NIH TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

July 2025

NIH's Tara Kirby Selected as IAM Market Maker

Richelle Holnick, OTT

Tara Kirby

The NIH Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) Director, Tara Kirby, has been recognized by Intellectual Asset Management (IAM) as a Market Maker of the year. IAM's Market Makers recognizes the top 40 key deal makers and decision takers in the world, as selected by the IAM editorial team. They consider who has driven major asset transactions, who has worked tirelessly to innovate in the dealmaking space and have engineered value from intellectual property.

Tara was selected as #7 out of the list of 40 Market Makers. Included below is an excerpt from IAM's article:

"Though government departments are seldom featured in these rankings, the US National Institutes of Health struck several important recent deals, becoming the highest-earning covid vaccine patent licensor. Headed up by Tara Kirby – Director of the Office of Technology Transfer – NIH's IP licensing function secured an agreement with BioNTech in which the jab maker agreed to boost its previous payments to the department by $791.5 million. Agreed just before Christmas 2024, this brought to an end a contract dispute between the parties that had been triggered when NIH served BioNTech with a notice of default in March last year. The BioNTech deal built on an agreement struck by Kirby's team with Moderna Therapeutics. Moderna revealed in 2023 that it had paid $400 million in catch-up payments to the government departments as part of a new IP license agreement that also guaranteed NIH low single-digit royalties on ongoing covid vaccine sales. The pandemic has seen NIH's patent haul skyrocket: having earned just $78.1 million in 2019 and $63.4 million in 2020, it generated $704 million in royalties in 2022 and $639 million in 2023. Its deal with BioNTech adds to this success."

While Tara was selected by IAM for this honor, she merely represents a team of dedicated professionals without whom these agreements could not have been completed, including many key players from NIH OTT, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Technology Transfer Intellectual Property Office, and the HHS Office of General Counsel.

In This Issue

Top 10 Best-Selling Gene Therapy List Features Three from NIH Tech Transfer

Steve Ferguson, OTT

The "Top 10" list of best-selling gene therapies published by *Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News (GEN)* in their May 2025 issue features three products based upon license agreements for technologies originating from the NIH Intramural Research Program. Featured and ranked on the GEN list are:

Roctavian® (valoctocogene roxaparvovec-rvox; "val-rox") from BioMarin Pharmaceutical

Roctavian is an AAV vector-based gene therapy for treatment of adults with severe hemophilia A (congenital factor VIII deficiency) based upon technology licensed from NHLBI and NIDCR.

FDA approval: June 30, 2023

Luxturna® (voretigene neparvovec-rzyl) from Spark Therapeutics (Roche)

Luxturna is an AAV vector-based gene therapy for treatment of patients with confirmed biallelic RPE65 mutation-associated retinal dystrophy based on technology licensed from NEI.

FDA approval: March 26, 2021

Noted but unranked: Hemgenix® (etranacogene dezaparoavec) from uniQure /CSL Behring

Hemgenix is an AAV vector-based gene therapy indicated for adults with hemophilia B (congenital factor IX deficiency based on technology licensed from the NHLBI and NIDCR.

FDA approval: November 22, 2022

Congratulations to our intramural investigators and their technology transfer programs for such an impressive showing!

Credit: GEN

NIH Record Series Features Intramural Makers

Dana Talesnik, OD

NIH is teeming with innovators and the *NIH Record* has an ongoing series to highlight them.

In honor of the National Week of Makers in June each year, the *NIH Record* features NIH makers—intramural researchers who devise exciting new drugs, devices, applications, methods and other products. After years of research, dedication and painstaking persistence, these investigators turn their research into a licensable material or product.

The series launched in 2023 and, while it starts in June, the *Record* continues to sprinkle these stories throughout the year. Makers featured so far include such veteran investigators as Dr. Steve Rosenberg and Dr. John Tisdale, who have spent decades conducting research at NIH, and an up-and-coming research scholar, Dr. Parinaz Fathi, who is a "maker in the making." They share not only their innovations, but also their inspiration and advice.

Hot off the press, meet our latest makers—Dr. Amir Gandjbakhche, Dr. Roberto Romero and Dr. Carlos Zarate—here

And meet more of our makers here: NIH Makers Series

Are you an intramural inventor, or do you know someone at NIH who would be perfect for this series? Contact *Record* staff at nihrecord@nih.gov and they'll reach out to set up an interview.

