In an effort to further aid OHSU employees in understanding the technology transfer & business development processes, TTBD staff members will be holding open office hours in Baird Hall 1027. Technology Development Managers, Agreement Officers, Business Development Associates, as well as the Directors of Technology Transfer and Business Development will be readily available to address questions or concerns. To inquire as to staff member time availability, contact our office at techmgmt@ohsu.edu.

In recent months, TTBD has successfully executed several key license agreements covering OHSU-developed intellectual property. A few highlights of these include a recent license on a technology to better determine tumor malignancies, an exclusive option on a device to prevent central line-associated bloodstream infections, and a license to three technologies to help screen for particular eye diseases. TTBD has also entered into several significant research funding agreements in the past quarter including an agreement to evaluate a new tuberculosis vaccine candidate, another to study a drug candidate for methamphetamine abuse in partnership with an OHSU startup company, and another to study a therapeutic candidate for obesity.

Sri Kripa Balakrishman
Sri received her Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and studied embryonic stem cells and cancer biology for 5 years as a post-doctoral researcher at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, CA. Sri worked as an intern for a year at the Technology Transfer Office at the University of California, San Diego and served a short stint as their Technology Marketing Analyst prior to re-locating to Portland. She is also a registered U.S. Patent Agent. Sri is one of the four Agreements Officers in TTBD managing industry sponsored research, material transfer and other agreements for OHSU.
One of the first things that comes to mind when thinking of the TTBD office is patents. However, less than half of the inventions TTBD manages require patent applications to be commercializable. One in five is considered a biological material or research tool, and one in seven is protected by copyright.

Some examples of “non-patented” technologies are research antibodies, mouse models, training materials, software, patient evaluation protocols, and educational programs. These can be exciting to work with, since they solve real problems both in the laboratory and in daily life. Because they don’t require patent protection and complex regulatory development, they can sometimes be commercialized much more quickly and at a lower cost.

To learn more about licensing opportunities, stay tuned to future installments of the TTBD newsletter as we take a deeper dive into this topic.

TTBD EDUCATION: FEDERAL INVENTION REPORTING

One of the critical duties performed by TTBD on behalf of OHSU is U.S. federal government invention reporting (IR). As mandated by the Bayh-Dole Act, the appropriate federal granting agencies must be notified of any invention developed at OHSU that utilized funding from any federal grant, contract, or cooperative agreement. In addition, for those inventions where OHSU elects ownership from the government, efforts must be made to commercialize these inventions within set time frames. Failure to report these activities can result in penalties, including loss of ownership of an invention.

While TTBD handles the majority of the federal IR process, cooperation from OHSU inventors is vital for success. This is especially true during the first step of this process: submission of a completed intellectual property (IP) disclosure form. In order for an IP disclosure form to be accepted by the federal government, it must include the following: names of all inventors, all grant and contract numbers, dates of any public disclosures, a written description of the invention in technical detail, and signatures of all inventors.

Connecting OHSU with outside partners

Several members from TTBD recently attended the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM) annual meeting in San Francisco. It was a busy meeting for TTBD staff in attendance as they were networking, partnering with companies and learning the latest trends and best practices in our industry. Some highlights included sessions on working with industry collaborators, helping startup companies be more successful, changes in patent law, and entrepreneur-in-residence programs. At the meeting AUTM revealed a short video that succinctly captures both the process of technology transfer and its importance (AUTM’s “About Tech Transfer” video) as well as videos from member institutions showing the impact university innovations can have on society (AUTM’s “Put a Face On It” initiative).

A few from TTBD were also able to recently attend the Global 1000 Meet | Partner | Deal Portfolio Showcase and Conference as well as the University Startups Conference in Washington, D.C. Global 1000 provided an opportunity for TTBD to showcase a few of OHSU’s promising startup companies, as well as discuss future opportunities with large companies and investment groups. The concurrent University Startups Conference provided TTBD with insight into the current best practices for helping university startups succeed and what funding opportunities may be available from the U.S. Government and beyond for university startups.

These are just a few of the meetings that TTBD tries to attend each year as part of our overall mission to transfer research from the laboratory to market for public benefit. These meetings provide our team with opportunities to connect OHSU innovations with companies, meet new industry partners and stay abreast on trends and factors affecting our industry.