



## INNOVATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION

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Sept. 2, 2026

# OHSU Innovates



As the academic year gets underway, the fall calendar is filling with opportunities to learn, connect and engage. From funding programs and commercialization training to startup showcases and industry conferences, the coming months offer a range of ways for researchers, founders and entrepreneurs to advance their work and expand their networks.

In this issue, you'll find recent news from OHSU, upcoming opportunities and events, and resources that help advance research, healthcare and entrepreneurship.

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## FEATURED NEWS

### BIP Supports New Therapeutic Technologies, Opens Applications for Device, Diagnostic & Software Track

The Biomedical Innovation Program (BIP), a collaboration between the Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute (OCTRI) and OHSU Innovates, recently announced five projects selected for 2026 Drug Discovery Awards. The funded projects span a range of therapeutic areas, including glioma, glaucoma, rare genetic disorders, neurodegenerative disease and respiratory syncytial virus, and will receive funding, project management and mentorship to help advance promising innovations toward clinical and commercial impact.

Researchers developing medical devices, diagnostics or software technologies may now apply for the next BIP funding opportunity. The BIP Device, Diagnostic & Software track supports projects aimed at improving healthcare delivery through competitive awards of up to \$40,000, along with commercialization mentorship and project management support. Letters of intent are due Tuesday, Sept. 15.

[Read more about the 2026 Drug Discovery awardees.](#)

[Learn more about the BIP Device, Diagnostic & Software funding opportunity.](#)

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### Trace Biosciences Secures Strategic Investment to Advance Nerve Imaging Technology

OHSU startup Trace Biosciences announced a strategic investment from Axogen Inc., a global leader in surgical solutions for peripheral nerve repair, as part of the company's Series A financing round. The investment will support the continued clinical

development of Nerve Trace Dx, a near-infrared fluorescence imaging technology designed to make nerves visible in real time during surgery.

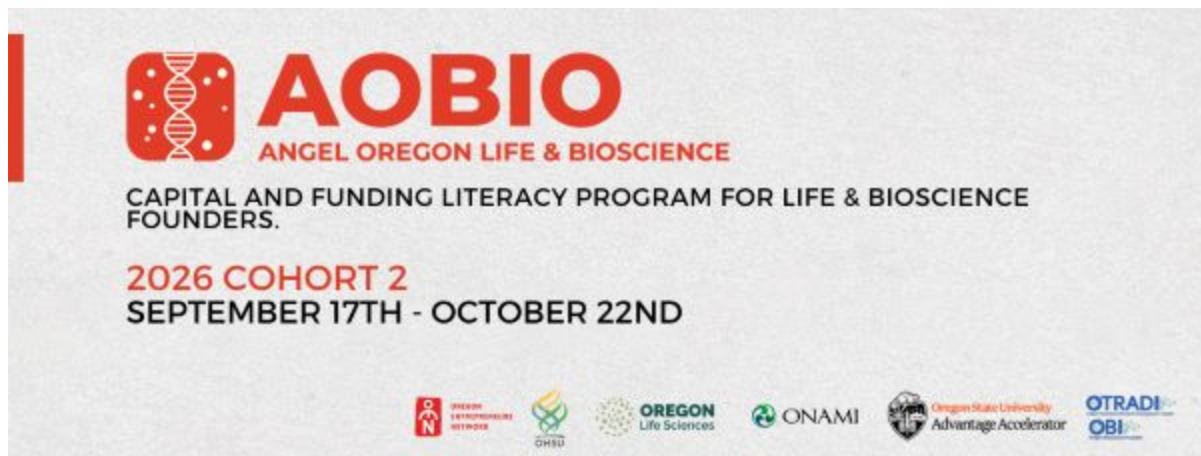
Nerve Trace Dx received FDA clearance of its Investigational New Drug application in Dec. 2025 and is currently being evaluated in a Phase I clinical trial. The technology is designed to help surgeons identify, protect and assess nerves during surgery, potentially reducing the risk of nerve injury and improving surgical outcomes. The investment will support future clinical development, including planned Phase II and III studies.

[Read the Trace Biosciences announcement.](#)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Angel Oregon Life & Bioscience Program Begins Sept. 17



Angel Oregon Life & Bioscience (AOBIO) is a five-week program designed to help early-stage life science and bioscience founders prepare for fundraising and commercialization. Participants learn from investors, entrepreneurs and industry experts while developing strategies for capital raising, refining pitch presentations and strengthening their companies for future growth.

