UCLA TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

INNOVATION MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2025

VOLUME 15

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A message from
AMIR NAIBERG

Dear Readers,

As we pass the midpoint of the year, I'm proud to reflect on the many accomplishments and milestones that have shaped the first half of 2025. Despite a challenging environment—described by some as one of the most difficult fundraising climates in two decades for the life sciences sector—UCLA-founded startups continue to make remarkable progress.

On the media front, CleopatraRX, founded by Dr. Rhonda Voskuhl, was recently featured on The Oprah Winfrey Show—a rare and impressive national spotlight for a young company. Closer to campus, Dr. Hong Wei Dong's groundbreaking brain research was highlighted in a KCAL News feature, reinforcing the societal relevance of UCLA's scientific innovation.

Several of our startups continue to reach significant milestones: Nervonik closed a $13M Series A round, and Onward Medical's ARC Stimulator—developed from UCLA technology—received FDA approval. These achievements underscore the strength of UCLA's innovation pipeline, even in turbulent times.

We're also pleased to share a number of key updates:

- Startups and licensees can now access an official "Licensed from UCLA TDG" logo for use on websites and promotional materials. See more details on page 25.
- Licensing for our new CRISPR tool is now available through streamlined Ready-to-Sign Agreements. See more details on page 9.
- TDG plans to emphasize its Industry Sponsored Research activities. Therefore, we renamed this team to better align with our mission and campus priorities—find the full announcement on page 25.

This year, we launched several major initiatives that signal exciting momentum. For the first time, we combined our flagship MedTech and Bioscience conferences into LABEST Week 2025—a major milestone. UCLA Ventures concluded the inaugural year of its Bruin Founders Program, recently announcing its second cohort. In parallel, the UCLA Innovation Fund, a cross-campus initiative, awarded funding to seven promising early-stage research projects. As the gap between foundational research and commercial viability grows, we believe this type of support is more essential than ever.

We're also excited to welcome Josh Jeanson to the team as the new Senior Director of Physical Sciences. His leadership will help accelerate innovation in this critical domain.

Finally, I want to thank our Board of Directors and the Vice Chancellor for Research and Creative Activities for their continued partnership and unwavering support. Their guidance remains central to advancing our mission at the UCLA Technology Development Group.

We look forward to building on this momentum in the second half of the year.

Sincerely,

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

Dr. Rhonda Voskuhl Featured on Oprah Winfrey Special

Photos courtesy of Oprah Daily

IN 2022, INNOVATION MAGAZINE INTERVIEWED DR. RHONDA VOSKUHL, professor of Neurology at UCLA and co-founder of CleopatraRX, a company that created a standardized system using estriol to prevent cognitive decline aka "brain fog" in menopausal women.

Fast forward 3 years later and Dr. Voshkuhl's work was recently featured in the Oprah Winfrey special "The Menopause Revolution." IM sat down with Blaise Staab, Chief Commercial Officer at CleopatraRX to find out more about this exciting media moment.

1) How did the Oprah Winfrey show come about?

Dr. Voskuhl's global reputation in Women's Health and neuroscience research at UCLA for over two decades enabled her to meet with key media people who were very enthusiastic about the discovery of a distinct prescription hormone therapy designed to help cognitive issues which occur in 70% of menopausal women. They thought she was a perfect fit for Oprah's ABC Prime Time Special, "The Menopause Revolution".

2) How has this type of media event impacted awareness?

Oprah accelerated our brand awareness nationally and elevated the conversation around cognitive health in menopause. The feature boosted traffic to our website by more than 400% in the week following the episode, and we saw a significant increase in booked consultations. On the business front, we have received dozens of inbound partnership opportunities and even more earned media from publications such as the New York Times.

3) Has the coverage impacted sales?

Yes, new patients surged following the segment. We experienced more than a 30% increase in new patients within two weeks of the airing.

4) What are the plans to grow CleopatraRX?

CleopatraRX is scaling through three strategic pillars: expanding our direct-to-consumer platform, growing physician relationships, and establishing corporate partnerships. Building brand value is so important for us right now. Dr. Voskuhl is truly bringing neuroscience to menopause. She's the only person in the space who does the research and sees patients. There are only a handful of people in the world that can do that.

5) What is the company's status?

The Oprah event created an inflection point for the company. We are now actively fundraising having moved beyond early product-market fit. We are now focused on scaling the business. We have a product that works with decades of safety data, and our patients are loving the results.

The BioSuccess in LA panel was an attendee favorite at the recent LABEST Bioscience 2025 Conference. Blaise Staab and CleopatraRX were one of the LA based companies featured on the panel. You can watch the entire discussion on the UCLA TDG YouTube channel here.

Trethera Secures Exclusive License with UCLA

TRETHERA

Trethera Secures Exclusive License with UCLA

TRETHERA CORPORATION ("TRETHERA"), a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company developing first-in-class therapies for cancer and autoimmune diseases, today announced it entered an exclusive, worldwide licensing agreement with the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). The license expands Trethera's intellectual property (IP) estate for TRE-515, its lead deoxycytidine kinase (dCK) inhibitor, to include new therapeutic uses in autoimmune and inflammatory diseases.

The new license, which includes both method of use claims and compound structures, significantly extends Trethera's patent protection in the world's largest pharmaceutical markets. When combined with existing granted patents and filings, the new IP asset potentially secures market exclusivity for TRE-515 through at least February 2045 – supporting a long-term commercial strategy.

"This newly licensed intellectual property fortifies our already robust patent estate," said Dr. Ken Schultz, Chairman and CEO of Trethera. "Alongside our existing composition of matter patent and ongoing proprietary discovery work, we have created a durable patent strategy to protect and maximize the full clinical and commercial value of TRE-515 across multiple therapeutic indications."

TRE-515 is currently in Phase 1 clinical trials for cancer, an expanded clinical access program for ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease), and preclinical research demonstrating promising activity in multiple autoimmune and inflammatory diseases. Trethera's expanding IP portfolio includes multiple granted U.S. and international patents, and pending applications covering both composition and method of use claims across oncology and immunology.

"We are excited to partner with Trethera in the continued strategic development of intellectual property," said Amir Naiberg, Associate Vice Chancellor and CEO & President of

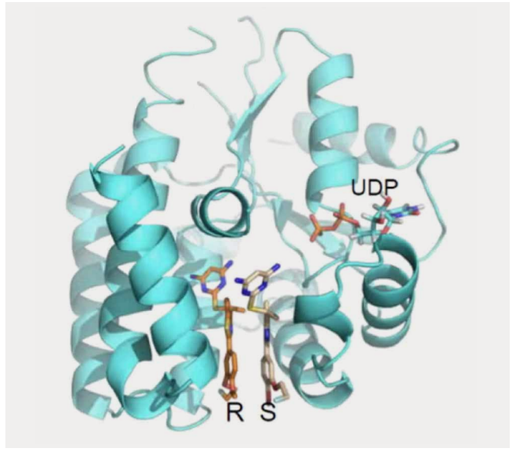


Image courtesy of Trethera

Co-crystal 3D structure of the drug bound to the target enzyme, dCK, at the deoxycytidine binding site.

