There are several new and exciting developments in the office of Technology Transfer & Business Development. TTBD’s efforts have recently culminated in the finalization of a multiyear drug target discovery program agreement with a top pharmaceutical company. This deal is a unique partnership between OHSU and this company and the first of its kind with an academic university in the United States for this pharmaceutical partner. This deal will not only bolster an emerging target discovery program at OHSU but also presents the opportunity for additional relationships to form with this partner. More news on this new program is sure to follow. Last month members of TTBD participated in the TechConnect World Innovation Conference & Expo along with the State of Oregon, signature research centers, fellow universities and companies all from Oregon. TTBD not only was able to talk about the research and innovation happening at OHSU in an attempt to find new licensing and business partnerships, but also was able to promote the advantages of doing business in the State of Oregon.

On November 5th, TTBD will be launching the OHSU MedTech Alliance, a platform for investors and industry representatives to stay up-to-date on early stage medical device technologies developed at OHSU. This event along with the Startup Symposium (see below) will help open more doors for OHSU entrepreneurs, faculty, researchers and students to meet and interact with investors and industry professionals, and through these interactions help move technologies to the marketplace. OHSU innovators interested in participating in the MedTech Alliance and/or starting a company need to work with TTBD to discuss their technologies and the commercialization process.

**NEWS**

**EVENTS**

Tuesday, July 22, 2014
Oregon Bioscience Association
5:30 - 8:00 pm
Moss Adams LLP, 805 SW Broadway, Portland, OR 97205

Thursday, August 7, 2014
TTBD Lunch & Learn Presentation
“How to Pitch to Industry”
12:00 - 1:00 pm
Mackenzie Hall 2201, Marquam Hill Campus

September 15-17, 2014
Oregon Bioscience Association
“2014 Oregon Bio Annual Conference: An Industry Inflection Point”
Marylhurst University, 07600 Pacific Hwy, Marylhurst, OR 97036

Tuesday, September 23, 2014
OHSU MedTech Alliance
“MedTech Alliance Pre-launch Panel Event”
5:00 - 7:30 pm
Ater Wynne, 1331 NW Lovejoy St #900, Portland, OR 97209

**INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

TTBD is seeking three new part-time volunteer interns for the 2014 – 2015 academic year. Interns provide a valuable service by assisting with technology development and the transition of technology from laboratory to market for the benefit of the public. In return, interns gain valuable knowledge and skills that can be applied in a wide range of professions. Past TTBD interns have gone on to pursue careers in technology transfer, patent law, and startup development.

The application deadline for a part-time academic year-long unpaid internship is August 15, 2014. Qualified applicants must hold a bachelor’s degree in a life science, a physical science, and/or engineering and be pursuing or have received a graduate-level degree in science, medicine, engineering, business, or law. Additionally, qualified candidates must have an interest in intellectual property, technology transfer, and/or business development as a career goal. To learn more about the TTBD internship program and how to apply, please visit the Careers and Internships page on our website.

**NEW STAFF MEMBERS AND PROMOTIONS**

Nicole D.W. Garrison
Nicole Garrison has recently been promoted into the role of Database and Compliance Administrator in TTBD. In this new role, Nicole will be managing the unique database systems within TTBD and also assisting the multiple teams within the office with various compliance responsibilities. In relation to agreements established by TTBD this includes compliance by OHSU and its employees as well as OHSU’s external partners. Nicole was formerly the department’s Executive Assistant.

Alexandra Sanderson
Sasha joined TTBD in early July as the new Administrative Specialist. Sasha will be assisting TTBD in a number of areas, but she will also be assisting the other departments located in the Bancroft building. Sasha comes to TTBD after serving for 3 years as a Student Worker in the Facilities & Logistics department at OHSU.
In an effort to accelerate venture investment in life science companies in Oregon, OHSU is collaborating with the Portland based Allegory Venture Partners GP, LLC in a bioscience funding and commercialization effort.

OHSU will give Allegory Venture Partners up to $1.2M over an expected period of two years on a milestone basis to support the launch and operation of the fund. The Allegory Venture Partners will attempt to raise a minimum of $40M within that period. Targeting a total raise of $80M, “Fund I” is expected to provide seed and follow on funding to emerging life science companies.

OHSU will disclose certain startup opportunities to Allegory Venture Partners on a non-exclusive basis and the fund will be free to invest both locally and nationally.

The Allegory Venture Partners expect to make venture capital investments in emerging stage life science companies in:

a) Healthcare IT, software and applications  
b) Healthcare services  
c) Medical devices and diagnostics  
d) Research tools and technologies

To read more on OHSU’s partnership with Allegory Venture Partners, see the story featured in the Portland Business Journal.

Recently, the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) issued new guidelines on the eligibility for patent of claims reciting “laws of nature/natural principles natural phenomena, and/or natural products” implementing the Supreme Court’s recent decisions in Myriad and Mayo. In the four months since the guidelines were announced, many inventions previously considered patentable are now being rejected. Many commentators (exemplified by this recent article in Science), believe that if left to stand; the new guidelines will have “chilling” effects on efforts to commercialize new biotechnology inventions.

The two Supreme Court decisions and the guidelines have impacts on two types of inventions commonly developed at OHSU. The first type involves biomolecules - naturally occurring nucleic acid or protein molecules (including any fragment or domain of a nucleic acid or protein) or any naturally occurring chemical compounds. All such compounds are now considered unpatentable even if they are recombinantly or chemically synthesized. Current indications suggest that cDNAs as well as monoclonal antibodies and nucleic acids encoding them are still patentable.

The second type involves molecular diagnostic tests – generally, a test that correlates the expression of a set of mRNA and/ or protein molecules with a disease state. The reasoning is that the correlation is merely a naturally occurring cause and effect relationship and that without something more to differentiate it, such a test is unpatentable. Put another way, if the correlation between the marker and the disease state is the only thing new about the invention, then the test is not a patentable invention.

As this is a very complex topic, please feel free to contact Jeff Jackson, Senior Patent Associate at OHSU with specific questions at 4-9906.