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INNOVATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION

July 9, 2025

OHSU Innovates



LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Innovation leads to opportunity — opportunity leads to prosperity. It is time to reimagine OHSU Innovates' evolving role in the creation of

opportunities for OHSU members and the community partners that we serve. We stand steady, ready to innovate and push boundaries so that together, we can thrive and do things we've not yet been able to do. July 1 marked the start of the new fiscal year for OHSU. We've set our sights on the next horizon line and will move forward with our vision to be an innovation hub, where OHSU employees and community members want to come to learn, collaborate and commercialize OHSU research. With the launch of the first inaugural Oregon Innovation Showcase, we show our commitment to community collaboration. OHSU students are some of Oregon's key contributors to our innovation economy. This year, OHSU students showed record participation at Invent Oregon, Oregon's only statewide collegiate prototyping challenge, and once again, we had a winner! Please read about these stories and more below and reach out to us if we can support you in your innovation journey.

Happy Summer!

Travis Cook, M.S., M.B.A, CLP

Senior Director, Technology Transfer

Aditi Martin, Ph.D.

Senior Director, Collaborations and Entrepreneurship

FEATURED STORY

EEGonaut Wins Top Honors at Invent Oregon 2025, Marking Second Year of OHSU Student Success



On June 27, the University of Portland hosted Invent Oregon 2025, where 19 collegiate teams pitched their innovations live for \$30,000 in prizes. The event continues Oregon's tradition of supporting student entrepreneurship and innovation, having grown significantly since its launch in 2017 to include participants from across the state.

For the second year in a row, an OHSU student team took top honors. This year's \$10,000 grand prize went to EEGonaut, led by OHSU Behavioral Neuroscience graduate student Chloé Le Moing. EEGonaut is an affordable EEG-VR headset that helps children with ADHD, anxiety and emotional regulation challenges build lifelong self-regulation skills through short, brain-powered games. It offers a fun, non-invasive alternative to medication for families, schools and clinicians.

Chloé developed the concept earlier this year and further advanced it through OHSU's Student Innovator Challenge, an internal pitch competition that supports students in refining early-stage ideas and preparing them for real-world application. During the challenge, she received guidance from mentors including Entrepreneur-in-Residence Dick Rylander and was ultimately selected as a wildcard winner. That designation earned her a spot at Invent Oregon, with just eight weeks to prepare. While Chloé delivered the pitch on stage, team members Aaliya

Mehnaz Ahmed and Joe Gordon were also present in support. The team's progress and prototype impressed the judges and the audience, earning EEGonaut both the top prize and the People's Choice Award of \$1,000.

In 2024, the top Invent Oregon prize went to another OHSU team, EaziStep, led by Joshua Vanderpool, a Ph.D. student in Biomedical Engineering. EaziStep developed a mobility device that functions as both a knee scooter and a hands-free crutch. Since winning Invent Oregon, the team has gone on to win the 2024–2025 TiE University Program Regional Pitch Competition hosted by [TiE Oregon](#) and earned an invitation to compete at the TiE Global Summit in India.

Since its founding in 2017, [Invent Oregon](#) has grown from a local initiative into the state's only collegiate prototyping challenge. It continues to empower student innovators to transform bold ideas into real-world impact through mentorship, funding and hands-on experience.

Pictured: Chloé Le Moing (left), Joe Gordon (middle), and Aaliya Mehnaz Ahmed (right), prepare to demonstrate their product, EEGonaut, an affordable EEG-VR headset that helps kids with ADHD, anxiety, and emotional regulation challenges build lifelong self-regulation skills through short, brain-powered games, at the 2025 InventOR Prototype Exhibition.

FEATURED NEWS

2025 BIP Drug Discovery Awardees Announced

OHSU's [Biomedical Innovation Program \(BIP\)](#) has announced its 2025 awardees in the Drug Discovery track, supporting early-stage therapeutic technologies with strong commercial and clinical potential.