UCLA's Technology Development Group. "Trethera's deep expertise in product development, combined with UCLA's cutting-edge research, paves the way for commercially viable treatments addressing some of the largest unmet needs in healthcare markets today."

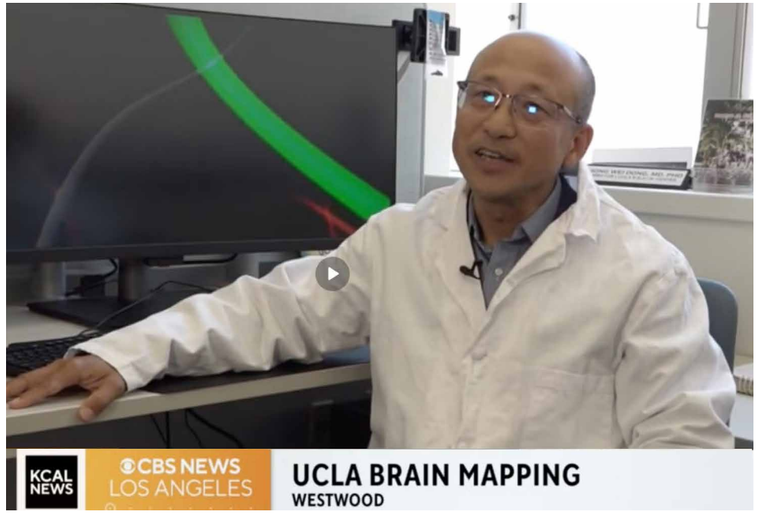
Dr. Peter M. Clark, UCLA professor and inventor of the licensed patent, added, "This agreement marks another key step in bringing dCK inhibitors to commercial approval. The patent claims cover both novel chemical structures as well as uses in immune-mediated disorders. Trethera's leadership in advancing these discoveries is vital to translating our science into real-world therapies."

Earlier, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) issued a Notice of Allowance for a composition of matter patent covering TRE-515 through November 2041, already providing Trethera with a formidable patent runway. Global patent efforts are actively underway, with filings in major pharmaceutical markets including Europe, China, and Japan. With this newly licensed patent and a growing international IP portfolio, Trethera holds a strong patent position as it advances TRE-515 toward regulatory approval and commercialization.

Reprinted from Trethera.

UCLA Researcher Hong Wei Dong Featured on KCAL News

Behind the scenes



Photos courtesy of L to R: UCLA TDG and KCAL

UCLA RESEARCHER HONG WEI DONG has researched the brain for over 3 decades. Traditional methods of studying the brain include MRI (magnetic resonance imaging), PET scans (positron emission tomography) and TMS (transcranial magnetic stimulation). Now Dong has developed several initiatives that are advancing the examination of the most important human organ.

B.R.A.I.N. or Brain Research & Artificial Intelligence Nexus combines tracing, imaging and computational methods including AI to study neural networks, connectivity patterns and create cell-type maps. This multi-disciplinary approach has proven to be a faster and more accurate way of brain scanning than traditional methods. In the future, this process can help clinicians analyze patient's conditions quicker than ever before.

Hong Wei Dong was recently featured on KCAL News.

The segment highlights brain mapping and how technology is helping to more effectively determine how researchers can view what is happening inside.

Dong Lab team

Photo courtesy of uclabrain.org

View the TV feature here.
Visit the Dong Lab for more information on brain research.

Nervonik Raises $13 Million in Series A Financing

Nervonik Raises $13 Million in Series A Financing to Advance Next-Generation Peripheral Nerve Stimulation for Chronic Pain Relief

NERVONIK, INC. (NERVONIK), a medical device company developing an opioid-free peripheral nerve stimulation (PNS) system, has successfully closed a $13 million Series A funding round. The round was led by U.S. Venture Partners (USVP), with participation from Foothill Ventures, Correlation Ventures, and other investors. This funding follows Nervonik's earlier $4.4 million in SAFE and convertible note financings from Shangbay Capital, Camford Capital, Joyance Partners, Life Science Angels, Seraph Group, and other investors.

The proceeds from this financing will be used to advance Nervonik's clinical studies, accelerate regulatory clearance, and prepare for commercialization efforts aimed at transforming chronic pain treatment.

Nervonik recently completed its first-in-human clinical study, demonstrating the potential of its PNS technology to transform chronic pain treatment. Nervonik's proprietary wirelessly powered PNS technology delivers minimally invasive, patient-friendly therapy for personalized pain relief.

"We are excited to receive this strong support from top institutional investors as we push forward in advancing peripheral nerve stimulation technology," said Aydin Babakhani, PhD, UCLA Professor, founder and CEO of Nervonik. "This financing advances our mission to bring a novel solution to millions of people suffering from chronic pain."

With chronic pain affecting over 50 million people in the U.S. alone, Nervonik's opioid-free PNS technology will offer a compelling alternative to traditional pain management methods, targeting a multibillion-dollar market opportunity.

"WE ARE EXCITED TO RECEIVE THIS STRONG SUPPORT FROM TOP INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS AS WE PUSH FORWARD IN ADVANCING PERIPHERAL NERVE STIMULATION TECHNOLOGY," SAID AYDIN BABAKHANI, PHD, UCLA PROFESSOR, FOUNDER AND CEO OF NERVONIK. "THIS FINANCING ADVANCES OUR MISSION TO BRING A NOVEL SOLUTION TO MILLIONS OF PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM CHRONIC PAIN."

Text and images by nervonik.com

Tiny CRISPR Tool Opens Door to Faster, Simpler Plant Genome Editing

Image courtesy of Steven Jacobsen Lab

Arabidopsis thaliana **seedlings turn white when a particular gene is knocked out. UCLA and UC Berkeley scientists used a tiny CRISPR system they developed to modify the mother plant's DNA, which the white seedlings inherited.**

The system, developed by UCLA and UC Berkeley scientists, could help ensure global food security

PLANT BREEDING PLAYS A VITAL ROLE in ensuring global food security by increasing crop yields, improving nutritional quality and creating crops that are adaptable to climate change. However, current plant transformation methods present significant hurdles — they're labor-intensive, costly and don't work for many important plant species.

A breakthrough UCLA-led study published in Nature Plants overcomes these limitations by developing a streamlined method for heritable, transgene-free genome editing in plants using a miniature CRISPR system delivered by a common plant virus.

Collaborating with CRISPR-Cas9 co-inventor Jennifer Doudna and Jill Banfield at UC Berkeley, Steven Jacobsen, a distinguished professor of molecular, cell and developmental biology at UCLA, engineered the tobacco rattle virus to carry a compact CRISPR-like enzyme called ISYmu1 to target specific DNA sequences in the model mustard plant Arabidopsis thaliana. Importantly, the genome changes can be passed on to future generations and the novel system doesn't leave behind the virus or any foreign DNA in the edited plant.

"CRISPR has the potential to make a huge impact in agriculture — one that can be customized to local needs around the world," said Doudna, a Nobel laureate and founder of the Innovative Genomics Institute. "This study combined the strengths of my lab with our friends in the Jacobsen lab at UCLA to develop a new approach to precision CRISPR engineering in crops to help make that promise a reality."

Jacobsen, the study's senior author and a member of the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at UCLA, breaks down why this technology represents a major advancement in plant breeding.

