

# UCLA Technology Development Group INNOVATION MAGAZINE

DEC 2020 | VOL 7

UCLA Technology Development Group

# INNOVATION MAGAZINE

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**INNOVATION MAGAZINE**  
**DECEMBER 2020 VOL 7**

**Editor:**

Marivi Valcourt

**Writers/**

**Contributors:**

Jude Anchang

Tim Grauerholz

Dina Lozofsky

Kristen Robertson

Amir Naiberg

**Designer:**

Jennifer Cogan

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Amir Naiberg

UCLA TDG

## A message from Amir Naiberg

Dear Readers,

I am happy to share with you our metrics for the end of the fiscal year 2020. Despite COVID, our group outperformed and reached an all time record achievements in two important indicators: Industry Sponsored Research to support campus research and the number of Exclusive License Agreements we signed. As research ramped up, we are trending closely to our all-time high in Material Transfer Agreements and Invention Disclosures.

This magazine features our new campus-wide initiative about copyrights, software, data, and digital content.

Together with StartupUCLA we produced an exciting event that highlighted teams representing signature UCLA programs. The teams hail from both North and South campus, representing the diverse landscape of knowledge and excellence that distinguishes UCLA, a recording of the event is available on our [YouTube Channel](#). This being the first of its kind event was very well attended and encouraged us to continue our partnership with StartupUCLA to the third cohort of UCLA Faculty Innovation Fellows. This program is campus-wide aimed at advancing entrepreneurial excellence and startup culture among faculty.

We are also happy to present one of our new spinout companies, Westwood Therapeutics. The company was formed around the work of Professors Arjun Deb and Michael Jung, which benefited from the UCLA Innovation Fund process.

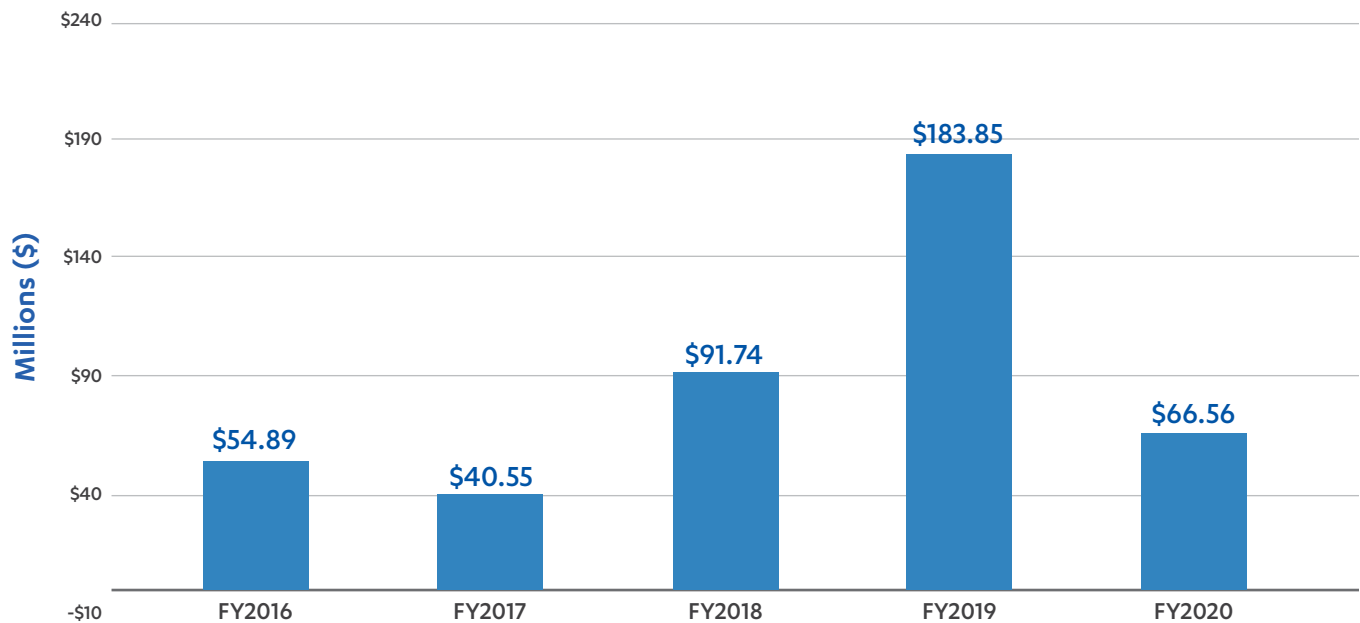
Finally, please mark your calendars and save the date to our main 2021 events: on March 9 MedTech Partnering conference and LABEST on May 25–27.

Sincerely,

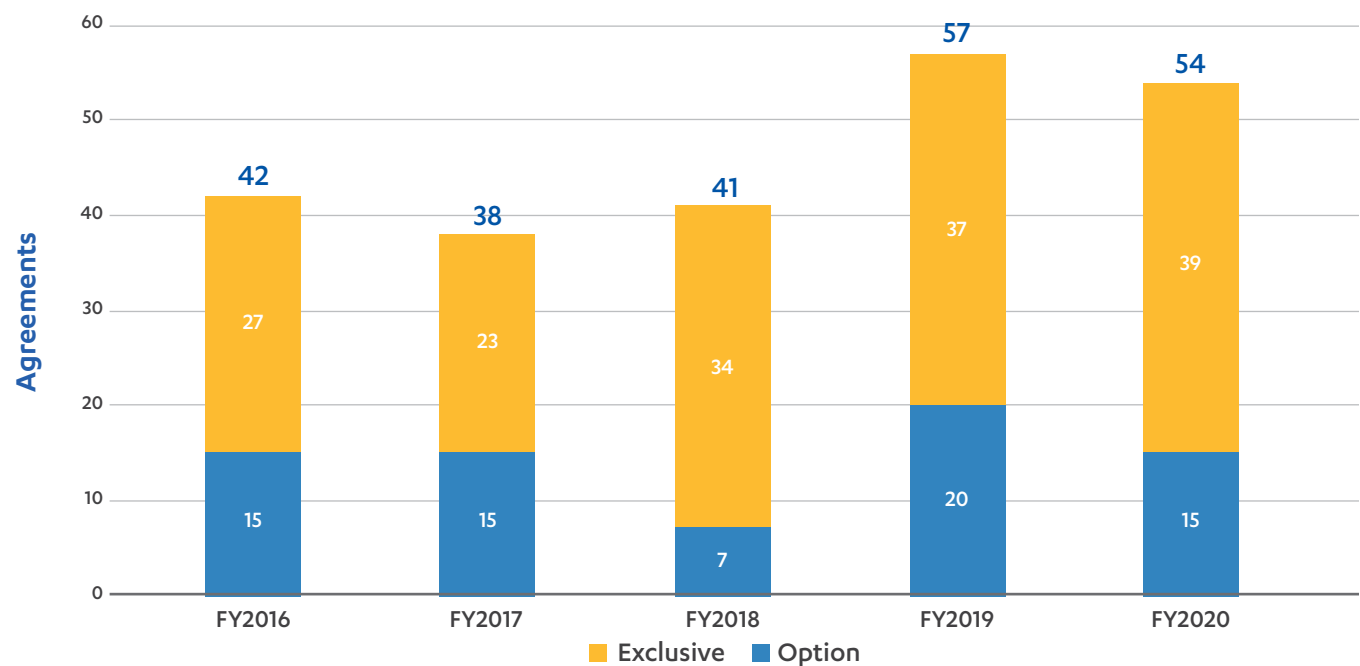
Amir Naiberg  
Associate Vice Chancellor, CEO and President

