Translational Research Support at UA

Dan Blakley
Associate Vice President / Office for Economic and Business Engagement (OEBE)

Ying Qin
Assistant Director / Commercialization & Business Engagement
Highlights

- Translational Research at UA
- NSF ART award – Capacity Building, Training & Education, Project Development
- WaterTech & Sustainability Accelerator and Founder Catalyst WaterTech & Sustainability Pre-accelerator programs
- Research Partnerships and Sponsored Research Projects
- Technology Commercialization Support
- Various Programs
- NSF Engines
- Innovate Alabama
Translational Research at UA

Figure 1. UA’s fundamental research activity vs. translation to commercialization activities
NSF Accelerating Research Translation (ART)

- $6M for 4 years
- Capacity Building, Training & Education, Project Development
- Impacts to faculty – Capacity building, using two seed translational research project (STRPs) to validate the model, hiring postdocs and graduate students, support through the private-public partnerships (P3s)
- Impacts to graduate students and postdocs - understanding various career paths through training and education, internship opportunities, building connections with industry
WaterTech & Sustainability Accelerator and Founder Catalyst WaterTech & Sustainability Pre-accelerator

- The opportunities that brings to UA faculty and community - Provide excellent training and mentorship to early-stage entrepreneurs, and provide collaborative opportunities for UA faculty to innovation & commercialization
- Bring high-potential startups to Tuscaloosa that will provide partnership and sponsored research opportunities
- Create opportunities for potential internship and jobs for UA students

TCEDA, UA and Techstars Partner to Bring Accelerator and Pre-Accelerator Programs to Tuscaloosa

January 22, 2024 • 4 min read
Research Partnerships & Sponsored Research Projects

- OEBE directs outreach to industry and builds university-industry partnerships
- Create translational research opportunities - identify opportunities for solving industrial problems and create sponsored research projects
- Help faculty to identify industry partners
- Help faculty with getting Letters of Support from industrial partners for grant applications
- Facilitate joint proposals and industry-led proposals
- Create opportunities for students
- OEBE’s satellite office on the Gulf Coast connects UA with local industry
Technology Commercialization Support

• Translation research funding application support
  • NSF PFI, I-Corps, SBIR/STTR

• Training series for UA researchers
  o Three Workshops to graduate students and postdocs: IP basics, IP Commercialization, Building a business model
  o Planning workshops to faculty/staff researchers
  o NSF I-Corps Site training (Building a business model through customer discovery)

• Incubator support
  • EDGE Labs (Wet labs for R&D, prototyping), and
  • The EDGE (Dry labs and co-working space)

• Entrepreneurship & Nonprofit Clinic (E-Clinic)

• One-on-one meetings with faculty
Various programs

• **Bama IP Commercialization Academy**: Pairing your IP and innovation with motivated student entrepreneurs (supported by Alabama Power Foundation)

• **Faculty/Staff Innovation Pitch Competition**: open to UA faculty and staff for all business ideas (supported by Alabama Power Foundation)

• **Industry Engagement Day**: Opportunity for industry leaders, executives, elected and government officials, and business owners to meet UA researchers to explore potential research and economic development partnerships

• **UA I-Corps Site training – Crimson Startup**

• **Alabama Entrepreneurship Institute (AEI) programs**: Aldag Business Plan Competition (April), River Pitch Competition (Nov.)
NSF Engines

- UA awarded Type-1 NSF Regional Innovation Engine – “Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia Network for Electric Vehicle Technologies” or MAGNET
- Preparing Type-2 proposal - $160 million/10 years – to create a domestic supply chain for EVs in the Southeast US
  - Use-inspired research, translation and talent development
  - Leverage AMP model (P3 and consortium)
  - Economic development/virtuous cycle
Innovate Alabama

• UA designated as an “Innovative University” and part of statewide network

• Create an ecosystem across Alabama to support creation and sustainability of knowledge-based economy

• UA awarded grant to support talent development for “jobs of the future”, especially in underrepresented areas of Alabama
  • Align strategic research themes with industry workforce needs
  • Future funding opportunities available – limited submission
Our Contacts

Dan Blakley
Associate Vice President
Office for Economic and Business Engagement
Phone 205-348-0787
Email djblakley@ua.edu

Ying Qin
Assistant Director / Commercialization & Business Engagement
Office for Economic & Business Engagement
Office for Innovation & Commercialization
Phone 205-348-9833
Email yqin@ua.edu