

April 2026

## Getting to Know the 2026 TTCF Chair: Karen Surabian

*Richelle Holnick, OTT*

Karen Surabian, Senior Licensing and Patenting Manager at the NIH National Human Genome Research Institute, is the 2026 NIH Technology Transfer Community Forum (TTCF) Chair. We chatted with her about her background, what led her to tech transfer, and why she wanted to be this year's TTCF chair.

### **Can you tell us about your background prior to NIH?**

Prior to NIH I worked at an academic technology transfer office while completing my J.D. and really enjoyed the work. Before working in technology transfer, I completed a B.S. in Cell Molecular Biology and Genetics at the University of Maryland, College Park and then worked in a protein biochemistry lab.



Karen Surabian

### **What led you to a career in technology transfer?**

It started when I was completing my J.D. and there was a job posting for an academic technology transfer position. A friend/classmate pointed it out to me as they could not apply, since they did not have a background in science/science degree. I applied, got the position, and really liked the field. Then I became a Cancer Research Training Award (CRTA) fellow (NCI Technology Transfer fellow) and stayed in federal technology transfer.

### **What is your favorite part of working for the NIH?**

Learning from the scientists about the technologies and seeing how the technologies interact with patients and projects over the years is amazing. I interned at NIH when I was younger and being able to work here is a very nice opportunity. I love working in technology transfer because it meshes all the degrees/education in one field, science, legal, and business, and getting to use those and learn more at NIH is very rewarding.

### **Is there a memorable or favorite technology that you have worked on during your time at NIH?**

I have worked in different technology transfer offices at NIH with many different types of technologies and each one is interesting. I find learning about the progress of the technologies intriguing.

**What led you to volunteering as the TTCF chair?**

I have seen many leaders in this position and role over the years. I had said to myself many times that it would be a good experience and one day I would like that experience. It is a good way to interact with technology transfer members across several government agencies on various levels of management and learn more about the field.

**Is there anything you would like to change or institute during your tenure as TTCF chair?**

I am hoping to continue to learn and contribute to the Technology Transfer and NIH Community and bring interesting and relevant topics to everyone.

**What do you like to do in your free time?**

I love art and love to paint, especially with watercolor. I enjoy creating. I find joy in spending the time to walk around and explore museums. I love learning about new things from art, history, and science.

**Can you share a fun fact about yourself?**

I like to pay attention to what is going on in the area (theater, exhibit, festival, lecture, etc.) and make an effort to attend what interests me. There is always something fun happening locally.



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# Tech Transfer Staff Nominated for Senior Procurement Executive Excellence Awards

*Richelle Holnick, OTT*

2025 was a tremendously difficult year for contracting and procurement activities at NIH. Two people stood out as unsung heroes in the contracting process, doing work that kept the entire NIH Tech Transfer Community running. We have recognized these folks by submitting them for HHS Senior Procurement Executive Excellence Awards.

OTT nominated **Laura Lane-Unsworth for Contracting Officer Representative (COR) of the Year** for her innovative, mission-critical contract management that protected NIH's patent portfolio through the 2025 government shutdown. The contract that Laura is the COR for is responsible for protecting the NIH Intramural Research Program's intellectual property, covering over 7,000 active patents, as well as securing patent rights for over 500 new patent applications that are filed each year. Quarterly annuity and maintenance fee payments are required to keep patent rights active and applications pending; any lapse could jeopardize NIH's patent rights, diminish enforceability, and threaten royalty revenue tied to NIH discoveries. NIH uses a contractor, Computer Packages, Inc. to calculate and pay these fees.



Laura Lane-Unsworth

As Laura realized a government shutdown was very likely, she worked with the OTT Director to put a plan in place to avoid a lapse in payments. She generated projected annuity reports for each Institute and Center (IC) for their 3rd and 4th quarter fees, an approach not previously implemented, which provided the data needed to take timely action. She coordinated with the Technology Development Coordinators for each IC and the Budget Officers to receive individual sign off from key stakeholders to pay these fees early. Her clear documentation, consistent communication, and structured coordination minimized administrative delays and strengthened oversight for this accelerated process. Through strategic leadership, disciplined oversight, and exceptional stakeholder coordination, Laura ensured uninterrupted protection of NIH's patent portfolio and demonstrated the highest standards of COR excellence in support of NIH's mission.



Tim Leahy

OTT nominated **Tim Leahy for Program Manager of the Year** as he is a proactive leader who foresaw challenges and strategically initiated contract consolidation for efficiency. Amidst significant contract and acquisition challenges in FY2025, Tim proactively identified an opportunity to streamline operations. He initiated and executed the combination of two critical contracts he manages: the Enterprise Technology Transfer (ETT) Support contract and the OTT SharePoint contract. Both systems are critical as they allow for seamless cross-NIH collaboration.