## LICENSING METRICS

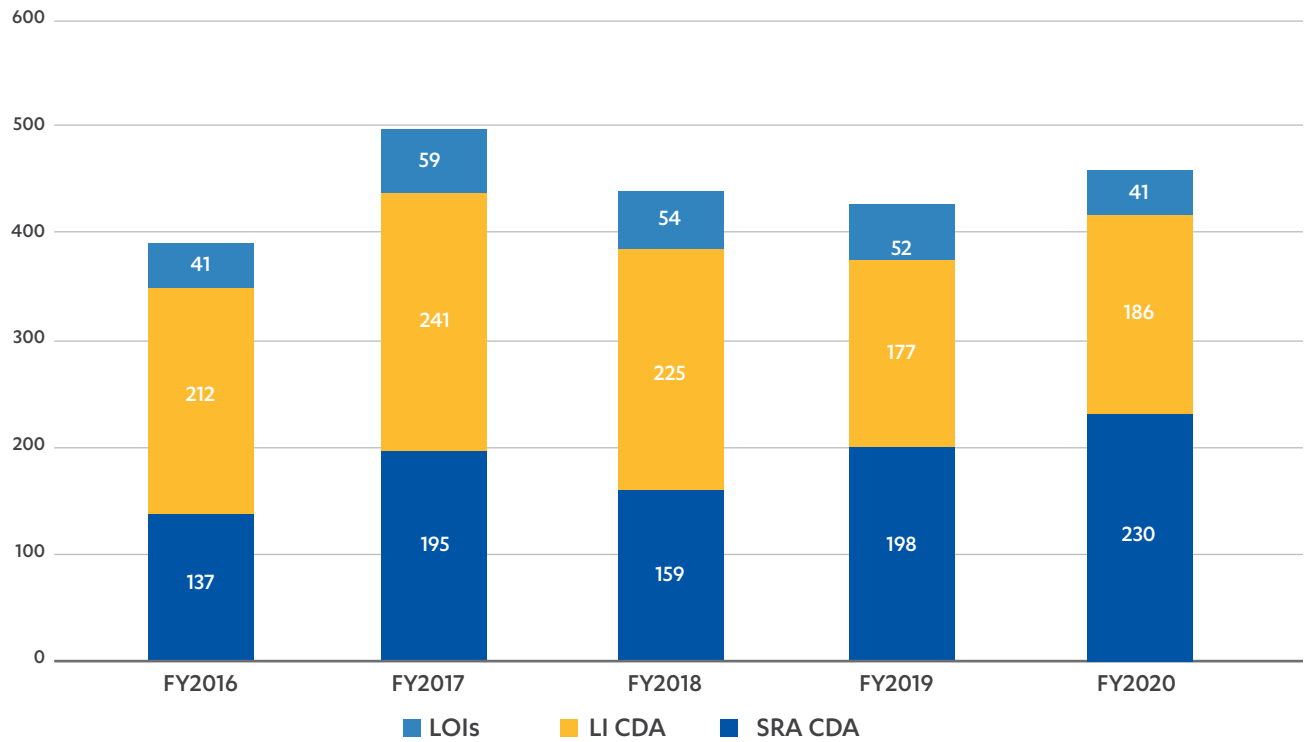
### Licensing Income



### Exclusive Licenses and Options

