TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

July 2023

NIH Public Health and Economic Impact Report

Steve Ferguson, OTT

The long-anticipated intramural licensing impact study was officially released in June! It is available on a special section of the NIH Tech Transfer Community website. You can read the full report or for a quick overview, you can view the brochure. There are also case studies and their associated one-pagers available for a few of the major products evaluated during this study.

This year-long study involved a full download and analysis of historic TechTracS licensing data and demonstrates the true impact and power that our NIH intramural licensing program has had in 3 major areas:

Innovation – Our licensees cited our patents in over 1,700 patents of their own and our drug discoveries were utilized in nearly 1,200 clinical trials.
Economy – Sales of our licensed products supported an average of nearly 75,000 positions each year. Aggregate sales alone totaled over $130 billion to date.
Health – With NIH intramural discoveries, for example, multiple myeloma patients gained about six days per year in productivity and reduced their hospital stays by over three days per year. 26,500 deaths from cervical cancer were averted in another example.

It's an amazing story and it's also our story.

The full report, summary brochure, and case studies can be found on the Public Health and Economic Impact Study webpage.

The study was conducted for us by the Research Triangle Institute utilizing Department of Commerce funds OTT received via NIST. A special thanks also goes out to the members of the study's NIH advisory committee – Tom Stackhouse, Richard Rodriquez, Michael Salgaller, Laura Prestia, Bruce Goldstein, Michael Davis, Mark Rohrbaugh, Alina Predescu, Tara Kirby, Steve Ferguson and Richelle Holnick.

In This Issue

FLC Planner

Richelle Holnick, OTT

Each year the Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC) collects photos from its member labs that are a member and selects the best ones to make an eye-catching planner. It features a variety of images showcasing innovative research and development from federal labs.

Over 10,000 people receive a copy of the FLC planner every year, including members of Congress, scientists, tech transfer professionals, and industry representatives. You do not want to be left out!

The call for submissions for the 2024 planner is currently open! Showcase your IC to the Federal technology transfer community and the world by submitting today! You can find further details and examples from prior years on the FLC site.

NCI's Whitney Hastings Elected FLC Chair

Richelle Holnick, OTT

Whitney Hastings, Senior Technology Transfer Manager, National Cancer Institute, has been elected as Chair of the Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC) Executive Board. Whitney will begin her term on October 1, 2023. She is succeeding Linda Burger as Chair. This will be the first time in the organization's history that female Chairs have been elected back-to-back.

Whitney Hastings

Whitney has been involved with the FLC since 2016, when she attended her first National Meeting and subsequently joined the Awards committee. This experience allowed her to learn from other labs and bring back some best practices from other labs to her own and expand her technology transfer knowledge beyond that of HHS. After taking over as Chair, she was able to develop and moderate panels and events at the FLC National meeting, add new award categories, lead the strategic and financial elements of the program, and work with fellow board members to develop FLC's next five-year strategic plan. Whitney currently serves as the Promote Committee Chair where she has provided the leadership and vision for FLC's communication products (such as the planner, FLC newsletters, and Lab Tech in Your Life), the website and FLC business redesign, and the new unified awards program. Being a part of the FLC has given her a network of people and resources to reach out to when needing an outside the box approach to marketing a technology or getting a deal done.

When asked last fall to discuss what FLC means to her, Whitney said that "the FLC has been key to my growth as a senior technology transfer professional. It is truly a rewarding experience that has provided me with professional growth, new skill sets, and an opportunity to give back to the technology transfer community in an impactful way."

As Chair, she aims to energize the federal tech transfer community and increase engagement. We have no doubt that she will! If you are interested in becoming involved with the FLC, check out their volunteer opportunities here.

Keeping Our IIA Partners in the Loop

Melborne Moon, OTT

After the transition to ETT, we've been working hard to develop a more streamlined process for letting our NIH-Lead Inter-Institutional Agreement (IIA) partners know the status of licensing and development. It's taken some work, but I'm happy to report, that after several months of troubleshooting and testing, we're beginning to send out the new annual reports to our partners.

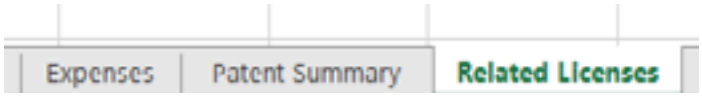
ETT is a powerful system, however there were some obstacles and a few glitches that needed to be worked through. There were times when something seemingly simple would become a roadblock and prevent us from moving forward. For example, pulling the "Commercial Development Stage" information to include on the reports, turned out to be more difficult than we anticipated and took a while to fix.