Tim dedicated substantial time and effort to this complex task. His work involved meticulously reviewing the previous task orders, creating seven unified tasks (plus one optional), drafting statements of work, and engaging extensively with the contracting group to identify suitable contract vehicles. His strategic efforts yielded substantial results: a 20% reduction in costs and a decrease of two contract staff positions by better utilizing resources across the two

systems. This consolidation was completed months before the original contracts' Option Year 4 expiration, ensuring a seamless transition to a single unified contract by the end of FY2025, with zero disruption to end-users.

Congratulations to Laura and Tim on their nominations, we wish you the best of luck!

## FLC Rolls Out New Designation for T2 Professionals

*Courtney Bronson, FLC*

On April 14, the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer (FLC) officially announced a new professional development program. The FLC Professional Registered ORTAs (PRO<sup>®</sup>) program recognizes and supports the people who make technology transfer happen.

FLC PRO<sup>®</sup> is a designation that distinguishes industry professionals who meet a peer-reviewed standard of experience, competency, and continuing education. Earning the FLC PRO<sup>®</sup> designation signals a verified expertise in moving innovations from federal laboratories to the marketplace through licensing, partnerships, and commercialization activities.



For designees, the FLC PRO<sup>®</sup> program helps document, validate, and showcase career achievements and proficiency. PRO<sup>®</sup>-verified practitioners also receive information about professional development opportunities, partner resources, and industry-specific news.

Besides being a nationally recognized credential and a badge of heightened experience and participation in the industry, the PRO<sup>®</sup> designation also offers increased access to FLC opportunities, enhances a practitioner's leadership qualifications, and differentiates them from peers.

Any experienced technology transfer professional with at least three years of service at FLC member laboratories and agencies should apply for PRO<sup>®</sup> designation, as should those in senior technology transfer positions, like management.

In order to qualify for the PRO<sup>®</sup> designation, applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a member of an FLC member lab or agency with an active role in federal tech transfer.
- Submit a CV/resume showing at least three years of experience in federal tech transfer.
- Submit a written statement of up to 1,000 words summarizing relevant achievements, projects, and/or research (optional).
- Demonstrate competencies across one or more of FLC's career paths (Intellectual Property Management, Agreements, Marketing/Business Development, and/or Operations/Administration).

- Competency requirements may also be met by completing designated CRADA and Foundation courses through the FLC Learning Center.
- Attend at least three FLC educational webinars or serve as a trainer/subject matter expert in at least on FLC training within the past three years.
- Attend one FLC National Meeting within the past three years.

Applications are evaluated by a cross-agency peer review panel of senior technology professionals from FLC member laboratories and agencies. The panel meets quarterly to review applications. Applying for the PRO<sup>®</sup> designation is free, offered as a member benefit to the FLC community.

To learn more about eligibility and application requirements, [click here](#). You can view the current [PRO<sup>®</sup>-verified practitioners](#), as well as members of the [PRO<sup>®</sup> Review Committee](#) on the FLC website. Current PRO<sup>®</sup>-verified practitioners from NIH include:

- Amanda Corbel
- Steven Ferguson
- Zarpheen Jinnah
- Tara Kirby
- Vladimir Popov
- Michael Salgaller
- Sharon Soucek

The next deadline to apply is May 25, 2026, with decisions expected for that group of applicants by June 22, 2026. Submissions will be accepted on a rolling basis, with deadlines every quarter moving forward.

Questions can be directed to [educate@federallabs.org](mailto:educate@federallabs.org)!



# Top 10 Data Quality Tips (Plus One!)

Fal Sanghani, Sapiient

Good data doesn't happen by accident. It's built one smart habit at a time. To help keep our ETT system clean, searchable, and reliable, here are some simple (and surprisingly powerful) data quality best practices:

## 1. Start Strong: Validate Critical Data Early On

Enter and verify key fields such as email, phone, and company, right when creating a record. Fixing issues early saves time later.

## 2. Complete the Picture

Include as much relevant information as possible (email, phone, address, IDs, etc.) when creating a contact record. This helps distinguish similar contact records because not all "John Browns" are the same.

## 3. Search Smart, Not Hard

- Use double quotes for exact matches, especially when searching text with dashes, underscores, or spaces.
- Try variations: e.g. "Sanofi Adventis", "Sanofi-Adventis" under the 'Company Name' field to capture all variations of Sanofi Adventis company records.
- Use the 'contains' operator for broader results (think of it as a wildcard)
- Search within specific fields for better accuracy before using global search

Name	*Parent Companies
Spirogen Limited	AstraZeneca > Spirogen Limited
Neogene Therapeutics, Inc.	AstraZeneca > Neogene Therapeutics, Inc.
Neogene Therapeutics B.V.	AstraZeneca > Neogene Therapeutics B.V.
Medimmune, LLC.	AstraZeneca > Medimmune, LLC.
Medimmune Ltd.	AstraZeneca > Medimmune Ltd.
Medimmune Cambridge USA (form...	AstraZeneca > Medimmune, LLC. > Medl...