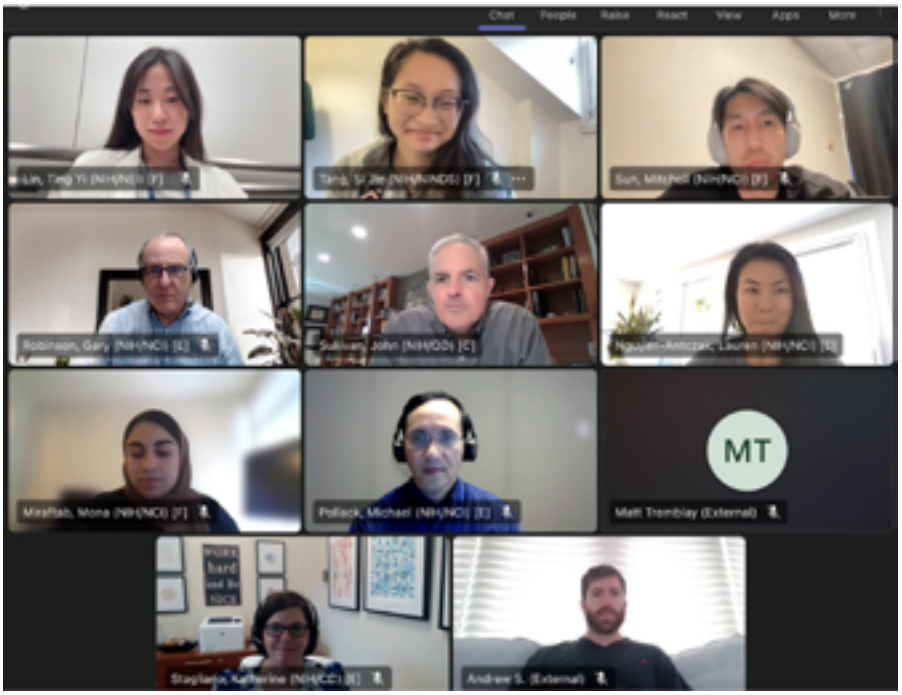
Credit: iStock/ zuperia

NIH's Nucleate Team Wins Alnylam Scientific Excellence Award

Michael Pollack, NCI

Congratulations to the team from NIH on winning the Alnylam Scientific Excellence Award at a technology pitch competition in Baltimore, Maryland, on May 14, 2025.

The award is associated with the Nucleate Activator program, an entrepreneurship-training initiative that helps graduate students and postdoctoral fellows transform cutting-edge technologies into market-ready innovations. This was the first time that an NIH cohort participated in the program. The NIH team named BAIT selected a technology from the National Cancer Institute—a dendritic cell therapy that uses tumor fragments for specific targeting—and developed a marketing pitch for the technology.



NIH team prep meeting

Team BAIT was led by Mitchell Sun (NCI), and included Ting-Yi Lin (NEI), Ben Sievers (NIH VRC), Mona Miraftab (NCI), Jessica Tang (NINDS), Ji Bussgang (NINDS), and Rahul Subramaniam (NIBIB). Notably, Mitchell is an NIH Oxford-Cambridge (OxCam) graduate student who is developing the NCI technology in the Neuro-Oncology Branch, Center for Cancer Research, NCI.

Support, Mentorship and Training

The NIH team received training in biomedical invention development, commercialization, and entrepreneurship from the Activator program and NCI's Technology Transfer Ambassadors Program (TTAP). The team was mentored by Daniel Reich (NINDS), Steve Ferguson (NIH Office of Technology Transfer), Kate Stigliano (NIH Clinical Center), Lauren Nguyen-Antczak (NCI Technology Transfer Center), and Michael Pollack (NCI Technology Transfer Center). Lauren Nguyen-Antczak played a key role in coordinating, shepherding,

NIH team with Nucleate judges and staff

and providing guidance to the NIH team. Michael Pollack manages the NCI technology involved, and provided guidance to the team about the patenting, licensing, and commercial development of this technology.

Thanks are also due to the thoughtful critiques of the draft pitch from a panel of experienced advisors, including Matt Tremblay (CEO, Blackbird Labs), John Sullivan (Entrepreneur in Residence – SEED, NIH), Gary Robinson (Program Officer, NCI), and Andrew Sinkoe (CEO of Sesh, Inc. and a former NCI fellow). Their expertise helped the team refine their pitch, culminating in this well-deserved recognition.

OTT Launches New Annuities Inbox

Laura Lane-Unsworth, OTT

OTT has created a new annuities inbox so that we have one centralized place for all annuities correspondence from both the NIH tech transfer community and the law firms. This ensures that everyone in the community can receive prompt information on annuities related matters. The new inbox is nihannuitiesteam@od.nih.gov.

NIH Tech Transfer Speaks and Exhibits at BIO 2025

Richelle Holnick, OTT

The Biotechnology Innovation Organization's (BIO) International Convention, the largest partnering biotech conference in the world, was held in Boston in June. Representatives from the NIH Technology Transfer program were able to attend to work at the NIH Tech Transfer booth to meet with potential partners and spread awareness of the program. Additionally, Steve Ferguson and Michael Salgaller were also speakers at the conference.