What are the key developments of this paper?

Our research team developed a miniature CRISPR system that uses the tobacco rattle virus to deliver gene-editing tools directly to the germ cells, or the reproductive cells, of the Arabidopsis thaliana plant, creating genetic changes that are passed on to future generations.

Plant breeding has long faced a critical bottleneck: efficiently delivering gene-editing tools to the right cells. Traditional methods require complex lab techniques where plant tissue is cultivated in petri dishes under specific conditions, modified one cell at a time and then regrown into complete plants — a process that takes years to develop for each plant species and simply doesn't work for many valuable crops like the common bean.

While plant viruses are a great delivery mechanism, conventional CRISPR systems are too large to be packaged into these viruses. We've overcome this size limitation by utilizing a CRISPR-like DNA-cutting enzyme that's small enough to fit inside the tobacco rattle virus.

How did you reach these findings?

First, our team screened various miniature CRISPR systems in plant cells, identifying the compact enzyme ISYmu1 as our most effective gene-editing tool.

We then engineered the tobacco rattle virus to carry this tiny editor and used a natural soil bacterium to introduce the virus into Arabidopsis thaliana plants. Once inside, the virus spread throughout the plants, delivering the CRISPR system wherever it traveled.

Successful editing produced a clear visual marker — affected areas turned white, including seedlings, confirming the edits reached reproductive cells. Since plants naturally block viruses from entering seeds, only the DNA modification gets transmitted to the seeds and inherited by the next generation.

So, in one step and in just one generation, this system allows for the creation of perfectly normal plants except for the single intended DNA change.

What excites you about these developments

This system marks the beginning of a new generation of genome-editing tools that can revolutionize crop improvement. If editing can be made more efficient in plants where current modifications are feasible and possible in previously unmodifiable plants, we can accelerate the development of crops with higher yields, enhanced nutritional profiles and better adaptation to climate change.

What makes this approach especially promising is that the tobacco rattle virus can infect over 400 plant species. So, we might be able to use this exact system for tomatoes and potentially many other important crops.

With my background in agriculture — growing up on an almond ranch in California and studying the field throughout my career — I recognize delivery as a major bottleneck in plant biotechnology. I'm particularly passionate about applying this technology to underinvested crops grown in developing countries, where traditional genome-editing techniques are just not available.

Can you talk about the collaboration with Jennifer Doudna and Jill Banfield — and how your labs' areas of expertise are complementary?

This collaboration is a neat example of what's possible when science is a team sport. Dr. Jennifer Doudna is an expert in CRISPR, Dr. Jill Banfield is an expert in screening through giant numbers of sequences for new CRISPR systems and I'm an expert in plants. The UC Berkeley labs specialized in the discovery and characterization of these tiny CRISPR systems, while our team screened those systems in plant cells and identified the optimal virus for the application. We're excited to continue working together to refine this tool that could greatly improve plant breeding.

What are the next steps in the study?

We're starting to test this technology in other plants, including important crops.

Currently, this system can only make one change to the plant DNA at a time. Our next step is to engineer the tool to develop multiplexing capability — allowing multiple genome edits at once.

We're also focusing on improving efficiency. We plan to enhance both the CRISPR system itself and the frequency of infection to dramatically increase success rates.

Additional authors of the study include Trevor Weiss, Maris Kamalu, Honglue Shi, Zheng Li, Jasmine Amerasekera, Zhenhui Zhong, Benjamin Adler, Michelle Song, Kamakshi Vohra, Gabriel Wirnowski, Sidharth Chitkara, Charlie Ambrose, Noah Steinmetz, Ananya Sridharan and Diego Sahagun.

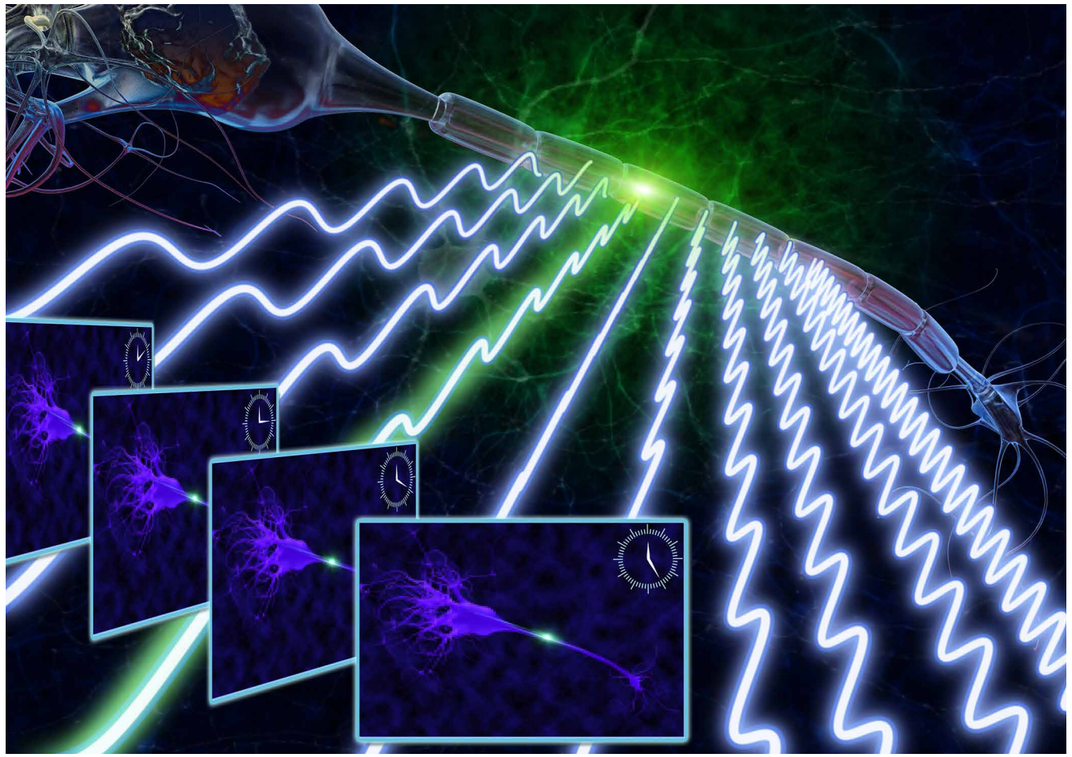
The research was supported by the NSF Plant Genome Research Program, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Jane Coffin Childs Fund for Medical Research, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the U.S Department of Energy and the UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center Sequencing Core.

Article reprinted with permisson from UCLA.

CRISPR LICENSE AVAILABLE

UCLA is offering licenses to this technology under a short ready-to-sign agreement with a simplified financial structure. Details can be found on the UCLA Technology Development Group website at tdg.ucla.edu. Select the "Research" dropdown here.

Bahram Jalali's Story from Research to Commercialization



Radio-frequency Fluorescence Imaging

Image courtesy of Jalali Lab

IN 2013, DR. BAHRAM JALALI'S RESEARCH ON FIRE, Fluorescence Imaging using Radiofrequency-tagged Emission, was published in *Nature Photonics*.