This year's funded projects are:

- [Michael Cohen, Ph.D.](#) – “PARP11 Inhibitors as First-in-Class Dual-functioning Immunomodulators for Treatment of Solid Tumors”
- [Summer Gibbs, Ph.D.](#) – “Quantitative Intraoperative Nerve Health Assessment using Functional Fluorescence Imaging”

Backed by OCTRI and OHSU Innovates, BIP helps advance innovative, interdisciplinary research through targeted funding and milestone-driven progress.

Congratulations to the awardees driving therapeutic innovation at OHSU.

Read the full [press release](#).

Oregon Innovation Showcase Spotlights Academic Roots of Deep Tech Startups



The first inaugural [Oregon Innovation Showcase](#), held May 19 to 20, at the Sentinel Hotel in Portland, underscored the pivotal role of academic institutions in driving deep tech innovation. Organized by [ICOregon](#) in partnership with [Business Oregon](#), the event brought together more than 30 startups, many emerging from university labs, with investors, industry

leaders and ecosystem partners. More than 300 people attended the event.

OHSU startups [Aronora](#), [NeuraMedica Inc.](#), [PDX Pharmaceuticals](#), [Surgivance](#) and [Trace Biosciences](#) participated, highlighting the cutting-edge innovations developed within our community. Notably, Rachel Dreilinger, co-founder and CEO of NeuraMedica Inc., competed in the deep tech pitch competition.

Participants engaged in dynamic company pitches, insightful panel discussions and networking sessions, showcasing Oregon's strengths in biotech, advanced manufacturing and clean tech. The Showcase emphasized the critical role of academic institutions in de-risking early-stage innovations and facilitating commercialization. Discussions highlighted both successes and areas for growth, reinforcing the collective commitment to supporting entrepreneurs and strengthening Oregon's innovation ecosystem.

Looking ahead, the 2026 Oregon Innovation Showcase aims to build upon the success of this inaugural event, continuing to foster collaboration and innovation within Oregon's deep tech ecosystem.

Pictured (top to bottom, left to right): Opening Reception; Event Signage; Connor Barth, Co-Founder & CEO of Trace Biosciences, at the Emerging Startup Highlights showcase; Jonathan Hurst (Agility Robotics), David Katz (Sparrow Pharmaceuticals), and Jenn Lynch (Portland Seed Fund) during the Successful Entrepreneurs Panel Discussion; Rachel Dreilinger, Co-Founder & CEO of NeuraMedica Inc., presenting at Deep Tech Quick Pitches; and Nicole Garrison, Program Administrator for OHSU Innovates, at the Ecosystem Partner Showcase

RyboDyn Joins Lilly Gateway Labs to Accelerate Dark Proteome Immunotherapies

Congratulations to OHSU startup [RyboDyn](#) on being selected to join Lilly Gateway Labs in San Diego. This is a major step in the company's work to develop new immunotherapies that target hard-to-find cancer proteins in the dark proteome.

As part of Eli Lilly's Catalyze360™ program, RyboDyn will gain access to world-class lab space, scientific experts and business support to help move its therapies closer to clinical testing.

RyboDyn's technology, called RyboCypher™, was first developed at OHSU's The Knight Cancer Institute's Cancer Early Detection Advanced Research Center, or CEDAR. It uses RNA sequencing and AI to find hidden proteins found only in cancer cells, offering new ways to design more precise treatments.

The company is now working with top partners like Moffitt Cancer Center to move its most promising therapies forward.

Read the full [press release](#).

NervGen Pharma Reports Positive Clinical Results for OHSU-Invented Therapy

An OHSU-developed technology is showing encouraging clinical results in the treatment of spinal cord injury. Based on the research of [Beth Habecker, Ph.D.](#) and Ryan Gardner, Ph.D., BCMAS. NVG-291, has shown

positive topline data in the chronic cohort of Phase 1b/2a clinical trial.
NervGen Pharma's Phase 1b/2a clinical trial.

Designed to promote nerve regeneration and restore function, NVG-291 is being studied as a potential breakthrough for individuals with limited treatment options. This milestone highlights the growing impact of OHSU innovation in advancing real-world therapies.

Read the full [press release](#).