From left to right: Steve Ferguson, Joe Conrad, Richelle Holnick, Tara Kirby, Annie Morgan, and Michael Salgaller

This year's conference went wonderfully – the team held over 200 partnering meetings and talked with over 100 additional individuals about the partnering efforts at NIH. Most people that come to speak with us are unaware that the NIH does intramural research or license/collaborates on our own technologies, so this conference is a great chance to nix people's pre-conceived notions and teach them about tech transfer at NIH.

The NIH Tech Transfer booth was a part of a pavilion with the Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC) and the Frederick National Lab. Partnering together allows us to have a larger footprint collectively and makes the planning process easier at the FLC does the lion's share of the planning.

Steve Ferguson, Special Advisor at the NIH Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) was a part of the faculty for the BIO Professional Development Course – "*Become a Biotech or MedTech Entrepreneur"* that was held the weekend leading into the conference. Steve also spoke on the *"The Priority Review Voucher Program: Incentivizing Neglected Disease Research and Promoting Biotech Investment and Development for More than a Decade"* panel.

Michael Salgaller, Unit Supervisor of the Technology Analysis and Marketing Unit of the National Cancer Institute's Technology Transfer Center moderated a panel titled "*Healthcare AI Opportunities and Headwinds at NIH and the Ecosystem at Large: Fulfilling the Promise or Machine Learning Impaired?"* Michael also filmed a short video on how NIH has benefited from participating in partnering at BIO which you can view on BIO's LinkedIn page.

Michael Salgaller

Front of BIO booth

Back of BIO booth

OTT Support

Bayh-Dole Coalition Recognizes Former OTT Director as a Face of American Innovation

Richelle Holnick, OTT

Mark Rohrbaugh, former director of the NIH OTT, has been chosen by the Bayh-Dole Coalition as one of their "Faces of American Innovation". Mark worked at the NIH for over three decades, moving from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, where he started his career in tech transfer after initially working as a grant review administrator, to OTT where he went on to become Director, to then eventually serving as the Senior Advisor for Technology Transfer and Innovation within the Office of Science Policy. In this position he served as the NIH's lead policy expert on the Bayh-Dole Act and supported the successful technology transfer efforts of NIH grantees and contractors as originally envisioned by the Bayh-Dole Act in 1980.

Mark has been recognized for his actions to safeguard the Bayh-Dole Act through periods of intense political pressure and helped ensure that patients continue to benefit from federally funded research breakthroughs. This report credits Mark with the success of the licensing and collaboration efforts by NIH grantees and contractors, stating that "none of those life-changing drugs would exist if civil servants like Rohrbaugh didn't uphold their values, the law, and the missions of their agencies." You can read the full article from the Bayh-Dole Coalition in their Faces of Innovation Report. If you are interested in learning more about Mark's contributions, you can also read our interview with him upon his retirement in the Q1 2024 edition of the NIH Technology Transfer Community Newsletter.

Credit: Bayh-Dole Coalition

Faces of American Innovation awardees, Mark Rohrbaugh is pictured on the right.

TTC's Technology Analysis and Marketing Unit Leads Proactive Outreach for NIH Technology Transfer

Michele Newton, NCI

NCI TTC's Technology Analysis and Marketing Unit (TAMU) focuses on proactive outreach and marketing to drive awareness of technology licensing and collaboration opportunities with the NIH. TAMU also conducts due diligence, competitive landscape analysis and commercial advantages assessment of the invention portfolio. Under the leadership of Unit Supervisor, Michael Salgaller, PhD, the team includes:

From left to right: Michele, Michael, Malek, Annie, and Joseph

- Joseph Conrad, JD, PhD, Senior Technology Transfer Manager
- Michele Newton, Communications Manager
- Annie Morgan, MS, Business Development and
- Marketing Fellow
- Malek Kechrid, MS, Business Development and Marketing Fellow

Conferences Create Opportunity

The small team strategically focuses on mutually complementary activities delivering the biggest impact. Though TAMU can only exhibit and/or attend a handful of conferences a year, events such as the BIO International Convention, ASCO Annual Meeting and Bio Innovation Conference allow engagement with a wide number of potential partners. It is also an opportunity to identify and connect with relevant stakeholders and seed new avenues for future outreach. For example, TAMU encounters economic development groups from across the U.S. and world at events like BIO. This can lead to invitations to participate on panel sessions or present virtually to stakeholder groups such as Johnson & Johnson Innovation Labs (JLabs), New Jersey Bio or Business France.

Marketing Materials

On a quarterly basis, TAMU updates various marketing materials or fact sheets. "How to Partner," "How do I know I'm ready?," and "Business and Financial Advantages" are communication tools that can be shared after an in-person meeting or quick chat. Furthermore, TAMU also prepares technology sheets by indication that showcase NIH assets. Conference preparation also involves updating slide decks and creating QR codes that make it easy for potential partners to access relevant fact sheets and information.