Development Stage
Pre-Clinical
Pre-Launch
Clinical-Phase III

Getting out of the "TechTracS mindset" was another obstacle to overcome. Sometimes, we just needed to stop thinking of what was done before and instead turn our attention to the various improvements and options made available to us in ETT. For example, being able to email the reports directly from ETT using the Email Manager. In conjunction with Form Letter Templates, this allowed us to save several steps and pull contact and license information directly from ETT to include in the email. In addition, the flexibility of ETT's Grid Views and ability to quickly customize, save and export them to Excel has been very helpful.

A few other improvements made to the reports include:

- Keeping the reports in Excel format, rather than converting to PDF. This allows for a cleaner, more accessible report for our partners.
- Using tabs to combine multiple reports into a single Excel spreadsheet.



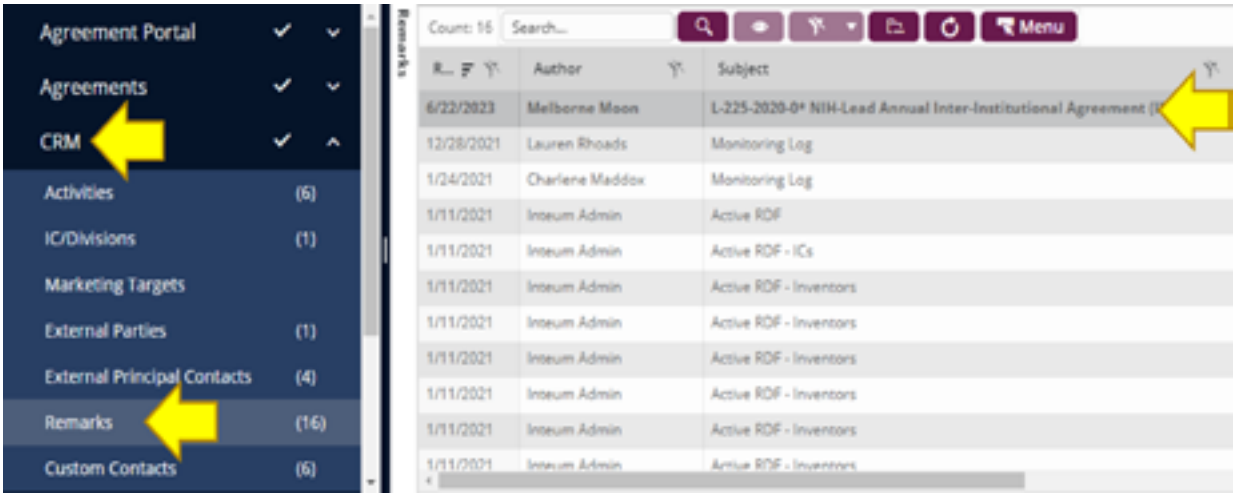
- Moving the language previously contained in an attached PDF cover page to the body of the email itself.

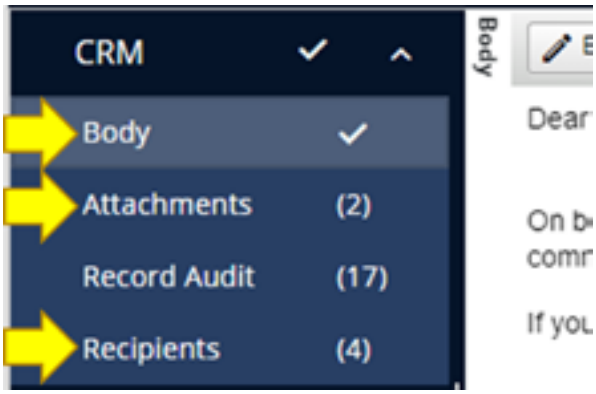
A detailed, 31-page PowerPoint SOP has also been developed alongside the process.

To view a report that has been completed and sent out for an NIH-Lead IIA Agreement, from within the Agreement record, go to the CRM tab and select Remarks.

Locate the Remark with "NIH-Lead Annual Inter-Institutional Agreement (IIA) Report" in the Subject.

Double-click to open the Remark.





Once inside the Remark, you can view the various components of the email that was sent, by either clicking on Body, Attachments, or Recipients.

