



UCLA TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

INNOVATION MAGAZINE

WINTER
2024

VOLUME 14





UCLA TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

INNOVATION MAGAZINE

WINTER 2024 | VOLUME 14

TDG.UCLA.EDU

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A message from

AMIR NAIBERG

Dear Readers,

As we wrap up 2024, I want to thank the TDG Board Members who have helped shape the organization over the past years and bid farewell to Michael Dal Bello, David Gilman, Al Osborne and Matthew Pendo. I would like to welcome new board members Eb Bright, Martha Lawrence and Kalyanam Shivkumar.

UCLA TDG had a flatline year as our performance followed market trends of a slowdown in licensing and industry sponsored research. However, UCLA continues to receive top ranking from WIPO and Pitchbook that indicates the strength of research and entrepreneurship.

Many of our founding startups have seen strong investment that will help further the development of their technologies including Cytovale and Pictor Labs. Also, it was recently announced that Lyell Immunopharma completed the acquisition of ImmPACT Bio, a CAR-T cell therapy developed at UCLA.

The UCLA Innovation Fund continues to fund early-stage research, and you can read about the winning 2023 cohort. The fund will be open for new applicants in early April 2025 so look out for the announcement.

There are wrap ups from marketing that includes our key conferences MedTech and LABEST as well as an update from our new division, UCLA Ventures. Make sure you mark your calendars and join us for the first Climate Action Day Thursday, February 13th.

I'm looking forward to 2025 and wish you all a wonderful holiday season.

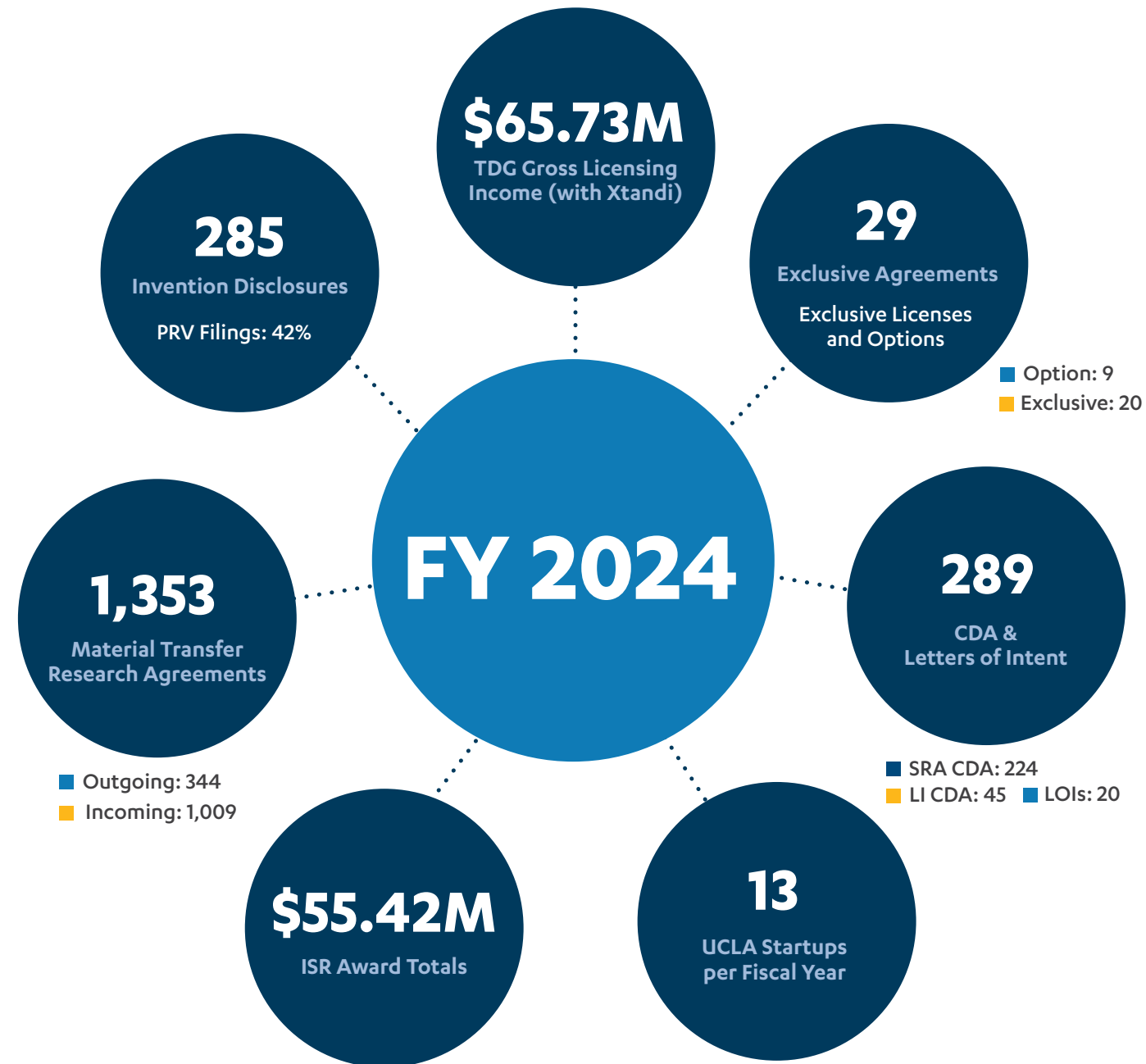
Sincerely,

Amir Naiberg
Associate Vice Chancellor, CEO & President
UCLA Technology Development Group