Either during or after conferences there is follow-up. TAMU meets with companies, entrepreneurs, investors and relevant new connections post-conference to learn more about them and their needs. They explain next steps and set expectations. Once qualified by TAMU, this could lead to an introduction to a TTM or an investigator. For companies developing medical solutions in I/Cs not covered by NCI TTC, TAMU provides referrals to designated points-of-contact to the seven other satellite offices. These contacts are also invited to subscribe to TTC communication channels to stay in contact with TTC.

Technology Opportunity Webinars

Throughout the year, TTC hosts technology webinars. Joe Conrad leads TAMU's webinar program. Focused on a single technology, TTC works with an investigator and their TTM to develop a technology presentation coupled with a business case for commercializing the invention. In order to bring the audience, Michele Newton creates graphics and email promotions (using our GovDelivery subscriber lists) to invite people to attend. The webinar is featured on the TTC website and typically highlighted on LinkedIn. TAMU also cultivated a list of groups that might be relevant for the webinar. They routinely reach out directly to more than 30 groups with a personal invitation and a request to share the webinar with their contacts. This initiative provides a great opportunity for TTC fellows to work on researching the marketing potential of a specific technology, putting together a slide deck, or even delivering the live introduction before introducing the investigator. Everyone plays a role in webinar planning and execution.

Fireside Chat at Technology Showcase featuring Helen Sabzevari, Precigen Therapeutics; Moderator, Troy LeMaile-Stovall, TEDCO

Annual Technology Showcase

The Annual Technology Showcase is another event that requires everyone in TAMU to contribute. Co-Chaired by Michael Salgaller and Michele Newton, the event brings together scientists from NCI, FNLCR, company representatives from large and small businesses, entrepreneurs, biotech and local government. Attendees network, discuss inventions and learn about how to partner with the NCI and FNLCR. Michele Newton leads event planning involving co-sponsors from six city, county and state organizations. TAMU works closely with NCI PIs to prepare their business case-oriented technology presentations targeted to potential licensees and partners. The event – national winner of Federal Lab Consortium and NCI Director Awards – illuminates what a public-private partnership can do. The Tech Showcase is taking a pause for 2025.

Hosting Delegations

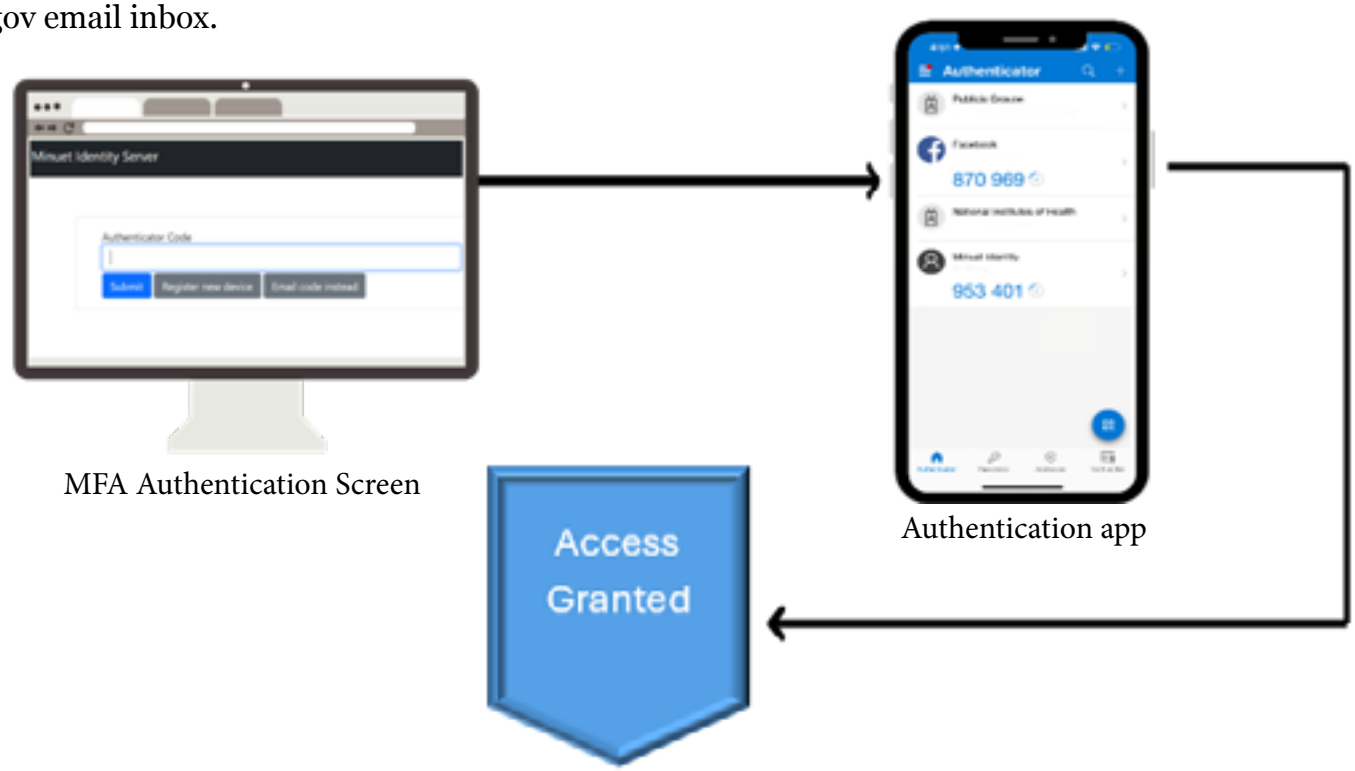
Over the years, TAMU has hosted delegations of companies at NCI Shady Grove. A delegation is typically a group of companies visiting the U.S. from another country. Foreign economic development groups (through an Embassy) will coordinate opportunities for these companies to connect with U.S. entities to explore mutually beneficial opportunities for collaboration. TAMU invites contacts from NIH OTT and other NIH Tech Transfer Offices to participate. Companies may provide a five-minute overview of their company and what they are seeking. Last year, TAMU hosted a delegation of Israeli companies. TAMU subsequently connected the Israeli company, Wide Therapy, with NIMH. NIMH and Wide Therapy are now finalizing an agreement to conduct a three-year study using Wide Therapy as a tool. This is just one example of a connection and partnership made through this effort.

