NIH TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

April 2024

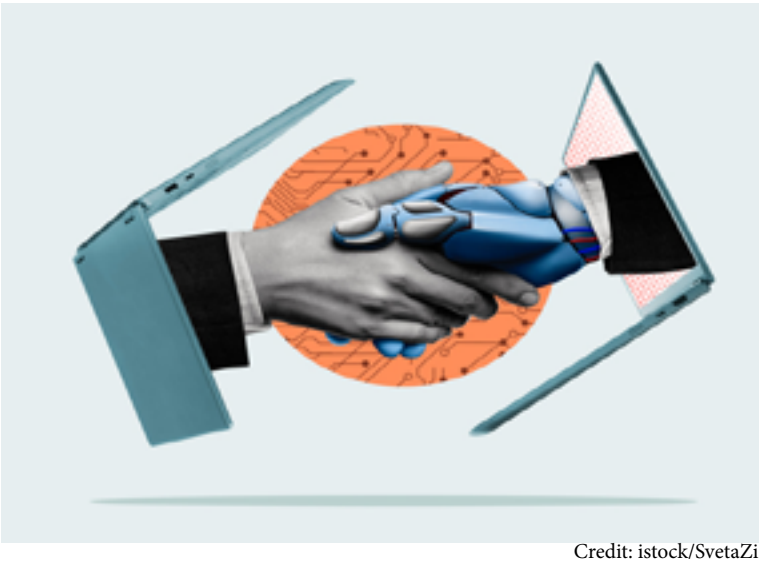
Are R2-D2 and C-3PO Our Future T2 Colleagues?

Berna Uygur, NCI and Steven Ferguson, OTT

Artificial intelligence (AI) is an intellectual, technological tool spreading in every aspect of our daily lives – including now technology transfer! To better understand AI's current and future role in the technology transfer arena, NIH's Berna Uygur and Steven Ferguson have published a new paper about the role of artificial intelligence in technology transfer titled **"Will Artificial Intelligence Shape the Future Of Technology Transfer? A Guide for Licensing Professionals"** in the March 2023 edition of the peer reviewed journal, *les Nouvelles*.

The paper is based on research conducted by the authors on capital investments and companies that work with Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the contract management field in the Pitchbook database. In addition, published articles and opinions were also explored by searching LinkedIn and attending various webinar series about AI-based technologies.

Surprisingly it was found that both investment and company numbers in the AI-based contract management field are not on the rise, as seen in the general AI field. Only 55 companies out of 38,969 AI-based companies actually work in the contract management field. Even though AI has been in its summer days with high capital investment, AI in contract management has been in its winter period. The focus of the study though was AI's current use in the technology transfer field. AI-based tools currently involve patentability evaluation, marketing of an invention, as well as contract management, including drafting, reviewing, negotiating, and life-cycle oversight. The most crucial advantage of AI of course is that it processes large amounts of data in a short period with minor errors. Therefore, AI might save great time in the technology transfer process. However, AI-based tools use firewalls that are open to the world and create confidentiality risks. Accuracy is another concern for AI-based tools. AI can



Credit: istock/SvetaZi

In This Issue

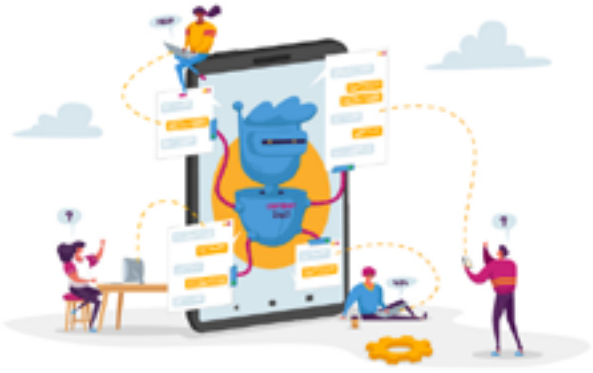
Are R2-D2 and C-3PO Our Future T2 Colleagues? 1
An Interview with Michael Mowatt 3
NIH Tech Transfer to Unveil New Patent Web Page 5
Learn, Connect, Make Waves: AUTM 2024 Recap 6
New Video from NCI on Partnering with NIH 8
Save the Date: 2024 Tech Showcase 8
Tech Transfer and the Electronic Lab Notebook (ELN) 9
ETT Award Poster 12
NIH Tech Transfer BIO Booth Preview 13
ETT Update – Large Minuet Update on the Horizon 14
The Payment of Accumulated and Early Annuities 15
Trivia Winner 16
National Academy of Inventors Fellow Application Opens Soon 17
Abstract Progress 18
TechToon: Eclipse 18
FLC Agency Reps 19
Comings & Goings 21

Artificial Intelligence

misinterpret and generate unrelated outcomes if it is not well-trained with a good amount and high quality of data. AI-based tools can make biased decisions, which is another disadvantage of AI-based tools. Therefore, there should be validation by human experts to move forward with AI-based decisions. Lastly, AI-based tools have a high cost due to their requirement for large data storage.

Credit: istock/nadia_bormotova

According to the current capabilities and disadvantages of AI tools in technology transfer, this paper concludes that AI will not be able to replace lawyers or technology transfer professionals as they function today. However, improvements in AI tools should increase contract management efficiency in technology transfer. Interested in reading more about this article? You can find it on NIH technology transfer publications site. It has also been selected as the "Article of the Month" for April 2024 by the Licensing Executives Society.



Credit: istock/Iemono

An Interview with Michael Mowatt

Richelle Holnick, OTT

What first attracted you to a career in technology transfer?