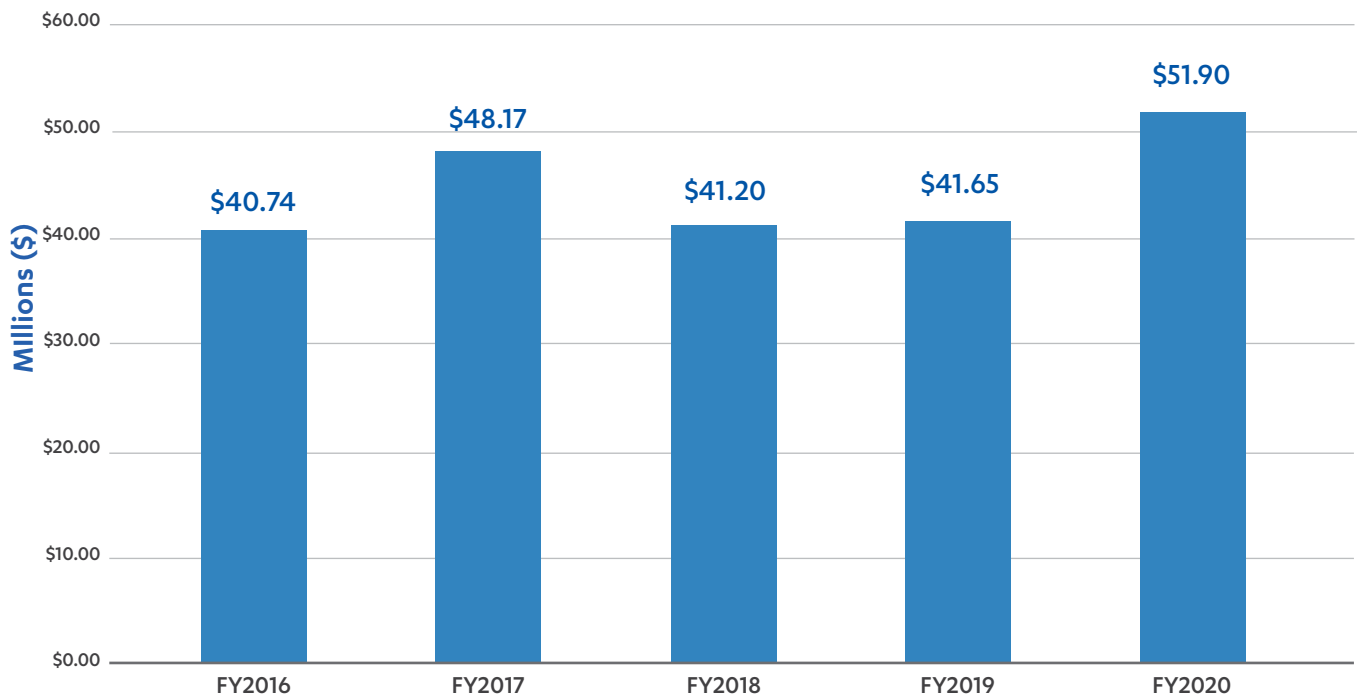


## NDA & Letters of Intent

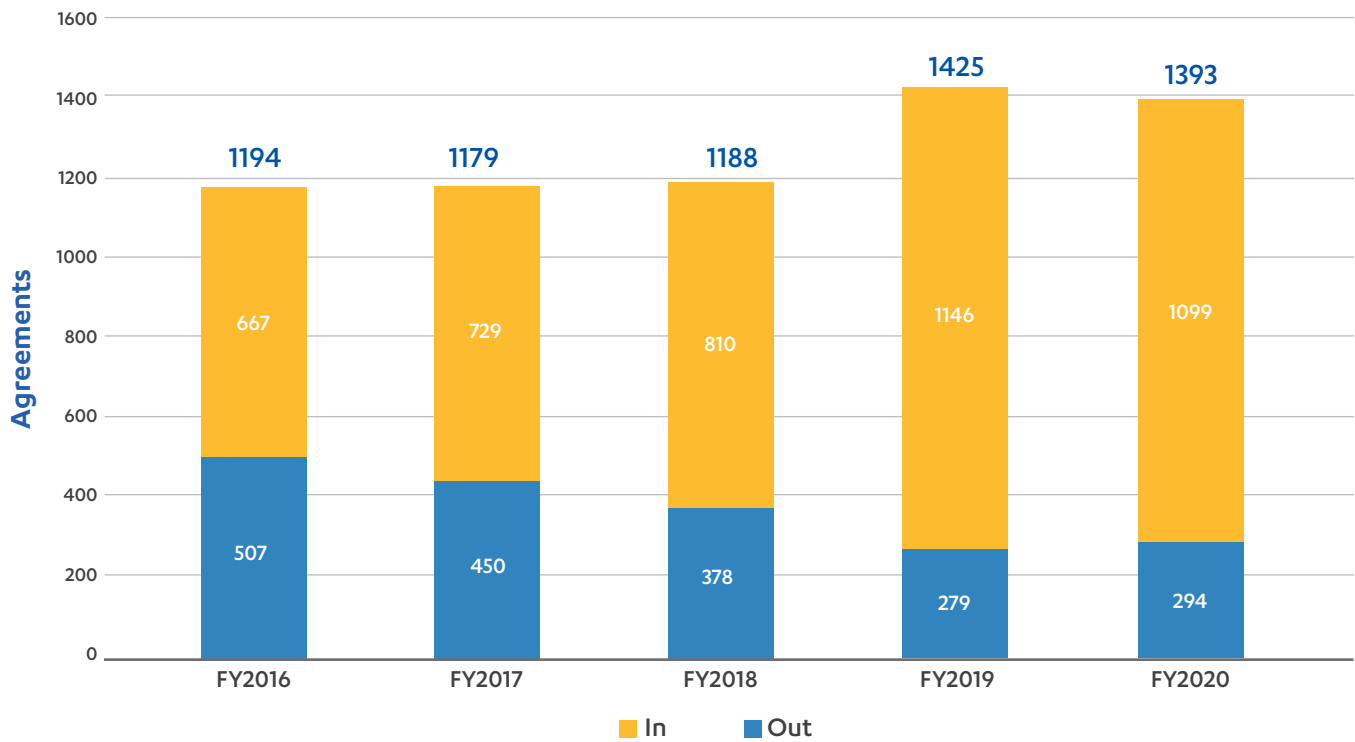


## INDUSTRY SPONSORED RESEARCH METRICS

