MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

May 2023 Issue

TEXAS A&M INNOVATION

Announcing: Texas A&M Innovation

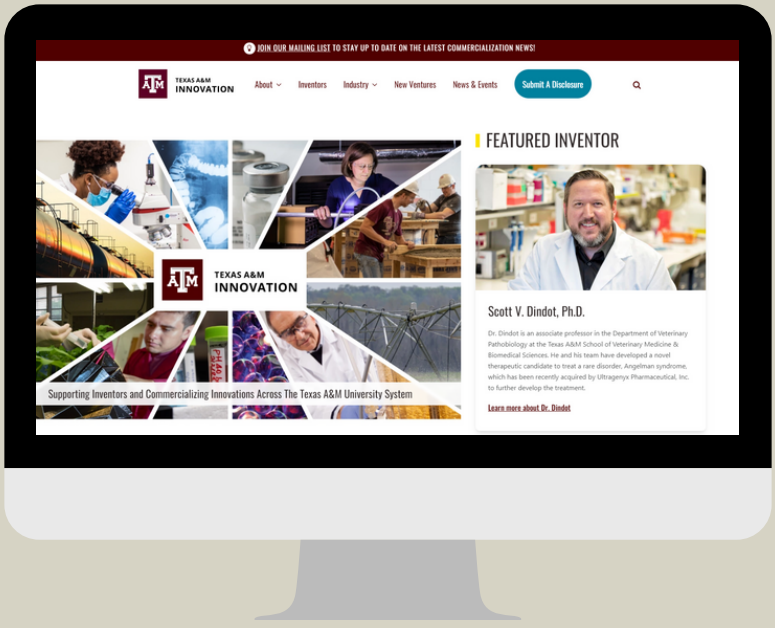
Earlier this spring, The Texas A&M University System announced a new approach to commercialization beginning with the consolidation of the five separate commercialization offices from Texas A&M University, Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station, Texas A&M Transportation Institute, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, and Texas A&M System Technology Commercialization Office. Our new organization, Texas A&M Innovation, now located in Century Square adjacent to the College Station campus, is under the leadership of Chief Innovation Officer, Pete ONeill, and provides commercialization support to the entire Texas A&M System.

"From therapies for rare diseases, to electrified vehicles, to novel plant varieties, it's almost unbelievable the breadth and quality of work happening at Texas A&M," says ONeill. "Our goal is to provide Texas A&M inventors with world-class support for commercialization so that the incredible discoveries happening in the laboratories can be brought to the market. It's never too early to engage with our office for intellectual property questions or support."

In a recent interview with local news channel, KAGS, ONeill elaborates on the charge and aims of the new office, citing the diversity of innovations across the system and the duty of his team to appropriately address each area.

As part of this new effort and aims to improve the level of service provided to its customers, Texas A&M Innovation recently launched a new website that will provide easy access for Texas A&M inventors to submit their invention disclosures and serve as a one stop spot for internal and external partners to connect with us and quickly find relevant information to their respective needs. Stay tuned as the team continues to build out world-class content at https://innovation.tamus.edu.

Above: Peter ONeill, Chief Innovation Officer at Texas A&M Innovation.
Right: Screenshot of newly launched website for Texas A&M Innovation.



Recent Events

Texas A&M Innovation recently hosted two exciting events to honor innovators and highlight ongoing commercialization efforts.

Right: John Sharp, Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System; delivering remarks at the 2023 Patent and Chancellor's Innovation Awards.
Left: Inventors at the networking reception of the 2023 Patent and Chancellor's Innovation Awards.

Patent and Innovation Awards Luncheon

The 2023 Patent and Chancellor's Innovation Awards Luncheon on April 14, 2023, held at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center at the George Bush Presidential Library Complex in College Station, TX, recognized sixty-one current employees within The Texas A&M University System whose inventions were granted patent protection from the United States Patent and Trademark Office during the previous calendar year. In 2022, there were a total of 52 patents and one plant variety protection certificate awarded, spanning various technology types from new chemical formulations to new therapies for devastating diseases, to new mechanical assemblies for industrial use. Remarks were made by Dr. Joe Elabd, Vice Chancellor for Research, Pete ONeill, Chief Innovation Officer, and Chancellor John Sharp. Each awardee received a plaque printed with the first page of their granted patent followed by a photo with Chancellor Sharp and Dr. Elabd.

In addition to the Patent Awards, the inaugural Chancellor's Innovation Award, given in recognition of an individual whose research exemplifies the spirit of innovation within The Texas A&M University System, was presented to Dr. Scott V. Dindot, EDGES fellow and associate professor in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology at Texas A&M's School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, for his work related to the development of GTX-102, the first drug therapy for individuals with Angelman syndrome.

