHSU, on being elected a fellow of the [National Academy of Inventors](#), the highest professional distinction awarded solely to inventors. A pioneer in optical coherence tomography angiography, Jia's work has transformed the early detection and monitoring of major eye diseases, including macular degeneration, glaucoma and diabetic eye disease. She holds 23 U.S. patents, 12 of which have been licensed to industry, and is the founder of OHSU startup [IFOCUS IMAGING LLC](#).

[Read the full press release from OHSU Now.](#)

Oregon backs OHSU startups developing new healthcare technologies

Oregon backs OHSU startups developing new healthcare technologies. [Business Oregon](#) awarded more than \$1 million in 2025 Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer Matching Grants to 17 Oregon companies, including four OHSU-affiliated startups advancing medical diagnostics and imaging. The grants highlight Oregon's commitment to investing in local innovators and helping homegrown technologies reach the marketplace.

The OHSU startups received funding for the following innovations:

- [OmnEcoil Instruments, LLC](#) – Phase I: MRI-guided biopsy device for faster, more accurate prostate cancer detection.
- [OryGyn Medical Devices, LLC](#) – Phase I: office-based diagnostic for evaluating fallopian tube patency and improving infertility care.
- [ProMedix Inc.](#) – Phase II: compact, noninvasive device for real-time microcirculatory monitoring.

- [SurgiVance, Inc.](#) – Phase II: portable digital pathology system generating rapid, high-resolution 3D tissue images.

These awards support OHSU innovators in turning research into technologies that improve health outcomes in Oregon and beyond.

[Read the full press release from Business Oregon.](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Applications open for OHSU Innovation and Commercialization Internship with virtual info session

The [OHSU Innovation and Commercialization Internship](#) is designed for individuals with a background in science, engineering or a related field who are interested in careers in technology transfer, business development or patent law. The program provides hands-on experience supporting the advancement of university innovations from the lab to the marketplace. Applications are being accepted for the 2026–2027 cohort, with a deadline of Feb. 1, 2026, and an anticipated start date of April 6, 2026.

[Learn more about the program and how to apply.](#)

A virtual information and Q&A sessions about the internship will be held Tuesday, Jan. 13, 5–6:30 p.m. (PT). The sessions will provide an overview of the internship structure, example projects and a live question-and-answer opportunity. [Register for the upcoming information session here.](#)

Deadline approaching for February SBIR/STTR grant preparation workshop

SBIR/STTR Grant Preparation Workshop



Entrepreneurial
Training &
Consulting

*This hands-on training will help participants
understand how to approach every component
of an NIH SBIR/STTR proposal.*

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

Sponsored by



Hosted by



There is still time to apply 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.](#)

OHSU Student Innovator Challenge accepting applications



Registration deadline: March 1, 2026
Pitch competition: April 2, 2026



OHSU students from all disciplines are invited to participate in the annual Student Innovator Challenge. Projects must relate to health, medicine, or bioscience and biotechnology and can be at any stage of development. No prior experience is required. Participants receive expert guidance and mentorship to help develop their ideas and craft a pitch for a broad audience.

The registration deadline is Sunday, March 1, 2026. Virtual pitch presentations will be held Thursday, April 2, 2026. Winning teams receive a \$2,000 prototype grant and a chance to compete for up to \$30,000 in cash awards at the [Invent Oregon Finals](#).

[Learn more about the Student Innovator Challenge here.](#) Questions? Contact Melissa Mudd at muddm@ohsu.edu or Christopher Sagar at sagar@ohsu.edu.

[Register here.](#)

Elevate your ideas with the ASCEND Award

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

The ASCEND Award supports bold, practical ideas that aim to make a real-world impact, both in the community and in the professional growth of OHSU innovators. Open to current OHSU members, this quarterly funding opportunity offers up to \$4,000 to help move innovative projects forward. Funding can be used for a wide range of activities, such as attending innovation-related training, traveling to relevant conferences, building prototypes or purchasing materials. The next proposal deadline is Tuesday, March 31.

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

FEATURED EVENTS

2026 OHSU Innovation Awards

2026 | INNOVATION AWARDS

March 11, 2026 | 4 - 7 p.m.
Robertson Life Sciences Building, 3A001



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 here.](#)

When: Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 4-7 p.m.