Jalali and his team found a way to apply the FIRE process to flow cytometry to create a high-resolution, multi-color image of each cell. By doing this, more information such as detection of cancer cells and number of immune cells could be provided faster and more efficiently.

The UCLA startup company, Omega Biosystems, was created to further develop this technology and by 2017, the company was acquired by BD.

Innovation Magazine wanted to find out about Jalali's path from research to startup formation to acquisition.

Personal Journey

My personal journey into developing a technology for blood analysis began on a personal note. My mother was diagnosed with cancer, and this experience opened my eyes to the importance of early cancer detection. Liquid Biopsy, a concept for detecting cancer from a simple blood test seemed very promising and was gaining attention in the research community at the time.

The Challenge

Liquid biopsy works by detecting tumor cells that are shed into the bloodstream. The idea was simple but powerful—if we could detect these cells through a simple blood test, we could identify cancer before symptoms even appear. However, the challenge in detecting early-stage cancer is that these rare cancer cells are like finding a needle in a haystack. To identify just one cancer cell among millions of normal blood cells requires a device with immense speed and precision. This is where flow cytometry—a method used to examine the properties of cells—came in. We needed a flow cytometer that could rapidly and accurately analyze millions of cells, and that meant improving the technology significantly.

Up until that point, most of my work had been focused on high-speed optical communication, where we regularly handle data at rates of hundreds of gigabits per second. Could we apply the concepts from optical communication to create ultra-fast cameras that operate at such high speeds? After all, both cameras and optical communication rely on light.

We ended up inventing and patenting three qualitatively new imaging modalities that leverage ideas from the field of data communication to create ultrafast cameras. FIRE was the second one and has been the most successful up to now.

Development to Real World Application

In my lab, we took the first step in this direction by developing an imaging technique based on a technology we had invented in the late 1990s, called Photonic Time Stretch. This technology, which allows us to capture data at extreme speeds, became the foundation for a new type of high-speed camera. In 2009, we published our breakthrough idea in the journal Nature—a time-stretch flow cytometer that could scan millions of blood cells quickly, making it possible to identify that rare cancer cell among the crowd.

To understand its real-world potential, I arranged a meeting with Dr. Dieter Recktenwalt, the VP of R&D at BD Biosciences at the time (BD later acquired the UCLA spin-off Omega). Our meeting was in the Bay Area, where we presented the time-stretch flow cytometer to the BD team. They were impressed by the speed and novelty of our approach, but they pointed out one limitation: reflected light which was what our images were capturing wasn't specific enough. Instead of regular images, they needed images that show the fluorescent emission from molecules on the cells – essentially showing what type of molecules were present and their location within a cell. This is a crucial requirement for identifying cancer cells.

At that moment, we faced a challenge: our time-stretch camera used a wavelength-encoded illumination system. A rainbow of light encodes pixels into unique wavelengths then a single detector captures all the light and then digitally reconstruct the image from the optical spectrum. The spectrum is then read real fast using the time stretch – an analog optical slow-motion technique.

But this method didn't allow us to distinguish the wavelength of light emitted from the sample, which is essential for fluorescence imaging. So, we went back to the drawing board, seeking another way to encode the pixel information in our images.

A Different Application

In the years leading to this, my lab had been working on RF photonics under funding by DARPA and the U.S. Navy. RF photonics enables the transmission and processing of analog signals using lasers, with different data channels assigned unique RF frequencies. We realized that we could apply the same principles of RF photonics to image the cells. By encoding spatial information (or pixel data) onto RF frequencies (instead of wavelengths), we could use a single detector to capture all the light and then digitally reconstruct the image from the RF spectrum. This is similar to how image is reconstructed from the optical spectrum in our time stretch camera, but the image is the fluorescence emission instead of reflected light.

> **RESEARCH SHOULD BE GUIDED BY CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF REAL WORLD PROBLEMS AND MATCHING OF ONE'S SKILL SET TO THOSE PROBLEMS.**
>
> — BAHRAM JALALI

We took the next step by developing a laser beam pattern that resembled a rainbow but, instead of colors, each part of the beam had a different RF modulation frequency. This approach allowed us to collect and decode the information necessary to form an image, similar to how our time-stretch camera worked with optical wavelengths. We tested the RF encoded imaging using electrooptic modulation of an infrared laser light with multiple wavelengths and a diffraction grating for separating the RF channels into different pixels on the image.

Continued

Breakthrough Moment

The breakthrough came when we modified the system to use acousto-optic modulation with a visible laser, which enabled us to work with light that could excite fluorescence in the sample and detect the emission with high sensitivity. My postdoc Eric Diebold designed a very clever optical system for this new technique, while PhD student Brandon Buckley developed the signal processing methods necessary to reconstruct the image from the RF data. We named this technique *FIRE*, which stands for Fluorescent Imaging via Radio Frequency Encoding. In 2013, we published the results in *Nature Photonics*, wrote a proposal and received NIH funding to further develop the technology.

Startup Formation to Acquisition

In 2014, Eric Diebold founded Omega Biosystems to commercialize the FIRE technology. The technology moved from my lab to Omega's lab to an incubation space in the CNSI building on the UCLA campus. I introduced Eric and Omega to Dr. Recktenwalt at BD Biosciences, and to my NIH program manager overseeing our UCLA grant. Omega went on to secure both Phase 1 and Phase 2 NIH SBIR grants and developed a commercial version of the FIRE flow cytometer. In 2017, the company, under the leadership of Eric, was acquired by BD. Dr. Recktenwalt played a key role in championing our technology at BD. Prof. Dino DiCarlo from the UCLA Bioengineering department was instrumental in validation of the FIRE technology and its combination with microfluidic devices for various diagnostic applications.

Jalali's success story is one of resilience and fortitude. He believes that the purpose of developing technology is to create ultimate impact. The work should center around the questions 1) who is going to use this technology? and 2) how is it going to be helpful? "Research is important but shouldn't just be about publishing papers or presenting at conferences." Jalali admits that he has actually turned down funding for some projects because if there is no market demand, the work may lead nowhere.

"Research should be guided by clear understanding of real world problems and matching of one's skill set to those problems," concludes Jalali.

Bahram Jalali is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Bioengineering and Electrical and Computer Engineering at the UCLA Samueli School of Engineering. Following the success of the FIRE technology, his laboratory developed a 3rd new imaging modality that combined ideas from first two inventions (time stretch and FIRE) to create the world's fastest two-photon fluorescence camera. The so called spectra-temporal laser imaging by diffractive excitation (SLIDE) enables real time deep tissue imaging for neuroscience and tumor biology.

According to various market studies, the global flow cytometry market was estimated at $4.6B - $5.1B in 2024 and is projected to reach between $7.1 - $10.3B by 2032.

Spinal Cord Injury Gets Electric Movement is Now in Reach

ONWARD MEDICAL

OVER 200,000 PEOPLE WORLDWIDE suffer from spinal cord injuries or SCI each year. There are currently 1.2 million people with SCI in the U.S. The three major causes of spinal cord injuries are car accidents, violence (such as gunshot wounds) and sports activities.

The spinal cord is one of the few parts of the body that does not regenerate, therefore most SCI are permanent and result in partial or complete paralysis.