**Pro tip:** Use the *Parent Companies* field (e.g., "Astrazeneca") under the Find Company grid to quickly find all subsidiaries under a parent company.

## 4. Standardize Naming (Consistency is Key)

Follow naming conventions for **role-based contact** records:

- First Name = Accounts
- Last Name = Payable

Consistency reduces duplicates and improves searchability.

**Pro tip:** Filter for the word "Accounts" under the Full Name field and combine it with the name of the company under the Current Company field to quickly find relevant role-based records under that company in the Find Contacts grid.

## 5. Duplicate? Don't Let It Multiply

If you find a duplicate:

- Label it clearly ("DUPLICATE")
- Add a comment to the record to support the 'Duplicate' identification
- Even better, Archive it (Think of it as a little data decluttering)

## 6. Keep It Simple: Avoid Special Characters

Stick to standard English characters (A–Z, 0–9) for contact and company names

Example: “Møller Consulting” -> “Moller Consulting”

ETT does not do well with foreign characters. It can interfere with rendering correct search results which can eventually lead to creating duplicate records.

## 7. Use Favorites as Your To-Do List

Every record type has a favorite option. Add **in-progress** records to your “**Favorites**” for easy tracking. All favorites can then be found under the “**Home -> Shortcuts**” tab.



Once complete, “unfavorite” them to keep your worklist tidy and organized.

## 8. Keep Agreement ID Numbering Consistent

- Use -0 (zero) for NEW parent records
  - Use -1, -2, etc., for amendments based on the parent agreement number
- This keeps agreement families easy to track and search in the Find Agreements grid.

## 9. Make Fiscal Year Work for You

The *\*Fiscal Year* field only populates when the Execution Date is entered.

No Execution date = no fiscal year so be sure to include it. This field is especially useful when pulling agreements for a specific fiscal year.

## 10. Tag It to Find It

Tag documents (e.g., “Final Executed Draft”) to quickly locate key files later.

You can do this under: *Document -> Properties -> Category*

Owner: Admin, Inteum  
 Private: NO  
 Document Location: Save in the database  
 \*D:\NIH TechTracs Enclosures\27...  
 Document Title: L-028-2018-0.pdf  
 Category: - Select -

## 11. See Something, Say Something

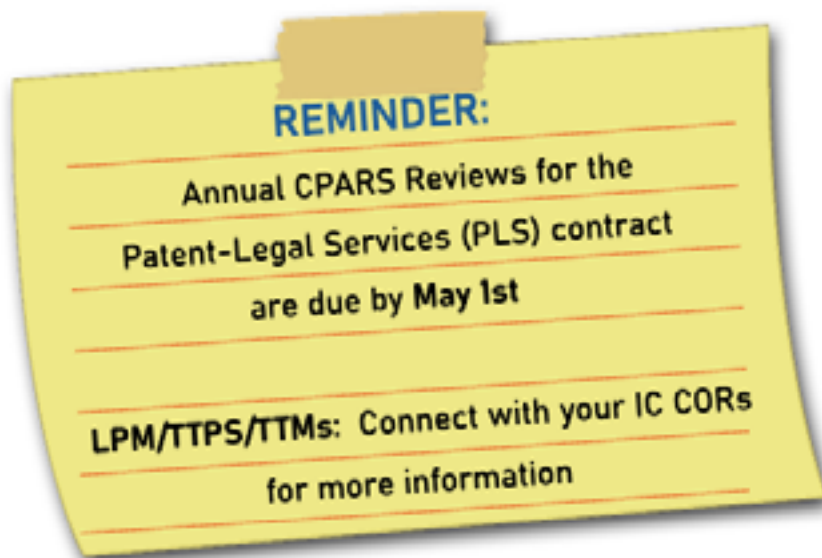
Data quality is a team effort. If something looks off, report it to ETT\_Support@mail.nih.gov.

Small fixes make a big difference.

Keeping our data clean isn’t just good practice; it makes everyone’s work easier and more effective. Thanks for doing your part!