PMedIC awards \$100,000 to three research partnerships between OHSU and PNNL

Three collaborative research teams from OHSU and [Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, or PNNL](#), have been awarded 2026 [PMedIC](#) Innovation Grants, totaling \$100,000, to support early-stage precision medicine research:

- “Mapping the Airway Neuroimmune Proteome in Eosinophilic Asthma” ([Matthew Drake, M.D.](#), OHSU; Jeremy Clair, Ph.D., PNNL) – Investigating how abnormal nerve-immune interactions contribute to inflammation in eosinophilic asthma.
- “Precision Targeting of Cancer Associated ENO1 Modifications Using Nanobodies” ([Sanjay Malhotra, Ph.D.](#), OHSU; Samantha Powell, Ph.D., PNNL) – Developing nanobody-based therapies targeting the ENO1 protein in aggressive cancers like triple negative breast cancer.
- “Discovery of In Situ Neoantigens in NELL1 Associated Membranous Nephropathy” ([Rupali Avasare, M.D.](#), OHSU; Nicholas Day, Ph.D., PNNL) – Exploring how the supplement lipoic acid may trigger autoimmune kidney disease through changes in kidney proteins.

These projects aim to generate critical pilot data to support future research and potential new therapies.

Read the full [press release](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIP Corp Course, Fridays Sept. 12 - Oct. 17

[OCTRI Innovation and Awards](#) team will hold the annual Biomedical Commercialization Readiness Course, BIP Corp from 9 to 11 a.m. on Fridays, Sept. 12 through Oct. 17. This non-credit course is free and available to clinicians, scientists, postdocs, graduate students, staff, engineers and entrepreneurs with early-stage ideas. The six-week I-Corps based short course offers an evidence-based approach to accelerate the translation of discoveries from lab to clinical practice. Individuals and teams will get out of their comfort zone to connect with potential customers and will develop a competitive business case for future funding, partnership and translational science opportunities.

Course information and schedule are [online](#). Enroll by Monday, Sept. 1 by submitting the [intake survey](#).

Applications Due July 14: Oregon Bio 2025 Innovation Showcase Pitch Competition



Oregon Bio invites students, early-career researchers and bioscience startups to apply by July 14 for the 2025 Innovation Showcase, taking place on September 30 in Portland. Selected finalists will present their innovations live to investors and industry leaders, receive expert feedback, pitch coaching, complimentary conference registration and cash awards. The competition features two categories: Research Fast Pitch, with presentations lasting 3 to 5 minutes, and Startup Pitch, with presentations lasting 9 to 12 minutes. For more information and to apply, visit the [Oregon Bio website](#).

OHSU ASCEND Award

OHSU Innovates is preparing to launch the ASCEND Award, a new funding opportunity designed to support bold, impact-driven ideas from across the OHSU community. The program will focus on advancing solutions to real-world challenges in health, access and community needs.

The award has not launched yet, but details on eligibility, review cycles and how to apply will be shared soon. Stay tuned for the official call for proposals.

FEATURED EVENT

The Translational Turn: A Fireside Chat on Making Basic Science Drug-Ready

OHSU Innovates Speaker Series: Drug
Discovery Sessions

The Translational Turn: A Fireside Chat on Making Basic Science Drug-Ready



Sanjay V. Malhotra, Ph.D., FRSC

Sheila Edwards-Lienhart Endowed Chair in Cancer Research
Professor, Department of Cell Development and Cancer Biology
Director, Center for Experimental Therapeutics
Director, Center for Radiopharmaceutical Research
School of Medicine, OHSU



Nabil J. Alkayed, M.D., Ph.D.

James Metcalfe Chair in Cardiovascular Research
Professor of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine,
Neurology, Neurological Surgery,
Cardiovascular Medicine, and Chemical Physiology and
Biochemistry
Director of Research, Knight Cardiovascular Institute
School of Medicine, OHSU

July 31
12 to 1 p.m. PDT



Join us for the launch of this new series featuring real-world strategies for aligning research with therapeutic development. The conversation will highlight how practical shifts in research strategy can naturally lead to new opportunities for discovery, funding and broader impact.