FY 2024 UCLA TDG BY THE NUMBERS

All data provided by UCLA TDG

Licensing, Startup and ISR Metrics

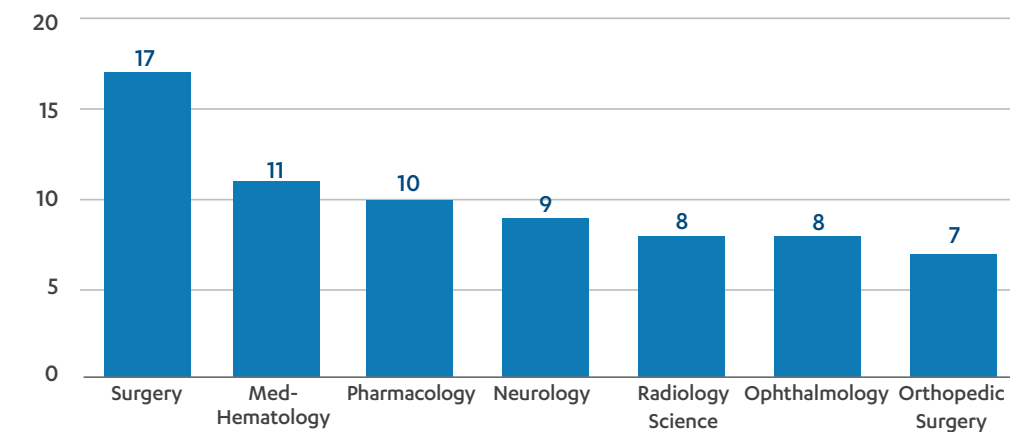


FY 2024 UCLA TDG BY THE NUMBERS

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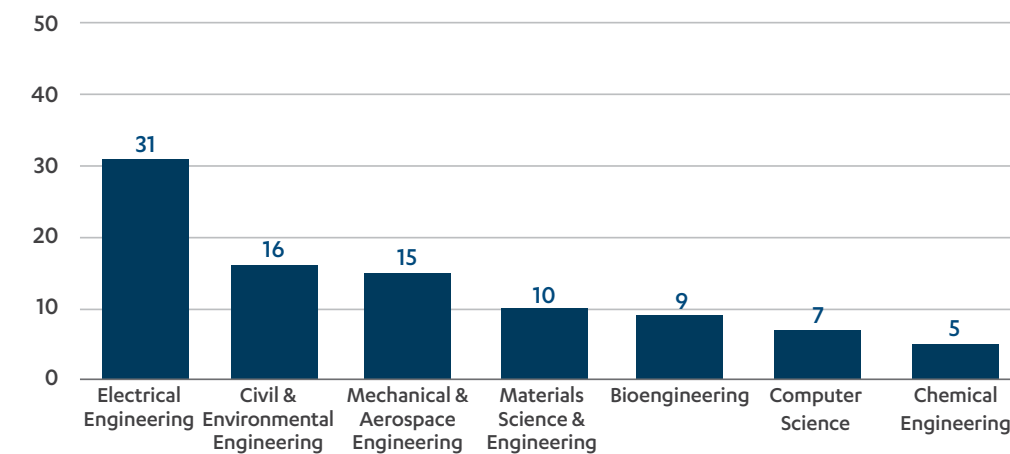
Top Invention Disclosures by School

David Geffen School of Medicine (DGSOM)



David Geffen School of Medicine (DGSOM)	110
Surgery	17
Med-Hematology	11
Pharmacology	10
Neurology	9
Radiology Science	8
Ophthalmology	8
Orthopedic Surgery	7

UCLA Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS)



Samueli School of Engineering (SEAS)	93
Electrical Engineering	31
Civil & Environmental Engineering	16
Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering	15
Materials Science & Engineering	10
Bioengineering	9
Computer Science	7
Chemical Engineering	5

Precision Surgery Technologies and Concrete.ai Win Draper Innovation Showcase 2024



UCLA TDC

Maie St John of Precision Surgery Technologies accepting the First Place award

PRECISION SURGERY TECHNOLOGIES wins First Place and Concrete.ai wins Third Place at the Draper Innovation Showcase!

Congratulations to Precision Surgery Technologies and Concrete.ai for clinching the First Place and Third Place awards respectively at the Draper Innovation Showcase 2024.

[Precision Surgery Technologies](#) has developed a patented system that differentiates between cancerous and noncancerous tissue in real time, without chemical markers, thereby improving patient outcomes and reducing costs. The company founded by [Maie St John](#), M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Chair, UCLA Department of Head & Neck Surgery won First Place with \$200K investment.

[Concrete.ai](#) is a generative AI software-as-a-service that reduces concrete's costs and carbon footprint. The company founded by [Mathieu Bauchy](#), Associate

Professor, UCLA Civil and Environmental Engineering won Third Place at the showcase with \$100K investment.

ABOUT DRAPER INNOVATION SHOWCASE

The UCLA Innovation Showcase is an invite-only pitch event spotlighting startups from across the UCLA innovation ecosystem, including from the School of Engineering, UCLA Health, Magnify at CNSI and more.

Experience 10 of UCLA's top early-stage companies as they pitch and demo for a chance to secure \$250,000 in investments from the Draper family.

Enjoy a distinguished panel featuring experts from across Los Angeles.

Showcase is co-hosted by the Venture Accelerator at UCLA Anderson and the Draper Foundation — featuring Tim Draper (Draper Associates), Jesse Draper (B.A. '06, Halogen VC), Billy Draper (B.A. '11, Path Ventures), Adam Draper (B.A. '09, Boost VC) and Eleanor Draper Vaughan.

Cytovale Completes \$100 Million Series D Funding to Accelerate Commercial Expansion of its Rapid Sepsis Solution



CYTOVALE, a commercial-stage medical diagnostics company focused on advancing early detection technologies to diagnose fast-moving and immune-mediated diseases. The technology was founded at [Dr. Dino Di Carlo's lab](#) at UCLA. Alumni Henry Tse serves as Cytovale's Chief Technology Officer. The company recently announced that it has raised \$100 million in Series D funding led by Sands Capital. The round included participation from new investor Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPP Investments), as well as existing investors Norwest Venture Partners, Global Health Investment Corporation and Breakout Ventures, an early backer of the company. Cytovale will use the funding to build upon its early clinical success and accelerate commercial expansion of IntelliSep to more hospital emergency departments (ED) and health systems nationwide.

"Sepsis is the largest single condition presenting to the Emergency Department where there hasn't been an effective diagnostic to quickly and effectively triage patients. Cytovale's IntelliSep test has now been demonstrated, prospectively, to help save lives and money by doing just that," said Parker Cassidy, partner, Sands Capital. "We're excited to lead this financing and help accelerate Cytovale's commercial launch."

[IntelliSep](#) is the first and only U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-cleared cellular host diagnostic indicated for use in the ED, [where over 80% of sepsis cases present](#). The test, which takes only approximately eight minutes, provides clinicians a first-ever look into the biology that causes sepsis, enabling care teams to quickly and confidently identify the proper diagnosis and deliver appropriate, patient-centered care.