Michael Mowatt

MM: Before my arrival at NIH in 1988 as a Senior Staff Fellow in NIAID's Laboratory of Parasitic Diseases, I did postdoctoral research at the Rockefeller University in New York City. A colleague of mine (who went on to become a patent attorney at a prestigious law firm) described her part time work at a patent law firm in Manhattan. I was intrigued that she could leverage her years of research training to assist patent attorneys in drafting patent applications, working with the US Patent and Trademark Office to obtain the patents, and in some cases defending the patents in court or asserting the patent rights in cases of patent infringement. This introduction to the field came in handy when my research at NIAID led me to NIAID's technology transfer office (then called the Technology Transfer Branch - TTB) due to a collaboration I was managing with a colleague at Tulane University. That work and the persuasive and supportive team at TTB (Claire Driscoll and Mark Rohrbaugh) helped me jump start a fantastic career in 1995.

You have worked at NIAID for 35 years; what kept you passionate for your work?

MM: In a few words: curiosity, a love of problem solving, and motivation to serve. My undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral training in microbiology and immunology – subjects I love – provided a solid framework for asking questions, defining problems, and devising ways to address them. I feel blessed that my career move allowed me to build on this foundation by helping to advance NIAID research and the development and commercialization of significant biomedical innovations that improve the health of people in our country and around the world.

You have been the Director of NIAID's Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property Office since 2001. In that time, over 30% of NIAID's intellectual property portfolio has been licensed. Do you have any insights to share on how TTIPO has found this success?

MM: Several factors contribute to our success. First, like our colleagues across NIH, we have been privileged to work with world class scientists doing exceptional research that frequently yields inventions that address important public health needs. Much of this stuff sells itself! In addition, NIAID leadership has nurtured a research culture that recognizes partnerships with industry as essential pathways to achieving public benefit. As importantly, the exceptionally dedicated, motivated and talented professionals in my office and at the NIH OTT ensure that we identify commercial partners whose goals align with ours and that we strike deals to meet those goals.

Out of all of the products or projects that went to market from a NIAID lab thanks to the technology transfer process, is there one that you are particularly proud of?

MM: Although several NIAID inventions have had significant public health impact over the years, including monoclonal antibody therapies to fight infections by respiratory syncytial virus and Ebola virus, it would be hard to top the ones that helped the US and the world combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The great work of scientists at NIAID's Vaccine Research Center and their

collaborators led to the development of monoclonal antibodies to treat SARS-CoV-2 infection and to an approach to stabilize the coronavirus spike protein, vastly improving its immunogenicity. This technology turned out to be an essential component of the most effective COVID-19 vaccines, including mRNA vaccines that were the very first approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for emergency use in the fall of 2020. I am grateful to our staff for their hard work on this and feel truly privileged to have them through this very challenging time.

Prior to joining what eventually became TTIPO, you were a NIAID scientist and inventor. What T2 advice would you give your earlier self?
MM: Though I do not remember how I first made contact with TTB, I am sincerely grateful for the guidance I received from NIAID's TT staff while I was in the lab. That advice helped me to think about not only how to structure our collaboration, including the exchange of materials, but also the importance of managing the relationship with our collaborator. This last part – **the importance of building and managing relationships, whether with collaborators, colleagues, licensees and other partners – is essential to success in the field in my experience.**

How would you describe the impact of technology transfer at NIH?
MM: During my time as a member of the NIH TT community I have witnessed tremendous growth and development of TT as a discipline. The breadth and depth of expertise in the community that has evolved over the years has been as significant as it has been impressive and has contributed in no small way to the positive impact of the field on the NIH mission. For me, a clear indicator of this impact is the number of conversations I've had with senior leadership of NIH and NIAID in the past five years. Some of these conversations have focused on specific projects, e.g., preparations for congressional hearings or high profile meetings, while others have centered on the nuts and bolts of TT and its impact on policy and decision making. TT's impact is trending upward, and I expect it will continue to do so far into the future.

You will have retired by the time we publish this interview. What are you looking forward to most in your retirement?
MM: My wife and I have children, grandchildren, siblings and other relatives scattered across the US. We look forward to visiting them in California, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Texas. We're also eager to explore our new home state of North Carolina as well as Europe and South America where we have friends. Susan and I also enjoy golf (it was our first date!) and are looking forward to making better use of the course in our backyard.

NIH Tech Transfer to Unveil New Patent Web Page

Richelle Holnick, OTT

As a publicly supported research institution, NIH strives to continuously increase transparency between its technology transfer program and the general public. As a result, OTT has created a web page where the public can view a list of all active patents and patent applications. This page pulls information from ETT, similar to how invention marketing abstracts are currently pulled. Any changes to a patent listing will be reflected on the website the following day.

The Patent Page will provide the:

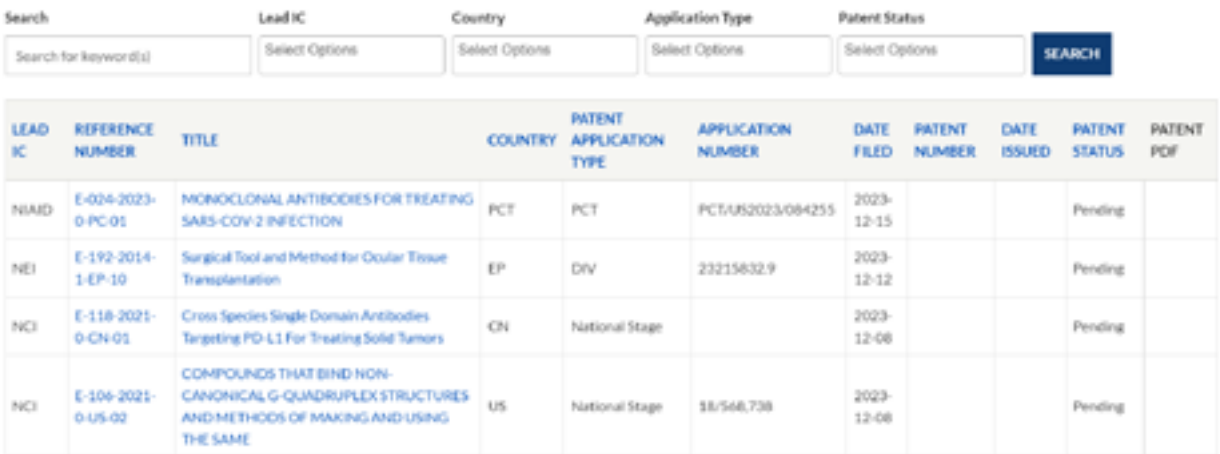
- Lead IC
- Reference Number
- Title
- Country
- Patent Application Type
- Application Number
- Date Filed
- Patent Number
- Date Issued
- Patent Status
- Issued Patent PDF