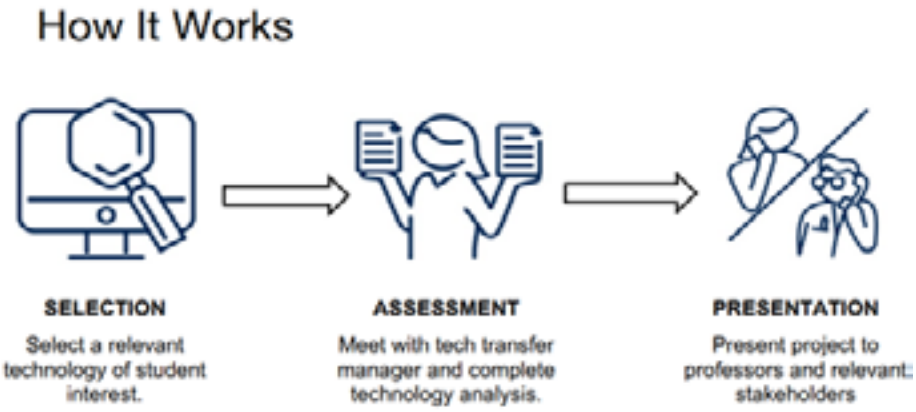
The next challenge we must overcome, is getting caught up. During the ETT migration and development process, a backlog of reports, due to be sent out has accumulated. Wish us luck!

Students FLEX Their Skills and Feds Benefit

Roni Madilo, FNL

A new drug and vaccine delivery method that utilizes synthetic bacterial nanoparticles could improve chemotherapy treatments, and a groundbreaking alternative to drilled wells may soon be breaking ground in agricultural areas. The Federal Laboratory Education Accelerator (FLEX) and the work of Master of Business Administration (MBA) students across the country are helping move these and other far-ranging technologies out of the laboratory and into the market.

FLEX is a pilot program out of Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer (FLC) that acts as a bridge, connecting MBA students with an extensive portfolio of licensable technologies from various federal laboratories. It allows the students to use the technologies as the subject of an entrepreneurial element of a business course, often with larger benefits.



Frederick National Laboratory has played a key role in piloting and now expanding the FLEX program. Whether it be building partnerships with federal agencies and laboratories or communicating with qualified professors at universities, FNL's Center for Innovation and Strategic Partnerships, as a member of the FLC, helps to ensure the program's success.

Founding a Foundation

FNL Chief Innovation Officer Vladimir Popov, Ph.D., who serves as the FLC Mid-Atlantic regional coordinator and on the FLC executive board, founded FLEX to meet a need in the academic community. Drawing from his personal experience while completing his MBA, as well as from the feedback he received when meeting with federal labs in the Mid-Atlantic region, Popov identified room for improvement in partnerships between federal labs and business schools. Instead of one-off relationships, where students and labs may lack chances for strong connections, he realized that creating diverse federal technology portfolios from multiple labs would enable a better match between students' technical interests and the technologies they would work on.

This experience, as well as his connection with the FLC, inspired Popov to start the FLEX program so that students have better opportunities to grow in their respective fields while still gaining knowledge and preparing for a career in business.

Amanda Corbel, partnership alliance manager at FNL, has since joined Popov, playing a crucial role in the program's growth and maintenance. She oversees communication between the laboratories and the schools and is a FLEX spokesperson, contributing to the program's outreach. "I'm always looking for new labs and new schools that want to join," she said. "A lot of that's outreach, looking through their technology or patent portfolios to identify … tech that I think would be a good fit for students."

Impacts Inside and Outside of the Classroom

FNL's work with FLEX has helped provide technology for dozens of MBA students. Professors and students say they've seen success in their classes due to the diverse portfolio provided to them. "The level of professionalism, enthusiasm, and diligence from partnering with the FLC FLEX teams cannot be matched!" said Roy Thomason, Ph.D., lecturer at the University of Maryland Robert H. Smith School of Business, one of FLEX's participating institutions, in an email.

Through FLEX, students can gain direct experience with federal technology while the federal laboratories also benefit by having students do assessments on technology through their courses. "Participating in the FLEX program has allowed my students to apply their MBA theories and concepts. In doing so, they encounter the 'messiness' of real-world problems," said Nicole Coomber, Ph.D., a academic director and assistant dean at the Robert H. Smith School of Business.

By having these experiences with the guidance of the FLEX staff, government partners, and faculty, students are better prepared for jobs once they graduate. One group at the Robert H. Smith School of Business worked with the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) "Safe, Directional, Drought-Resistant Dug Well" technology, an inexpensive alternative to drilled wells designed to resist drought and bacterial contamination. The USGS was seeking ways to apply this technology to rural areas. Students working with this technology were able to find target states and counties in which this well technology would be the most efficient.