"Seeing sepsis is a major breakthrough; IntelliSep allows our care teams in the Emergency Department to quickly and accurately triage and diagnose suspected infection

patients and put them on the right path for treatment," said Dr. Christopher Thomas, chief quality officer, Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System. "The meaningful clinical, operational and financial benefits we have experienced have led us to implement IntelliSep across all major hospitals in our health system."

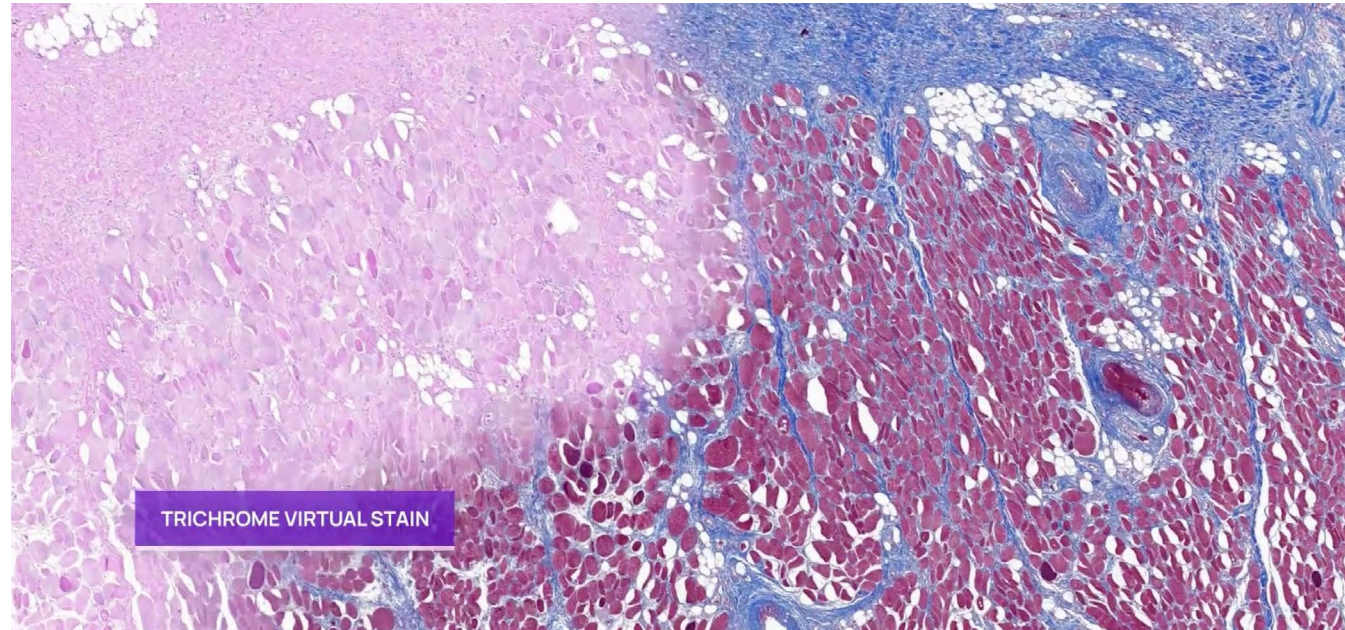
IntelliSep launched in August 2023 at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge, La. The [hospital has reported](#) that, as a result of an IntelliSep-driven screening process, patients with occult sepsis were detected earlier and had treatment initiated more than 60 minutes faster. The hospital also saw a 30% decrease in the risk-adjusted mortality index for sepsis patients. From an operational and financial perspective, patients tested with IntelliSep spent 1.28 fewer days in the hospital, and realized a savings of \$1,400 per patient.

"Seeing sepsis is a major breakthrough; IntelliSep allows our care teams in the Emergency Department to quickly and accurately triage and diagnose suspected infection patients and put them on the right path for treatment," said Dr. Christopher Thomas.

"Sepsis has historically been one of the most challenging and costly conditions for hospitals to manage due to the lack of rapid, objective diagnostic tools. Thankfully, that's finally changing with IntelliSep, which holds the potential to transform sepsis care in the same way troponin tests did for cardiac care and rapid CT scans did for stroke diagnosis," said Cytovale CEO Ajay Shah, PhD. "Cytovale is growing at an astounding pace to meet demand from other health systems looking to tackle this deadly condition. The additional investment will enable us to quickly scale across the U.S. with greater agility to serve health systems and their patients."

For more information, visit www.cytovale.com.

Pictor Labs Secures \$30 Million to Advance AI-Driven Virtual Tissue Staining



Pictor Labs

Pictor Labs AI-powered virtual staining technology



PICTOR LABS, a pioneering UCLA spin-off from the renowned Ozcan Lab at the UCLA Samueli School of Engineering, has announced the successful closing of its \$30 million Series B funding round. The fundraising effort was led by Insight Partners, a global private equity and venture capital firm, with additional support from M Ventures, the corporate venture capital arm of Merck. The infusion of new capital will allow Pictor Labs to further develop and scale its cutting-edge AI-driven virtual tissue staining technology, a breakthrough in digital pathology that has the potential to significantly improve diagnostic precision, efficiency, and accessibility.

Pictor Labs was founded in 2019 by Dr. Aydogan Ozcan, a professor of electrical and computer engineering and

bioengineering at UCLA and Dr. Yair Rivenson, a former postdoctoral member of the Ozcan Lab, with the vision of revolutionizing histopathology by addressing one of the field's core challenges: the time-intensive and laborious nature of traditional tissue sample preparation and staining methods. The company's innovative technology, which was initially developed in the Ozcan Lab at UCLA and subsequently licensed by Pictor Labs, allows for rapid and precise analysis of tissue samples without the need for traditional chemical staining. This virtual staining process leverages artificial intelligence to generate digitally stained images from raw, label-free tissue data, producing results that are comparable to or even superior to traditional methods in a fraction of the time. As a UCLA spin-off, Pictor Labs continues to build on the foundational research conducted within the university's engineering and medical communities.