TAMU with the Israeli Delegation

LFP Updating MFA for Law Firm Users

Amber Rush, OTT

The NIH Law Firm Portal (LFP) development team has made updates to the LFP authentication process, so law firms may have questions about multi-factor authentication (MFA). If you receive any questions, please ask them to contact the LFP Support group through the lfptechsupport@nih.gov email inbox.



MFA Authentication Screen

Authentication app

Writing Technology Abstracts

Wayne Pereanu, OTT

CAI Event at NIH Honors Innovation

Richelle Holnick, OTT

The Center for Advancing Innovation (CAI) hosted an event on the NIH campus on May 8, 2025, to honor 15 companies that launched from the NIH and other medical start-up challenges organized by CAI. CAI is a non-profit focused on accelerating technology commercialization and helping startups. NIH OTT's Steve Ferguson was the Master of Ceremonies, kicking off a showcase of these companies:

- **Aloe Therapeutics** – Immunotherapy for tough tumors
- **Appleseed Education** – EdTech for African nursing schools
- **Aptabridge** – DNA-based drug design
- **Arkayli Biopharma** – Infantile hemangioma treatment
- **Couplet Care** – Safer bassinets for infants
- **Filterbaby** – Skincare-safe faucet filters
- **Fzata** – Oral biologics for gut health
- **Heudia Health** – Digital health navigation
- **HueDx** – Infectious disease diagnostics
- **Intrommune** – Food allergy treatment
- **Jeeva Trials** – Decentralized clinical trials
- **MindArch Health** – Mental health prevention
- **Nanochon** – 3D cartilage regeneration
- **PigPug Health** – Neurofeedback AI for ADHD/autism
- **True Bearing** – Early disease biomarkers

THE CENTER FOR ADVANCING INNOVATION

Joseph Conrad from the NCI Technology Transfer Center and Mark Rohrbaugh, retired former NIH Office of Technology Transfer Director, also spoke at the program. Steve accepted a "Champion of Innovation" award from CAI's founder, Rosemarie Truman, on behalf of NIH Technology Transfer. In addition, philanthropist and impact investor Sheri Sobrato was also recognized at the program for her visionary philanthropy and support of CAI's mission. For a highlight reel from the ceremony, please visit https://bit.ly/caiatnih.

Patent Law, Industry, & Technology Transfer SIG

Steve Ferguson, OTT

Did you know that NIH technology transfer has its own Scientific Interest Group (SIG)? NIH Scientific Interest Groups (SIGs) are assemblies of scientists with common research interests. These groups engage with their members via a listserv; sponsor symposia, poster sessions and lectures; offer mentoring and career guidance for junior scientists; help researchers share the latest techniques and information; act as informal advisors to the Deputy Director of Intramural Research (DDIR); provide advice for the annual NIH Research Festival; and serve as hosts for the Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series. Most of these groups also welcome interested non-NIH scientists.

Credit: iStock/saifulasmee chede

The goal of the **Patent Law, Industry, & Technology Transfer SIG (PLITT)** is to provide an educational and networking opportunity for NIH scientists interested in patent law, industry, and technology transfer. The interest group will include members of NIH OTT, Technology Development Coordinators and staff (TDCs) from the NIH institutes, bench scientists with interests in intellectual property and the biotechnology industry, as well as past fellows who have transitioned into applicable careers in local institutions or companies. We feature seminars inviting representatives from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), law firms as well as biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies to discuss issues that are currently important to this field. Additionally, we provide an environment in which junior scientists can learn about different career opportunities in this field and steps they can take to become competitive for these positions.