Users will be able to search by:

- Keywords
- Lead IC
- Country
- Application Type
- Patent Status

The listing will not include provisional patent applications. The TTO Directors had an opportunity to review and provide feedback for this new web page.

There is not a firm launch date for the new web page, but OTT expects to unveil it this spring.



Learn, Connect, Make Waves: AUTM 2024 Recap

Eggerton Campbell, NHGRI

The 2024 AUTM annual meeting took place in San Diego, California, with the theme "**Learn, Connect, Make Waves**". With the attendance over 2,000 registrants (third best attendance ever), AUTM presented a wide range of intellectual property/licensing topics, including current trends and policies in the tech transfer space, in an atmosphere where we learned from each other's experiences, creativity, education, collaborations, along with business development. The following is just a quick highlight of some of the events that I attended.

On Sunday, we started off with the "**First-Time Attendee Briefing and Reception**", it was great to see so many first-time attendees, learning about their unique technology transfer offices, their diverse backgrounds, IP experiences, along with what they hoped to gain from the meeting. The "**AUTM Annual Meeting First Time Attendee Ambassador Program**" provides new members with a chance to learn about AUTM from seasoned tech transfer practitioners. The reception provides an opportunity to connect with new members in advance of the Annual Meeting, and answer questions. A number of pre-conference courses were available to attendees, including the "**AUTM Valuation Course**" co-chaired by OTT's Steve Ferguson. Next, the conference was officially started with the customary Sunday Fireside Chat with John Dearie (Founder & President, Center for American Entrepreneurship), interviewed by AUTM's CEO Steve Susalka. We learned about the importance of I-Corps, SBIR programming, CHIPS and Science Act, in addition to improving access to capital for entrepreneurs of color.

The opening keynote featured Ed Damiano, PhD, co-founder of Beta Bionics. Ever since his son developed Type 1 diabetes, Ed has been committed to building a bihormonal bionic pancreas. Little did he realize it would take around 20 years to bring this technology to market. Ed explained all the complications, obstacles, and successes in a detailed timeline fashion.

Sangeetha Raghavan and Anna Soloweij

There was an interesting career development session titled "**Growing Your Career and Knowing Your Worth**". This session addressed professional growth, networking, mentorship programs in the new hybrid/remote work environment, coupled with diversity and inclusion efforts. The panelist was made up with a senior tech transfer professional, a junior professional from a Ph.D. internship program and an IP Headhunter.

On February 20th, I attended a session titled "**Role of AI in Tech Transfer Offices**", where the panelist discussed how the development of a closed/secured AI based system at NYU and the University of Glasgow is being tested for potential use in market analysis and verifying the presences of compliance terms in agreements. The system can perform these tasks in a fraction of the time normally achieved by

practitioners in the office. The AI-system has huge potential resource benefits especially in smaller tech transfer offices.

Whitney Hastings

I wrapped up the second day with an informative session entitle "**Federal In-kind Technology Development Support Resources that You've (likely) Never Heard of**", presented by Mojdeh Bahar (NIST) and Whitney Haskins (NCI). The session focused on support research and specialized funding for de-risking promising technologies through various Federal agencies (primarily NIST, NCI, FDA and NSF), in the assistance of commercialization.

We started the last day of the conference with the **AUTM 5K Run/Walk**, raising awareness and support for charitable causes and social issues. Finally, the closing session tied in all accepts of technology transfer with an encouraging journey explaining how the Cold Spring Harbor tech transfer office partnered with biotech "Ionis" to develop and commercialize a life-saving treatment for Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

If you have ideas for topics for the 2025 AUTM meeting, now is your chance to submit your topic(s). This is a reminder that the Call for Topics is open through April 12th, and we need your help to get the word out to your networks on the submission process. More information can be found here and the link for submissions can be found here.

Next Year the Annual 2025 AUTM conference will be at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, in the National Harbor. AUTM will be celebrating the Association's 50th Anniversary.

AUTM 5K Run/Walk

New Video from NCI on Partnering with NIH

Michele Newton, NCI

"Partnering with NIH to Bring Innovations to Market" is a video that explains the benefits of partnering with NIH. An effort of TTC's Communications team in conjunction with TTC's Technology Analysis and Marketing Unit, the video is a marketing tool intended to aid and bolster technology transfer promotion efforts across NIH. Please share this video with your contacts and potential partners.

Save the Date: 2024 Tech Showcase

Michele Newton, NCI

Save the date and invite your industry contacts to attend the 2024 Technology Showcase on September 4th. This year's keynote speaker will be Steven Walker, Chairman, Maryland Life Sciences. The event is geared for industry and biotech stakeholders to demystify how to work with the NCI and FNL. It highlights technologies primed for commercialization. It provides the opportunity to hear from NCI and FNL program leaders highlighting broad research goals and areas where partnerships are needed to advance them. The in-person only event at the Frederick National Laboratory includes networking opportunities, one:on:one partnering and a poster competition organized by the NCI Technology Transfer Ambassadors Program. Registration is open and can be found on NCI's website.