Dr. Rivenson, the CEO of Pictor Labs, expressed his enthusiasm about the funding round, noting that the support from Insight Partners and M Ventures will allow Pictor Labs to expand its operations, accelerate

Pictor Labs continued

commercialization, and drive clinical adoption of its virtual staining technology. Dr. Ozcan further emphasized that the new funding will be instrumental in scaling the company's capabilities to meet growing demand in both research and clinical settings.

In addition to the immediate benefits of speeding up the tissue analysis process, Pictor Labs' virtual staining technology offers several long-term advantages. By eliminating the need for traditional staining methods, the technology reduces the reliance on costly and often hazardous/toxic chemicals, making the diagnostic process not only faster but also safer and more environmentally sustainable. Moreover, the AI-powered nature of the system allows for greater consistency and reproducibility in diagnostic results, which can be particularly beneficial in settings where access to expert pathologists may be limited.

The implications of Pictor Labs' technology extend beyond pathology alone. Its ability to digitize and streamline the analysis of biological samples has the potential to impact a wide range of fields, including oncology, immunology, and drug development. The technology's rapid turnaround

time and high degree of precision make it an invaluable tool for both clinicians and researchers who rely on timely and accurate tissue assessments.

Pictor Labs' success also reflects the growing trend of university-affiliated startups playing a central role in translating academic research into real-world applications. UCLA has a long history of fostering entrepreneurship and innovation through its technology transfer programs and startup incubators, and Pictor Labs stands as a prime example of how university research can be leveraged to create impactful technologies with global significance.

As Pictor Labs continues to evolve and expand its technological offerings, the company remains committed to its mission of revolutionizing pathology for the benefit of patients worldwide. With the backing of significant new funding and the support of its world-class research foundation at UCLA, the future looks bright for this promising UCLA spin-off.

Watch Ozcan's discussion of Pictor Labs on UCLA TDG YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xn4xtX72leo>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DC5yg1WYuXc>

SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY
MAY 22, 2025
UCLA MEYER AND RENEE LUSKIN CONFERENCE CENTER

LA BIOSCIENCE ECOSYSTEM SUMMIT TWENTY25™

UCLA TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Lyell Immunopharma Completes Acquisition of ImmPACT Bio



LYELL IMMUNOPHARMA, INC. (NASDAQ: LYEL), a clinical-stage T-cell reprogramming company advancing a pipeline of next-generation CAR T-cell therapies for patients with solid tumors or hematologic malignancies, announced today that it has completed its acquisition of ImmPACT Bio USA Inc. (“ImmPACT”), a privately-owned clinical-stage cell therapy company. The acquisition strengthens Lyell’s clinical-stage pipeline of CAR T-cell therapies and complements its suite of innovative technologies designed to generate longer-lasting, functional T cells to achieve more durable outcomes for patients. Lyell will accelerate the development of IMPT-314, a dual-targeting CD19/20 chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell product candidate for hematologic malignancies, including B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma. In connection with the acquisition, Sumant Ramachandra, M.D., Ph.D., MBA, the former Chief Executive Officer of ImmPACT Bio, has been appointed to the Lyell Board of Directors. “We’re excited to welcome ImmPACT to Lyell and look forward to working together to transform the treatment of cancer with next-generation cell therapies that offer patients improved outcomes,” stated Lynn Seely, M.D., Lyell’s President and Chief Executive Officer. “We are focused on accelerating the development of IMPT-314 for patients with aggressive B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma and look forward to presenting initial data from the Phase 1-2 trial of IMPT-314 in patients treated in the 3rd line CAR-naïve setting at a major medical conference later this year.”

“On behalf of my fellow directors, I am delighted to welcome Dr. Ramachandra to the Lyell Board,” stated Rick Klausner, M.D., chair of Lyell’s Board of Directors. “Dr. Ramachandra’s experience and passion for developing innovative therapies for patients will help guide us as we integrate our two organizations and advance a pipeline of next-generation CAR T-cell therapies.”

Dr. Ramachandra has served as the Chief Executive Officer of ImmPACT Bio USA, Inc. since November 2021. He also served as a member of the board of directors of ImmPACT from December 2021 to October 2024. Prior to joining ImmPACT, Dr. Ramachandra was most recently Chief Science, Technology and Medical Officer of Baxter International. In addition to these responsibilities, he was appointed President of Baxter Pharmaceuticals. Prior to Baxter, he worked at Pfizer, most recently as Senior Vice President, Head of Research & Development, Pfizer Essential Health. He served as Chief Scientific Officer at Hospira from 2008 to 2015 prior to Pfizer’s acquisition of Hospira in 2015. Before entering the industry in 2000, he was an intern and resident physician, medical services, at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School. Dr. Ramachandra completed his undergraduate degree in biochemistry, graduate degree (Ph.D.) in experimental pathology in the study of chronic lymphocytic leukemia and his medical degree (M.D.) at Rutgers University. In addition, he earned his M.B.A. at The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

As previously disclosed, following the closing of this acquisition, Lyell expects its cash balance will fund operations into 2027, through important clinical milestones for each pipeline program, including initiation of a pivotal trial for IMPT-314, which is expected to start in 2025.

ImmPACT Bio cell therapy was founded on the research of UCLA's Yvonne Chen and Antoni Ribas.

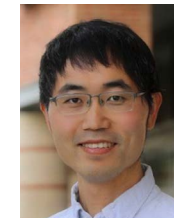
UCLA Scientists and Researchers Receive Awards from Technology Development Group



Baljit S. Khakh



Joselyn Soto



Liang Gao



Lili Yang



Linda Liao



Melina Mastrodimos



Mitchell Spearrin



Paul Weiss



Pirouz Kavehpour



Song Li

RESEARCHERS AT UCLA have been named recipients of awards from the 2023 UCLA Innovation Fund.

These awards, up to \$150,000 per project, support early-stage research that led to commercialization activities, which usually aren’t supported by basic research grants. As a result, researchers can develop their technologies to a point where the chances of commercial success are greatly increased. Importantly, all awarded projects receive consultations from an outside industry and investor advisory panel, which provides technical and commercial feedback that is key to technology development.

The UCLA Innovation Fund was established in 2016 by the UCLA Technology Development Group, in conjunction with the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, UCLA College’s divisions of physical sciences and life sciences, the UCLA Samueli School of Engineering, the School of Dentistry and UCLA Health.