Neuromodulation is defined as "the alteration of nerve activity through targeted delivery of a stimulus". The stimulus is generally either chemical or electrical. UCLA researchers investigated the use of electrical stimulation to restore movement for subjects with paralysis caused by SCI. Funding was scarce but eventually grants came through from NIH and sources such as the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation.

Some of the resulting IP was licensed to a UCLA startup company, NeuroRecovery Technologies, that continued to develop the stimulation process. By 2018, the company reached a milestone with successful human clinical trials.

NeuroRecovery was acquired by Onward Medical in 2019.

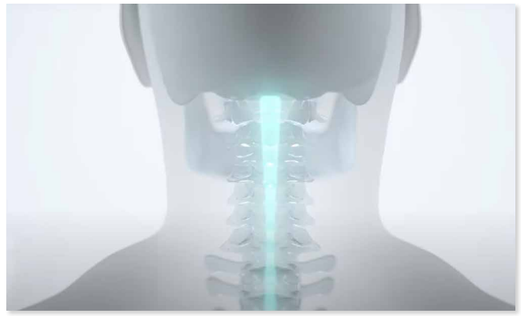
Onward Medical is based in the Netherlands. The company has developed a product called ARCex - a device that provides a non-invasive spinal cord stimulation for people with SCI.

Currently, the device applies to people with chronic incomplete tetraplegia to improve hand sensation and strength and is the first in its kind that has been approved by the FDA. Onward Medical has provided a video of a patient who has improved her life by using the ARCex device. View the "Meet Jessie" video.

"We are mainly based in Europe and our sales are starting here. We have plans to expand to the U.S. market and are working with Lovell and VA clinics," said Dave Marver, CEO of Onward Medical.

ARCex has received a lot of positive media coverage including NPR, ABC News, CBS 60 Minutes, Barrons and more. The device was named one of Time's Best Invention of 2024, medical category. The news should help Onward reach its sales goal of $9M worldwide with a distribution goal of 350,000 units in the U.S. over the next few years.

Marver continues, "The ARCex is available now and people who are interested can fill out a form on our website for more information." In addition, Onward is working on other SCI products including the ARCim – an implanted stimulation device to improve mobility and blood pressure instability and the ARCbci to restore thought driven movement.



Images courtesy of Onward Medical

LABEST BEST LABEST UCLA Technology Development Group

MedTech 05 • 21 • 2025

Bioscience 05 • 22 • 2025

BioSuccess in LA Panel

L to R: Dr. Shivkumar, UCLA, Lisa Earnhardt, Abbott and Amir Naiberg, UCLA TDG

UCLA TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT GROUP (UCLA TDG) brought together two of its key conferences and worked with partners to create LABEST Week 2025. Formally known as the MedTech Partnering Conference and Los Angeles Bioscience Ecosystem Summit, combining the two events created a powerful synergy for the medical science community.

On Day 1, BCLA held their Bioscience Talent Connection workforce forum for the first time at UCLA Ackerman Union with record breaking attendance, providing opportunities for students who are preparing to launch their careers. On Tuesday, May 20th, UCLA TDG Industry Sponsored Research division provided a training workshop that provided insights on alternative funding sources. Later in the afternoon, UCLA Ventures and CNSI hosted their quarterly Founders Mixer bringing the startup community together for lively networking.

LABEST MedTech 2025 was held at the UCLA Meyer and Renee Luskin Conference Center on May 21st as part of the larger LABEST Week. LABEST MedTech is one of the few medical device, medical technology, and biotechnology events in the U.S. focused on emerging innovations in an event that promotes engagement amongst entrepreneurs, innovators, and investors. MedTech has community partners that include key stakeholders in the Los Angeles area: UCLA, USC, Caltech, Cedars-Sinai, City of Hope, and the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles.

The event's mission is to promote Los Angeles as a center of excellence for MedTech innovation and to foster partnerships between academic institutions, life science incubators, the investment community and the medical technology industry. Leading life science translational research programs, faculty entrepreneurs and start-ups are showcased where Los Angeles institutions have expertise, pioneering multi-disciplinary research, and significant resource commitments directed towards developing novel technologies.

In its first year under LABEST Week, MedTech drew >400 registrants with ~90% attendance rate. The MedTech Showcase featured 13 promising new startups pitching their business vision as they prepare to raise funds. For the first time, First Look SoCal Innovation Showcase partnered with LABEST. This gave an opportunity for investors and entrepreneurs to glimpse into emerging startups growing in the greater LA region. This year's agenda also included compelling keynote addresses and panels to discuss the unique trends the industry is facing from research, investment, and leadership perspectives:

- Keynote on "Innovating in the Face of Change" by Lisa Earnhardt, VP and President Med Devices of Abbott
- Keynote on lessons learned from a unique career by Peter Schulam, MD, CSO of MedTech J&J
- Transforming Pediatric Care a panel moderated by the Merkin Institute
- Did Telehealth Survive the Pandemic a panel consisting of researcher, industry and investor perspectives
- What it Takes to Succeed as a MedTech CEO a panel moderated by Kwami Ulmer of MedTech Impact Partners with leaders from Vibrato, Horizon Surgical, and Cathworks as panelists

LABEST WEEK 2025

Enjoying a laugh

All photos by Heromade

- Monetizing AI, a panel moderated by Beth Andrews of Dell with researcher and industry perspectives
- The Business of MedTech a panel moderated by Randy Gacek of Symbiotic Capital and including panelists representing venture, debt, equity, and institutional investment perspectives on market trends in the emerging MedTech space

LABEST Bioscience 2025 took place on Thursday, May 22nd and featured prominent speakers and panelists from UCLA, USC, Caltech, Cedars-Sinai, City of Hope, and The Lundquist Institute. For the first time, UCLA Ventures partnered with Women in Bio to run a Pitch Gym and First Look SoCal Innovation Showcase featured bioscience startups.

LABEST Bioscience fosters partnerships, and showcases groundbreaking innovations in fields such as cancer, cardio-metabolism, immunology, regenerative medicine and artificial intelligence. The goal of the event is to spark conversation, encourage collaboration and present exciting discoveries throughout the day. The conference achieved >950 registrations and >89% attendance rate.

SAVE THE DATE
LABEST Week 2026
Mon May 18–Fri May 22, 2026!

Interested in sponsorship?
Email tdgevents@tdg.ucla.edu

LABEST Bioscience 2025 highlights included:

- Seaside Chat "Skill Sets Needed over the Next 10 Years of Bioscience Innovation"
- Moderator: Martha Lawrence, Co-founder and CEO of AccendoWave
  - John Mazziotta, Vice Chancellor of UCLA Health Sciences and CEO of UCLA Health
  - David Reese, Executive Vice President, Chief Technology Officer at Amgen
  - Antonio Bernardo, UCLA Anderson School of Management Dean
- Keynote Address by Julio Frenk, Chancellor, UCLA
- Keynote Address by Daniel O'Day, Chairman and CEO, Gilead Sciences
- Keynote Address by Jonathan A. Epstein, Executive Vice President, University of Pennsylvania Health System
- "A CAR T Patient's Journey" interview of CAR T Patient Laurie Adami by Cindy Perettie, Executive Vice President & Global Head, Kite, a Gilead Company
- Arie Belldegrun MD, BellcoCapital Chair, UCLA moderated has 7th LABEST panel, the "Business of Bioscience"
- The Learning Lounge featured "Industry Sponsored Research", "AI from R&D to Commercialization", "Navigating the Evolving Landscape of FDA Approval Process" and "How to Improve Presentation Skills" tutorial panels.
- The Startup Ecosystem Showcase Keynote was Harold Monbouquette, Professor of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering and Special Advisor for UCLA Research Park, UCLA
- For the 2nd year, Amir Naiberg, AVC, CEO & President UCLA TDG, moderated BioSuccess in LA with panelists:
  - Bethany Mancilla, CBO, Capsida Biotherapeutics
  - Ken Schultz, Chairman & CEO, Trethera Corporation
  - Blaise Staab, Chief Commercial Officer, CleopatraRx
  - Natvhan Wheeler, VP of Operations, Pelage Pharmaceuticals

LABEST Week 2025 was a wonderful success thanks to all the partners and sponsors who supported the new direction.