Event Sponsors

Texas A&M Innovation thanks the event's underwriter sponsors: The Texas A&M University System and Winstead Attorneys, and other event sponsors: Barnes & Thornburg, LLP, Conley Rose, P.C., Saliwanchik, Lloyd & Eisenschenk, Christensen O'Connor Johnson Kindness, PLLC, Duane Morris LLP, Meunier, Carlin & Curfman, LLC, Schwegman Lundberg & Woessner, Allen, Dyer, Doppelt, + Gilchrist, PA, Brazos Valley Economic Development Corporation, Chalker Flores, LLP, Dentons US LLP, Grable • Martin • Fulton PLLC, Jenkins, Wilson, Taylor & Hunt, P.A., McKee Voorhees & Sease, PLC, Medlen & Carroll, LLP, Parker Justiss, PC, Thomas | Horstemeyer, LLC, and Womble Bond Dickinson, LLP, for their tremendous support to make the event possible.

Above: Translational Investment Fund awardee group photo. Top row, left to right: Seda Tuzun Canadinc, Karuppiah Chockalingam, Xiaotong Song, Shoshanna Eitan. Bottom row, left to right: John Gladysz, Aaron Wegener, Wei Yan.
Below: Dr. Shoshanna Eitan presenting at the 2023 Translational Investment Fund Showcase.

Translational Investment Fund Showcase

The 2023 Translational Investment Fund (TIF) Showcase on April 26, 2023, held at Texas A&M Innovation's new offices in Century Square, highlighted recently completed TIF projects, where inventors shared their progress and achievements resulting from investments into year-long projects to develop their early-stage technologies. The primary objectives of the TIF program are aimed at providing access to funding to bridge development gaps commonly realized with early-stage technologies, de-risk and accelerate the development of promising A&M technologies and increase the chances of commercialization of those technologies. This year's event showcased the following projects:

- "Glycoengineering and In Vivo Evaluation of Anti-CD20 Monoclonal Antibody Drug Candidates", Dr. Karuppiah Chockalingam, Microbial Pathogenesis & Immunology
- "Naloxone-Laden Polymer Nanoparticles for Oral Administration", Dr. Shoshana Eitan, Psychological & Brain Sciences
- "Cobalt(III) Chirality Sensing Agents", Dr. John Gladysz and Mr. Aaron Wegener, Chemistry
- "Refueled CAR T cells to treat solid tumors", Dr. Xiaotong Song, Center for Infectious & Inflammatory Diseases
- "Augmented Reality Powered Assembly - Progress Update from the 2022 TIF Showcase", Dr. Wei Yan, Architecture

Submissions to the fourth funding round will be accepted starting on May 15, 2023 and are open to all inventors across the The Texas A&M University System, including agency partners and regional campus members. The total funding available for the next round of awards will double compared to previous rounds, allowing for a larger number of investments into translational projects. More details on the submission cycle, program guidelines, and eligibility can be found on the Texas A&M Innovation website.

Featured Inventor

Scott V. Dindot, PhD

Dr. Scott Dindot is an Associate Professor and EDGES Fellow at Texas A&M University. He performed his undergraduate studies first at Howard Payne University and then at Texas A&M University, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Molecular and Cell Biology. He received a Ph.D. in Genetics from Texas A&M University under the guidance of Dr. Jorge Piedrahita. He then performed his postdoctoral training as an NIH Fellow at Baylor College of Medicine under the direction of Dr. Arthur Beaudet. He has been a faculty member of the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology in the School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences since 2008, while also serving on the Texas A&M University Faculties of Genetics, Biomedical Science, Neuroscience, and Reproductive Biology. He has also held a joint appointment in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Medicine in the School of Medicine.

In addition to his position at Texas A&M University, Dr. Dindot was the Chief Scientific Officer of GeneTx Biotherapeutics, a biotechnology company formed by the Foundation for Angelman Syndrome Therapeutics and The Texas A&M University System to develop an antisense oligonucleotide therapy for the treatment of Angelman syndrome, a devastating neurodevelopmental disorder for which there are currently no effective treatment options. Since 2021, he has also served as the Executive Director of Molecular Genetics at Ultragenyx Pharmaceuticals, a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company that develops novel therapies for rare and ultra-rare genetic disorders.

Dr. Dindot's research focuses on understanding the genetic and epigenetic basis of genomic imprinting disorders and the development of novel therapies to treat them. He and his team have developed a novel therapeutic candidate, GTX-102, for treatment of Angelman syndrome (AS), a rare and devastating neurodevelopmental disorder for which there is currently no cure or effective treatment. This past year after promising clinical trials, Ultragenyx Pharmaceutical, Inc. acquired the drug through a $75 million deal to advance it into late-stage development for AS treatment. In recognition of his remarkable work on GTX-102 and its impact on the lives of individuals with AS and their families, Dr. Dindot recently received the 2023 Chancellor's Innovation Award. Read the full story.