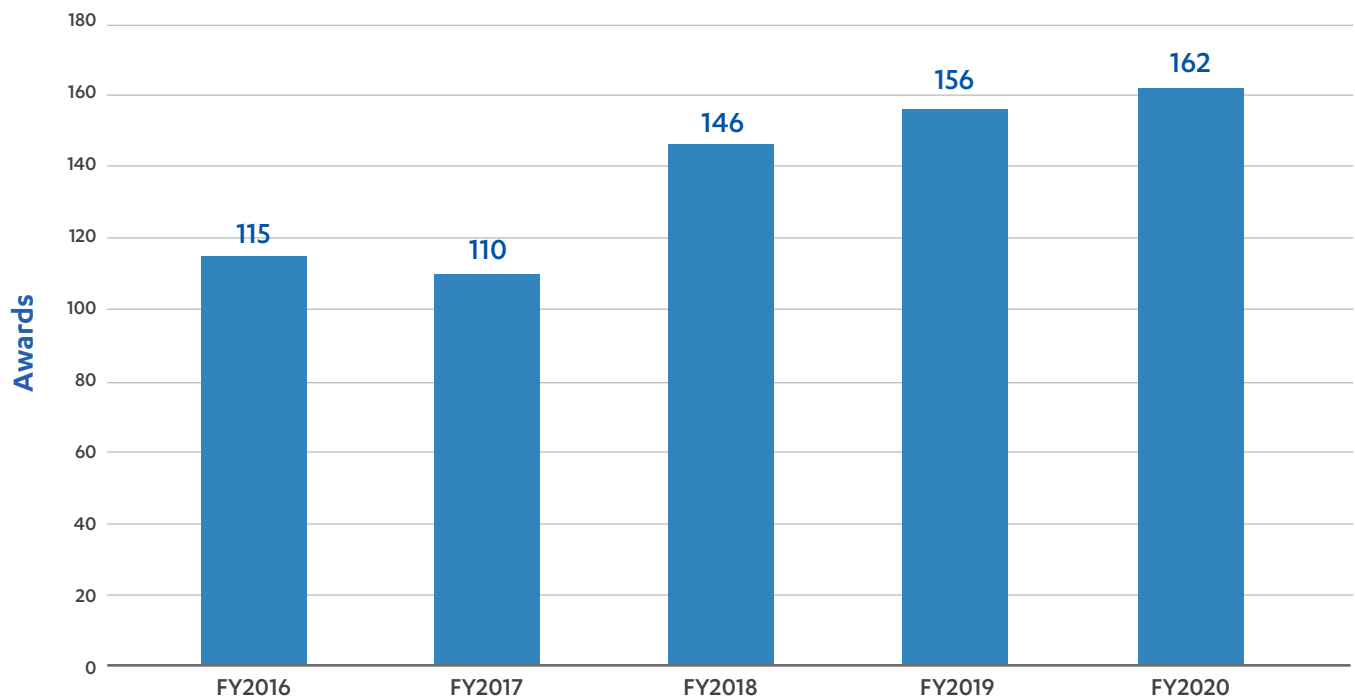
### ISR Award Totals



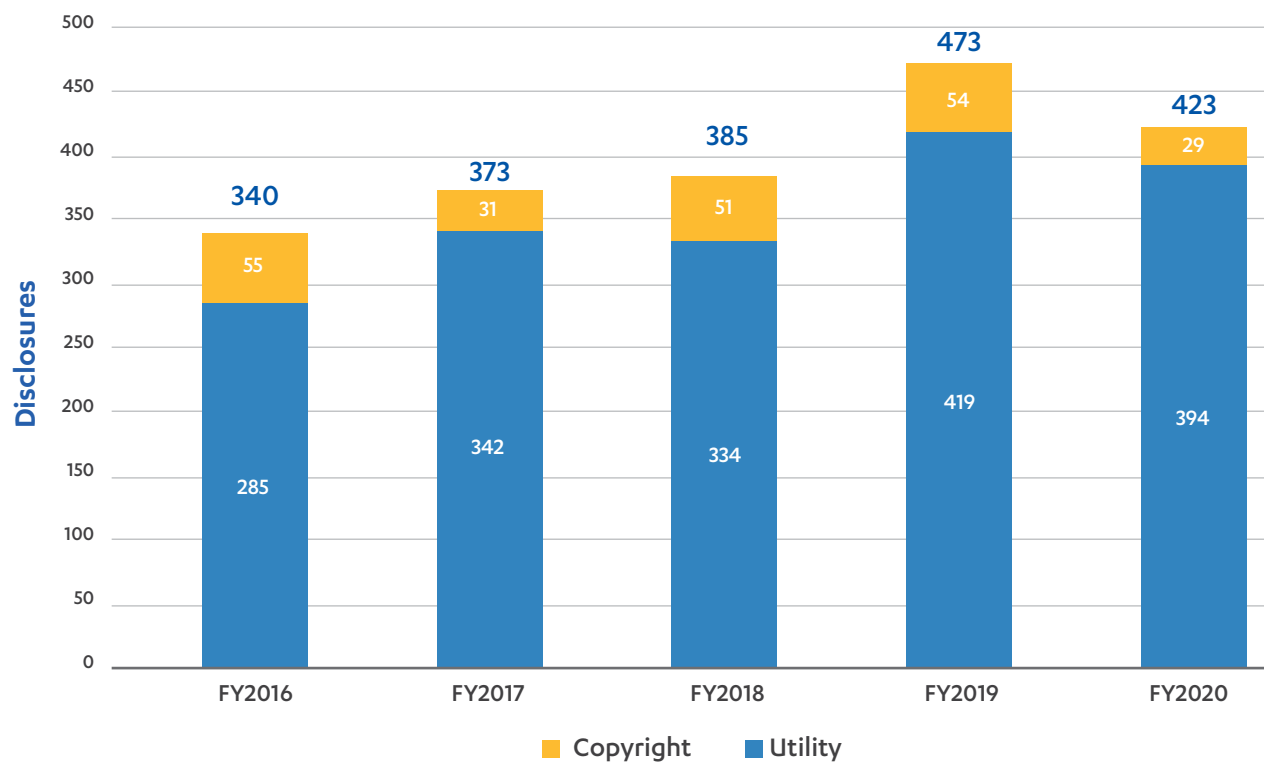
## Material Transfer Research Agreements