The applicants’ projects were evaluated on their novelty, significance and potential public benefit, as well as the status of the intellectual property and other factors relating to the projects’ technical feasibility and commercial potential.

The two tracks in the 2023 cycle were therapeutics and medical technology.

- **Baljit S. Khakh** Professor, Neurobiology and **Joselyn Soto**, Graduate Student, were recognized for their work developing a small molecule GPCR agonist which restore astrocyte morphology in OCD.
- **Song Li**, Chancellor’s Professor, Bioengineering; **Lili Yang**, Professor, Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics, received funds for their SynVacs platform to boost CAR-T Cell expansion and

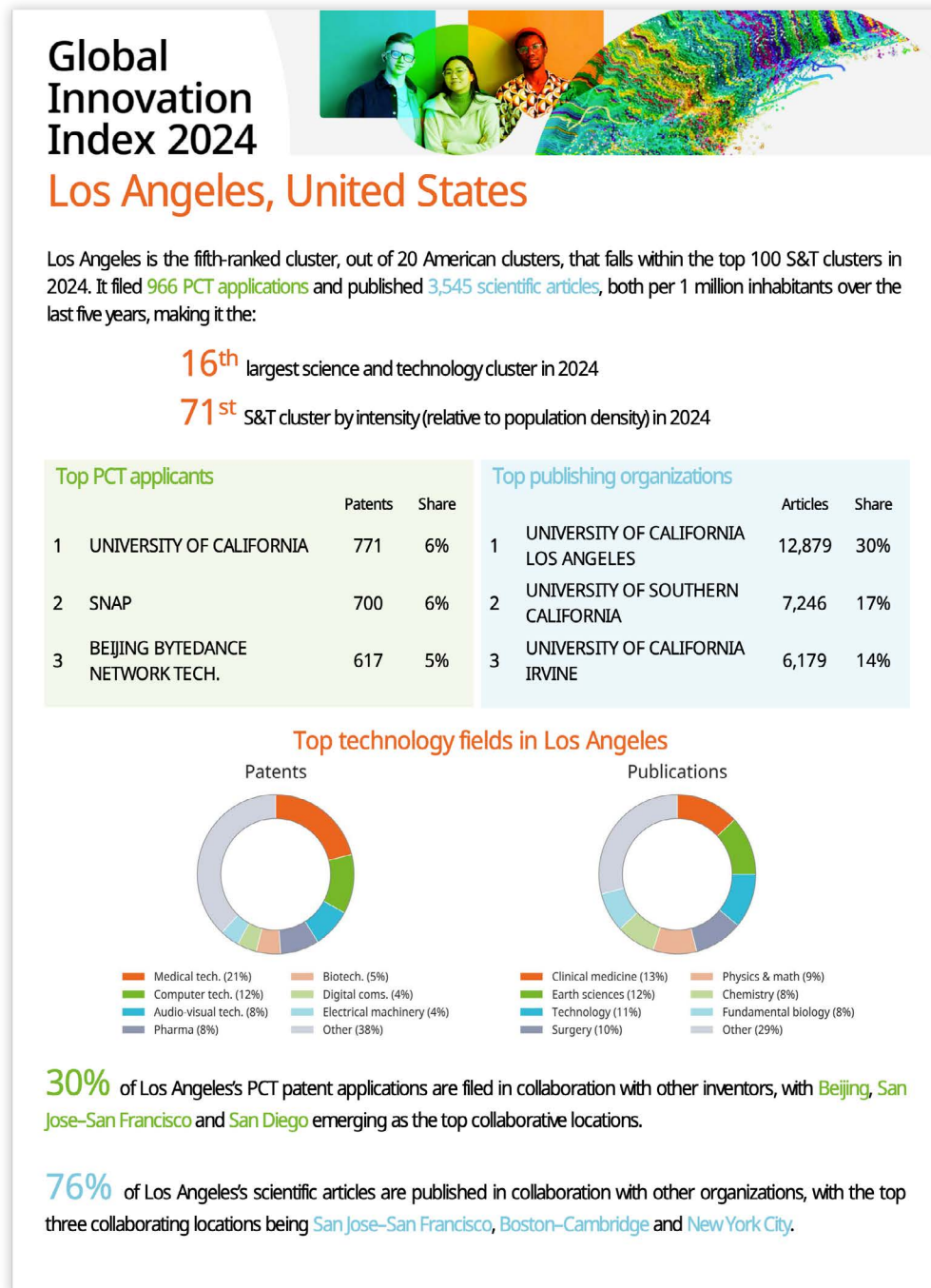
The award recipients for the medical technology track:

- **Pirouz Kavehpour**, Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and Professor of Bioengineering, along with **Mitchell Spearrin**, Associate Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, developed SNIFR, which uses volatile organic compounds to detect necrotizing enterocolitis early in infants.
- **Paul Weiss**, UC Presidential Chair and Distinguished Professor, Bioengineering and Materials Science and Engineering, and **Melina Mastrodimos**, MD/PhD student at UCLA DGSOM, were acknowledged for their work on an innovative surgical mesh hernia repair scaffold.
- **Liang Gao**, Associate Professor, Bioengineering, **Jongchan Park**, Research Scientist, and **Linda Liao**, Chair, Department of Neurosurgery, developed a device for margin and tissue detection using real-time 3D fluorescence lifetime imaging endoscopy

The Innovation Fund will be accepting 2025 applications on April 1st 2025. [Click here for more information as it becomes available.](#)