The interest group will coordinate meetings and activities closely with local organizations such as the Technology Transfer Society DC Chapter, the Licensing Executives Society (DC Chapter) as well as the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer (FLC).

The goal for the organization is to each year feature a mini-symposium on Technology Transfer at the NIH Research Festival that often features former intramural investigators who have gone on to found or have successful careers in patent law, technology transfer or at companies. Additionally, the organization also will work to provide more opportunity and support for trainees interested in industry through job fairs, networking events, technology demonstrations, and field trips to local companies and facilities. Poster sessions on careers in technology transfer & business development for scientists will also be encouraged. The SIG also helps to promote the annual Philip S. Chen Lecture on Technology Transfer & Innovation given each fall.

The interest group moderators are Steve Ferguson (steven.ferguson@nih.gov) and Ulisses Santamaria (ulisses.santamaria@nih.gov). To join the Patent Law & Technology Transfer Interest Group mailing list, please visit the Patent Law, Industry & Technology Transfer SIG Listserv home page, then click the “Subscribe or Unsubscribe” link in the right sidebar.

ETT Upgrade to Minuet Version 17

Tim Leahy, OTT

ETT has made a big upgrade from Minuet version 14 to version 17. This upgrade included many new features, including:

Performance Optimization

- Including a lot of optimizations in the Analytics and Dashboard modules.

Grids & Filters

- Saving a grid filter to a quick access toolbar button now includes several predefined icons that can be selected for the image.
- The Agreement Find Form Related Records button now includes Company.
- The Technology Find Form Related Records button now includes Company.
- Agreement Responsible Parties and Total Estimate Sum can both can now be added as a data column in the grid filter
- Added option to Paginate Grid (which should vastly increase performance in loading specific Find Grids).

System Admin Tools Improvements

- Import/Export tool for bulk updates.
- Legal Electronic Data Exchange Standard (LEDES) Financial Import (a built in Minuet feature that allows us to import the Computer Packages Inc. (CPI) Invoice data for our Patent Maintenance Fees into ETT)
- Standard Email Templates.
- Bulk Update Tools.
- System Settings.
- Application Programming Interface (API) .

Analytics

- A "De-duplicate Rows" button added to the View Query mode, allowing the removal of identical results on the filtered Query Report.
- Added 'Blanks' and 'Non Blanks' options in the Column Header filters in the View Query mode.
- Minuet Report loading spinner now displays as soon as a report is requested.
- Added double-click action on the report lists of the MyAnalytics page, with improved load times.
- A bug fix for 'Unexpected token - DOCTYPE is not valid JSON' error on initial Minuet Dashboard load.

Future Potential

- AI Capabilities; including providing a document summary for documents such as Technical Abstracts or Agreement Summaries.

How FLC Can Help NIH T2 Thrive

Whitney Hastings, NCI

During the past few months, we've all been adjusting, adapting, and rethinking how we achieve our mission. In many ways, that's the spirit of tech transfer. The Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC) is here to provide resources, tools, and connections to the broader T2 community.

Now is the perfect time to use the FLC to promote an opportunity or success, gain knowledge through a webinar, share your expertise as an SME, or get involved in a subcommittee. The FLC unites a shared technology transfer mission across agencies, disciplines, and distance, so getting involved is also a great way to meet colleagues and share knowledge and best practices. And if you have ideas on how the FLC can make our job easier, please let me know!

This quarter, the NIH has actively engaged with the FLC at both the National Meeting and the BIO International Convention, as well as through committee participation and the mentorship program. Here are some key highlights from this past quarter and upcoming opportunities.

Spotlighting the 2025 FLC National Meeting

While many of us were planning to be in Seattle this year, I was so glad we had the chance to connect across regions and agencies and learn together virtually. One of the most rewarding parts of this event is being reminded of the shared mission that unites us across agencies, disciplines, and distances: moving federal innovations out of the lab and into the world, where they can do the most good.

This year's virtual meeting was packed with four weeks' worth of sessions and speakers to sharpen your T2 skills and expand your network. With eight live training courses, 15 sessions, and more than 1000 attendees, there was something for everyone. Thanks to our NIH trainers and speakers, including Steve Ferguson, Michael Salgaller, Vladimir Popov, Amanda Corbel, and me, as well as all who joined us live.

If you missed the National Meeting, no need to worry. All National Meeting sessions are available on demand in the FLC Learning Center, so you can revisit your favorite moments or catch anything you missed — even if you didn't register for the event. Whether you're looking for the next step in your own development or want to share a helpful resource with your colleagues, I hope you'll take full advantage of the Learning Center's growing catalog of on-demand training and educational content.

