

# President's Summit

Okinawa, Japan

November 2018

## Impact of University IP/Technology Transfer

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# The University as Social Invention

*universitas magistrorum et scholarium,*



## unique social role

859 AD University of Karueein-Morocco (1<sup>st</sup> university)  
(1,159 years ago)

1088 University of Bologna (1<sup>st</sup> European university)

1096 Oxford University (1<sup>st</sup> UK university)

1611 U. of Santo Tomas (1<sup>st</sup> Asian university)

1636 Harvard U. (1<sup>st</sup> U.S. university)

1850 U. of Sydney (1<sup>st</sup> in Australia)

1858 Keio University (1<sup>st</sup> in Japan)

## Creators and Keepers of the Written Word



## honor-bound to certain traditions





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LawrenceSawyer

**The Morrill Act (U.S.) 1862  
applied science & technology taught,  
and brought to farmers**

**Creators  
and Disseminators of  
Knowledge (Extension)**



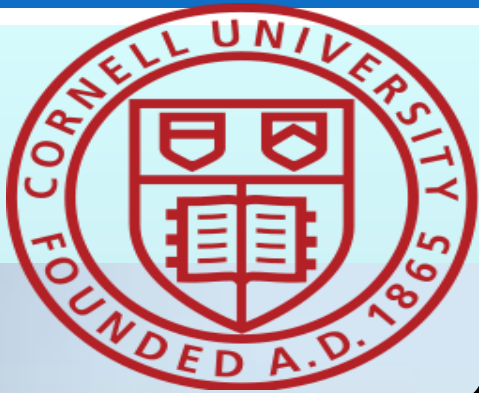
# Technology creation & dissemination







**Creators of Knowledge (Research)**



# Cornell University

1<sup>st</sup> plant variety transferred 1903

1<sup>st</sup> patent licensed 1932

TTO founded in 1980



## Essential Social Role

Creators and Keepers of the Written Word

A Community of Scholars and Teachers

Creators of Knowledge (Research)

Educators of the next generation

Researchers/Teachers (advancing knowledge)

Extension (bringing university technology to users)

Knowledge creation/dissemination for public good

## Distinctive Social Role

**Creators**

**and disseminators**

**of knowledge,**

**and technology**

**for the public good**

IP/Tech Transfer just the latest embodiment of  
the university mission

## University IP/Tech transfer?

A dynamic new component added to the  
university's historical mission;  
and its pact with society

The university's active engagement in the  
innovation ecosystem and in economic  
development

## of pursuing the basic mission

The experiment launched in U.S. in 1980

(US Bayh-Dole Act)

In nearly 4 decades:

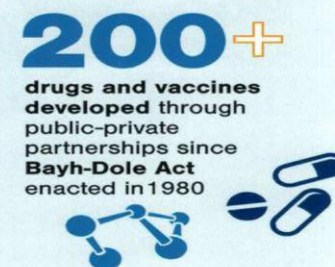
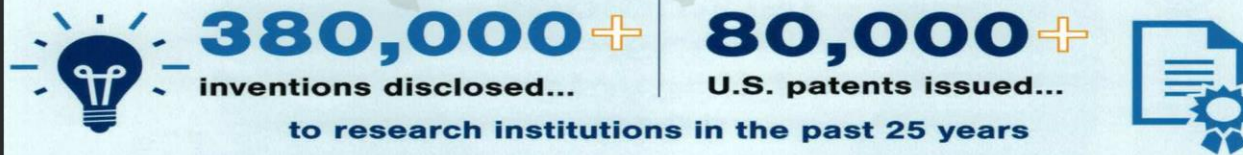
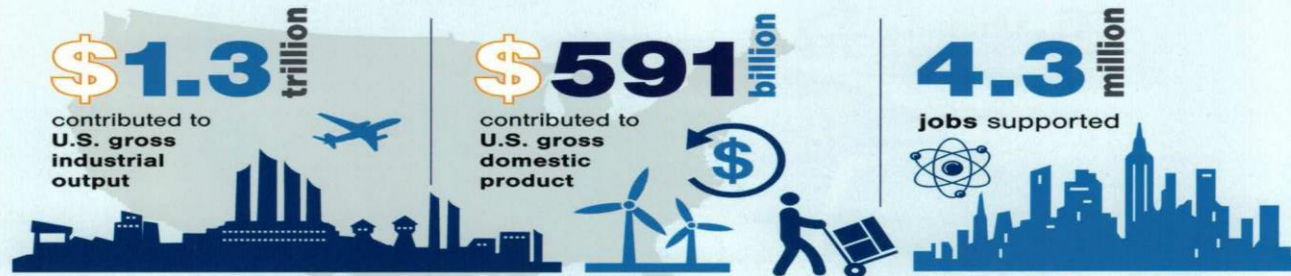
- The Act is not just a success.....  
it has exceeded expectations!
- IP/TT now integral to university mission
- No negative effects on university philosophy, traditions, policies, and practices

