

Intellectual Property and Venture Development

DIVISION PROFILE

Number of Faculty	1
Number of Support Personnel	7

FACULTY LISTING

Joseph D. Fondacaro, PhD, Research Professor, Director, Intellectual Property & Venture Development

OVERVIEW

Throughout the ten years of its existence, the Office of Intellectual Property and Venture Development (IP&VD) has had as its mission to commercialize the inventions, discoveries and innovations that result as a natural outcome of the research conducted at Cincinnati Children's Research Foundation (CCRF) and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC). Central to this mission is creating commercial opportunities to provide for the public good. The office also strives to utilize new Cincinnati Children's technology to support regional economic development and to give faculty an additional path by which to exploit the results of their research. Important also to our mission is the forging of relationships with industry to bring greater exposure of our center and our research to the private sector. Finally, we seek to create a royalty revenue stream for CCRF to allow further growth of research and education programs.



Left to Right: J. Welling, K. Johnson, S. Uber, J. Fondacaro, M. White, N. Robinson

To address these objectives, the IP&VD office manages all intellectual property, technology licensing and venture development matter of CCRF. Through its corporate licensing and new company formation efforts, the IP&VD office promotes and facilitates the research and clinical utility of commercially applicable technologies discovered or invented within CCRF. The office is responsible for the review, negotiations and oversight of all agreements involving industry-sponsored basic research, confidentiality, biological material transfer and technology licensing. In addition, the office maintains a patent portfolio of over 350 patents and patent applications derived from the technology discovered within the centers' laboratories. It encourages and assists faculty with submission of invention disclosures on promising new technologies for eventual commercial utility. The IP&VD office commercializes CCRF research tools through Seven Hills Bioreagents. The office also consults with faculty and staff on topics involving industry relationships, commercial development of technology, patenting, patent strategy, licensing, company start-up activity and other matters relating to intellectual property. In addition to the director, the staff includes Keith W. Johnson, J.D., Assistant Director, Loy M. White, Registered Patent Agent, Senior Technology Coordinator, Janet Welling, Contract Specialist, Nicole Robinson, PhD, Licensing Associate and Sheri Uber, MBA, Program Manager.

HIGHLIGHTS

FY2006 was characterized by an increased level of productivity and growth in CCRF technology commercialization through licensing and new company formation. These activities were highlighted by Rotarix®, a rotavirus vaccine discovered by CCRF researchers Drs. Richard Ward and David Bernstein and

marketed by GlaxoSmithKline. This product, approved for use in Europe in January 2006 and several other countries, will save hundreds of thousands of young lives each year and will improve the outcome for children by reducing the impact of rotavirus infection worldwide.

Another product of CCRF research gained significant momentum in FY 2006. The hemofiltration technology discovered by Dr. John Bissler and his collaborators and marketed by Gambro brings promise of more efficient delivery of renal dialysis to millions of patients around the world.

In FY2006, the IP&VD office created three new start-up companies based on CCRF technologies. These new ventures, supported by investments from the TOMORROW Fund, an Ohio Third Frontier-supported CCHMC investment fund, will ultimately provide jobs locally, thus stimulating the local and regional economies.

Licensing revenues reached an all-time high in FY2006 of just over \$3 million, a marked increase over the previous fiscal year. The IP&VD office will continue this trend by identifying new commercial opportunities from within CCRF laboratories, providing more fuel to the growing life sciences economy of our region, establishing strong ties with industry and creating an exciting and rewarding future for CCHMC. Most importantly, together with our researchers, our goal is to improve the outcome of patients who will benefit from our efforts to maximize the promise of our research.