Graduate students from Cornell University selected a National Cancer Institute invention that uses synthetic bacterial nanoparticles as drug and vaccine delivery vehicles. The students identified a large market opportunity, based on the laboratory preclinical work that demonstrates that the invention has potential to reduce chemotherapy side effects and treatment time. The Cornell students built a potential business model around the technology and conducted extensive market research. The NCI inventor, Kumaran Ramamurthi, Ph.D., met with the students several times throughout the project to provide expert input—and to learn from their market assessment.

"Working with our FLEX partners, students encountered the exciting technologies being developed by civil servants in the U.S. government and offered solutions to bring these technologies to market," Coomber said.

Looking Ahead

As of the end of 2022, FLEX had 16 participating laboratories, nine universities, and 80 technologies in its portfolio. "I highly recommend that any university or lab partner with the FLC FLEX programs," Thomason said.

This article was originally published in the NCI Poster.

Students FLEX Their Skills & Feds Benefit

ETT's Half Birthday

Terry Goodell, Sapient

The Enterprise Technology Transfer (ETT) system has hit its six month of operations! The system has seen a lot of action from users – over 4,000 different agreement records have been created, 163 new technology records, 677 new patents, and $602,303,017.79 in payments have been received and logged in the system. Users have quickly adopted the system and are running full speed ahead. To help support users, 1,314 ETT Support tickets have been completed, a dozen Office Hours have been hosted, and countless ad-hoc trainings have been hosted for individuals or TTOs.

ETT has been continually improving since launching. Weekly or bi-weekly maintenance has been conducted to address 136 enhancement requests and minor system administration tasks. Additionally, 91 reports, 23 forms/form templates, and 60 custom datasets have been created.

There are many exciting new functions and features coming to ETT in the next few months. There will be supervisor dashboards and an enhanced agreement replication tool, just to a name a few. Also, it would be remiss not to mention that NCI is completing the migration of all of their abstracts, this was the last piece of the NIH Tech Transfer puzzle not housed in ETT!

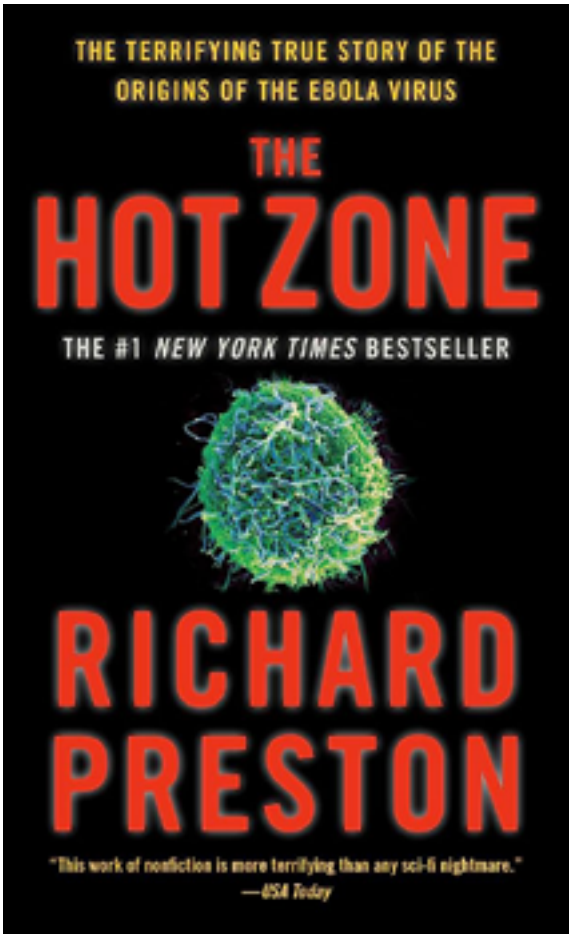
As always, please feel free to reach out to ETT_Support@mail.nih.gov for any questions or requests.

Credit: invincible bulldog/iStock

Review of *The Hot Zone*: The Terrifying True Story of the Origins of the Ebola Virus by Richard Preston

Tara Kirby, OTT

People have said that they were inspired to go into public health after reading *The Hot Zone*, and it's not hard to see why. Still, anyone could be forgiven if instead it made them think twice, or even go into another field together. Even 30 years later, with multiple Ebola outbreaks in the rear-view mirror and the world (hopefully) emerging from the unprecedented SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the real-life events that Preston describes in his book are, indeed, truly terrifying.