Tech Transfer and the Electronic Lab Notebook (ELN)

Anna Amar, OD

What are Electronic Lab Notebooks?

An ELN is a software tool that functions like a paper lab notebook. ELNs have a number of advantages when compared to paper lab notebooks:

- Enhanced data integrity for all use cases
- Linking of sample-level data to instrument data
- In-platform data validation
- Enterprise-wide collaboration
- Widgets for longitudinal relational databases
- 24/7 “PI Dashboard” view and control
- Advanced searching across ELN
- Granular permissions - page & entry-level
- Support for pre-clinical studies, INDs, CRADAs
- Integration with instruments, high performance computing, data systems
- Uniform data templates and sample manifests for submission to core facilities
- Page locking, witnessing, time stamps, audit trails
- Master file linking to experiments
- Reagent tracking
- Scheduler for equipment, procedure rooms
- Rapid data sharing of unique data via Digital Object Identifier
- Integration with other components of the data environment
- Electronic data entry
- Transparency and reproducibility
- Development of workflows
- Version control
- Rights management

https://www.nihlibrary.nih.gov/resources/subject-guides/electronic-lab-notebooks

Background

NIH has been trying to promote the adoption of ELNs for over 14 years, the NIH Library undertook research and held a symposium in 2018, and a number of labs, even from this date, were already fully utilizing ELNs from a variety of vendors. In 2022, to assist with the transition to electronic records, the Division of Compliance Management (DCM) in the Office of Management Assessment (OMA) formed a trans-NIH WG (ELNWG) with 56 original members that included representatives from across NIH. It included records liaisons, bench/clinical researchers, IT specialists, and OD senior staff. The goal was to share information, ideas, best practices, success stories, failures, and experiences using digital tools.

NIH Library
nihlibrary.nih.gov

Recent Steps to Facilitate Enterprise ELNs

The ELNWG facilitated:

- Trans-NIH needs assessment surveys based on both end-user and IT support requirements.
- Solicitations for pilot ELNs based on the NIH-wide criteria .

- Agency guidance regarding converting to, and use of, ELNs.
- Two Capital Investment Fund (CIF) awards to support the NIH-wide set-up of ELNs.
- Piloting of two enterprise ELN systems (now available to all IC's investigators):
  1. Signals, hosted by NCATS, best for synthetic and medicinal chemists.
  2. LabArchives, hosted by NCI, recommended for most other disciplines.
- Presentations to the NIH research community highlighting that enterprise ELNs have the advantage of:
  1. Streamlining collaboration within labs/branches and across ICs.
  2. Reducing costs with bulk discounts/contract efficiencies and centralized support, training, and engineering .
  3. Assuring institutional ownership and control of records, unlike individual & free accounts.

The NIH Library conducted a virtual ELN Round Table Discussion on March 18, 2024.

The speakers were:

Introduction - Nina Schor, Deputy Director for Intramural Research (OIR)
Transition to Electronic Recordkeeping - Anthony Gibson, NIH Records Officer (OD)
Laboratory Notebook Best Practices - Philip Ryan, NIH Graduate Partnership Program (OITE)
NIH ELN Implementation Strategy - Janelle Cortner, NIH ELN Implementation Team (NCI)
A Research Integrity Case for Using ELNs - Kathy Partin, Director of Research Integrity (OD)
Nonclinical Studies in Support of FDA Applications - Shy Shorer, Office of Sponsor and Regulatory Oversight (NCI)
Technology Transfer - Steven Ferguson, Special Advisor (OTT)
Use Cases/Examples - Susan Wong
Chief Scientific Resources Liaison (ORS)

- Recording of the session: ELN Roundtable 03-18-2024
- PowerPoints

Why the Increased Focus on Electronic Record Keeping?

In 2019 the National Archive and Record Administration (NARA) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued memorandum M-19-21 that mandates that all Federal Records must transition to electronic format, and then in 2023 M-23-7 that mandates this be completed by June 30, 2024. Applies to lab notebooks because they are Federal Records (and belong to the NIH. Therefore, no new paper laboratory notebooks may be created after June 30 this year

What Are the Requirements for an ELN at NIH?

There's more to an ELN than just being electronic when it comes to scientific research at NIH, we are interested in data integrity as well. This means the ELN must:

- Document why specific experiments were initiated, how they were performed, what data and observations were produced, where the data are stored, and how the data were analyzed and interpreted, in sufficient detail so the research can be reproduced by others.
- Be written such that a scientifically literate person, with no prior knowledge of the project, would be able to use the ELN to navigate the rationale, methods, experimental samples, results, analysis, and basis for the major conclusions entirely from the ELN.
- Serve as the central documentation hub, unless that system serves as the complete research record and meets the reproducibility standard, even if the use of a specialized digital system to generate, store, or analyze data is also used
- Have a "Index Record" that includes a complete list of each individual ELN and any legacy paper lab notebooks, from the entire research group, documenting the research.

OneNote should not be used as an ELN, because OneNote lacks immutable versioning and does not support validated signatures. MS documents such as Word and Excel should not be used to create ELNs for the documentation of projects that could possibly produce intellectual property (IP), as they lack some of the IP protections of dedicated ELNs.

What's All This Got to Do with Tech Transfer?