## Since 1980

- Every US research university actively participates in IP/tech transfer
- Growing rapidly around the world
- Tens of thousands of new products, services, companies, and jobs created
- Economic development based on intellectual assets and human capital

# Driving the Innovation Economy academic technology transfer in numbers

From 1996 to 2015...



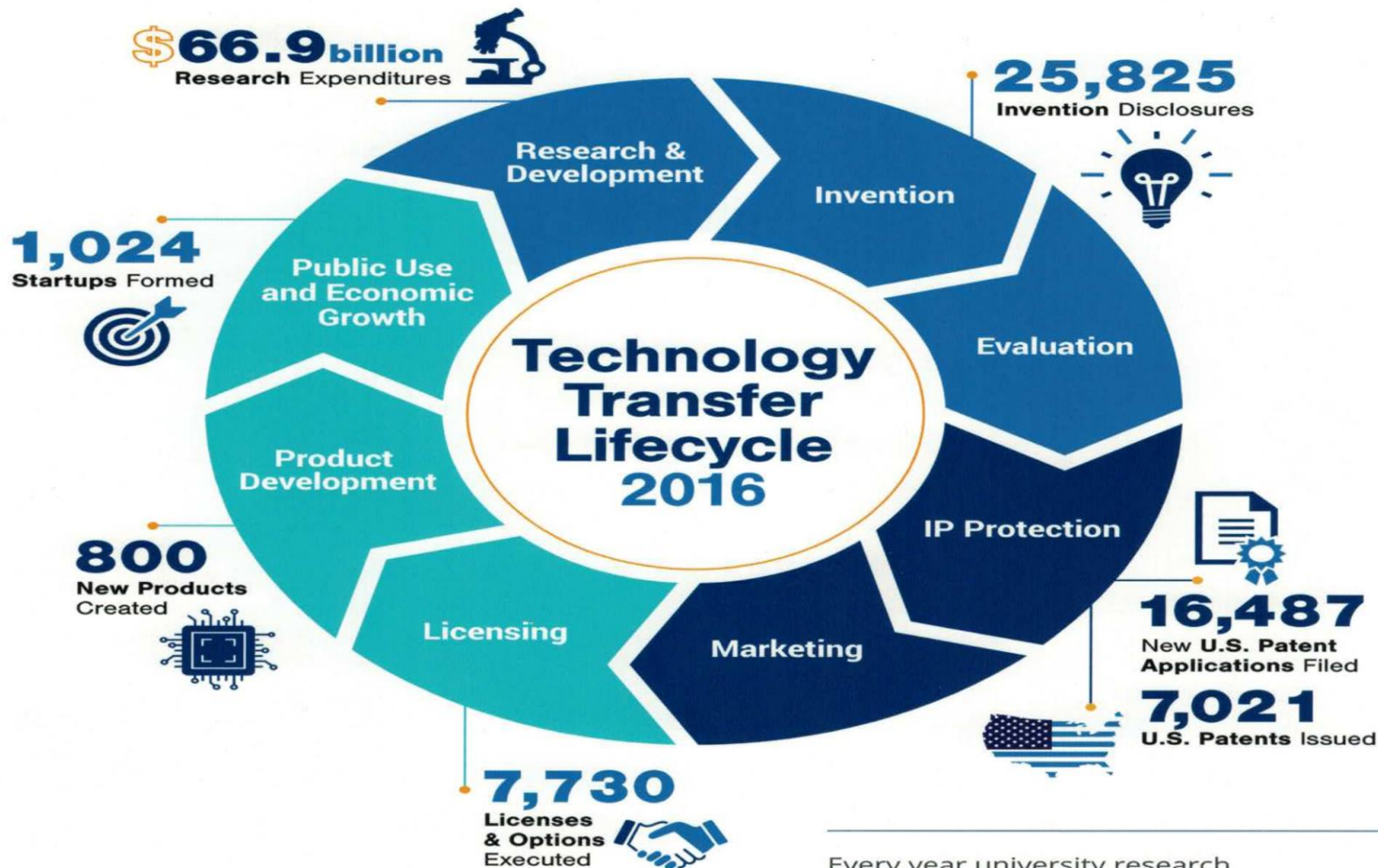
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The Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM) is a nonprofit leader in educating, developing, promoting and inspiring technology transfer practitioners to make the world a better place through the commercialization of academic research. AUTM's global community of 3,200 members represent businesses and government organizations, and more than 350 universities, research institutions and teaching hospitals.