The Hot Zone is generally described as a non-fiction thriller, and it lives up to that description as it tells the story of a deadly virus, known to kill 90 percent of its victims within days, that suddenly appears in a Reston, Virginia primate facility in 1989. A team of scientists and military is quickly assembled to stop a potentially devastating outbreak.

Preston opens the book with a truly ghastly account of the first emergence of Ebola in Africa, allowing the reader to glimpse a history that must have inspired apprehension and fear in the team as they undertook an almost inconceivable challenge. He also delves deeply into the stories of the individuals on the team, making it clear that even with great expertise, they were truly facing the unknown, with potentially deadly consequences. The reader is also not spared the horror of Preston's description of monkeys getting sick and dying, one by one and then en masse, with the humans wondering whether it will be one of them next.

However, the story is ultimately not about despair and defeat. The ingenuity, tenacity, and bravery of the team members shines through as they persevere through unknown risks and an uncertain end game, and their actions demonstrate the power and importance of public health research, even when – especially when – it is dangerous.

Throughout the book, NIHers will likely recognize many of the places and organizations described; for example, USAMRIID at Fort Detrick and NIH's sister agency, CDC. Some may even notice a person or two who are at NIH today, still in service to the public health.

> "One of the most horrifying things I've ever read. What a remarkable piece of work."
> **–Stephen King**

ARPA-H and Technology Transfer

Kristina Kincaid, ARPA-H

Established in March 2022, Advanced Research Projects Agency - Health (ARPA-H) accelerates better health outcomes for everyone by supporting the development of high-impact solutions to society's most challenging health problems. ARPA-H was established in 2022 by President Biden and while ARPA-H aligns to NIH, ARPA-H Director, Dr. Renee Wegrzyn reports directly to HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra.

Project Accelerator Transition Innovation Office (PATIO)
Within ARPA-H, the Project Accelerator Transition Innovation Office (PATIO) provides a wide variety of transition and commercialization services to Program Managers (PMs) and ARPA-H performers, who are ARPA-H's contract awardees. These services increase the probability that ARPA-H-funded solutions transition into the hands of all Americans. PATIO will first identify and second de-risk barriers to commercial (or other) successes.

PATIO offers a variety of services to support ARPA-H's Program Managers and Performers. These services span the lifecycle of a program and ensure that the breakthroughs created by ARPA-H translate into solutions and products that revolutionize the health of the American Public. Program Managers only have a brief window to achieve their vision; PATIO's services are designed to accelerate their progress and maximize the impact that both PMs and their Performers can achieve.

Our process—to enhance commercial potential—occurs early and often, from pre-concept development to project graduation. Our goal is to reduce market friction at common failure points. Since ARPA-H will not fund performers in perpetuity, PATIO's services increase the odds that solutions attract private investment and customers.

NIH Tech Transfer at BIO International Conference

Richelle Holnick, OTT

The Biotechnology Innovation Organization's (BIO) International Convention, the largest biotech partnering conference in the world, was held in Boston during the first week of June. Many NIH technology transfer professionals attended the meeting to both expand their tech transfer knowledge and to work at the NIH Tech Transfer booth to meet with potential partners and spread awareness of our program.

NIH staff attendance at BIO was very fruitful. They held many partnering meetings where they were able to sit down and talk to each prospective company in-depth about how to partner with NIH, the benefits of partnering with us, and which NIH opportunities were of further interest.

The NIH Tech Transfer booth was a part of a pavilion with the Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC) and three other federal labs – the Frederick National Lab, the FDA tech transfer program, and the Veteran's Affairs' tech transfer program. This partnership allowed us to maximize our time, space, and budget. Badge scanner data collected by the FLC showed that over 200 visitors registered at the pavilion over the course of the conference.

The NIH Tech Transfer Booth

Pictured from left to right:
Emily Krach (NCI), Tara Kirby (OTT),
Michael Salgaller (NCI), and
Michele Newton (NCI)

In addition to meeting with potential partners, BIO offered a wonderful opportunity for NIH technology transfer professionals who work from different locations or across various TTOs to meet.