When used properly, ELNs provide many benefits that support the development and protection of IP:

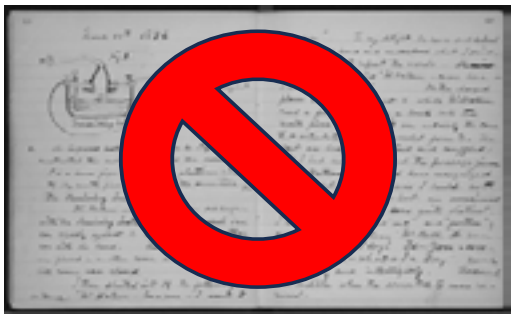
- Keeps all lab data in one organized place
- Controls access of users to the information
- Links different types of information
- Tracks who created which information and when
- Offers formal procedures for entering data/locking access/signing & witnessing records
- Provides an audit trail and can answer questions regarding integrity (avoiding

ELN

retractions?)
- Assists in determining IP inventorship, or ownership of biological materials
- Limits changes to data (changes after collection create data integrity questions)
- Ensures NIH ownership of the content and access to the data of lab results
- Affords safety and security for laboratory records (unlike paper – there's a back-up)

ELNs also help avoid some of the IP-killing mistakes of the past:

- Use of binders, loose leaf, or spiral notebooks
- Blotting out or erasing mistakes
- Modifying the data
- Ripping pages out or leaving them blank
- Covering writings in the notebook by affixing graphs and/or charts over them
- Having unsigned or unwitnessed notebooks



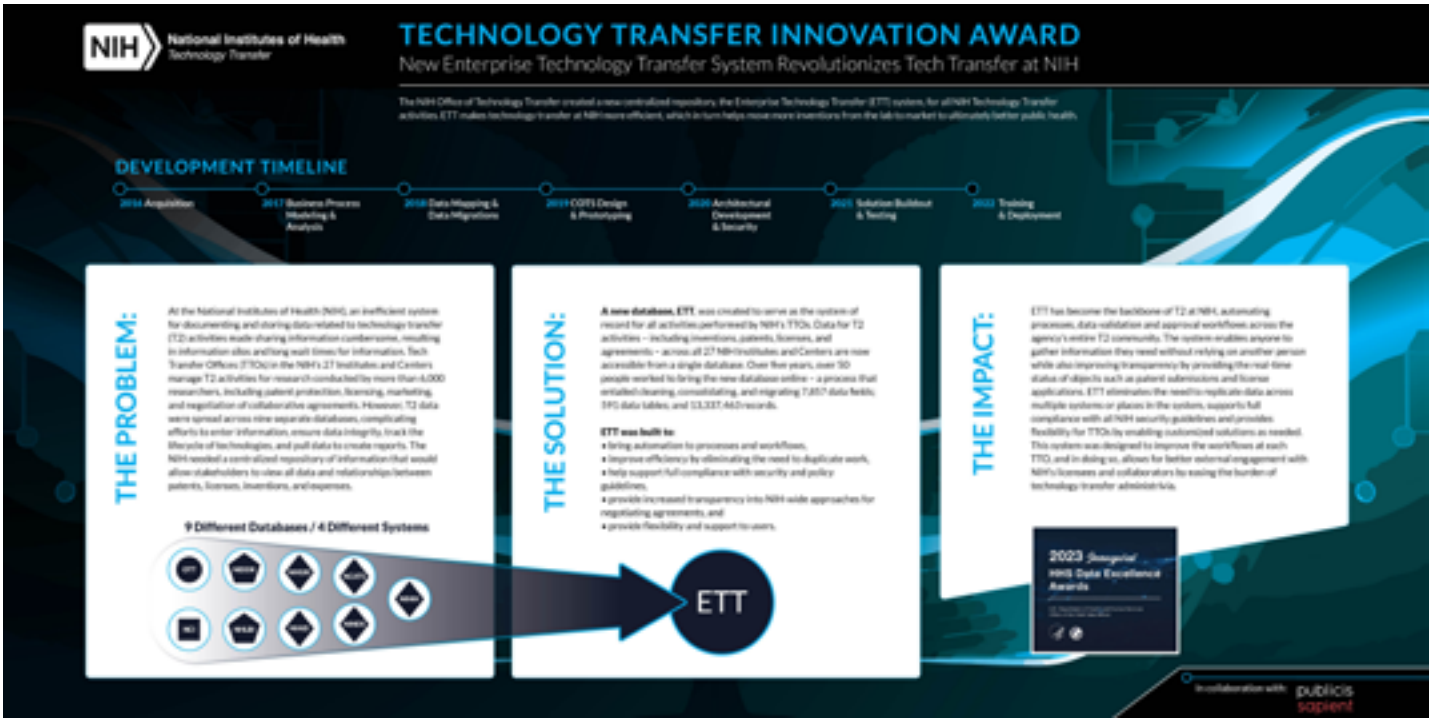
Want to Know More?

- NIH IRP Lab Notebook Interim Guidance - For Sourcebook 3.21.24
- Platforms Approved for NIH-wide ELN Use
- Determination on the Use of OneNote and MS document ELNs
- ELN FAQs
- NIH ELN Implementation Team

ETT Award Poster

Terry Goodell, Sapient

The Enterprise Technology Transfer system was awarded a Technology Transfer Innovation award by the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer (FLC). Below is the poster that was displayed at the 2024 FLC National Meeting.



NIH Tech Transfer BIO Booth Preview

Richelle Holnick, OTT

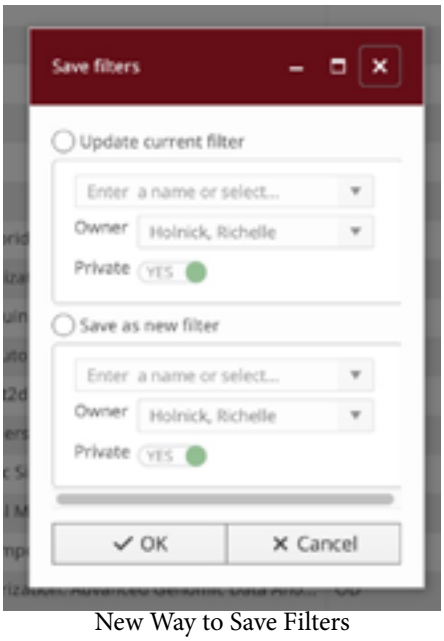
NIH Technology Transfer will again be exhibiting at BIO as a part of the Federal Laboratory Consortium's pavilion. We will be booth #903. You can view a mock-up of what our booth will look like and a full view of the back panel, below:

ETT Update – Large Minuet Update on the Horizon

Terry Goodell, Sapient

The ETT team has been hard at work on a new Minuet Upgrade that is planned to roll out within the next month. It has over 50 new features which will need to be tested and incorporated into ETT. ETT is NIH's customized version of Inteum's Minuet product, so when Inteum upgrades their software, the ETT team needs to test and deploy the new features into ETT. Many of the features will make ETT a more efficient system, and none of them should adversely impact the day-to-day use of the system.