## CPARS Reminder

PLS Project Team, OTT



## Two SharePoint Reminders

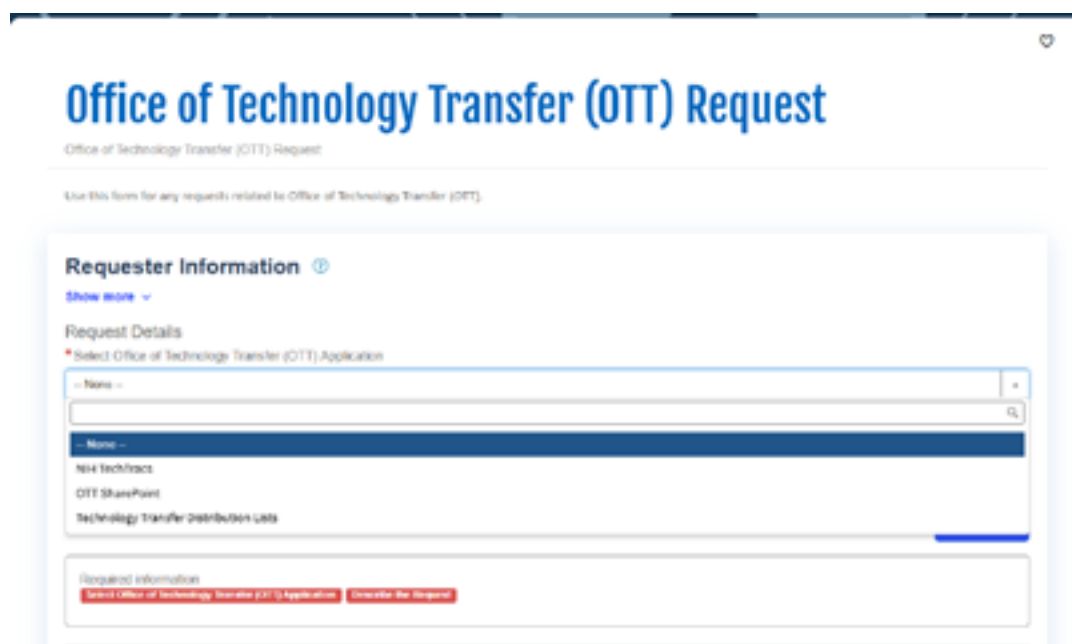
Amber Rush, OTT

This is a friendly reminder to submit all SharePoint-related requests and tickets through the CIT Service Desk Items - NIH Service Desk. Using the service desk allows us to better track, process, and prioritize all incoming requests. To ensure your requests are handled as efficiently as possible, please refrain from sending them via email to ETT Support.

For those submitting requests related to SharePoint, please navigate to the [OTT request section](#) within the NIH Service Catalog and select the OTT SharePoint option.

Additionally, the SharePoint migration is now complete! Any SharePoint links you are using should start as “**nih.sharepoint**” not “*spweb.od*”. All updates to “*spweb.od*” will be lost when the site is shut down, which may be as soon as May 1st.

Thank you for your cooperation.



# CRADA Leads to Sale of Rare Pediatric Disease PRV

Michael Salgaller, NCI

In February, Fortress Biotech, Inc. and its majority-owned subsidiary, Cyprium Therapeutics, Inc. (“Cyprium”), announced a definitive asset purchase agreement to sell its Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher (“PRV”) for gross proceeds of \$205M. The voucher was awarded following the FDA’s January 12, 2026, approval of Zycubo® (copper histidinate) to treat Menkes disease. Menkes disease is a rare, pediatric condition primarily effecting male infants. Genetic mutations cause abnormal regulation of copper – leading to nervous system disorders, developmental delays and other systemic problems. Without intervention, death often occurs within 3 years.

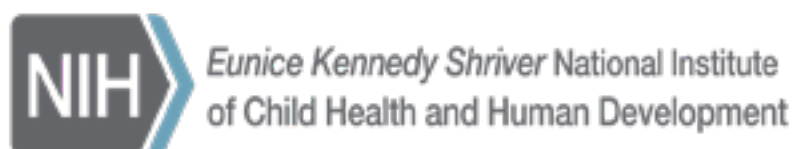
In 2017, NICHD and Cyprium entered into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) to advance the clinical development of Phase 3 candidate CUTX-101 (Copper Histidinate injection) to treat Menkes disease. Further, NICHD and Cyprium executed a worldwide exclusive license agreement to develop and commercialize an adeno-associated virus (AAV)-based gene therapy to optimize delivery.

The CRADA authorized Cyprium to reference the Investigational New Drug application and any data originally held by NICHD. This agreement included the filing of a New Drug Application and commercialization in the U.S. and other territories. Cyprium was responsible for manufacturing Zycubo® to support registration trials at NICHD. The company also provided financial and logistical support for pre-clinical and clinical studies on Menkes disease and related copper metabolism disorders.



Zycubo® Vial and Packaging

As publicly announced, Cyprium is required to pay 20% of the gross proceeds (~\$41M) to NICHD upon sale of the Rare Pediatric Disease PRV. The Rare Pediatric Disease PRV program incentivizes the development and commercialization of treatments that would otherwise be ignored. For many rare pediatric diseases, the risk of failure is too high, clinical trial complexities too substantial and potential market too small for companies to address. Under this program, companies with FDA approval for a rare pediatric disease may qualify for a voucher to be redeemed for priority review of a different product. Transfer or sale of the voucher to another sponsor is also permitted. Priority review by FDA substantially reduces the regulatory timeline to within 6-months instead of the standard 10-months. Thanks to NICHD, there is more hope for children and parents dealing with this devastating disease.