This information was compiled from Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM) and the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO): The Economic Contribution of University/Nonprofit Inventions in the United States: 1996-2015; June 2017 as well as the AUTM U.S. Licensing Activity Survey Highlights 2016 and AUTM Statistics Access for Technology Transfer (STATT) Database, [www.autm.net/STATT](http://www.autm.net/STATT), and the Academic Patent Licensing Helps Drive the U.S. Economy, IPWatchdog.com, June 20, 2017.



# Benefiting Society and the Economy academic technology transfer for 2016

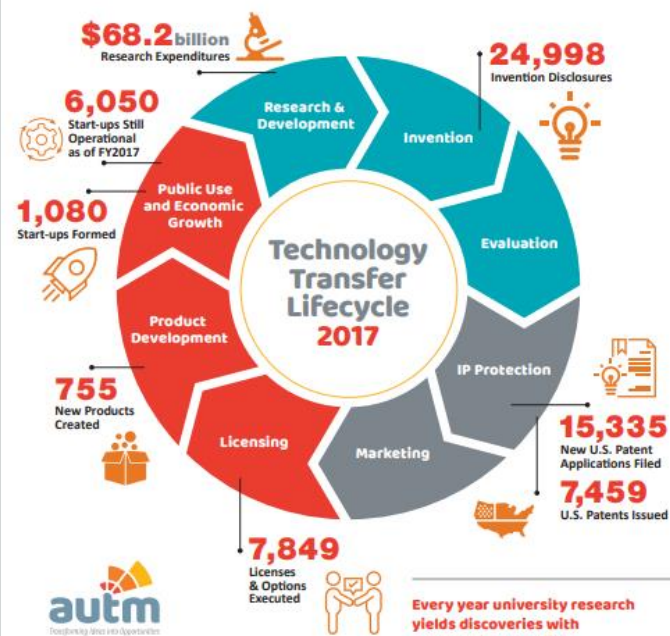


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visit [www.autm.net](http://www.autm.net)

Every year university research yields discoveries with commercial potential.

Technology transfer professionals associated with universities and other academic institutions manage the complex process of shepherding ideas from the lab to the marketplace — from evaluating and protecting discoveries to commercializing the inventions through new and existing companies.

## Benefiting Society and the Economy academic technology transfer for 2017



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# Impacts of IP-based University Technology Transfer<sup>19</sup>

- An awareness of the role IP can play in serving the university's goals of the public good
- Collaborative engagement and transactions between university and private sector
- An active university role in entrepreneurship, new ventures, the economic development system
- Added vitality and variety to the university mission
- Increasingly inventive faculty and staff
- Renewed interest by alumni
- Enhanced student entrepreneurship

Individual IP/tech transfer acts are important

(licenses, products, ventures, jobs, profits).....

..... But, it is the overall process that establishes the university's crucial role as a **source** and **catalyst** of the economic "innovation ecosystem"

Active university IP/tech transfer produces a vibrant, creative economy based on invention and innovation

It nourishes entrepreneurs and intrapreneurs who build the future

## **More lessons learned:**

A university should embrace and actively engage in the IP process,  
to widely disseminate its' technology  
for the public good

**NOT**

as a source of revenue

- With good management, it's reasonable to expect TTO to eventually break-even
- However, good TTO management, governance, leadership support and investment in TTO, and patience....  
will eventually produce significant revenue

As a by-product of a successful process

# University IP/Technology Transfer is more

## about the process than its results

- While a well-managed IP/TT function is striving to break even, and ....
- Good TTO management practices will eventually produce significant revenue.....
- The university is actively using its IP assets to catalyze an innovation ecosystem, spawning economic development, and a ripple-effect of societal benefits

## **WIPO's Enabling IP Environment (EIE) Project is based on this premise:**

Universities can play an enhanced role in the economic development of a country, through implementation of proven, sound policies and practices of IP management and technology transfer, and appropriate partnering with the private sector.....

