

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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UT SOUTHWESTERN TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER INCOME FIRST IN TEXAS

DALLAS – March 26, 1998 – UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas received more income from licensed patents and technology than any other university or research institution in Texas for fiscal year 1996, according to the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM).

UT Southwestern received nearly \$3 million in revenues from 49 licenses and options. The Texas A&M University System ranked second in the state with \$2.7 million in gross license income, with Baylor College of Medicine in Houston third, with \$2.5 million.

"Our ability to generate significant revenues is a direct reflection of the high-quality research done at UT Southwestern," said Ray Wheatley, director of technology transfer at UT Southwestern. The licensing of software plays an increasingly important role in quick revenue generation. In contrast, drug patents, medical devices and other technologies sometimes take longer to develop, but they can generate revenue for long periods of time, Wheatley said.

UT Southwestern innovations have included a diagnostic test for syphilis, ultra-dense calcium citrate for preventing osteoporosis and a multi element intravascular occlusion device for treating aneurysms.

"Technology transfer requires patience and investment of time and money," said Katherine Chapman, vice president for legal affairs and technology transfer. "Patents that are filed this year may not pay off for another 10 years or so."

University technology transfer — the transfer of innovations from academic research centers to commercial businesses — begins with a researcher disclosing new inventions to the technology transfer office. The office files for patents if appropriate and then identifies a commercial partner to whom the university will license the invention for commercial

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development. An invention does not have to be patented to be licensed.

University-industry partnerships benefit both the public and the university. New products are developed and brought to market faster. The public profits from medical innovations — from medical devices and biotechnological inventions to software and videotapes. At UT Southwestern, the university retains 50 percent of the royalties, and half of that is funneled back to the inventor's laboratory to fund further research. The other 50 percent goes to the inventors.

The 20 licenses and options executed during fiscal year 1996 were the highest in UT Southwestern's history. The same number of licenses and options were executed in fiscal year 1997, a year in which more patents were issued than ever before and the gross license income reached a new high.

One hundred and thirty-one U.S. universities were ranked in the survey, including 89 percent of the top 100 research universities, the AUTM reported.

More information about UT Southwestern's intellectual property is available on the technology transfer homepage at: http://www.swmed.edu/home_pages/technology_transfer/ott1.htm

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