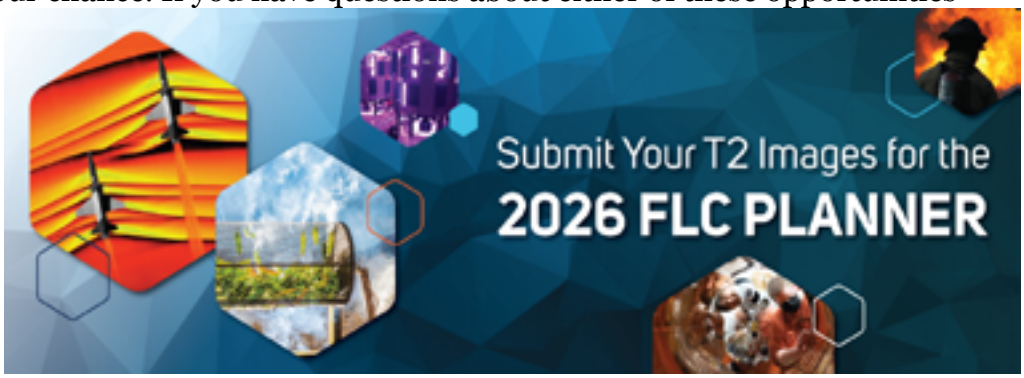
Don't forget to save the date for next year's FLC National Meeting on May 12 – 14, 2026, at the Westin in Seattle, Washington! A call for topics will be coming soon!

It's Time to Promote NIH's Best: FLC Planner and Awards

Let's showcase the incredible research happening at the NIH by submitting bold, beautiful photos to FLC's 2026 Planner. Submissions are open through July 29! Don't have a photo but still want to be involved? Lend us your vision and volunteer to be a Planner judge.

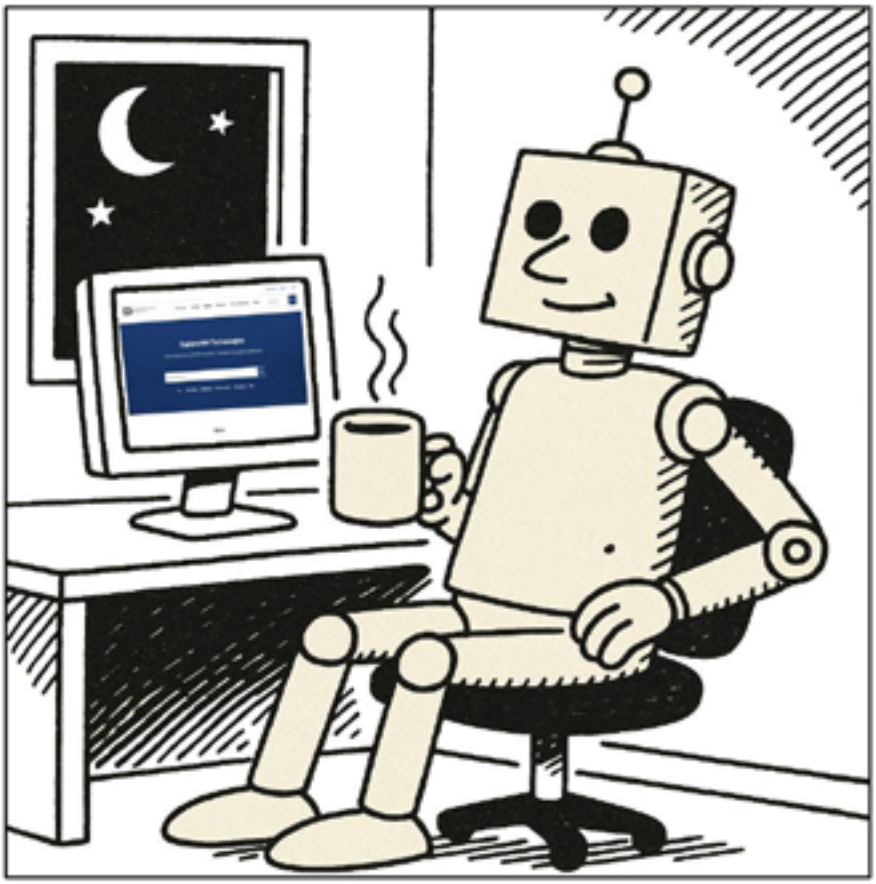
Also, it's never too early to start thinking about the FLC Awards program. The Awards program is a great way to recognize the creativity, grit, and innovative solutions of NIH scientists and technology transfer professionals as we bring technologies from the lab to the market. Give some praise to your institute and the people responsible for advancing the mission of tech transfer in such inspiring ways. Our work makes the world better. Submissions open soon!

