

NEWS

The 2012-2013 fiscal year was very productive for TTBD and OHSU's overall efforts in building industry partnerships as well as protecting and commercializing OHSU technology and innovation. On Wednesday, September 18th, TTBD held its annual awards ceremony and reception honoring OHSU staff and faculty for their collaboration and efforts in licensing, sponsored research, patenting and entrepreneurship. Key awards this year went to Dr. Lulu Cambronne, New Inventor of the Year Award; Dr. Eric Orwoll and Ms. Colleen Lay, Translational Science Award; Dr. Rosalie Sears, Business Partnership Achievement Award; and Dr. Joe Gray (pictured below), Technology Transfer Achievement Award.

To learn more, please see OHSU's release [here](#) and a story in the Portland Business Journal [here](#).



Pictured (left to right): Dr. Joe Gray with TTBD staff members Dr. Joseph Carroll & Dr. Dennis A. Hanson

The Oregon Translational Research and Development Institute (OTRADI) opened the state's first bioscience-specific incubator on June 19th, just a few blocks south of TTBD's SW Bancroft offices. Within two months the space had filled with five businesses, two of which are OHSU startup companies (13therapeutics and Aronora). Read more [here](#).

TTBD staff has worked to help launch two new startup companies in the first quarter of the 2013-2014 fiscal year. One of these new startups is specializing in research tools that bind cell surfaces with the initial focus on discovery and production of monoclonal antibodies for live cell imaging. The other new startup is developing mobile apps for the early detection and tracking of eye diseases in the emerging field of digital health.

At September's Intel Developer Forum, Intel President Renée James highlighted Intel's collaboration with the Knight Cancer Institute at OHSU as a key project. Read more [here](#). TTBD continues to assist as this collaboration evolves.

EVENTS



OHSU's Second Annual Startup Symposium

"Building Bridges: Biotech Investing & the Investment Community"

Thursday, October 10, 2013

OHSU Auditorium and Vey Conference Center
7:30am-4:00pm

TTBD is bringing together a broad range of organizations and business professionals to meet with researchers and innovators from OHSU who have — or are considering launching — a startup company. Featured keynote speakers include David LaVance, Chairman of the Board of Hologic, Inc., and Craig Muir of Third Rock Ventures. These discussion sessions are led by business professionals exploring ways to build, fund and find partnerships for startup companies.

The registration fee for OHSU faculty and staff is \$15 per person and includes breakfast, lunch, and a networking reception with refreshments. Please contact Trish Pruis at pruis@ohsu.edu for registration details.

TTBD Brown Bag Presentations:

"How to Pitch to Industry"

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Mac Hall 2201, Marquam Hill Campus

12:00-1:00pm

Live Feed to West Campus

"TTBD Contracting: The Ins and Outs of Material Transfer and Sponsored Research Agreements"

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mac Hall 2201, Marquam Hill Campus

12:00-1:00pm

Live Feed to West Campus

Oregon Bioscience Association: Bio on the Vine

Thursday, November 7, 2013

Rose Quarter Complex

6:00-9:00pm

MATERIAL TRANSFER AGREEMENTS

Is there a way to speed up the review and processing of your Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs)? Yes, there is...in fact there are multiple ways to move the process along more quickly and efficiently. First, please send all requests for MTAs to mta@ohsu.edu. This includes both MTAs for materials coming into OHSU and being shipped out of OHSU. Second, for all MTAs covering materials coming into OHSU, please include a completed Incoming Material Transfer Request Form along with an electronic copy of the MTA. This form will help answer many of the questions TTBD's Industry & Academic Collaborations team will likely need to ask, and will therefore speed along the review process. The form can be found [here](#). Third, if you are transferring out your proprietary materials and would like an easier way to complete the MTA process, please work with the TTBD Industry & Academic Collaborations team to have your materials uploaded onto TTBD's online materials registry. Once uploaded, the MTA process for outside collaborators can be accomplished via an online process, which TTBD believes will be quicker and more efficient than the traditional paper MTA process.