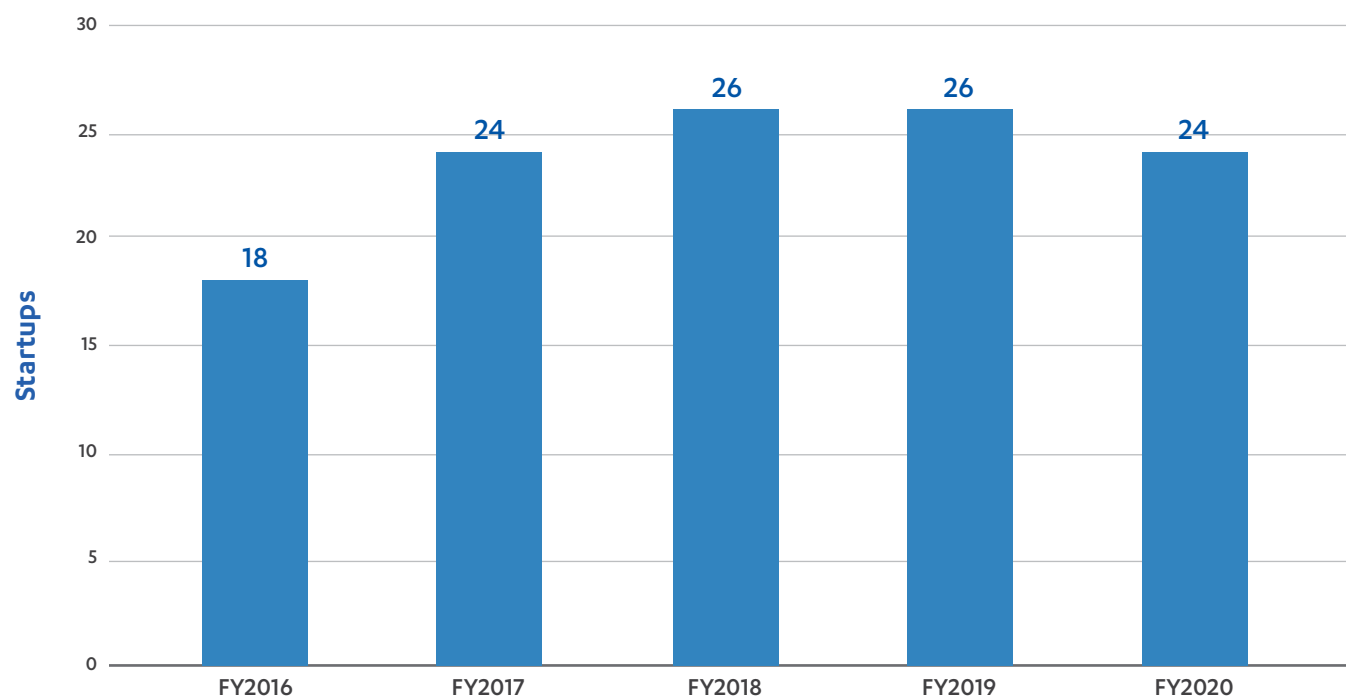
## ISR Awards



## Invention Disclosures



## Startups





**INVESTORS**

**9TH ANNUAL**

# MEDTECH

**PARTNERING CONFERENCE**

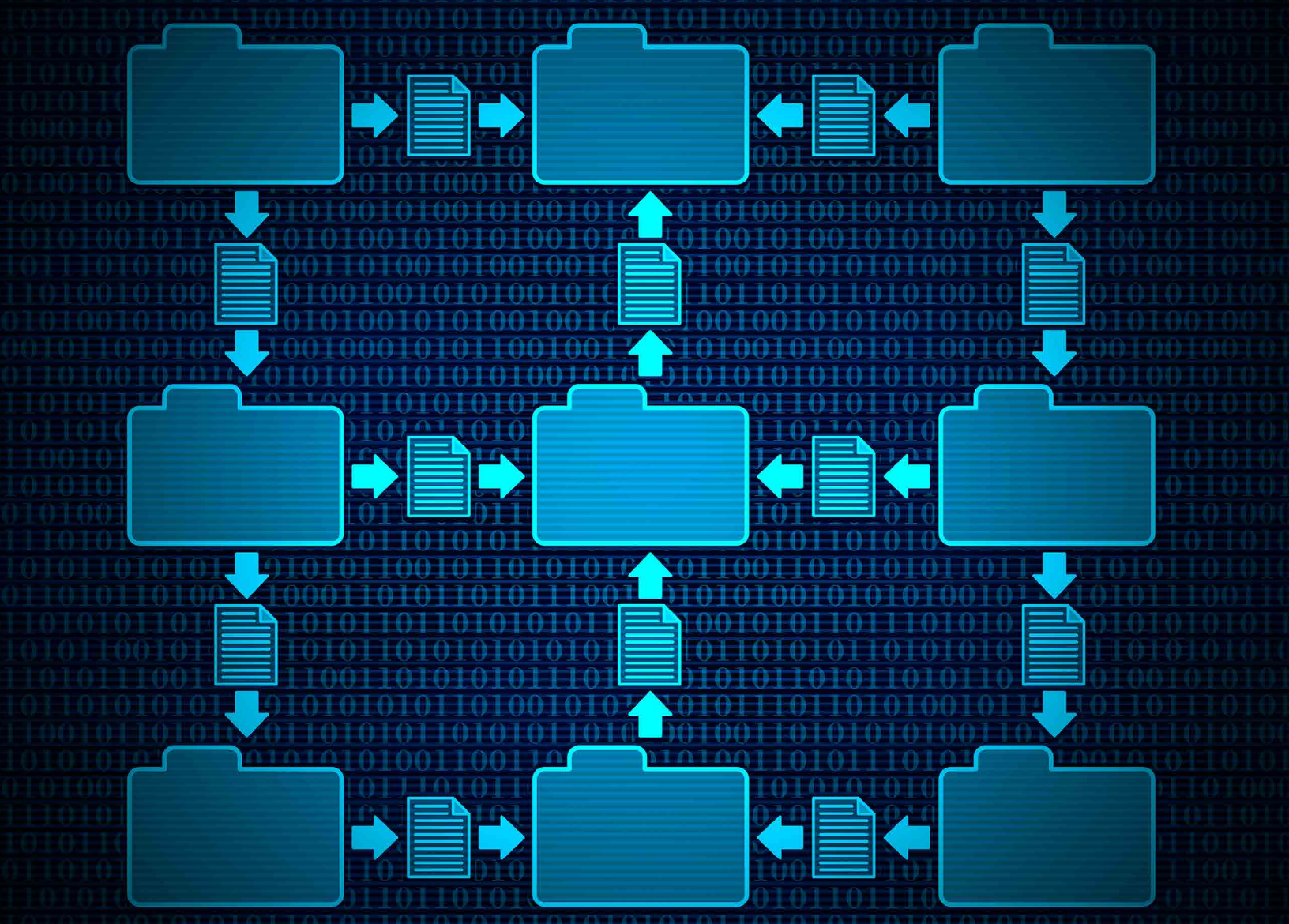
**INDUSTRY**

**FOR MORE DETAILS**  
Visit [tdg.ucla.edu](https://tdg.ucla.edu)

**INVENTORS**

**MARCH 9, 2021**  
**VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**





# Copyright - Software, Data and Digital Content

**TDG IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE** a new initiative to enhance our support for commercial and non-commercial licensing of copyrightable works, which includes software, data, journal articles, textbooks, other books or scholarly works, short stories, poems, case examples, course materials, lecture notes, musical compositions/arrangements and recordings, lyrics, architectural drawings, visual works of art, sculptures and other artistic creations. As part of this initiative, we have developed new copyright-specific license agreements that are streamlined and designed specifically for these types of intellectual

property and which should be easier and faster to put in place with commercial and non-commercial partners.

For more information, you can contact TDG at [copyright@tdg.ucla.edu](mailto:copyright@tdg.ucla.edu) or [software@tdg.ucla.edu](mailto:software@tdg.ucla.edu), which are dedicated to these efforts or you can review our newly updated FAQs, [Copyright](#) and [Software](#). We have also added a new FAQ covering [Open Source](#) and Other Software Sharing Options, including a new self-service license picker for non-commercial purposes (such as publication or sharing with non-UCLA collaborators). **IM**



Quang Pham

## A risk taker makes his way back to UCLA



**FOR QUANG PHAM OF WESTWOOD THERAPEUTICS,** working with UCLA, was a natural partnership. “I am a proud UCLA graduate as well as lifetime alumnus and a Wooden Athletic Fund Donor. I’m all UCLA. I have worked in life sciences for 25 years and it’s a dream to be able to come home to my alma mater, where great technologies are being developed.”