We'll also be looking for award judges, so if you want to be the first to learn about the best of the best, this is your chance. If you have questions about either of these opportunities or are interested in volunteering, contact Kimberley VandenBrook, kvandenbrook@federallabs.org.



TechToon: Uptime Robot

Wayne Pereanu, OTT

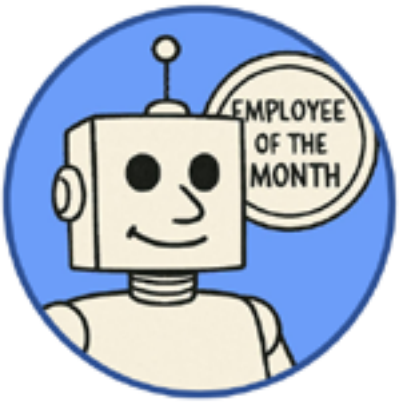


Comings & Goings

Kevin Brand retired in April 2025 after twenty-five years of service within the HHS tech transfer community. He began his career as a part-time intern with NIH OTT in 1999 before moving over to a fellowship position with NCI TTC in 2000. After securing an FTE position in 2001, he supported numerous NCI research programs at NIH main campus and also at the Federick National Lab for Cancer Research. He transitioned over to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2014 and provided support for various public health programs with a focus on pandemic preparedness response work. He is moving on to new career opportunities and wishes his best to the HHS tech transfer community.

Dave Lambertson has retired from NCI. He spent nearly 4 years as a Patent Examiner at the USPTO before moving on to a career in technology transfer at the NIH and the NCI. While at the NCI, Dave managed technologies that led to 3 FDA-approved therapeutics, and served as the first vice-chairperson and second chairperson of the NIH Exclusive License Consultation Group. He also contributed substantially to the development of model agreements and standard procedures and policies that are currently in use. Although Dave plans on remaining active in the technology transfer community through his consulting firm (Square Deal Consulting, LLC), he is looking forward to spending more time working on his songs and stories, with plans to publish in the near future.

Jeremiah Mitzelfelt has departed from NIAID's CDC Technology Transfer Office Service Center. Prior to joining the NIH, Jeremiah was a technology analyst in the Office of Technology Commercialization at the University of Maryland, College Park. Before starting his career in technology transfer he was a postdoc and intern in the technology transfer office at Emory University. Jeremiah obtained a PhD in Medical Science with an advanced concentration in Neuroscience from the University of Florida.



Uptime Robot is a new addition to the OTT "staff". He received his BS in Computer Science from MIT. If he had free time, he would spend it gaming, however, his job at OTT is to watch the NIH Tech Transfer Community website 24/7 and alert staff to any outages. This extreme dedication to the website has earned him an employee of the month award and a feature TechToon in this issue.

Fatima Sayyid has retired from her position as a Branch Chief in NIAID TTIPO following almost 25 years of service with the technology transfer programs at NIH. Her NIH service also included work as both a Technology Licensing Specialist and General Medicine Branch Chief at OTT. Prior to joining the NIH, Fatima was with the International Center for Health Outcomes and Innovations Research at the Columbia University Medical Center and earlier with the Reproductive Sciences Program at the University of Michigan Health System. We all extend Fatima our best wishes for her retirement.

Michael "Misha" Shmilovich has assumed the role of Acting Director of the NHLBI Office of Technology Transfer and Development (OTTAD), following the retirement of Bruce Goldstein. Misha has been a cornerstone of NIH tech transfer for more than 22 years. He began his NIH career as a Technology Licensing Specialist and steadily advanced through roles as a Patent Attorney and, most recently, as a Senior Licensing & Patenting Manager. Over the course of his tenure, Misha has drafted, negotiated, and managed nearly every type of technology transfer agreement used at NIH. He has served as a trusted advisor to numerous research teams, providing clear, responsive, and strategic guidance through the often-complex technology transfer process. His efforts have been instrumental in bridging the gap between scientific discovery and real-world application, ensuring NIH innovations reach their full potential.

Jeff Thomas retired after 25 years at the NCI Technology Transfer Center. He served in several roles including Technology Transfer Manager, Supervisor of the Frederick Unit and as an advisor on extramural contracting. In retirement he plans to continue running and coaching a first marathon program (just like Coach Emeritus Steve Ferguson). He and his partner also started a pottery business, and plan to travel as much as possible.

Tracy White has retired from NIH OTT. During her tenure at OTT, Tracy has been a cornerstone of OTT administrative operations. She has efficiently managed travel arrangements, timekeeping, and property, ensuring that these critical functions ran smoothly and seamlessly. Tracy's meticulous attention to detail and her commitment to excellence have been invaluable to OTT. Beyond her professional accomplishments, Tracy's gentle and kind approach has fostered positive relationships within OTT. Her departure will undoubtedly leave a void within the OTT administrative team and the office that will be deeply felt.