Where: Robertson Collaborative Life Sciences Building & Skourtes Tower,
2730 S Moody Ave., Portland, Oregon 97201

Who: Researchers, industry professionals, students and trainees

Cost: Free

Oregon Drug Discovery Symposium



Connect with the drug discovery community at the Oregon Drug Discovery Symposium, or ODDS, 2026. The event brings together researchers, pharmaceutical companies, investors, academia and the broader biomedical community to share ideas and innovations.

The program includes talks, discussions and a poster session. Join us at OHSU for two days of collaboration and networking.

When: Wednesday, April 8 – Thursday, April 9, 2026

Where: Knight Cancer Research Building, 2720 S. Moody Ave., Portland, Oregon 97201

Who: Researchers, industry professionals, students and trainees interested in drug discovery

Cost: Academia/nonprofit – \$100 | Industry – \$250 | Virtual – \$25 |
Trainees/students – \$50

[Register here.](#)

Oregon Innovation Showcase



Early bird registration is now open for the Oregon Innovation Showcase. This annual event brings together entrepreneurs, investors and industry leaders to explore Oregon's deep-tech industries. It highlights innovation-driven, scalable companies that may take more than five years to develop, setting them apart from software or consumer products.

Attendees can network with investors, discover Oregon-grown success stories, and see how the state's supportive ecosystem reduces investment risk and fuels cutting-edge ventures.

When: Monday, May 11 – Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Where: Sentinel Hotel, 614 SW 11th Ave., Portland, Oregon 97205

Who: Entrepreneurs, investors, innovation

supporters, researchers and students interested in deep-tech industries

Cost: Early bird – \$225 | Student – \$49

[Register here.](https://oregoninnovationshowcase.com)

Mark Your Calendar: OHSU Innovation Day, Thursday, May 7, 2026

Innovation Day will take place on Thursday, May 7, as part of [OHSU Research Week](#). The day is designed to inspire, educate and connect the scientific community, featuring insights into innovation, entrepreneurship and emerging ideas. The majority of the programming will be held virtually, with an in-person career-focused session for early-career scientists in the early evening.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, Jan. 8 [OBI Accelerate Biotech Happy Hour](#)

Wednesday, Jan. 14 [OEN PubTalk - Salem](#)

Monday, Jan. 19 [Oregon Life Sciences Membership
Lunch-and-Learn](#)

Tuesday, Jan. 20 [OEN Pitch, Please](#)

Tuesday, Jan. 27 [OEN Startup Business Essentials:
Personal & Business Insurance Solutions](#)

Thursday, Feb. 5 [Oregon Life Sciences Failure Modes and
Effects Analysis, Manufacturing and
Process](#)

Monday, Feb. 9 [Oregon Life Sciences Root Cause
Analysis and Corrective Action](#)

Wednesday, Feb. 18 [Oregon Life Sciences Overview of FDA Requirements for Regulated Industries](#)

Thursday, Feb. 19 [Oregon Life Sciences Quality Systems Overview, Implementation, and Improvement](#)

Wednesday, Feb. 25 [Oregon Life Sciences Data Integrity and Good Documentation Practices \(GDP\)](#)

Friday, March 6 [Oregon Life Sciences Change Management](#)

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 2271](#) - Diagnostic classification and questionnaire for facial pain

OHSU 2796 - Retrograde Transureteral Hydrodynamic Pelvic Injection for Drug Delivery to the Kidney

U.S. Patents Issued

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

[Patent 12,472,175](#) - Methods of treating venetoclax-resistant acute myeloid leukemia

[Patent 12,496,311](#) - Methods for safely reducing thrombopoietin

[Patent 12,502,291](#) - Auxetic stents for managing venous stenosis

[Patent 12,507,988](#) - Transducer Fixation Apparatus

[Patent 12,508,171](#) - Delivery Systems For Control Of Bleeding In Transurethral Prostatectomy

[Patent 12,508,139](#) - Auxetic stents for managing venous stenosis

[Patent 12,509,427](#) - Intermediates and synthesis for Endochin-like quinolone compounds

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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