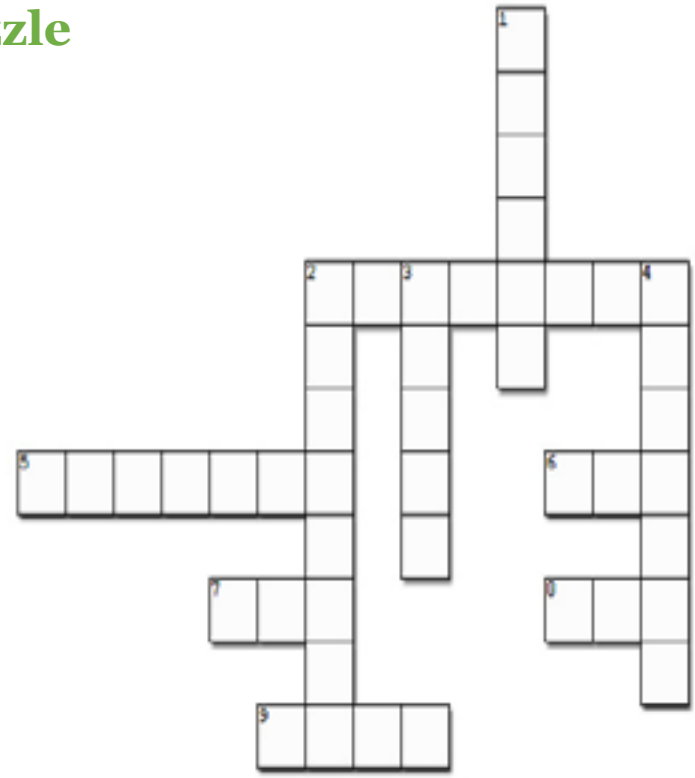
Pictured from left to right: Jasmine Kalsi (NCATS), Richelle Holnick (OTT), Madhavi Sriram (CDC), and Steve Ferguson (OTT)

Pictured from left to right: Julianne Morgan, Joseph Conrad, Michael Salgaller, all from NCI

Crossword Puzzle

Wayne Pereanu, OTT

Answers on page 20



Across

2. Legal term for the party giving licensing rights
5. Legal agreement that provides permission to use, but does not assign ownership
6. Legal agreement to share and transfer materials
7. Executive department that NIH is part of
8. Long-awaited replacement for TechTracS
9. Anonymous employee survey due July 14th

Down

1. Grants right to exclude others from invented technology
2. Legal term for the party receiving licensing rights
3. Legal agreement to share government research
4. A princely amount paid for the use of a technology

Spreading Awareness of NIH as a Premier TT Partner

Richelle Holnick, OTT

Did you know that most potential partners are unaware that the NIH has technologies available for licensing or collaboration? Over the winter, a second Awareness Campaign was launched to spread awareness of NIH as a premier technology transfer partner and increase lead generation on the NIH Technology Transfer Community website. The goal of this campaign was to engage commercial customers outside of NIH with interest in partnering with existing researchers to collaborate/invest in patentable technologies. Specifically, we were trying to reach startup/small businesses and venture capitalists/investors in the biotechnology industry.

This campaign was built as a multi-touch approach to maximize engagement. The first part of this campaign was an email deployment via the *Biopharma Dive* newsletter list. *Biopharma Dive* was selected as they are one of the leading industry publications, and their subscriber base includes the people we are targeting for new collaboration and license agreements. Using *Biopharma Dive* allows us to reach them at a 'leaned-in' moment, likely when they are working at their company. We ran a similar campaign last year and had great success with them as the vendor. This email deployment generated a 38% open rate – a hair above the average for *Biopharma Dive*. The email is pictured to the right.

The campaign was also designed to run a paid social media ad campaign via *Meta* alongside of the email deployment. *Meta* was selected due to their advanced targeting capabilities and to reach our target audience in their 'leaned-back' blue jeans moment and thus off work. These paid social ads were found to be successful as they were run over the course of three months, with an average landing page view rate of 72%, which is above the benchmark of 50%.

Through our website analytics reporting tool, we saw that there were 91 new users that visited our site from the email campaign, and within that first week they generated 109 sessions. This shows us that we were reaching people unfamiliar with the NIH Tech Transfer Community website, and that they were returning to our website on a secondary occasion. During the social media campaign, there were 1,780 new users visiting our website that generated 2,132 sessions during the campaign. Again, this highlights that we indeed reached folks who were both unfamiliar with the website initially but interested enough to return and learn more or look through the technologies. The ads are pictured on the next page.

Thus with the new Awareness Campaign we are expecting to see even more companies cite the tech transfer web site in their license applications as the source where they first learned of the opportunity to work with NIH as a partner!