Pham’s story before landing at UCLA is as harrowing as it is inspiring. Born in Saigon during the Vietnam War, he became a refugee at just 10 years old and along with his mother and three sisters, came to America. “I didn’t speak English. We had nothing. I went on to public schools in Oxnard. Played basketball, began working at age 12, and was fortunate enough to be admitted in ’83,” said Pham.

After graduation from UCLA, Pham became a U.S. citizen and joined the U.S. Marine Corps to “pay back the country for his citizenship.” He served as an officer and a pilot on active duty for seven years. From there, he joined the drug industry working for Merck and then Genentech. And by 2000, Pham became an entrepreneur and has since founded three companies. In 2005, his first book, “A Sense of Duty: Our Journey from Vietnam,” was published by Random House and received an Asian Heritage Book Award. He also received an EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2018.

**“[UCLA] is one of the  
number one institutions  
when it comes to  
licensing technology.”**

**– Quang Pham**

Pham’s newest start-up is Westwood Therapeutics, a UCLA spinout. The name was inspired not only by his personal connection to the area but it also pays homage to where the technologies were discovered.

“UCLA is one of the top institutions when it comes to licensing technology and the number one public university, and to be able to go back on campus over 30 years later in my profession... It’s exciting, no doubt about it.”

Pham’s tenacity proved beneficial. It was several years ago when he attended a biotech networking event that he made a connection with UCLA. But personnel changes stalled further talks, and time passed. Pham eventually decided to reach out and restarted his conversations. “We’re very proud and blessed to be working with the great scientists and the team of the UCLA Technology Development Group. We accomplished our goals in the midst of the global coronavirus pandemic via numerous virtual meetings.”





Left to right: Jeff Cole Co-Founder & CFO, Michael Jung, Ph.D. Co-Founder (UCLA Chemistry), Arjun Deb, M.D. Co-Founder (UCLA Medicine), Quang Pham Founder & CEO (UCLA B.A. '87)

Westwood Therapeutics focuses on treatments for unmet needs in the metabolic, cardiorenal and immuno-oncology areas. The spinout has licensed three foundational technologies from UCLA that both participated in the UCLA Innovation Fund. Co-founders include Jeff Cole, Chief Financial Officer (a USC graduate that previously co-founded another company with Pham), Arjun Deb, M.D., from UCLA Medicine and Michael Jung, Ph.D., University of California Presidential Chair in Medicinal Chemistry, who has co-founded nearly 30 companies and who discovered the blockbuster prostate cancer drugs, Xtandi® and Erleada®.

The first license addresses arrhythmias (irregular heartbeats) and heart failure. UCLA researchers led by UCLA Professor Ohyun Kwon, Ph.D, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Medicine, Organic Chemistry, discovered small molecules that restore normal rhythm and contractions by activating the VDAC2 protein. VDAC2 stands for voltage-dependent channel protein and it plays a key role in maintaining a stable heart.

The second and third licenses center on multiple applications of a monoclonal antibody and small molecule inhibitors that regulate ENPP1 (ectonucleotide pyrophosphatase / phosphodiesterase 1) gene activity, which have potential therapeutic application in cardiovascular diseases, renal and metabolic disorders, immune-oncology (I-O), and certain rare diseases. UCLA researchers, led by Drs. Deb and Jung, studied how the inhibition of ENPP1 enzymatic functioning in the biological mineralization pathway can retard the pathological calcification

of soft tissues. Myocardial calcification following a heart attack is a leading cause of heart failure and an initial focus of the team's research.

All of the technologies are in the pre-clinical stage of development.

Pham explains the breakthrough, "Even though we haven't announced specifics there's been enough feedback and interest and excitement around the new science and that's the key. The focus is on biologics and new molecular entities. And they are not being repurposed; they're not new delivery systems or tweaking of the molecules. This is new, innovative science."

And it is here that Pham, the refugee, the Marine Corps pilot, the biotechnology professional, the entrepreneur and the ultimate risk-taker stands today. In his words, "There comes to be a point where an entrepreneur with a team and potentially investors, come to not only put the strategic plan together but to see if the markets will bear such new therapies." He goes on to explain that as an entrepreneurial team, he and his partners also look at the timeline, the cost, the intellectual property protection, the market, adding to the team and more, in order to get to FDA filings and eventual approvals.

Pham concludes "I believe that the global population will need innovative drugs potentially from these molecules that are being developed at UCLA today. We are hopefully bringing something that is going to be available to the entire world." **IM**

# LATEST UPDATES



## FREE WEBINAR DECEMBER 9

**TDG'S INDUSTRY RESEARCH AND MATERIAL TRANSFER TEAM** will provide an informational seminar and training session to help de-mystify industry sponsored research projects with for-profit companies and the process on how to secure the receipt and transfer of materials for use in research. [Register Here.](#)

## NUTS AND BOLTS: Industry Research Contracts & Material Transfers

December 9, 2020 at 10:00am - Noon PST

Free Webinar

**REGISTER NOW**



## UCLA HEALTH AND REGENERON GENETICS CENTER ANNOUNCES COLLABORATION

**UCLA TDG** was instrumental in the research agreement between UCLA Health and Regeneron Genetics Center that will provide whole exome sequencing for 150,000 UCLA Health patients. [Read the entire article here.](#)



**LABEST AND UCLA TDG** host a panel of experts who will discuss the current state of COVID surge and flu activity and how the body's immune system responds. In addition, panelists will look at the state of COVID-19 therapies and vaccines that are on the horizon. [More information and registration can be found here.](#)



## COVID and the Path Forward

Dec 10 at 3pm PT



**Grace Aldrovandi MD**  
Chief, Division of  
Infectious Disease  
UCLA Mattel  
Children's Hospital



**Paul Krogstad MD**  
Professor, Pediatrics  
Infectious Disease  
UCLA Mattel  
Children's Hospital



**Melody Man Hing Li PhD**  
Assistant Professor,  
UCLA Microbiology,  
Immunology  
& Molecular Genetics



**Anne W. Rimoin PhD**  
Professor,  
Dept of Epidemiology  
UCLA School of  
Public Health

## MEDTECH 2021 SPEAKERS JUST ANNOUNCED!

### VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

#### **DR. EVE GLAZIER**

President, Faculty Practice Group, UCLA Health

#### **KEVIN ZHANG**

Partner, Upfront Ventures

#### **JACQUELINE LAW**

Vice President, Global Head of Personalized  
Healthcare Data Science, Roche

#### **JOSH VOSE**

Founder, World Hernia Project

#### **KATHRYNE COOPER**

Co-Director, West Coast Consortium for  
Technology & Innovation in Pediatrics (CTIP)