The program, offered through Oregon Entrepreneurship Network in partnership with

OHSU and other regional innovation organizations, concludes with Angel Oregon Pitch Day, where founders present to investors and community leaders.

[Register now.](#)

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## Gain Venture Capital Experience Through the ONAMI Venture Fellows Program

Applications are open for the ONAMI Venture Fellows Program, an experiential learning opportunity for students and emerging professionals interested in venture capital, entrepreneurship and technology commercialization. Fellows work alongside ONAMI entrepreneurs in residence to evaluate startup opportunities, conduct market and business diligence, and gain firsthand insight into how early-stage investment decisions are made.

Through the program, participants engage with Oregon startups across life sciences, clean energy, advanced materials, semiconductors and other deep technology sectors while building skills in commercialization, market analysis and venture finance. The program is primarily remote and applications are due Wednesday, Sept. 30.

[Learn more and apply.](#)

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## BIP Corp Applications Remain Open

There's still time to apply for the Biomedical Innovation Program Commercialization Readiness Program (BIP Corp), a six-week virtual training program offered through OHSU's Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute (OCTRI). Designed for

biomedical scientists, clinician-scientists and engineers, the program helps participants explore the commercial potential of early-stage research and innovations through customer discovery, market assessment, regulatory considerations and commercialization readiness.

The program begins Friday, Sept. 11. There is no cost to participate, and non-OHSU applicants are welcome.

[Apply now.](#)

[Learn more and review the BIP Corp Fact Sheet and Course Details.](#)

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## ASCEND Award Applications Due Sept. 30

The ASCEND Award supports bold, practical ideas that aim to make a real-world impact while advancing the professional growth of OHSU innovators. Open to OHSU students, trainees, faculty, staff and volunteers, the program provides up to \$4,000 for activities such as innovation training, conference travel, prototype development and materials.

The next proposal deadline is Wednesday, Sept. 30.

[Learn more and review the Request for Proposals.](#) (OHSU login required.)

[Apply now.](#) (OHSU login required.)

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## Applications Open for Nucleate Activator Program

Nucleate, recently named to TIME's inaugural list of America's Best Incubators and Accelerators, has opened applications for its 2027 Activator program. Through Nucleate PNW, the organization's Pacific Northwest chapter, graduate students, postdoctoral researchers and other academic trainees can explore the commercial potential of life science innovations and develop new venture opportunities through an equity-free program. Participants with existing technologies can build startup teams around their ideas, while those without a venture idea can join a team as a scientific or business contributor. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis through Tuesday, Oct. 20.

[Apply now.](#)

[Learn more.](#)

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## FEATURED EVENTS

### AI and Your Ideas: What Innovators Need to Know

#### OHSU INNOVATES SPEAKER SERIES

#### AI and Your Ideas: What Innovators Need to Know



Xavier Clark, J.D.  
Shareholder



Brittani Gambrell, J.D.  
Associate

**Schwabe**

Sept. 29  
12 to 1 p.m. PT



Artificial intelligence is transforming how organizations conduct research, develop new technologies and bring innovations to market. As AI becomes an increasingly important tool for researchers, entrepreneurs and creators, it is creating new opportunities as well as new questions around ownership, confidentiality, intellectual property and legal risk.

Join attorneys [Xavier Clark](#) and [Brittani Gambrell](#) of Schwabe for a discussion on the legal and intellectual property considerations surrounding AI. The conversation will explore how organizations are incorporating AI into their innovation strategies, how AI may impact ownership of ideas and creative works, and what innovators should know about confidentiality, intellectual property rights and emerging legal developments.

[Register.](#)

When: Tuesday, Sept. 29, noon–1 p.m. PT

Where: Virtual

Who: Open to all

Cost: Free

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## Explore Emerging Companies at OBI Startup Spotlight Expo



The Oregon Bioscience Incubator's Startup Spotlight Expo returns Sept. 17, bringing together founders, investors, researchers and industry leaders from across Oregon's life sciences ecosystem. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet emerging companies, explore new technologies and hear perspectives on the current funding landscape during the featured investor panel discussion.

[Register.](#)

When: Thursday, Sept. 17, 5-8 p.m.