..... and all this ultimately benefits the institution,  
and society.



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## Essential Elements in Sustaining Technology Transfer

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**The essential element:**

***Sustainability***

# Elements of Sustainable IP/Technology Transfer

Capable research institutions

Creative faculty & staff

Sufficient research funding

Effective IP Policy and practices

(institutional ownership;

efficient licensing)

# Elements of Sustainable IP/Technology Transfer

- Private investment necessary for invention development and commercialization
- Private investment requires a ROI  
(patents provide the mechanism)
- University ownership of patents maintains essential, close link between inventors and patent use, and provides control for:
  - assure development & dissemination
  - technology stewardship
  - value capture (ROI for research)

# Elements of Sustainable IP/Technology Transfer

Supportive senior leadership

Investment in IP/TTO infrastructure

Knowledgeable/motivated TTO professionals

Valuable technology/IP

Sustainable funding mechanism for IP/TTO  
operations

Protection of right-to-publish

Education, research, and academic goals  
always supercede IP/tech transfer

Effective conflict of interest policy

Incentives for inventors

(revenue sharing)

# University IP/tech transfer: Lessons learned

*University researchers are more motivated by the success of their invention than \$\$*

- A small % want to get-rich through IP/TT
- A few don't want any \$\$ from their invention
- Most won't refuse their share of \$\$ if their invention is successful  
but.....
- **100% want their invention to be used to solve real-world problems!**

# Elements of Sustainable IP/Technology Transfer

Enthusiasm to partner with private sector;  
responsive to private sector needs

Good private sector partners  
(respectful, honest, capable)

Motivated by technology development and  
dissemination for the public good..... not  
making money





# Elements of Sustainable IP/Technology Transfer

Supportive alumni

Entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial culture

Effective start-up policy

Start-up support system

Friendly investors

Supportive local business

Promotion of IP/TT on campus

# Elements of Sustainable IP/Technology Transfer

*The number of inventions/researcher/year  
does not remain constant*

Outreach and promotion of tech transfer, and its  
successes will increase invention disclosure rate

***The Cornell example:***

**1990:** 90 disclosures/2700 researchers/year  
= 0.03 inventions/researcher/year

**2010:** 350 disclosures/2700 researchers/year  
= 0.13 inventions/researcher/year

4X increase in disclosures/researcher/yr over 20 years

## What is the most essential element?

***People!***

motivated

knowledgable

creative, innovators

collaborative

skillful

optimistic

**Thank You**

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## **Accelerating University Technology to the Market: The University Role**

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# Accelerating University Technology to Market

The university must have a commercialization partner; it can't do it alone

It's most essential role:

1. evaluate and validate its technologies,
2. protect them with IP,
3. strengthen the business case

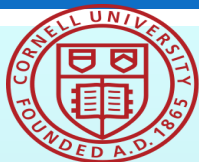
In this way, the private sector can rely on the university for valuable technologies

Universities should be selective in the technologies they choose to pursue

# The Cornell Example

Over a span of twenty years:

- 3000 inventions submitted to TTO
  - 1500 filed as patents (~ 50%)
    - 750 licensed (~25%)
      - 650 generate revenue (~20%)
      - <300 yield successful products (< 10%)



Cornell University

## Over a span of 20 years (1990-2010)

3000 inventions submitted to TTO

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# Accelerating University Technology to Market

- Many fewer “commercializable” university inventions than many realize
  - (typically: 1 disclosure/\$2million in research/yr)
- Most university inventions will never be commercialized because they:
  - don't solve an economically important problem
  - aren't better than what's currently available
  - can't be scaled-up
  - aren't cost-effective or feasible
  - have some insurmountable flaw
  - don't allow meaningful IP

## the University role

- Conduct technology validation and de-risking:
    - proof of product activities
    - pilot facilities
    - proof of concept funding
  - Provide reasonable access to university facilities for commercialization partners
    - (renting, and fee-for service)
- Allow (encourage?) faculty/staff to consult for commercialization partners

# Accelerating University Technology to Market:

## the University role

- Recruit pool of entrepreneurs
- Supportive of entrepreneurs and start-ups
- Entrepreneurship education
- Friendly policies for licensing start-ups
  - equity in start-ups
  - effective conflict-of-interest rules
- Participate in the local/regional economic development activities
  - (e.g., Cornell/Ithaca “REV Incubator”)