NEW TTBD STAFF MEMBERS

M. Todd Horne, Ph.D., Patent Associate

Todd earned a Ph.D. in biophysical chemistry from Portland State University with research directed to statistical thermodynamic modeling and microarray applications of DNA hybridization reactions. Todd has 6+ years experience in the biotechnology industry and 4+ years working at an intellectual property law firm drafting and prosecuting patent applications across a wide range of scientific and engineering fields including software, information technology, and biomedical devices.

Trish Pruis, Ph.D., Business Development Coordinator

Trish earned a Ph.D. in behavioral neuroscience from OHSU in 2010. Trish spent the last 2.5 years working in private industry doing business development for MedCure, a mid-sized Portland business that specializes in providing cadaveric specimens. Trish will be working on establishing new industry partnerships, as well as maintaining OHSU's existing relationships and strengthening OHSU's research consortia.

Mike Roberts, Ph.D., Agreements Officer

Mike earned a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering from Tulane University with research directed to studying the adaptation of bone to mechanical and non-mechanical stimuli. Mike spent 6+ years as a post doctoral fellow further studying bone mechanics and developing 3D computational models and software to study the role of increased eye pressure in a model of glaucoma. He also served as a Associate Scientist at MEIC Inc. in Portland before making the transition over to technology transfer. Mike will be working in TTBD's Industry & Academic Collaborations team.

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

In partnership with the Oregon Clinical & Translational Research Institute (OCTRI), the next round of Biomedical Innovation Program funding has been announced. This is a unique program aimed at accelerating the delivery of healthcare technologies from academia to the marketplace and thereby improving healthcare. The overarching goal of the program is to foster collaborative translational research that will lead to technology commercialization within a 3-5 year horizon. The current Request for Applications has letters of intent due by November 28, 2013. Please find more information [here](#).

RECENT SUPREME COURT PATENT DECISION

Recently, the Supreme Court made a decision in *Association for Molecular Pathology v. Myriad Genetics*. TTBD has received a number of questions about this decision and there has been a lot of commentary in the popular press.

This case was not about patents to genes as they exist in your body. Rather, the questions that were put before the Supreme Court concerned whether or not (a) an isolated and purified DNA sequence (e.g. a gel purified restriction fragment comprising the BRCA1 gene or a mutation thereof) and (b) a cDNA derived from a spliced mRNA (e.g. a BRCA1 mRNA reverse transcribed into BRCA1 cDNA) is patentable subject matter. Ultimately, the case held that 'isolated and purified' DNA is not patentable subject matter, but a cDNA resulting from reverse transcription of a spliced mRNA is patentable subject matter. The reasoning for this was that a cDNA is a chemical entity that does not exist in nature and is produced by human intervention. However, the ruling created confusion as it also made purified genomic DNA free of proteins and other cellular components, gel purified restriction fragments of genomic DNA, and even detergent lysed cells no longer patentable subject matter.

A major misconception is that this ruling resulted in all so-called 'gene patents' being invalid. Nothing could be further from the truth. First, the term 'gene patents' is meaningless in the patent world. Second, when one understands the claims in the disputed patents that were not at issue in *Myriad* (and therefore are still valid), one understands just how narrow the *Myriad* ruling was.

Even after *Myriad*, the following are still patentable subject matter:

- Replicative cloning vectors comprising DNA sequences
- Expression vectors comprising DNA sequences
- Host cells transformed with expression vectors
- Kits for detecting mutations comprising synthetic nucleic acid probes
- Methods of screening for potential cancer therapeutics
- Synthetic nucleic acid probes used in detecting DNA and/or mutations in a sequence
- Single stranded oligonucleotide primers used in sequence determination
- PCR primer pairs
- Methods of determining cancer risk based on detection of mutations (provided they meet the requirements of *Mayo v. Prometheus*)



With regard to OHSU patent applications, TTBD tends to limit patent claims to those described in the list above. It is possible that the *Myriad* ruling could encompass other inventions such as isolated natural products, purified proteins, or antibodies, but it's also likely that these can be overcome by working closely with TTBD in crafting the patent claims.