Left to right: Peter ONeill, Chief Innovation Officer, Texas A&M Innovation; John Sharp, Chancellor, The Texas A&M University System; Scott Dindot, Associate Professor, Texas A&M University; Joe Elabd, Vice Chancellor for Research, The Texas A&M University System.

Partnerships and Patents

Recent Deal

Texas A&M Innovation completed a license with a startup company, Dimien Inc., for multiple technologies related to a new battery material developed in the lab of Dr. Sarbajit Banerjee, a professor in the Department of Chemistry at Texas A&M University.

While current batteries on the market use cathodes made of cobalt and nickel, minerals that are very limited and costly to produce, these novel technologies create battery cathodes made of vanadium, which is low cost, easy to produce, extremely high performing, and safe to use. The company is further developing these licensed technologies to create next-generation, high-capacity batteries for use in electric vehicles and other battery storage applications.

Multiple Texas A&M technologies licensed by Dimien, Inc. will be further developed to create next-generation, high-capacity batteries for use in electric vehicles. Image: Getty Images

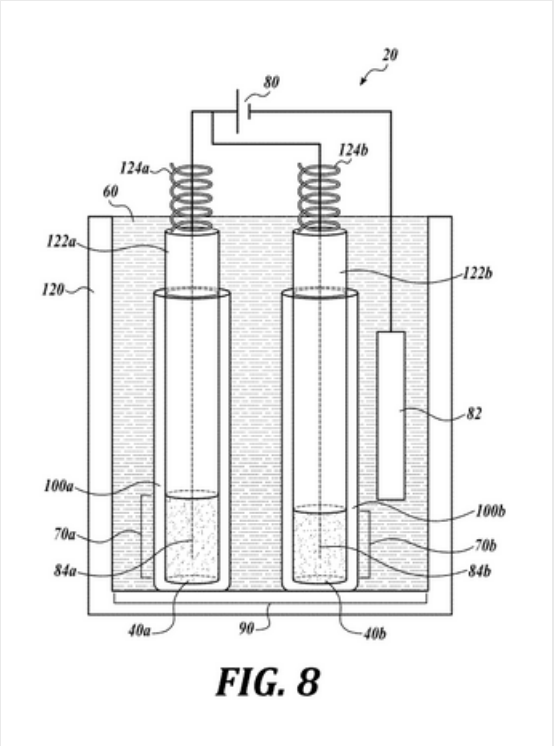


FIG. 8

Patents Issued in April

- Antimicrobial Shape Memory Polymers
  - Inventors: Mary Beth Monroe, Grace K. Fletcher, Brandis K. Keller, Duncan John Maitland, Andrew C. Weems
- Coatings for Materials
  - Inventors: Jaime C. Grunlan, Ryan J. Smith
- Electrochemically Expanded Materials and Reactor and Method for Producing the Same
  - Inventors: Thomas C. Achee, Micah J. Green, Wanmei Sun, Charles B. Sweeney
- Power Electronics Intelligence at the Network Edge (PINE)
  - Inventors: Panganamala Kumar, Prasad N. Enjeti, Le Xie

A Look Ahead

Texas A&M New Ventures Competition

The Texas A&M New Ventures Competition (TNVC) is an opportunity for Texas-based companies with high-growth potential to compete for seed funding to help them effectively execute their ideas and advance product development, promoting the commercialization of emerging technology throughout the state.

The 2023 TNVC will be held on May 16-17, 2023 in College Station, TX at the Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center. This year's competition received almost 70 applicants and through a rigorous screening process, including both internal and external subject matter expertise, resulted in a list of 16 semifinalist companies with 4 alternates that will compete at the May event. The event includes an educational panel session on day one where previous TNVC competitors will speak on their entrepreneurial experience and lessons learned, followed by multiple judging rounds on day two to arrive at the finalists who will compete for over $550,000 in cash and sponsored prizes. The event also includes an elevator pitch competition, offering an additional chance to walk away with prize money, where winners are determined by audience votes. Learn more about this event at the TNVC website and stay tuned for this year's results.

2022 Texas A&M
New Ventures Competition

Top left: Bryton Praslicka, PhD, and CEO of FluxWorks LLC, a Texas A&M University spinout company and winner of the 2022 Texas A&M New Ventures Competition. Bottom left: Entrepreneurial panel at the 2022 Texas A&M New Ventures Competition. Bottom right: A competitor participating in the speed networking session.