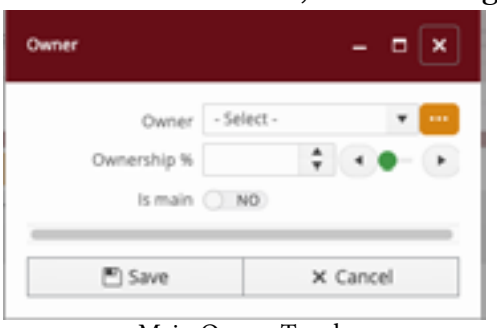
Subject matter experts have been evaluating and testing the new features in the lower environments before we push these updates to Production. Many of these new features are for backend development work and will not be directly visible to system users. However, there are a number that should be of interest to the community, and here are just a few.



New Way to Save Filters

Users can now save multiple grid filters. When you have set up a search within the grid view and would like to save it for future use, click on the file folder icon, which says 'filters' if you hover over it. You can choose to update the current filter, or you can save it as a new filter. You can now have multiple saved filters per module grid view.

Users can now specify the main owner of a Technology in the Owners tab. To do so, when adding an Owner switch the 'Is main' toggle to yes.



Main Owner Toggle

The Find Grids of each module will now include a 'Related Records' button. Search for a specific record and then select it from the Grid View and push the 'Related Records' button at the top of the grid. Depending on which type of record it is, you will have various options such as Activity, Agreement, Agreement Report, Contact, Marketing Project, Payable, Patent, Receivable, or Technology. Select one of these options to see the related records of that type.

Form letter templates can now be created in Microsoft Word, allowing for advanced editing. They can also be saved as a PDF or Word by the user at the time of generation.

Form Letter Template Format

Formal release notes will be sent out along with this new release which will define the new features, like the ones listed above. Tips and Tricks communications may also be sent out, based on the initial input on the new features.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to ETT_Support@mail.nih.gov.

Payment of Accumulated and Early Annuities By Contract Law Firms

Laura Lane-Unsworth, OTT

Tips:

It is quite common for our Contract Law Firms to pay any accumulated annuities which may be due when a patent grants or issues. The timeline for making these payments can vary and depends on the country where the case is being prosecuted.

Please rely on the Law Firm's expertise and knowledge of paying these early fees. In many cases our Contract Law Firms, are already instructing their foreign associate to pay an issue or grant fee, so the payment of any accumulated annuities is easily done at the same time.

Tricks:

If you receive a request from one of the Contract Law Firms, to pay accumulated annuities for a case, please approve it. To assist the Annuities Section in documenting these payments, please forward or copy Laura Lane-Unsworth. This is not required but is helpful to verify early annuities payments in CPI's system.

Laura Lane-Unsworth and Adele Benitez on the OTT Annuities team are always happy to verify that a case is in our Annuity Contractor's (Computer Packages Inc. or CPI) system and that CPI will pick up paying any future annuities which may be due for the case or patent.

If you would like to check on, or verify this information yourself, please log into InstructCPI or www.ComputerPackages.com.

If you do not have an InstructCPI account, please reach out to Laura Lane-Unsworth. She will be able to set up an account for you and establish a temporary password.

Credit: istock/Muhamad Chabib Alwi

COMPUTER PACKAGES INC

Serving the Intelectual Propert Community Since 1968

Trivia Winner

Steve Ferguson, OTT

The Q1 newsletter featured an Annual Report Trivia Contest with the grand prize being homemade ice cream in any flavor of the winners choosing. Charlene Maddox from OTT's Monitoring and Enforcement Unit won the contest and chose vanilla chocolate chip. She was kind enough to share with her office during a quarterly all hands meeting.

A happy trivia winner and ice cream maker!