# FLC NATIONAL MEETING

The Westin Seattle | May 12 – 14, 2026



## Register for the FLC National Meeting

*Andrea Nelson, FLC*

If you're looking to strengthen your technology transfer efforts and connect with peers across the federal innovation ecosystem, consider attending the [2026 FLC National Meeting](#), taking place May 12–14, 2026, at The Westin Seattle. This annual event brings together federal laboratories, industry, academia, and other innovation partners to share strategies, explore emerging trends, and build meaningful collaborations. Sharpen your skills with Training Day courses tailored to all experience levels, then dive into two days of expert-led sessions, keynotes, and networking opportunities, including an Industry Power Hour designed to connect you directly with regional partners. Whether you're looking for practical tools in commercialization, partnerships, and intellectual property or simply want to expand your network, you'll leave with ideas and connections you can bring back to your organization.

If you are attending, don't miss the Public Health Service agency wide breakout session on May

## Tech Transfer University Starts Soon

*Richelle Holnick, OTT*

This year's Technology Transfer University (TTU) runs from April 15th through May 27th. TTU is a series of free courses taught by NIH's tech transfer experts and covers a variety of topics related to tech transfer at NIH. Courses will be taught in a hybrid format, with the in-person option being held at NCI Shady Grove. A special session will be held this year for an in-depth training opportunity related to the new NIH IRP Access Planning Policy. It will be held on May 20th from 1-4pm. For more information on TTU, please contact Nikki Guyton.



Credit:iStock/robuart

# Why Submitting a Drop Report Matters

Laura Lane-Unsworth, OTT

When a decision is made to abandon a patent case, submitting a Drop Report may feel like just another administrative step—but it is actually a critical action that ensures accuracy, efficiency, and cost savings across the NIH Technology Transfer community. Here's why your timely submission of a Drop Report is so important:



## 1. Keeps ETT Data Accurate and Up to Date

Notifying OTT through a Drop Report ensures that the ETT system reflects the correct status of a case. Without this update, records may continue to show a case as active, leading to confusion, duplicate work, or incorrect reporting.

## 2. Ensures Alignment with CPI's System

Drop Reports trigger notification to Computer Packages, Inc. (CPI), allowing them to update their system accordingly. This synchronization is essential so that both ETT and CPI reflect the same, accurate patent case information.

## 3. Prevents Unnecessary Costs

Perhaps most importantly, submitting a Drop Report saves your IC funding. If CPI is not informed that a case is being abandoned, NIH may continue to incur charges for maintaining patent cases that are no longer active. A simple submission helps stop those unnecessary expenses.

## 4. Improves Workflow Efficiency for Everyone

Timely and consistent Drop Report submissions reduce follow-up inquiries, manual corrections, and reconciliation efforts. This allows OTT and supporting teams to focus on higher-value activities rather than resolving avoidable discrepancies.

Please continue to make it a priority to submit a Drop Report as soon as a decision is made to abandon a patent case. Your cooperation plays a direct role in maintaining data integrity, reducing costs, and improving operations across all of our NIH Technology Transfer offices.



Credit: iStock/Supatman

Let's continue working together to make our annuity processes smoother, more accurate, and more efficient for everyone.

# NIH IRP Access Planning Policy “Office Hours”

*Jenna Millstein and Gina Strohbach, OSP*

Between January and March, the NIH Office of Science Policy (OSP) hosted four “office hour” sessions to support implementation of the IRP Access Planning Policy that went into effect October 1, 2025. This “office hour” series is a part of efforts to build understanding of the policy’s requirements and equip staff with resources to effectively and consistently implement the policy. Based on staff feedback, OSP will continue to host office hours, so keep an eye on your inbox for details.

As a reminder, the goal of the [IRP Access Planning Policy](#) is to expand patient access to products that result from NIH inventions. Technology transfer professionals across NIH were critical in developing this policy and will continue to play a crucial role in facilitating this improved access, through their review, evaluation, and negotiation of access plans in NIH license agreements. As NIH started receiving its first access plans, the office hours provided space for robust discussion on putting the policy into practice.

OSP prepared the biweekly office hours to facilitate conversation—with brief presentations and activities—and encouraged staff to bring their questions. Members of the tech transfer community participated in thoughtful and lively discussions about various policy implementation topics, including tips for how to review access plans, applying the policy to different types of licenses, and the four required criteria that each access plan must address: availability, affordability, acceptability, and sustainability. For example, in one office hour, participants explored access strategies that are mentioned in the policy’s [implementation guidance](#), and they discussed how those strategies align with the four required criteria for an acceptable access plan. Because the policy is also designed to be flexible and applicant-driven, and because NIH recognizes that each license agreement is unique and context-dependent, participants also discussed how these potential strategies may apply in different scenarios.