Awareness Campgin

Nominations Open for 2023 FLC National Awards

Steve Ferguson, OTT

Could NIH win big at the National Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC) Awards? It's up to you!

The FLC will be asking for award nominations from July through October 2023. This year the FLC awards will highlight the outstanding innovation that occurs across the 300+ federal labs for both the Regional and National Awards program through a streamlined submission process. The FLC will award national winners and "best in region". There are nine categories recognizing various aspects of technology transfer, plus the COVID-19 response distinction, so there is something for all NIH Institutes. The categories are as follows:

- Excellence in Technology Transfer
- Interagency Partnership
- State and Local Economic Development
- Outstanding Technology Transfer Professional
- Rookie of the Year
- Technology Transfer Innovation
- Impact
- Laboratory Director of the Year
- FLC Service
  - Harold Metcalf
  - Representative of the Year
  - Outstanding Service

Credit: ajijchan/iStock

The submission process is easy with the online platform, but you must submit to garner these great benefits. You can find more information on the FLC website. There are video guides and tutorials to help with the process.

What FLC Means to Me

Mojdeh Bahar, NIST

Mojdeh Bahar

I think it took me about two years to feel comfortable in my role as a Technology Licensing Specialist (a title that predates the currently used titles at NIH). I had learned how to market the technologies on my docket, negotiated different types of licenses, managed complex patent portfolios and had worked closely with OTT's patent counsel, outside counsel and OGC on some matters before the board of patents appeals and interferences (today known as PTAB). I wanted to learn about NIH's technology transfer community as well as the broader federal tech transfer community.

I learned about the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer (FLC) when an NCI technology won an Excellence in Tech Transfer Award. I soon learned that we had an NIH representative to the FLC at OTT, and others at the ICs. I asked if I could attend the National Conference and went to my first FLC conference in Minneapolis. I remember three things: 1) Each person I met taught me something about what was possible in federal tech transfer; 2) Although I was an early-career TT professional, I could be helpful to others; and 3) Take a coat whenever you travel as the weather may surprise you (I bought clothes to keep warm on that trip).

That was 2006. The following year, I decided to run for office. I was elected to serve as a member-at-large. I was subsequently elected to serve as the Regional Coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic Region and the National Chair for the organization. I then served on the executive board as the past chair. FLC provided me the opportunity to learn about technology transfer broadly, it provided more tools to enable the transfer of federal technologies, provided me the opportunity to partner with like-minded organizations, to launch the first version of two cross USG search tools, available technologies and FLC business; and to organize multiple social and technology-based networking events. More importantly, FLC introduced me to some amazing people across the tech transfer community. My FLC colleagues taught me a lot about tech transfer, but they also taught me about the importance of community, team work, common goals, passion for one's profession, the value of a sense of humor and the gift of friendship.

FLC
Federal Laboratory Consortium
for Technology Transfer

SharePoint 2019 Modernization

Mitchell, Ha, Sapient

When OTT SharePoint (https://spweb.od.nih.gov/) was updated from SharePoint 2016 to 2019 in May 2022, the look and feel was kept as close to the 2016 version as possible. This allowed us to have a smoother transition and facilitate client adoption. Many of the issues and kinks arising out of the migration were addressed and documented.

Now we would like to take advantage of the modernization features in the system, since they provide more system stability and we are required to move to this version by CIT support. The modernization will update the look and feel which can provide intuitive controls and additional features. OTT SharePoint will be updated on July 27, 2023.

Before we turn on the modernization, we will make the Staging site accessible for users. You can schedule screen-sharing support with Mitchell Ha at mitchell.ha@nih.gov. Further communication will be sent out regarding the Staging site and the new look and feel of SharePoint.

If you have any OTT SharePoint related requests, please submit a helpdesk ticket referenced to OD-NIH-OTT SharePoint Support.

TechToon: AI Is Saving Me So Much Time!

Wayne Pereanu, OTT

Comings & Goings

Matthew Hayden has joined the OTT Monitoring & Enforcement Unit as a Monitoring & Enforcement Officer. He is a patent attorney and has worked in law firms as well as in house for a large corporation. Matt has a J.D. from the University of Virginia, an M.S.E. in mechanical engineering from Johns Hopkins, and a B.S. in mechanical engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy. He will be working remotely from Ohio, where he lives with his wife and two sons. In his free time, Matt enjoys outdoor activities, including hiking, camping, and running.