UCLA TDG YOUTUBE CHANNEL
View LABEST 2025 keynote addresses, panels and seaside chats on the UCLA TDG Youtube channel. Make sure to subscribe while you're there!

PEARL COHEN SCIENTIFIC POSTER COMPETITION WINNERS

Photo by Heromade

LABEST 2025 RECEIVED OVER 60 POSTER ENTRIES for the Pearl Cohen Scientific Poster Competition. Two new categories – Startup and MedTech – were added to the contest. The posters were displayed during the LABEST Bioscience Conference and were viewed by hundreds of attendees. Top poster authors received an iPad Air and runners-up received Airpods. Congratulations to all the winners!

Cancer - 1st Place

Elizabeth Fernandez, David Nathanson Lab, Molecular and Medical Pharmacology, UCLA
Poster title: GliomaDPDOX – A direct brain-to-brain glioma xenograft library for drug discovery and development

Cancer - 2nd Place

Anael Rizzo, Dept of Urology, UCLA
Poster title: 3D Digital Prostate Models in Robotic Surgery: Surgeon Survey Analysis From a Randomized Clinical Trial

Cancer - 3rd Place

William Fried, Xiaojiang Chen Lab, Molecular and Computational Biology, USC
Poster title: PolQ Inhibitor Suppresses PARP Inhibitor Resistance and Acts via an Allosteric DNA Trapping Mechanism

Cancer - 4th Place

Dimitri Cadet, David Nathanson Lab, Molecular and Medical Pharmacology, UCLA
Poster title: GBM neurodevelopmental lineage reprogramming mediates rapid adaptation to oncogene inhibition

Cardiovascular & Metabolism - 1st Place

R M Imtiaz Karim Rony, Dept of Diabetes Complications & Metabolism, Arthur Riggs Diabetes & Metabolism Research Institute, City of Hope
Poster title: Human pluripotent stem cell-derived extracellular vesicles provide cardio protection against hyperglycemic cardiotoxicity in vitro, improve cardiac function in aged mice in vivo, and promotes primary human islets cell proliferation in vitro.

Cardiovascular & Metabolism - 2nd Place

Hirotaka Iwasaki, Andrea Hevener Lab, Dept of Medicine, UCLA
Poster title: ERα Controls Mitochondrial Iron Metabolism and Innate Immunity by Mex3b/SFXN Regulatory Nexus

Neuroscience - 1st Place

Jose Soto, Aparna Bhaduri Lab, Department of Biological Chemistry, UCLA
Poster title: Metabolic Atlas of Early Human Cortical Development

Regenerative Medicine - 1st Place

Eva Segura, Donald Kohn Lab, Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Molecular Genetics, UCLA

Regenerative Medicine - 1st Place (continued)

Poster title: Lentiviral Vectors for Hematopoietic Stem Cell Gene Therapy Restore α-Globin Expression in α-Thalassemia Major Red Blood Cells

Immunity, Inflammation, Infection and Transplantation (I3T) - 1st Place

Anne Zaiss, Vaithi Arumugaswami Lab, Department of Molecular & Medical Pharmacology, UCLA
Poster title: Drug Screen Reveals New Potent Host-Targeted Antivirals Against Mpox Virus

Immunity, Inflammation, Infection and Transplantation (I3T) - 2nd Place

Bo Li, Lili Yang Lab, Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Molecular Genetics, UCLA
Poster title: Serotonin transporter inhibits antitumor immunity through regulating the intratumoral serotonin axis

Startups - 1st Place

Lulan Wang, Genhong Cheng Lab, Molecular Biology, UCLA
Poster title: SynaptiFlow, World's Most Advanced AI for Research and Medicine

MedTech - 1st Place

Shun Ye, Dino Di Carlo Lab, Bioengineering Department, UCLA
Poster title: Automated Digital Microfluidics with Lab-on-a-3D-Printer driven Ferrobots

MEDTECH SHOWCASE WINNER

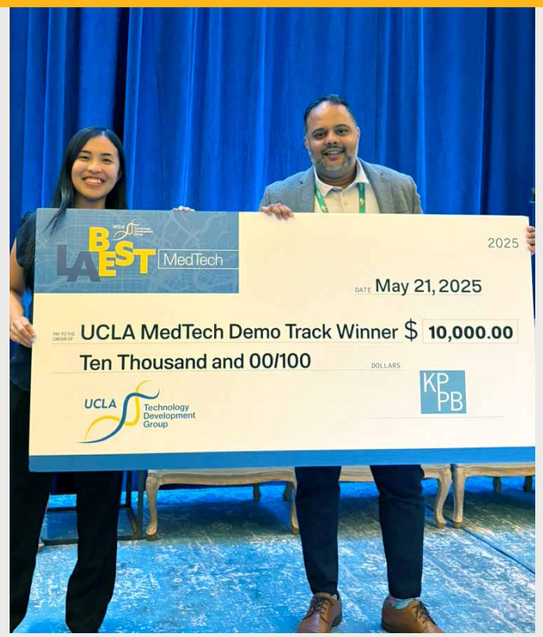


Photo by UCLA TDG

Persperity Health

OVER A DOZEN COMPANIES participated in the LABEST 2025 MedTech Showcase sponsored by KPPB. The winning company walked away with a $10,000 prize!

Aurora by Persperity Health is a non-invasive patch that continuously tracks fertility hormones in near real time, bridging the gap between occasional blood tests and the daily fluctuations critical to IVF success. The aptamer-based sweat sensor lets clinicians optimize medication promptly, potentially boosting success rates and lowering costs for patients. By transforming guesswork into data-driven decisions, Aurora brings unprecedented accuracy and convenience to the fertility journey.

UCLA Innovation Fund 2024 Recipients

SEVEN UCLA RESEARCHERS are named award recipients of the 2024 UCLA Innovation Fund Competition.

The awards, up to $150,000 per project, support early-stage research that lead 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 success are greatly increased. Importantly, all awarded projects receive consultations from an outside industry and investor adviser panel, which provides technical and commercial feedback that is key to technology development.

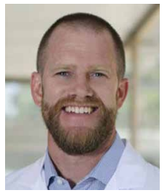
The UCLA Innovation Fund was established by the UCLA Technology Development Group, in conjunction with the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, UCLA College's divisions of physical sciences and life sciences, the UCLA Samueli School of Engineering, the School of Dentistry and UCLA Health.