Where: Oregon Bioscience Incubator, Portland, Oregon

Who: Entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, industry partners and innovation community members

Cost: \$75

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## Connect, Learn and Network at the Oregon Life Sciences Annual Conference



The Oregon Life Sciences Annual Conference and Innovation Showcase returns to the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry on Thursday, Sept. 24. The conference brings together researchers, entrepreneurs, investors, industry leaders and policymakers from across the region for a day of keynote presentations, panel discussions, networking and innovation showcases.

As one of the Pacific Northwest's premier life sciences events, the conference offers opportunities to explore emerging trends, connect with potential collaborators and engage with leaders from across the biotech, medical device and health innovation sectors.

[Register.](#)

When: Thursday, Sept. 24

Where: Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI), Portland, Oregon

Who: Researchers, entrepreneurs, investors, industry professionals, policymakers and students

Cost: \$200 OLS Member / \$295 Non-Member Industry/Academic / \$350 Non-Member Service Partner

OHSU employees and students qualify for the Oregon Life Sciences member rate. To see whether your employer or institution also qualifies, [view the member directory](#).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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**Tuesday, Sept. 8**

Startup Business Essentials - Growing Smart: Legal Strategies That Protect Your Business (OEN)

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**Tuesday, Sept. 15**

Pitch, Please: September (OEN)

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**Thursday, Sept. 17**

OBI Annual Startup Spotlight Expo

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**Tuesday, Sept. 22**

The Scientist-CEO Communication Trap: Why Brilliant Founders Create the Exact Problem That Stalls (OBI)

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**Thursday, Sept. 24**

2026 Oregon Life Sciences Annual Conference

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|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday, Sept. 28</b>                        | Managing Multiple Projects (OLS)                                             |
| <b>Tuesday, Sept. 29</b>                       | AI and Your Ideas: What Innovators Need to Know                              |
| <b>Thursday, Oct. 1</b>                        | WIS PDX 2026 Annual Donor Dinner: Illuminating the Future of Science         |
| <b>Tuesday, Oct. 6</b>                         | Startup Business Essentials - Gain Clarity and Build Your 2027 Roadmap (OEN) |
| <b>Tuesday, Oct. 6</b>                         | Overview of FDA Requirements for Regulated Industries (OLS)                  |
| <b>Wednesday, Oct. 7</b>                       | Quality Systems Overview, Implementation, and Improvement (OLS)              |
| <b>Monday, Oct. 12-<br/>Tuesday, Oct. 13</b>   | Lean Six Sigma: Yellow Belt Training (OLS)                                   |
| <b>Thursday, Oct. 15 -<br/>Friday, Oct. 16</b> | Bend Venture Conference                                                      |
| <b>Thursday, Oct. 15</b>                       | Accelerate Biotech Networking Lunch at Bend Venture Conference               |
| <b>Monday, Oct. 19-<br/>Thursday, Oct. 22</b>  | Project Management: Foundations & Best Practices (OLS)                       |
| <b>Monday, Oct. 19</b>                         | Oregon Life Sciences Membership Lunch & Learn                                |
| <b>Tuesday, Oct. 20</b>                        | Pitch, Please: October (OEN)                                                 |
| <b>Monday, Oct. 26 -<br/>Tuesday, Oct. 27</b>  | Failure Mode and Effects Analysis, Design and Development (OLS)              |

## TECHNOLOGIES

OHSU-developed technologies are available for licensing to industry partners. For a list of available technologies, visit the [OHSU Technology Portal](#).

### Newly Licensed or Optioned OHSU Technologies

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

[OHSU 1162](#) - The Pacific Northwest Anti-Inflammatory Reference Cookbook

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

OHSU 3312 - A method for expressing full-length collagens

OHSU 3344 - AAV epsilon (AAVe) family

OHSU 3428 - Clinical Assessment Outcomes Instrument to assess the severity of Pyoderma Gangrenosum

OHSU 3513 - ONPRC Tissue Distribution Program

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### U.S. Issued Patents

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

Patent 12,690,775 - Wearable photoplethysmography device for detecting clinical decompensation based on heart rate variability

Patent 12,680,097 - Methods for increasing yield of sequencing libraries

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## SPONSORS

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



Questions? Contact us at [innovates@ohsu.edu](mailto:innovates@ohsu.edu)

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