Corin Hindenach joined the NIH OTT in June as a Monitoring and Enforcement Officer. Her back-ground is in natural science, IP law, and research. She holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Louisville specializing in cultural competency and public leadership. She is passionate about working for the greater good and believes that as we move through life, it is our re-sponsibility to do our best for our fellow citizens. She will be working remotely from Kentucky, where she lives with her husband and cat.

Terrence J. Joyce, MD, MIP, CPVA has joined NIAID TTIPO as a Senior Technology Transfer and Patent Specialist. Terrence brings to TTIPO substantial technology transfer and intellectual property management experience from both the U.S. Government and the private sectors. Most recently, he worked at the Naval Medical Research Center (NMRC) in Silver Spring, MD as a Senior Technology Transfer Specialist (contract) where he drafted, negotiated, and executed hundreds of CRADAs and other collaborative agreements between Navy and universities/industry partners to advance research that supported the warfighter.

Emily Krach departs NCI TTC to join Leica Biosystems as a Business Development Manager of Innovation Partnerships. In this role, she will initiate and support industry partnerships and drive growth in the companion diagnostics division. Emily began her post-doctoral fellowship in TTC's Technology Analysis and Marketing Unit in January 2022, where she helped evaluate and market several inventions in TTC's portfolio, generate new industry leads, and support communications efforts.

Vladimir Popov is now the Chief Innovation Officer of the Center for Innovation and Strategic Partnerships at the Frederick National Laboratory. The Center for Innovation facilitates the development of future strategic partnership and collaborations by fostering purpose-driven innovation and targeted outreach to the cancer research community. His team develops and maintains relationships between the Frederick National Laboratory, the National Cancer Institute, client organizations, and local business communities in Maryland. Prior to this role, Vladimir served as a director of the Partnership Development Office (PDO), overseeing partnership development and implementation processes, client relationships, and partnership projects.

Amber Rush has joined OTT as a Management and Program Analyst. She recently was accepted into Purdue University to pursue a master's degree in public health. She earned her BS in Business Administration from Albertus Magnus College. Amber previously came from NCI-TTC, where she began as a contractor in 2019 and became a federal employee in 2021. She has over 12 years of Intellectual Property experience including previously working for two of the PLS contracted law firms in Connecticut. In her new role, she will become the Subject Matter Expert on the Law Firm Portal and the Lead for PLS and Patent management related IT systems training for the NIH Technology Transfer community and the contracted law firms.

Anna Solowiej became the Director of NHGRI's Technology Transfer Office in May 2023. She joined NHGRI TTO in 2011 and served as Associate and Acting Director before being promoted to the current position. Throughout her technology transfer career, Anna has been a TDTC Chair and a volunteer for AUTM. As part for her AUTM volunteer work, she serves as the Annual Meeting Program Chair. Before joining NIH, she worked as a patent attorney in private practice. She holds a J.D. and a Ph.D. in Cellular and Molecular Physiology.

Todd Testerman, Ph.D. joined NCI TTC as a CRTA fellow in January 2023. Todd finished his Ph.D. in 2022 at the University of Connecticut in molecular and cell biology, studying the connections between microbiome structure and disease across multiple species. Previously, he worked for Nestlé as a microbiology technician in the food safety sector. Todd looks forward to gaining more experience in technology transfer in his negotiator role and is excited to support NCI TTC's mission going forward.

Jeff Walenta joined the Agreement Coordination Group in the Regulatory Affairs Branch at CTEP NCI. He is returning to the NIH after tenures as Senior Manager – Licensing, Business Development, & Ventures at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and Technology Transfer Coordinator, Plains Area at the USDA Agriculture Research Service. Jeff began his tech transfer career as a Licensing & Patent Manager in the Cancer Branch and followed as a Senior Monitoring and Enforcement Officer at NIH OTT. He is thrilled to be back at the NIH and living in the Washington DC Area again!

Crossword Puzzle Answers

Across

2. Legal term for the party giving licensing rights (**licensor**)
5. Legal agreement that provides permission to use, but does not assign ownership (**license**)
6. Legal agreement to share and transfer materials (**mta**)
7. Executive department that NIH is part of (**hhs**)
8. Long-awaited replacement for TechTracS (**ett**)
9. Anonymous employee survey due July 14th (**fevs**)

Down

1. Grants right to exclude others from invented technology (**patent**)
2. Legal term for the party receiving licensing rights (**licensee**)
3. Legal agreement to share government research (**crada**)
4. A princely amount paid for the use of a technology (**royalty**)