#### **HARSH P. PARIKH**

Senior Associate, Nixon Peabody LLP



## BREAKING

# Provizio SEM Scanner named one of *TIME*'s Best Inventions of 2020

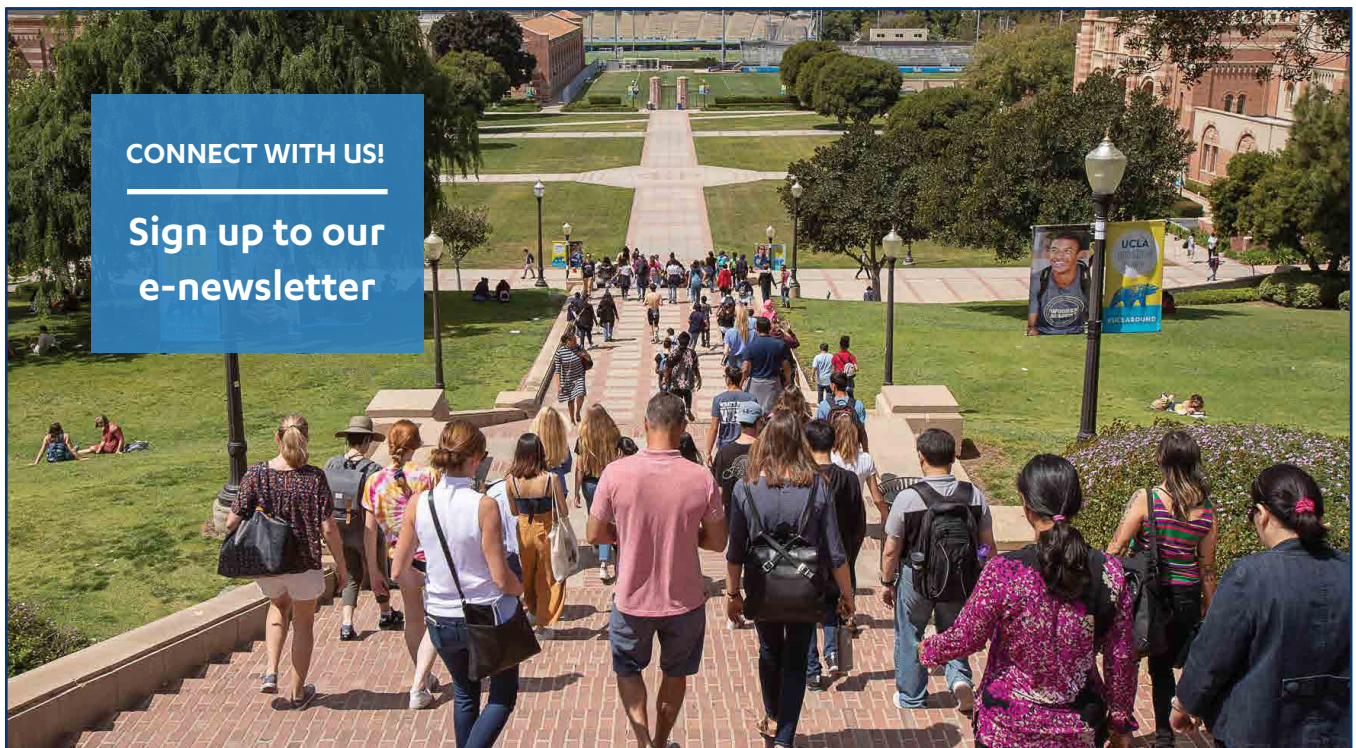
**UCLA LICENSEE BRUIN BIOMETRICS LLC's** Provizio SEM Scanner is named one of "The Best Inventions of 2020" by *TIME*. Patients who lie in bed for weeks or more can develop bedsores. The scanner provides moisture level readings below the skin's surface. This data is provided to a caregiver who can address the problem before eruption and prevent bed sores.

[Read the full article in \*TIME\*.](#)

*Provizio is a registered trademark of Bruin Biometrics, LLC*



Provizio SEM Scanner by Bruin Biometrics, LLC



UCLA

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# SAVE THE DATE

**MAY 25-27, 2021** VIRTUAL  
Formerly UCLA Bioscience Innovation Day **CONFERENCE**



# LA BIOSCIENCE ECOSYSTEM SUMMIT TWENTY21™

**UCLA**

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### EVENT SPONSOR







# UCLA TDG

## STUDENT PROGRAMS

### SENIOR TECH FELLOWS



**TRAVIS HOLLOWAY**  
Molecular and Medical  
Pharmacology



**ANNA KATAKI-  
ANASTASAKOU,**  
Chemistry & Biochemistry



**MAEVE NAGLE**  
Molecular and Medical  
Pharmacology



**RUXI DAI**  
Inorganic Chemistry



**DEREK LEE**  
Molecular Biology



**ALEJANDRA RIOS**  
Molecular and Medical  
Pharmacology

### TECH FELLOWS



**ADRIAN GOMEZ**  
Chemistry & Biochemistry



**ZIRUI (RAY) LIU**  
Materials Science and  
Engineering



**CHRISTOPHER SUE**  
Chemistry & Biochemistry



**MARY WADDINGTON  
GRUMBLES**  
Materials Chemistry



**JUSTIN MILLER**  
Biochemistry

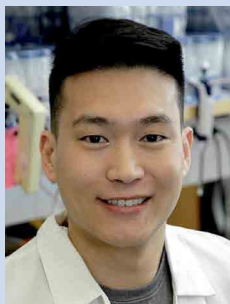


**YILIAN WANG**  
Bioengineering

## NEW VENTURES FELLOWS



**ETA ATOLIA**  
Immunity, Microbes, and  
Molecular Pathogenesis



**PATRICK CHANG**  
Molecular Biology  
Interdepartmental  
Program (MBIDP)



**JIAYING (NEBULA) HAN**  
Molecular and Medical  
Pharmacology



**GRACE VERHAGE  
HANCOCK**  
Biosciences



**HAN KE**  
UCLA Anderson School  
of Management



**WAN HSIN LIM**  
UCLA Anderson School  
of Management



**PAWAN MANNAVA**  
UCLA Anderson School  
of Management



**HERSHEL PERLMUTTER**  
UCLA Anderson School  
of Management



**NACHIKETHA  
SHAMAPRASAD**  
UCLA Anderson School  
of Management



**JAMES WU**  
UCLA Anderson School  
of Management

## NEW VENTURES VOLUNTEERS



**AKSHAY ANAND**  
Molecular, Cell and  
Developmental Biology



**TIAN DENG**  
Chemistry & Biochemistry

**THE TDG STUDENT PROGRAMS** offer graduate and undergraduate students paid internships that offer in-depth, hands-on experience in the business of technology transfer and intellectual property management. Along with real-world job skills, the program exposes fellows to new, meaningful career opportunities related to transferring inventions from the lab to the marketplace and, ultimately, to changing the lives of people worldwide through science. Among the skills the fellows acquire are technology evaluation, marketing and business development and tech commercialization. During this unique experience, fellows actively contribute to the commercialization of UCLA technologies.