UCLA Ranks #1 in WIPO Global Innovation Index

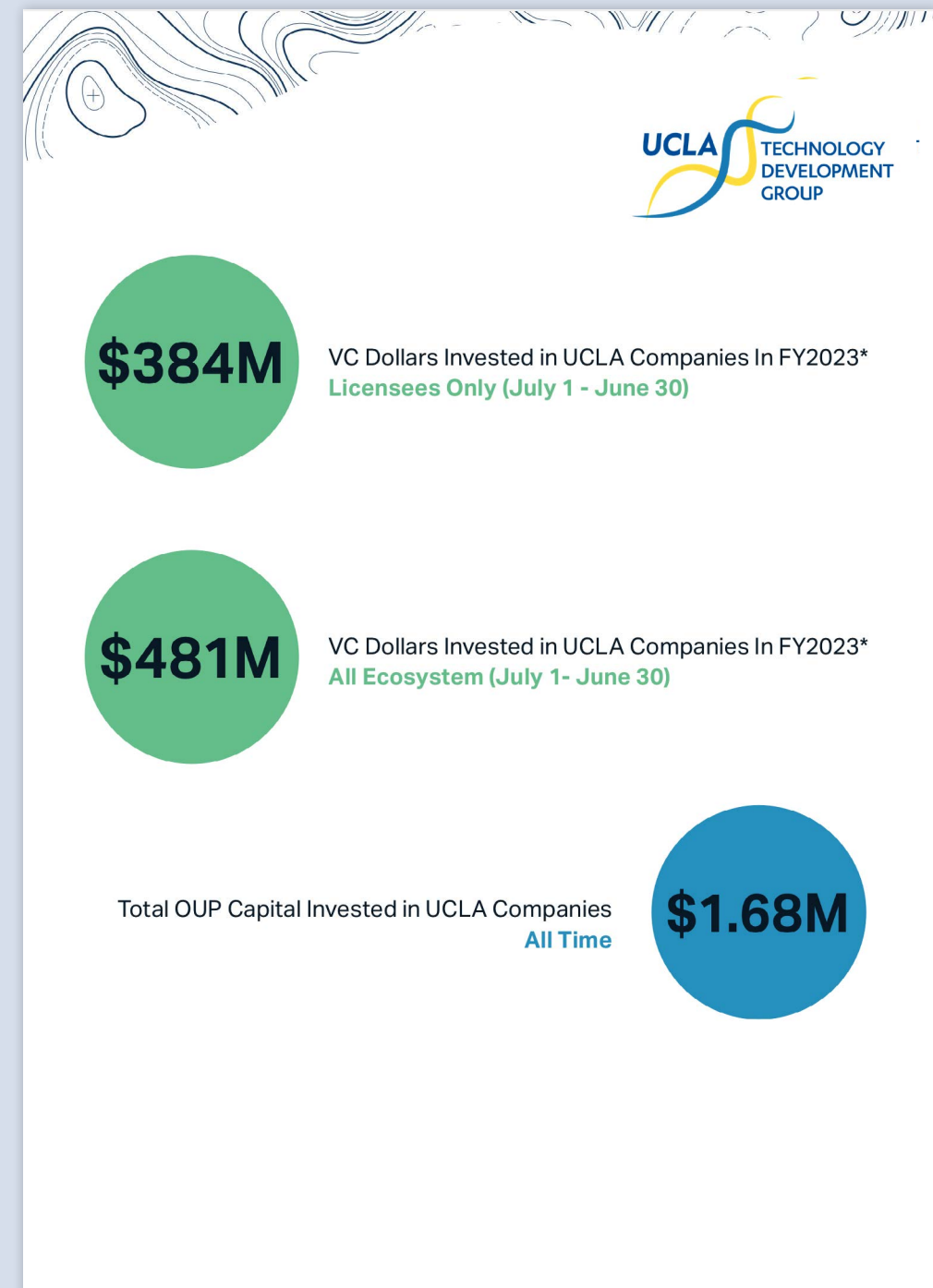
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION'S (WIPO) Science and Technology (S&T) Cluster ranking of the Global Innovation Index identifies local concentrations of world-leading science and technology activity. S&T clusters are established through the analysis of patent-filing activity and scientific article publication, documenting the geographical areas around the world with the highest density of inventors and scientific authors.



Infographic Courtesy of [WIPO - World Intellectual Property Organization](#)

OUP Investments in UCLA Companies





















OSAGE UNIVERSITY PARTNERS (OUP) provides venture capital for university innovation and have been strong partners with UCLA. This information was provided in their annual wrap up report.



Data and graphics provided by [OUP](#)





















UCLA Ranks #12 in Pitchbook Top 100 University Entrepreneurs

PITCHBOOK'S ANNUAL UNIVERSITY RANKINGS compare schools by tallying up the number of alumni entrepreneurs who have raised venture capital in the last decade. The rankings are powered by PitchBook data and are based on an analysis of more than 150,000 VC-backed founders.

Ranking	University	Founder count	Company count	Capital raised
1	 Stanford University	4,214	3,228	\$194.9B
2	 Harvard University	3,716	3,143	\$158.6B
3	 Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	2,834	2,177	\$112.0B
4	 Columbia University	1,885	1,673	\$57.4B
5	 University of California, Berkeley	1,804	1,501	\$68.0B
6	 University of Pennsylvania	1,740	1,502	\$54.6B
7	 University of Cambridge	1,391	1,163	\$38.4B
8	 University of Oxford	1,307	1,086	\$40.0B
9	 Northwestern University	1,286	1,128	\$33.0B
10	 New York University	1,063	989	\$35.5B
11	 University of Chicago	1,016	885	\$33.3B
12	 University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)	963	846	\$34.1B
13	 INSEAD	942	864	\$24.2B
14	 Tel Aviv University	929	745	\$20.0B
15	 Carnegie Mellon University	865	714	\$32.8B
16	 Cornell University	855	725	\$27.5B
17	 Imperial College London	837	697	\$12.4B
18	 University of Texas	796	690	\$19.8B
19	 University of Michigan	786	659	\$25.3B
20	 University of Southern California (USC)	784	691	\$28.6B

UCLA Ranks #13 in Pitchbook Female Founders

FEMALE STARTUP FOUNDERS face well-documented challenges in their entrepreneurial journeys, and attending a university with a strong network of venture-backed founders is one strategy to improve the odds of success. PitchBook's annual university rankings compare schools by tallying up the number of alumni entrepreneurs who have raised venture capital in the last decade. The rankings are powered by PitchBook data and are based on an analysis of nearly 167,000 VC-backed founders.