We had over 100 participants across four office hour sessions, with representatives from many of NIH’s ICs. Thank you to everyone who joined us, and we hope to see you at future sessions!

OSP plans to host future office hours and will shift from bi-weekly to monthly sessions, at least for the near future. Upcoming office hours will also focus more on IC questions and community-led engagement. As always, OSP and the Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) are available to answer questions at any time, just shoot us an email.

Beyond the office hours, there are plenty of additional resources to assist as staff implement the Access Planning Policy. There are [sample access plans](#), [model agreements](#), and [FAQs](#) on the NIH Technology Transfer website, and [additional internal NIH resources](#) are on SharePoint. The interactive office hour sessions also helped to inform the development of forthcoming resources, so stay tuned!



Credit: iStock/ Sandwich

# National Academy of Inventors Fellow Applications Open Soon

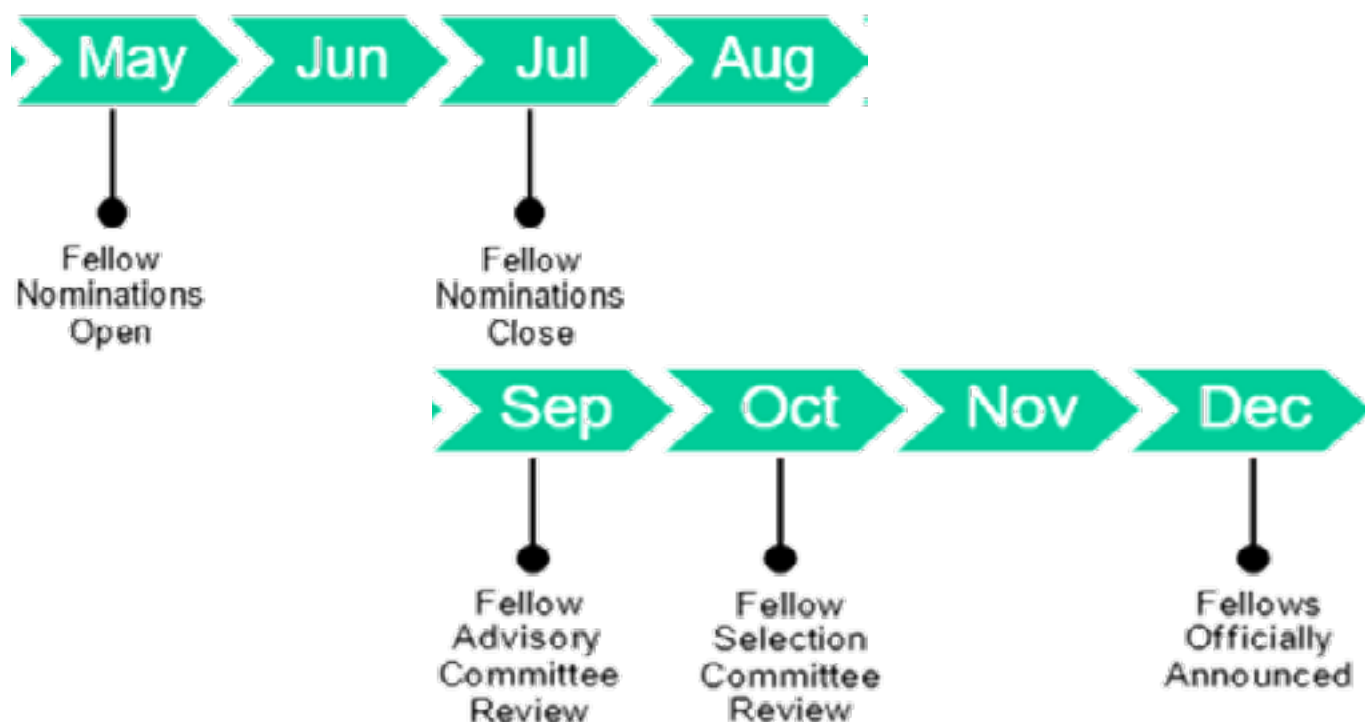
Richelle Holnick, OTT

The National Academy of Inventors (NAI) selects a group of fellows each year from research universities, governmental and non-profit research institutes worldwide. The NAI is a member organization made up of over 4,000 Senior Members and Fellows spanning more than 250 institutes worldwide, including NIH. Its purpose is to encourage inventors with patents issued from the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), enhance the visibility of technology innovation, and help to translate the inventions of its members to the benefit of society.