"Now more than ever, it is important to invest in early-stage research. The UCLA Innovation Fund continues to bridge the funding gap so UCLA researchers can continue the development of important and impactful technologies," said Amir Naiberg, associate vice chancellor, president and ceo of UCLA Technology Development Corporation.

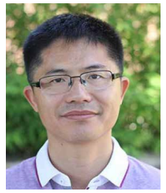
The applicants' projects were evaluated on their novelty, significance and potential public benefit, as well as the status of the intellectual property and other factors relating to the projects' technical feasibility and commercial potential.

The two tracks in the 2024 cycle were therapeutics and medical technology.

The award recipients for the therapeutics track are:



Tom Vondriska
Professor, Anesthesiology, Medicine and Physiology for Depleting Histone H1.0 to Treat Cardiac Fibrosis



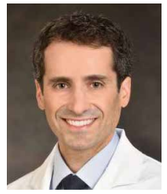
Feng Guo
Professor, Biological Chemistry for Depleting Histone H1.0 to Treat Cardiac Fibrosis

Tom Vallim
Associate Professor, Medicine and Biological Chemistry for Targeting Bile Acids to Treat Cardiometabolic Disease

Stuart Conway
Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry and the Michael and Alice Jung Endowed Chair in Medicinal Chemistry and Drug Discovery for Targeting Bile Acids to Treat Cardiometabolic Disease

The award recipients for the medical technology track are:

David Lu
Director of CT, High Intensity Focused Ultrasound Program and UCLA Liver Tumor Ablation Program, and Professor of Radiology for Balloon Catheter for Thermal Ablation Protection



Geoffrey Colby
Director of Cerebrovascular Neurosurgery and Associate Professor of Neurosurgery and Radiology for A Novel Ventriculoperitoneal Shunt Failure Detection System

Anne Andrews
Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry Organic Chemistry Psychiatry for Wearable Sensors for Real-time Female Reproductive Hormone Monitoring

Learn more about the UCLA Innovation Fund here

UCLA Ventures Celebrates Milestone Year of Bruin Founders Program at Annual Dinner

UCLA VENTURES HOSTED ITS ANNUAL DINNER sponsored by Wilson Sonini at the Annenberg Beach House on June 27th, capping off a transformational first year for the Bruin Founders program and honoring the achievements of its inaugural cohort of startups. With the Pacific sunset as a backdrop, 50 attendees gathered for an evening of celebration, connection, and inspiration.

The night featured a compelling keynote from UCLA TDG Board Member, **Martha Lawrence,** CEO and Co-Founder of AccendoWave. Lawrence recounted the early days of building AccendoWave's neurotechnology solution for pain management, including a captivating show-and-tell of the company's original prototype. Her journey underscored the power of persistence, partnership, and purpose-driven innovation.

Bruin Founders Cohort One Graduates

The event spotlighted our startups that completed Cohort 1 of the Bruin Founders program, a year-long experience designed to guide early-stage UCLA-affiliated companies through critical stages of development. Each team received coaching, mentor support, and resources tailored to their commercialization path. This year's program generated a total of **10** pilots or customers in pipeline, secured a total of **~$1.7M** in capital investment and/or grants, and produced 15 events. Presenting companies included:

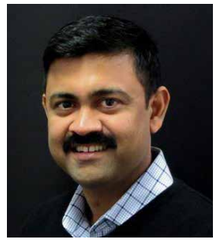
- **Entropic Biosciences** – A Los Angeles–based biotech startup founded in 2023 developing a proprietary "Twister" cell culture 3D platform for rapid, scaffold free assembly of 3D multicellular organoids and tissues in under 24 hours. Designed for high-throughput 96 well plate assay for drug screening, precision medicine, and modeling organ development, the technology has earned recognition from the National Inventors Hall of Fame and USPTO, with recent accolades include winning UCLA's 2024 MedTech Conference Demo Track.
- **Leadoff** – Leadoff's mission is to guide organizations beyond disruption through modern human behavior. Their AI-powered behavioral intelligence platform analyzes customer conversations to decode buyer and seller behavior patterns, serving GTM leaders who want to rewrite revenue strategy. Leadoff enables forward-thinking leaders to predict deal outcomes and control revenue results while building and scaling high-performing teams through objective, innovative insights that eliminate guesswork and intuition from GTM decisions.
- **Saku Biosciences** – A UCLA spinout using a new cell-screening technology called "PicoShells" to unlock better-performing cells for biotech. Their approach helps partners in food, agriculture, and medicine find and evolve cells that grow faster and make more of what they're supposed to make, whether that's protein, fat, or other ingredients. This makes biomanufacturing cheaper, faster, and more scalable.
- **Stenella AI** – Stenella uses state-of-the-art computer vision and deep learning techniques to proactively capture, categorize and escalate potential quality issues before products leave the manufacturing line. Their automated computer vision solution accurately detects medical device manufacturing defects in real-time to reduce rework, scrap and costly product recalls.

Founders shared a customer pitch to a packed crowd and engaged in a dynamic Q&A session, showcasing the remarkable progress they've made over the past year.

All annual dinner photos courtesy of UCLA TDG

Celebrating Mentorship

Central to the success of the Bruin Founders program has been the Mentors-in-Residence—a group of seasoned entrepreneurs, investors, and operators who have guided the startups with invaluable industry expertise. This year's class included **Alan Crunkleton** – Partner at Hardesty LLC, **Kiran Babu Chandra** – CEO of DemandBlue and PreludeSys, and **Dr. Shou Wong** – Director of Corporate Partnerships for Missouri University. UCLA Ventures recognized our mentors during the evening and highlighted their year-long commitment to coaching the next generation of Bruin-led ventures.



Bruin Founders Cohort Two Announced

Welcoming Cohort Two

UCLA VENTURES IS NOW GEARING UP TO LAUNCH COHORT 2, featuring a new wave of promising startups across fields like digital health, biotech, oncology, and the future of work. Building on the strong foundation set in Year 1, this next group will benefit from expanded programming and deeper integration with campus and industry partners. We are proud to announce, the new class of startups and Mentors-in-Residence for this upcoming year. Participating startups and mentors include:

- **ContinuEm Care** – Founded by Freddy Sotelo, MD, ContinuEM—a Quantem Healthcare company—tackles the data crisis in emergency care. Fragmented health IT systems fuel clinician burnout, diagnostic errors, and care inconsistencies. With 70% of providers citing tech-related stress and burnout costs topping $6.38B annually, ContinuEM delivers an integrated, intelligent solution to streamline operations, reduce risk, and improve outcomes in emergency settings.
- **Pagoda Bio** – Founded by Cynthia Shu, Pagoda Bio develops small molecule therapies for neuromuscular and cardiovascular diseases, targeting a projected $62.38B market by 2035. Its lead candidate enhances muscle repair and regeneration, showing whole-body improvements in mouse models. Unlike costly and complex viral vectors, Pagoda's approach is redosable, more affordable, and avoids severe immune risks.
- **Perkies** – Founded by Rosie Mangiarotti, Perkies designs innovative, empowering undergarments for women, including the popular Perkies Petals (nipple covers) and patented Perkies Nips (nipple enhancers), which restore confidence and identity for women post-mastectomy. Perkies is developing a more realistic, customizable version of Perkies Nips using 3D printing and scannable technology. Committed to sustainability, inclusivity, and giving back, Perkies donates 5% of all website sales to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation®.
- **WorkUp** – Founded by Manuel Leon, Workup streamlines the job search with AI tools for resume building, ATS matching, cover letters, and interview prep. Its AI interviewer, Eva, automates first-round interviews to improve hiring decisions, expand candidate screening, and cut recruitment costs.
- **Trylrun** – Founded by Nick Kohan, Trylrun helps startups launch and manage virtual internship programs, unlocking opportunities for students to gain meaningful work experience.