Ranking	University	Female founder count	Company count	Capital raised
1	 Harvard University	676	613	\$15.5B
2	 Stanford University	584	490	\$20.1B
3	 Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	354	317	\$8.4B
4	 Columbia University	322	300	\$7.7B
5	 University of California, Berkeley	260	237	\$9.4B
6	 University of Pennsylvania	245	220	\$5.3B
7	 Northwestern University	214	200	\$8.2B
8	 University of Cambridge	204	187	\$4.8B
9	 University of Oxford	202	180	\$2.3B
10	 New York University	188	181	\$1.7B
11	 University of Chicago	138	129	\$3.4B
12	 INSEAD	125	119	\$1.0B
13	 University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)	118	106	\$3.4B
14	 London School of Economics	115	112	\$1.5B
15	 Cornell University	105	99	\$2.8B
16	 HEC Paris	92	87	\$1.1B
17	 Johns Hopkins University	90	85	\$2.3B
17	 University of Michigan	90	84	\$2.4B
17	 University of Southern California (USC)	90	88	\$1.5B
20	 Yale University	89	83	\$2.6B

UCLA TDG STUDENT WORKERS

GRADUATES

UCLA Technology Development Group would like to thank all of our hard working students. The department has expanded our fellowship program and continues to provide mentorship and opportunities for these bright minds.

INNOVATION FUND FELLOWS



Serena Agrawal



Daniel Arce



Manal Atty



Kevin Eskander



Obiefuna Okafor

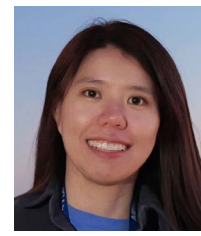
SR. INNOVATION FUND FELLOWS



Alyssa Ramella



Jodi Yip



Juntao Yu



Salena Gallardo



Bitta Kahangi

LIFE SCIENCE FELLOWS



Valentina Alonso



Toni Zhang



Ran Hu



Sara Frigui



Abril Morales

SR. LIFE SCIENCE FELLOWS

PHYSICAL SCIENCE FELLOWS



Ramzi Massad



Rià Sanghera



Jenna Wahbeh



Michael Mellody

SR. PHYSICAL SCIENCE FELLOW

UCLA TDG STUDENT WORKERS

UNDERGRADUATES

UCLA VENTURES FELLOW



Min-Shin Chong

DATA AND OPS FELLOW



Susana Sun

PPG ASSISTANTS



Stella Huang



Lucy Yin

Bhavya Batra, ISR Assistant
 Charlampos Kiaris, ISR Assistant
 Daniel Yeo, Contracts Management Assistant

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
 UCLA TDG STUDENT PROGRAMS
 visit our website
tdg.ucla.edu



Climate Action Day

Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Thursday, February 13, 2025
 UCLA Campus



MARKETING WRAP UP 2024

UCLA TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT GROUP was busy in 2024. We hosted the 12th Annual UCLA MedTech Partnering Conference last March as part of LA MedTech Week. Our partners at Bioscience LA kicked off the week at their HQ in Culver City, MedTech Innovator held their West Coast Pitch event and MedTech Color held a pitch competition. UCLA TDG welcomed over 500 attendees that included researchers, students, staff, faculty, community partners, industry, investors and more from the greater SoCal region. Medell Briggs-Malonson, Chief of Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at UCLA Health was our keynote speaker. Over a dozen startups

or researchers with new tech participated in the Demo Track hosted by KPPB with Entropic Biosciences winning the \$10K prize. Panels ran concurrently with topics including AI, investing in women's health and the successful journey of startup, Pictor Labs.

In May, UCLA TDG hosted the 6th Annual LABEST Conference at Luskin Conference Center on the UCLA Campus. We had over 1000 people register for the event including 500 faculty and researchers from UCLA, USC, City of Hope, Cedars-Sinai, Cal State LA and Caltech. In addition, there were 200 representatives from the



MARKETING WRAP UP 2024

CONTINUED



All photos by Heromade

Biopharma industry and over 50 regional startups in attendance. In the mix were investors, venture capitalists, students and government officials. Robert Bradway, CEO of Amgen and Christopher Viehbacher, President and CEO of Biogen were the keynote speakers. The day was filled with over 28 breakout sessions, 100 speakers and panelists and dozens of exhibitors. Returning to LABEST were Poster Displays with over 200 entries of new ideas and solutions in the biosciences with prizes awarded to the Top 3 in several categories. New to the 2024 event were the Research Pavilion with 40 departments on display, 5 UCLA Lab tours and 2 ecosystem tours to Pasadena, Torrance/The Lundquist Institute and a VIP tour to the UCLA Research Park.

The UCLA TDG marketing team has made a strong effort to create more video content for our followers and subscribers. In 2024, we were able to post over 50 videos including session from the MedTech and LABEST conferences. In addition, we've developed the Inventor Profile playlist where you can view UCLA's leading researchers talking about their latest technologies. Check out our [YouTube Channel here](#) and subscribe while you're there to get pinged on when new videos get posted.

Overall, UCLA TDG's social media presence and outreach continues to grow. Make sure to follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [X](#) and don't forget to sign up for our revamped [Tech News](#) for the latest news on UCLA technology, investments, milestones, events and funding opportunities.

 **SAVE THE DATES FOR
UCLA TDG 2025 EVENTS**

Thursday, February 13
Climate Action Day

Stay Tuned for Exciting New Announcement
The 13th Annual UCLA MedTech
Partnering Conference

Thursday, May 22
The 7th Annual LABEST

UCLA TDG NEW STAFF

Welcome New TDG Staff



Katja Base
Industry Research & Material Trfr Coord.



Darnell Benjamin
Industry Research & Material Trfr Ofcr



Roxana Brooks
Industry Research & Material Trfr Ofcr



Paul Grijalva
Assistant Director of Contracts



Camilla Reimer
ISR Contract Intake & Data Processing Coordinator



Lindsey Orlando
Industry Research & Material Trfr Coord.

Thank you for serving on the TDG Board

UCLA TDG would like to thank all the board members who have served for many years and provided valuable knowledge and guidance that has helped shape the organization.



Michael Dal Bello



David Gilman



Al Osborne



Matthew Pendo

UCLA TDG BOARD

Welcome to the TDG Board



Eb Bright

President, ExploraMed Development

Eb has many years of technology development, company formation, financing and operations experience running the ExploraMed incubator. He is a co-founder of several companies, a patent attorney since 1993 and has served on the executive management teams and/or Boards of many start-up companies in multiple capacities that have employed hundreds of people and helped thousands of patients over the last 18 years.