# UCLA TDG Board of Directors

**WILLIAM MITCHELL, CHAIRMAN**

Founding Partner, Sequel Ventures Partners, LLC

**TOM UNTERMAN, CHAIRMAN EMERITUS**

Founding Partner, Rustic Canyon Partners

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Distinguished Professor of Law Emeritus, UCLA

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University of Pennsylvania

**MICHAEL DAL BELLO**

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**JUDY GASSON**

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Former Managing Director/CEO, Wisconsin Alumni  
Research Foundation (WARF)

**THOMAS HERGET**

Head, Silicon Valley Innovation Hub

**EVA HO**

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**AYA JAKOBOVITS**

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**RAJIT MALHOTRA**

Executive Chairman, AmperSand Biopharmaceuticals

**JOHN T. MAPES**

Managing Partner, Aurora Capital Partners

**JENNIFER MNOOKIN**

Dean, Ralph and Shirley Shapiro Professor of Law,  
Faculty Co-Director, PULSE@UCLA Law

**AL OSBORNE**

Professor and Faculty Director,  
Price Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation

**ROBERT PACIFICI**

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**MATTHEW PENDO**

Managing Director, Head of Corporate Development  
and Capital Markets, Oaktree

**JESSICA RICHTER**

Chief Operating Officer, Experien Group

**BARBARA K. SOSNOWSKI**

Vice President and Global Head, Emerging Science  
& Innovation Leads, WWRDM

## UCLA TDG Executive Staff

**AMIR NAIBERG**

Associate Vice Chancellor – CEO and President

**TIM GRAUERHOLZ**

Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operations Officer

**DINA LOZOFKY**

Senior Director of Physical Sciences and Engineering

**MARK WISNIEWSKI**

Senior Director of Biopharmaceuticals

**ANGELA KUJAK**

Senior Director of Contracts

**THOMAS LIPKIN**

Director of UCLA Innovation Fund and New Ventures

**BRIAN ROE**

Director of Industry Research and Material Transfer

**LAURA VAN NOSTRAND**

Director of Human Resources



Jennifer Mnookin



Jessica Richter

# UCLA Technology Development Group announces new board members

## UCLA TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT GROUP (TDG)

is excited to announce the addition of Jennifer Mnookin and Jessica Richter to the UCLA TDG Board of Directors.

“The board of directors completed a productive year supporting and providing oversight to the Technology Development Group’s activities. At our last meeting of 2020, we bid farewell to two of our founding members, Shannon Hanson and Steve Yslas, and thanked them for their years of service. We also welcomed two new members of the board, Jennifer Mnookin, dean of the UCLA School of Law, who strengthens both our ties to the campus as well as providing additional legal expertise to the TDC (Technology Development Corporation). We also welcomed Jessica Richter, coo of the Experien Group, a medical device consulting firm, who will significantly strengthens our capabilities in the medtech world. We are fortunate to have both of them join our board,” said Bill Mitchell, chairman, TDC.

Jennifer Mnookin is the dean of UCLA School of Law and has been a member of the UCLA Law faculty since 2005. As dean, she has worked to build upon UCLA Law’s reputation for excellence and access, and to support a collaborative and engaged environment among the school’s students, renowned faculty and 18,000 alumni. Initiatives she has spearheaded include new student scholarship programs, including the full-tuition Achievement Fellowship Program for high-achieving students who have overcome significant obstacles; new programs in human rights, criminal justice, immigration, and law and technology; UCLA Law’s first alumnae leadership conference; and a significant expansion of clinical opportunities in areas ranging from veterans’ needs to documentary filmmaking. She has also focused energy on the California Bar Exam and the need for cut-score reform.

“There’s so much exciting innovation happening around campus. I’m thrilled to be connected to it via TDG and

to be joining the board. As a scholar with a focus on law and science, and as a dean who wants to see UCLA thrive and flourish into the next century and beyond, TDG and the strong work it does to support innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology transfer, is a central element in UCLA’s innovation ecosystem. I look forward to being part of that process and lending my expertise and perspective to this important work,” said Mnookin.

Jessica Richter is the chief operating officer at Experien Group. As chief operating officer, she works closely with the founders on the organization’s thoughtful expansion and management responsibilities such as planning, hiring, business operations and performs due diligence for scalability that ensures the continued delivery of high-value services to all clients. She interfaces with U.S. and international executives, investors, legal representation, and clinical and policy advisors to expand industry networks and to deliver meaningful support to the firm’s clientele and partners. Jessica oversees Experien Group’s operations, leads the business development team and coordinates with senior team members around client communications, deliverables definition, resource planning, budget estimates, project accounting, and results tracking to ensure client satisfaction. She delivers industry presentations representing Experien Group and informs the firm’s collaterals and training materials.

“I admire UCLA TDG for embracing discovery and entrepreneurship with thoughtful support from a dynamic leadership team. I’m honored to be joining the board, as I have tremendous respect for Bill Mitchell, and the other board members, and I look forward to working together with them. TDG has an expansive list of prior accomplishments and I am pleased to now have the opportunity to help bring UCLA’s groundbreaking innovations to our communities,” said Richter. **IM**



UCLA Technology Development Group (TDG) promotes UCLA innovation, research, education and entrepreneurship to benefit society. Working with UCLA TDG helps facilitate the translation of UCLA discoveries into new products and services that create economic value to support UCLA's scholarly and educational missions. The UCLA TDG office manages a large portfolio of technologies and license agreements and has a rich history of startup company formation.

**For more information, please visit: [TDG.UCLA.EDU](http://TDG.UCLA.EDU)**

10889 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 920, Los Angeles, CA 90095  
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