The NAI Fellows are extremely accomplished individuals who together hold more than 38,000 U.S. patents, have generated over 13,000 licensed technologies, and created over \$2.2 trillion in revenue based on their discoveries. You can view the current list of NIH Inventors in the [NIH Tech Transfer Inventor Showcase](#). This past year, NAI added two more NIH inventors, Drs. Steven Rosenberg and John J. O'Shea.

We look forward to having future nominations for fellows from the NIH pool of talent. OTT plans to submit the past Philip S. Chen, Jr., lecturers as we believe this is a wonderful recognition of NIH's inventors and the tech transfer program as a whole. More information on the NAI Fellow program is available on the [NAI website](#). Submissions for this year's cohort of NAI fellows opens May 1st and runs until the end of July. We hope to see the number of NAI Fellows representing the NIH grow! Please let Steve Ferguson and Richelle Holnick know if you have a nomination that you plan to submit.



# New Portal Empowers NIH Inventors to Manage Royalty Payments Directly

Kevin Doran, OTT

Managing royalty payments just became easier—and more secure—for NIH inventors! The NIH Office of Financial Management (OFM) has launched a new secure portal feature within the Secure Payee Registration System (SPRS), giving inventors and royalty recipients more direct control over their personal and payment information.

Effective March 11, 2026, inventors and legal heirs receiving royalty payments can now securely access and update their Personally Identifiable Information (PII) directly in the OFM royalty payment system (ROMANSYS).

## What's New?

Through the SPRS portal, recipients can now review and update key information in real time, including:

- Mailing address
- Tax reporting details
- Banking information for direct deposit

This new self-service capability represents a major shift from prior processes, where updates to sensitive information often required manual handling by the OFM Royalty Team.

## Powered by NIH Collaboration

This enhancement reflects a strong, coordinated effort across the NIH technology transfer community. The NIH Office of Technology Transfer (OTT), Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs), and ETT Support—working closely with the Data Quality Working Group (DQWG)—leveraged the ETT database to support a smooth and successful implementation.

As part of this effort, OTT partnered with OFM to validate inventor names, mailing addresses, and email addresses for individuals who received royalty payments between FY2022 and the first half of FY2025. This critical data quality initiative helped ensure that SPRS registration communications reached the right recipients accurately and efficiently.



Credit: iStock/Pornpimone Audkamkong

## Why This Matters

This enhancement supports Executive Order 14249, “Protecting America’s Bank Account Against Fraud, Waste, and Abuse,” and aligns with federal information security standards. It strengthens NIH’s ability to protect sensitive financial data while improving operational efficiency.

## Key Benefits at a Glance

- **Greater Security:** Recipients manage their own information in a secure, multi-factor authenticated environment.

- *Improved Accuracy:* Information can be reviewed and updated directly by the individual.
- *Faster Updates:* Changes can be made quickly, helping avoid payment delays.
- *Reduced Fraud Risk:* Stronger controls help safeguard both financial data and royalty payments.