Charlene scooping the first scoop

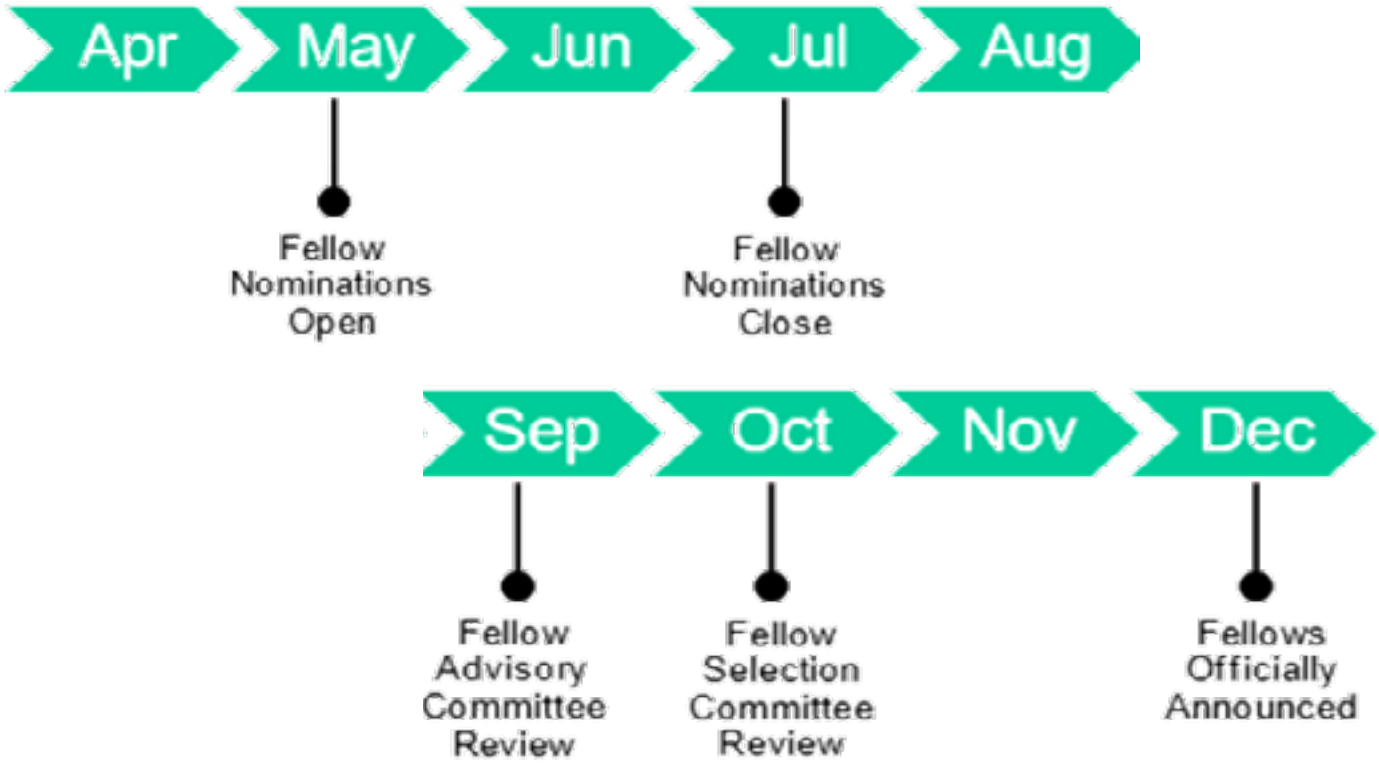
National Academy of Inventors Fellow Application Opens Soon

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.

We look forward to having future nominations for fellows from the NIH pool of talent. OTT plans to submit a few of the past Phil Chen 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 their website. Submissions for this year's cohort of NAI fellows is opens May 1st and runs until the end of July. We hope to see the number of NAI Fellows representing the NIH grow!



Abstract Progress Update

Steve Ferguson, OTT

Realizing that IC TTOs are busy with a variety of duties and not always able to prepare their invention marketing abstracts on a timely basis, OTT hired an abstract writer to help fill in the gaps. The abstract writer, Wayne Pereanu, has written 820 abstracts over the past two years supporting NIH technology transfer efforts. Of the 820, 388 have been reviewed by their respective IC and published to the website, helping us get to 1,780 abstracts published! Wayne can even take "special requests". If you have a case that would benefit from a new marketing abstract, just let us know and we will move it to the front of the abstract queue! For any abstract requests, please reach out to Wayne Pereanu, Steve Ferguson, and/or Richelle Holnick.

TechToon: Eclipse

Wayne Pereanu, OTT

FLC Agency Reps

Do you know who your FLC Agency and Lab Representatives are?

Agency Representatives

Agency	Agency Rep	Email	Phone Number
CDC	Marie-Christine (Kiki) Reames	ppk0@cdc.gov	404-718-7998
FDA	Alice Welch	alice.welch@fda.hhs.gov	301-796-8449
NIH	Tara Kirby	tara.kirby@nih.gov	301-827-6515

Laboratory Representatives

FLC Member Lab	Lab Rep	Email	Phone Number	Region
CIT	Kevin Davis	kdavis@mail.nih.gov	301-827-5510	Mid-Atlantic
FIC	Dexter Collins	collinsd@mail.nih.gov	301-496-4625	Mid-Atlantic
CC	David Saeger	david.saeger@nih.gov	301-451-9023	Mid-Atlantic
FNLCR	Vladimir Popov	vladimir.popov@nih.gov	301-846-5739	Mid-Atlantic
NCI	Suzanne Frisbie	suzanne.frisbie@nih.gov	240-276-5530	Mid-Atlantic
NCATS	Krishna (Balki) Balakrishnan	balki@nih.gov	301-827-7149	Mid-Atlantic
NCCIH	Belinda Davis	davisb@mail.nih.gov	301-435-4541	Mid-Atlantic
NEI	Mala Dutta	mala.dutta@nih.gov	301-451-2198	Mid-Atlantic
NHLBI	Bruce Goldstein	goldsteb@mail.nih.gov	301-402-5579	Mid-Atlantic
NHGRI	Anna Solowiej	anna.solowiej@nih.gov	301-435-7791	Mid-Atlantic
NIAID	Surekha Vathyam	vathyams@mail.nih.gov	301-496-2644	Mid-Atlantic
NIAMS	Vlado Knezevic	vlado.knezevic.nih.gov	301-435-5560	Mid-Atlantic
NIBIB	Bruce Goldstein	goldsteb@mail.nih.gov	301-402-5579	Mid-Atlantic
NICHD	Eric Darrington	eric.darrington@nih.gov	205-919-5006	Mid-Atlantic
NIDCR	Vlado Knezevic	vlado.knezevic.nih.gov	301-435-5560	Mid-Atlantic
NIDDK	Charles Niebylski	charles.niebylski@nih.gov	301-435-8146	Mid-Atlantic
NIEHS	Sharon Soucek	sharon.soucek@nih.gov	984-287-4152	Mid-Atlantic
NIGMS	Kevin Lauderdale	lauderdk@nigms.nih.gov	301-594-4499	Mid-Atlantic
NIMH	Jennifer Wong	jennifer.wong2@nih.gov	301-828-7307	Mid-Atlantic
NINDS	Susan Ano	susan.ano@nih.gov	301-435-5515	Mid-Atlantic
NINR	Hyung Suk Kim	kimhy@mail.nih.gov	301-435-8398	Mid-Atlantic
OD	Steven Ferguson	sf8h@nih.gov	301-435-5561	Mid-Atlantic
NIA	Michael O'Donnell	odonnellmd@mail.nih.gov	667-205-2230	Mid-Atlantic
NIAAS	Megan Ryan	mryan1@mail.nih.gov	301-443-4225	Mid-Atlantic
NIDCD	Bruce Goldstein	goldsteb@mail.nih.gov	301-402-5579	Mid-Atlantic
NIDA	Janette Lebron	janette.lebron@nih.gov	667-312-5567	Mid-Atlantic
NLM	Rebecca Goodwin	rebecca.goodwin@nih.gov	301-827-4350	Mid-Atlantic

