Bridging the gap: UMHS research and the private sector

Academic medical research fuels innovation across the spectrum of health care, and collaborations with private sector partners play a critical role in ensuring that many discoveries cross the bridge between bench and bedside.

Creating ideas:
- In FY13, UMHS researchers reported a record 133 new inventions – a third of all inventions reported at U-M.
- In FY13, 44 new patent applications & 41 issued patents related to UMHS discoveries – 33% of U-M activity.

Creating companies and jobs:
- 25 new start-up companies based on UMHS discoveries have launched since 2006.
- In FY12, 40 options & license agreements executed by U-M Tech Transfer brought UMHS ideas closer to the market. That’s 40% of all U-M technology agreements.

Creating knowledge through industry-sponsored research:
- About 11% percent of Medical School research funding comes from industry, with $50.3M in funding granted by 224 companies in FY13. Industry awards for research at the Medical School have risen 24% since FY09.
- Every year, more than 90 new clinical trials sponsored by industry launch at UMHS, giving patients access to the latest innovations and providing independent testing of future products.
- Our Fast Forward Medical Innovation initiative streamlines the process for industry-sponsored research and clinical trials to come to UMHS, and for companies to engage with Medical School researchers to accelerate biomedical innovation and commercialization in diagnostics, therapeutics, devices, and healthcare IT.
- We operate five locations where clinical trial participants – including those in industry-sponsored trials - can receive testing or experimental therapies in an outpatient or inpatient setting.

Creating an entrepreneurial environment:
- A $2.9 grant from the William Davidson Foundation is accelerating our efforts to engage faculty in entrepreneurial efforts, and to create new commercialization education, training and mentoring opportunities for inventors and entrepreneurs.
- Our $7.5M MTRAC fund and $20M endowment built by the Coulter Foundation, the Medical School and the College of Engineering ensure that new biomedical technologies get crucial translational research funding to help make the leap from the minds of our engineers & physicians to the private sector.

Creating revenue for the University:
- In FY13, 77% of U-M’s $14.4M in royalties & equity sales revenue came from UMHS-generated ideas now used in commercial products.

Creating a climate of integrity in industry interaction:
- Our Medical School’s Conflict of Interest disclosure and management guidelines for research are some of the most stringent in the country, and preceded national requirements by years.
- We have earned an “A” from the American Medical Students Association for our policies regarding industry interaction in clinical, educational and research settings.

3/19/14