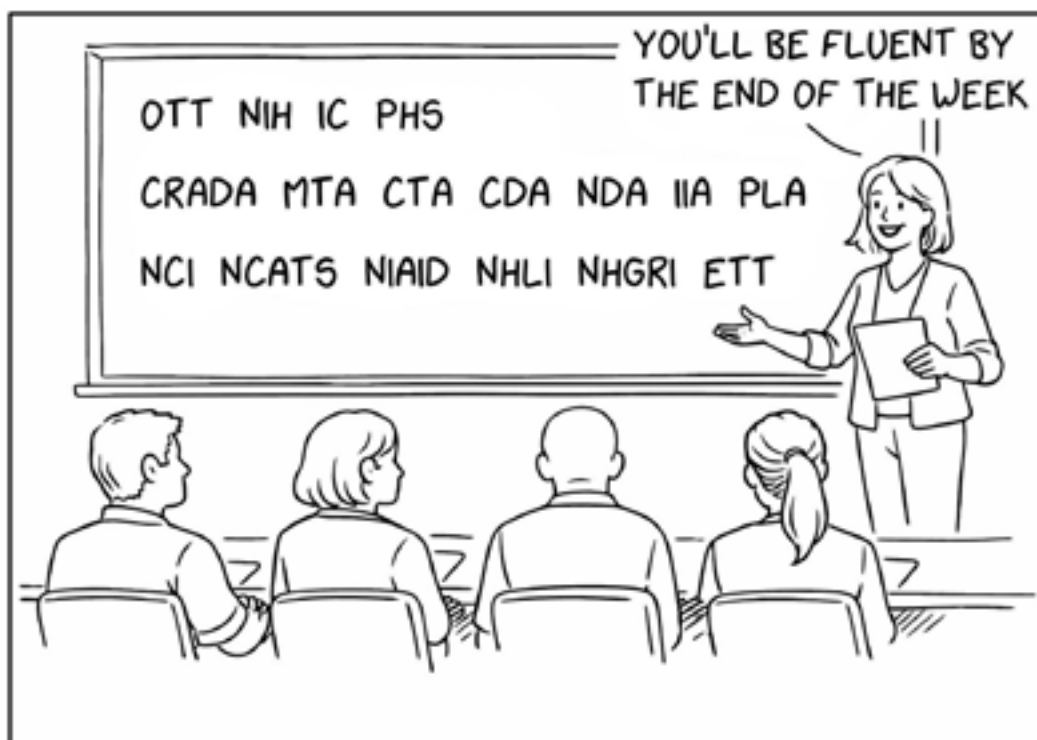
## **What to Expect Next**

Before receiving future royalty payments, recipients will receive email instructions on how to access the SPRS portal and complete registration. These instructions will be sent to the email address currently on file in the OFM royalty payment system.

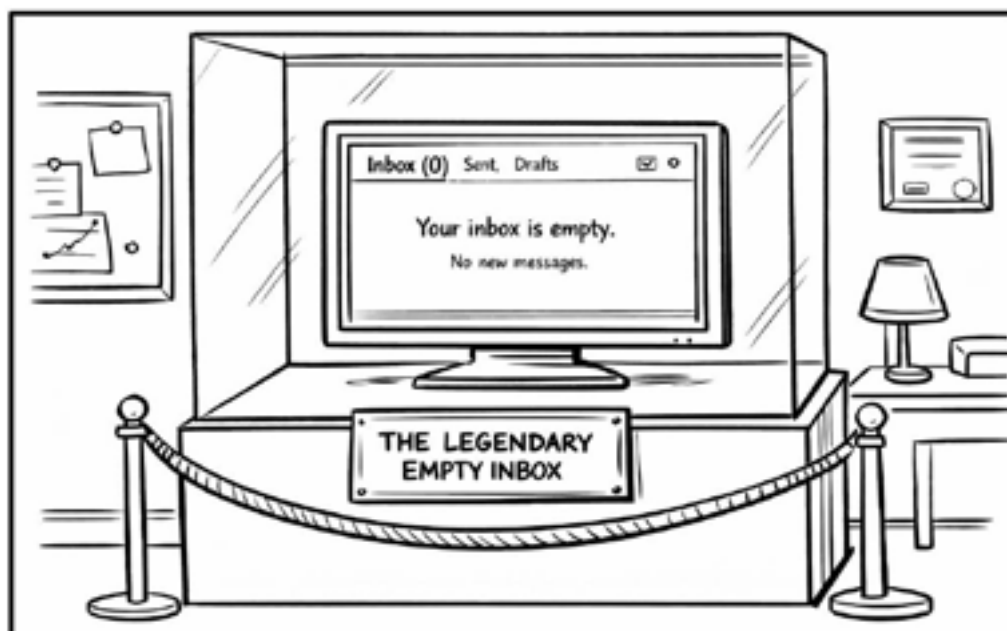
OFM will continue coordinating with OTT to maintain and update inventor contact information moving forward. The next semiannual royalty payments are scheduled for June/July 2026. This new capability marks an important step forward in improving security, efficiency, and service for NIH inventors and the broader technology transfer community.

## **Need to Update Your Information?**

To update an email address or verify existing details, inventors are asked to contact the NIH Royalty Management Team at: [OFMRoyalty@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OFMRoyalty@mail.nih.gov)



After 6 months in Tech Transfer, you'll be using terms that no one can fully expand.



Some say it existed briefly in the 2000s. But experts remain divided on whether it was staged.

## Comings & Goings



**Gelu Dobrescu** has joined NIAID TTIPO as a technical and scientific writer. He has a background in R&D and medical laboratory science. He has experience preparing scientific and regulatory documents for the NIH and GlaxoSmithKline Vaccines, having worked closely with multidisciplinary teams to support research and policy implementation. He holds master's degrees in Regulatory Science and Microbiology & Immunology, is ASCP-certified in Medical Laboratory Science, and has completed additional graduate training in science communication and medical writing. Gelu is also a U.S. Army veteran. He enjoys reading comparative mythology, riding motorcycles, and spending time with his family and dog Izzy.



**Duane Hylton** has joined OTT's Monitoring and Enforcement Unit as a Senior Data Manager, Patent Paralegal. He has 20+ years background in patent prosecution, patent docketing, annuity management, and contract management and review across corporate, university and federal sectors. Previously he worked at Guilford Pharmaceuticals/MGI Pharma (now part of Eisai) for 8 years as an IP Paralegal, The Johns Hopkins University Technology Ventures (JHTV) as a Patent Administrator for 6 years, and the U.S. Army Medical and Development Command as paralegal contractor for 4 years. Guilford and JHTV provided Duane the opportunity to spearhead the installation and management of CPI docketing and annuity systems at each location. It is through these experiences that he developed a passion to help teams protect the interests of inventors and innovators particularly in the advancement of healthcare.