Mentors-In-Residence

Chad Billmyer | Fmr SVP Product, Slickdeals – Chad is a startup advisor and mentor with experience supporting founders through Brown University, Mucker Capital, StartOut, and Out in Tech. A former mentee's company, Amie Street, became Songza and was acquired by Google for $40M. He has founded tech ventures and worked at PE-backed and publicly traded companies, with expertise in product, design, sales, lifecycle marketing, SEO, content operations, publishing, and affiliate marketing, among other areas.

David Hawks | Principal/Founder, DMG – David has strong experience in healthcare, Deep Tech, and Enterprise. Throughout his career, he has mentored and advised early-stage entrepreneurs in MedTech, digital health, and life sciences. As VP of Business Development and Strategy at Globalization Partners and Ximedica, he helped startups with product development, regulatory strategy, and commercialization. He has also provided guidance on business growth, fundraising, and market positioning, with additional strategic mentorship experience at IQVIA and DMG.

Meriko Kawashima | Founder, Ko-Creator – Meriko created a mentorship program for young people with her first company, which sparked her passion for supporting entrepreneurs from ideation to actualization. Wherever possible, she integrates mentorship programs into the businesses she builds or advises. Currently, she is advising two business models - one based in Singapore and New York, focused on storytelling and technology, and the other in Berlin, centered around music and tech.

Nikki Win | Senior Dir. Scientific Collaborations, US Medical, Genentech – Nikki is currently advising several early-stage entrepreneurs and startups in health tech and diagnostics. A former founder of Metafold Therapeutics, a biotech company spun out of UCSF, she is mentoring an early-stage health tech startup and successfully helped them identify alternative funding pathways given uncertainties with the current administration. Well-networked with experts in pharma/biotech and healthcare, she has connections in digital health/health tech and strong relationships with nongovernment organizations.

Continued

UCLA Founders Mixer Wrap Up

2025 Founders Mixer Series: A Half-Year in Review

Photo courtesy of UCLA TDG

The UCLA Founders Mixer is a recurring event series dedicated to strengthening UCLA's entrepreneurial ecosystem by fostering meaningful connections, sharing resources, and accelerating the journey from campus innovation to real-world impact. Co-hosted by UCLA Ventures and CNSI Magnify, the series has become a trusted space for collaboration across disciplines—bringing together founders, faculty, researchers, students, and investors to spark ideas and build lasting relationships.

Spanning February through May, this year's events featured pitch showcases, hands-on training, and vibrant networking that reflected the diversity and energy of UCLA's innovation community. In partnership with organizations like the Anderson Venture Accelerator and ecosystem collaborators such as Nucleate, FM has helped lay the groundwork for a more connected, inclusive, and visible entrepreneurial culture on campus. These mixers have not only introduced key players to one another—they've also catalyzed new ventures, industry collaborations, and pathways for researchers to engage beyond academia.

We're deeply grateful to our Startup in A Box Partners: Baker Hostetler and Alexandria Real Estate, as well as all the participants and supporters who helped shape the 2025 series. Together, we're building a stronger foundation for entrepreneurship at UCLA—and we're just getting started.

About UCLA Ventures

UCLA Ventures, a department under the UCLA Technology Development Group, supports UCLA-affiliated startups, faculty, students, staff and alumni via a variety of programs that serve innovators at all stages of development. Our goal is to aid in the transition from idea to market through startup creation, funding, education, and success. UCLA Ventures programs include Startup in a Box, Bruin Founders, Pitch Gym, an exclusive Philanthropic Community, and entrepreneurial ecosystem events.

DONATE TO UCLA VENTURES

We invite you to join our growing membership base. Your gift will benefit the burgeoning University innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

UCLA TDG Logo License Program

LICENSED from UCLA Technology Development Group™

ATTENTION STARTUPS AND LICENSEES! UCLA TDG is proud to announce the UCLA TDG logo license program. The licensing initiative allows companies to use the "Licensed from TDG at UCLA" logo. The logo will help promote products, services or technologies derived from UCLA research and strengthen the visibility and credibility of licensed technologies.

For details on the "Licensed from" logo, visit tdg.ucla.edu and click on the "Trademark" dropdown.

Research and Industry Alliances Announcement

Photo courtesy of UCLA TDG

UCLA TDG Research and Industry Alliances Team

We're excited to share that Industry Sponsored Research (ISR) is now Research and Industry Alliances!

This new name better reflects our expanded mission to foster dynamic collaborations between academia and industry, and to support the full spectrum of research partnerships. As part of this transformation, we'll soon be launching a series of educational and training seminars designed to support researchers, administrators, and industry partners. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks. We can't wait to share what's ahead!

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In Memoriam Kathy Wrobel

Photos courtesy of L to R: The Wrobel Family and UCLA TDG

Kathy Wrobel
1954–2025

It is with deep sorrow that we announce that Kathleen "Kasia" Ann Wrobel, 70, of Los Angeles, CA sailed off into the sunset on April 26,2025.

Born in Buffalo, NY on July 24,1954, Kasia was a multi-talented, vivacious leader. A graduate of Mt. St. Mary Academy in Tonawanda, NY and the University of Buffalo, she then earned her MA, CPhil from UCLA. For 28 years, she was the Material Transfer & Industry Contract Officer in the UCLA Technology Development Group and worked for a total of 34 years at UCLA. She was a gifted musician, playing piano and organ and serving as music director at multiple Catholic Churches in the Los Angeles area. She was a strong advocate for Polish culture, serving as song and dance choreographer for folk dance groups in Anaheim, CA and Buffalo, NY, affiliated with the Polish National Alliance based in Chicago, IL. She is the former director of the Garland dancers, in Buffalo, NY.

She was also known for her kind spirit, always helping someone in need. She was also a fantastic baker and was famous for giving treats to everyone. Kasia also won numerous awards for her leadership in the Polish community. She was a loving mother to Sonya Allahyar and Cyrus Allyar and is survived by her siblings Patricia (James Sullivan Wrobel, Thaddeus Wrobel, Mary Elizabeth Wrobel and predeceased by her parents, Walter and Alfreda and brothers John (Ann Marie) Wrobel and Michael (Lori) Wrobel. She is also survived by numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. Kasia always persevered through adversity and emerged victorious from all life's challenges with admirable positivity.

Please share your online condolences at www.KolanoFuneralHome.com

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Kathleen "Kasia" Wrobel, please visit our Heartfelt Sympathies Store.

UCLA TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

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.

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