Eb is an inventor on 26 U.S. issued patents with others currently pending. He holds M.B.A.s from Columbia University and University of California, Berkeley, and Juris Doctorate and B.S. in Mechanical Engineering degrees from the University of Oklahoma.



Martha Lawrence

CEO and Co-Founder of AccendoWave

Martha Lawrence is the CEO and Co-Founder of AccendoWave, a Pain Data Company with nine benchmarked objective pain databases that has been recognized as a Top 4 Global Best in Class Health Equity Solution & Top 15 Global Best in Class Remote Monitoring Company with pain databases that can be found on the Datavant platform.

Ms. Lawrence received her MBA from USC and Bachelor of Science from UCLA.



Kalyanam Shivkumar M.D.

Director & Chief, Cardiovascular & Interventional Programs UCLA Health System

Dr. Shivkumar is a physician scientist who serves as the inaugural director of the UCLA Cardiac Arrhythmia Center & EP Programs (since its establishment in 2002). He is a graduate of the UCLA STAR Program (class of 2000) and his field of specialization is interventional cardiac electrophysiology. He leads a large group at UCLA (a diverse group of fifteen faculty members, several trainees and sixty staff + allied health professionals) involved in clinical care, teaching, research and biomedical innovation. The team provides state of the art clinical care, has developed several innovative therapies (e.g. epicardial ablation, neuromodulation) for the non-pharmacological management of cardiac arrhythmias and other cardiac interventions. Dr. Shivkumar also serves as the director and chief of the UCLA Cardiovascular and Interventional Programs for the Health System.

Dr. Shivkumar received his medical degree from University of Madras, Kilpauk Medical College, India and did his residency at Hery Ford Hospital in Detroit and was a Cardiology Fellow at UCLA.

UCLA Ventures

SUPPORT UCLA VENTURES

At UCLA Ventures, we can tap into our vast talent and alumni network to give the UCLA community access to industry leaders like Arvin. Our goal is to aid in the transition from idea to market through startup creation, networking, funding, and education.

UCLA Ventures programs include Startup in a Box, Bruin Founders, Pitch Gym, an exclusive Philanthropic Community, and entrepreneurial ecosystem events.

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Alan Crunkleton
UCLA Ventures Mentor



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UCLA Ventures: Empowering the Next Generation of Founders



UCLA Ventures supports UCLA-affiliated startups, faculty, students, staff and alumni via a variety of programs that serve entrepreneurs and spinout companies at all stages of development. Our goal is to aid in the transition from idea to market through startup creation, networking, funding, and education.

Call for Support

Our mission thrives on the generosity of our community. Your donations directly support entrepreneurial programs, mentorship opportunities, and resources for the next generation of Bruin innovators. Together, we can continue building a thriving network of transformative ventures. Visit [UCLA Ventures Giving](#) to make an impact today.

Tech Week: Exploring Sustainable Venture Creation in LA and SF

UCLA Ventures participated in SF Tech Week with featured guests Paul Arnold of Switch Ventures and Arvin Patel of Nokia talking about "Venture Opportunities for AI Founders." The compelling event brought together prominent industry voices who discussed the importance of building a sustainable moat as an AI founder and what role IP plays in protecting your technology.

In addition, we collaborated with UCLA CNSI Magnify at LA Tech Week exploring "The \$10M Mistake: What Pitfalls to Avoid When Building a Startup," with shared perspectives from our own executive board Josh Green, Michael Howse, Jeff Suto, and Kelly Kaihara of Blueward Ventures. The panel addressed critical considerations for emerging founders as they expand outside of the academic setting into the commercial



sector. The event also spotlighted pitch presentations from Bruin Founders companies [Entropic Biosciences](#), [Leadoff.ai](#), [Saku Biosciences](#), and [Stenella AI](#) showcasing their progress since the launch of the program in late June.

Startups in Full Bloom: Half a Year with Bruin Founders



Over the last several months, Bruin Founders has been buzzing with activity, offering a range of workshops and networking opportunities designed to expose our founders to more industry

expertise. In August, we gathered at UCLA CNSI for a lively mixer, building connections with UCLA faculty, post-docs, science and technology founders, and investors. September featured a hands-on Pitch and Storytelling Workshop, led by Justin Klein of Mito Pop and Neev Efrat of Spiral Stories, where participants honed their presentation and storytelling abilities. In October, Adam Josephs of Celerity Consulting Group led a Risk Upfront Workshop uncovering the best methods for setting measurable goals, anticipating change, risk prioritization and mitigation.

Looking ahead, UCLA Ventures members are encouraged to save the date for the highly anticipated **Annual Dinner and Bruin Founders Showcase on June 26, 2025 in Los Angeles** — a marquee gathering to celebrate Bruin Founders' achievements and foster further collaboration within the UCLA Ventures community.

FOUNDERS MIXER SERIES: FOSTERING COLLABORATION WITHIN THE UCLA ECOSYSTEM

The Founders Mixer series, a dynamic collaboration between UCLA Ventures and CNSI Magnify at UCLA, is designed to ignite innovation and fuel the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Founded to unite visionary founders, investors, and community leaders, this series fosters meaningful connections and accelerates growth for both current and aspiring entrepreneurs.

UCLA Ventures leverages its extensive network of funding sources, service providers, and experts to empower UCLA faculty, graduate students, and post-docs in launching startups, securing funding, and achieving success. By connecting emerging innovators with critical resources, UCLA Ventures aims to aid in advancing the next wave of groundbreaking companies.

CNSI Magnify, with its state-of-the-art co-working laboratory and office spaces, is a game-changer for startups, offering unparalleled access to cutting-edge facilities while boosting capital efficiency and expanding market opportunities.

This program thrives thanks to the generous support of our Startup in a Box partners, whose commitment spans across legal, banking, real estate, and more, all dedicated to advancing UCLA entrepreneurship.

Looking ahead, we are excited to partner with UCLA Anderson to host the **Winter Founders Mixer on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 from 4PM to 6PM**. This event presents a prime opportunity for tech and science innovators to network with UCLA's top business students and executives, building a powerful Bruin network.

We can't wait to see you at our next event! For more details or to RSVP, email us at uclaventures@tdg.ucla.edu or sign up for our newsletter [here](#).



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