NIMHD	Tsz (Kelvin) Choi	tsz.choi@nih.gov	301-496-3400	Mid-Atlantic
ARPA-H	Jenica Patterson	jenica.patterson@arpa-h.gov	N/A	Mid-Atlantic
ORS	Adam Clarkson	ac480y@nih.gov	661-277-9111	Mid-Atlantic
CBER	Nisha Narayan	nisha.narayan@fda.hhs.gov	240-402-9770	Mid-Atlantic
CDRH	James Kolonay	james.kolonay@fda.hhs.gov	240-402-1473	Mid-Atlantic
CDER	Chekesha Clingman	chekesha.clingman@fda.hhs.gov	301-796-8531	Mid-Atlantic
CFSAN	LaQuia Geathers	laquia.geathers@fda.hhs.gov	240-402-2821	Mid-Atlantic
CVM	Michelle Fuller	michelle.fuller@fda.hhs.gov	240-402-8530	Mid-Atlantic
NCTR	Ashley Groves	ashley.groves@fda.hhs.gov	870-543-7956	Mid-Continent
ORA	Marilyn Khanna	marilyn.khanna@fda.hhs.gov	301-796-6245	Mid-Atlantic
CTP	Dana van Brummel	dana.vanbemmel@fda.hhs.gov	301-796-2760	Mid-Atlantic
CDC	Marie-Christine (Kiki) Reames	ppk0@cdc.gov	404-718-7998	Southeast
NIOSH	Kathleen Goedel	keg2@cdc.gov	513-533-8686	Midwest

Comings & Goings

Nea Dam joined the Office of Technology Transfer in February 2024. In her new role, she serves as the assistant to the Director and Senior Staff of OTT, providing administrative and technical support. Prior to this position, she worked as an Office Manager in the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, Career Development and Outreach Branch. Nea facilitated key processes such as procurement, conference registrations, travel itineraries, and personnel packages. She also served as a liaison between laboratory chiefs and staff. The best part of her job is being able to work with great staff from various background. When she is not working, she enjoys knitting, hiking, and spending time with family and friends.

Jennifer Dyer has joined OTT as the MEB Team Lead. She has more than 30 years of experience in commercialization, innovation and entrepreneurship. Most recently, she was the Executive Director of the USC Stevens Center for Innovation. She lead a team of 30 who manage university-owned IP stemming from more than $900 million in annual research funding across all areas of the University including medicine, engineering, sciences and the arts. USC Stevens focuses on the licensing of technologies, expanding industry collaborations, supporting start-ups and entrepreneurial programs for students and faculty. She has more than 30 years of experience and a strong record of success in technology commercialization, including serving as Director of Technology Development at The Scripps Research Institute and as a Sr. Manager of Corporate Development at Life Technologies Corporation (now ThermoFisher).

Tiajuan Fullwood joined NCI TTC as a staff secretary in October 2023. Fullwood has over 15 years of senior-level administrative support in non-profit social services, education, and healthcare; she also shares, “I believe time should be spent in/on activities that produce positive outcomes that will manifest on a larger scale. Leaving a noticeable impact is something I value with my highest regard. My experiences have instilled multi-dimensional communication skills and an ability to recognize, act upon, and fulfill the administrative needs that will aid in the continued support of families and the communities, in which we all serve”.

Malek "Mel" Kechrid, M.S. joined TTC's Technology Analysis and Marketing Unit as a new Business Development and Marketing Fellow in December 2023. Mel earned a Master of Science in biotechnology from the University of Maryland Global Campus, with a focus on biosecurity and biodefense; she also has Bachelor of Science in biology with a minor in psychology from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). While taking some time to travel abroad, she worked as an operations manager for a startup in Dubai. Prior to that experience, she worked on cancer research with an incredible team of scientists during a summer internship and volunteer position at the National Institutes of Health on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) and was involved in several research papers. Kechrid speaks three languages: French, Arabic, and English.

Veronica Mendoza Reinoso, Ph.D. joined NCI TTC in May 2023 as a negotiator fellow in the unit led by Nikki Guyton. Mendoza Reinoso is a cancer research scientist with 15+ years of experience in Peru, Australia, and the U.S. She started her doctoral studies in 2014 in Australia at the University of New South Wales with a focus on skin cancer and immune skin diseases. She obtained her doctorate in 2018 and after completion, started a postdoc position in skeletal bone metastasis at the University of Michigan. The last two years of her postdoctoral studies were funded by a DoD award, which was completed in March 2023.

Sury Vepa, Ph.D., JD has been selected as Deputy Director of the NCATS Office of Strategic Alliances (OSA). Sury started his technology transfer career at Mount Sinai before joining the NIH Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) in 2008 where he oversaw many complex IP portfolios. In October 2015, NCATS was fortunate to have Sury join the OSA team. He has worked on several complicated multiparty programs such as BGTC, PAVeGT, and ACTIV to name a few. Please join us in welcoming Sury to his new role at NCATS!