[Sanjay Malhotra, Ph.D.](#) and [Nabil J. Alkayed, M.D., Ph.D.](#) will sit down for an engaging conversation about what it takes to make basic science drug-ready, from rethinking lab focus to building translational momentum.

This 60-minute virtual event features a brief fireside-style conversation followed by an interactive discussion and audience Q&A. This event is free and open to all.

[Register for this event through Zoom.](#)

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| WHEN | Thursday, July 31 12–1p.m. PDT |
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| WHERE | Virtual |
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| WHO | Open to all |
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| COST | FREE |
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UPCOMING EVENTS

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| Thursday, July 10 | OBI's July Accelerate Happy Hour |
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| Tuesday, July 15 | OBI Virtual Lunch & Learn: FDA Programs to Facilitate and Expedite Development of New Drugs for Serious or Life-threatening |
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| Saturday, July 15 | TAO Party on the Pinot |
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Tuesday, July 22 [OEN Startup Business Essentials: Beat Burnout From Busy to Better: Energy Management for Founders](#)

Tuesday, July 29 [OEN Startup Business Essentials: The CEO's Guide to Productivity: How to Work ON Your Business, Not Just IN it](#)

Thursday, July 31 [OHSU Innovates Drug Discovery Session: The Translational Turn: A Fireside Chat on Making Basic Science Drug-Ready](#)

Tuesday, Aug 12 [OEN Startup Business Essentials: Protecting Your Investment: Legal Considerations for Now and as You Grow](#)

Thursday, Aug 14 [Oregon Bio Women Meetup - Portland](#)

Thursday, Aug 14 [Bio on Tap - Portland](#)

Thursday, Aug 28 [Bio Impact - Bend](#)

Thursday, Sept 11 [OBI Annual Startup Spotlight Expo](#)

Wednesday, Sept 17 [Bio Impact - Portland](#)

**Monday, Sept 29 -
Tuesday, Sept 30** [Oregon Bio Annual Conference 2025](#)

TECHNOLOGIES

Newly Licensed or Optioned OHSU Technologies

Congratulations to the creators of the below technologies, which were recently licensed or optioned to outside partners.

[OHSU 1038B](#) - HPi2 monoclonal antibody supernatant from hybridoma HIC1-2B4 (endocrine cell marker)

[OHSU 1038B-1](#) - Purified HPi2 antibody from hybridoma HIC1-2B4 (endocrine cell marker)

[OHSU 1038B-2](#) - APC conjugated HPi2 antibody from hybridoma HIC1-2B4 (endocrine cell marker)

[OHSU 1740](#) - Tinnitus Functional Index

[OHSU 1771](#) - Materials from the BioLibrary

OHSU 2168 - Apparatus and Methods for Laser Thermal Conjunctivoplasty

OHSU 2286 - A biomimetic mineralizing cell-culture medium

OHSU 2710- Detection of nonperfusion area from signal reduction artifacts on OCT angiography (OCTA)

OHSU 3145 - COOL Lab Optical Coherence Tomographic Angiography Reading Toolkit (COOL-ART)

[OHSU 3193](#) - Artificial Intelligence-Assisted Projection-Resolved Optical Coherence Tomographic Angiography (aiPR-OCTA)

OHSU 3263 - Contact probe laser delivery system to treat conjunctivochalasis

OHSU 3367 - Robust Vessel Density Quantification in Optical Coherence Tomographic Angiography

OHSU 3426 - Iterative regeneration imaging and spectroscopy (IRIS)

OHSU-developed technologies are available for licensing to industry partners. For more technologies visit the [OHSU Technology Portal](#).

U.S. Patents Issued

Congratulations to the OHSU inventors of these recently issued U.S. patents.

[Patent 12,336,973 - Cancer Therapeutic Compositions And Methods Targeting DNase1L3](#)

[Patent 12,327,298 - Translation Of Images Of Stained Biological Material](#)

SPONSORS

Thank you to our current sponsors for their support of OHSU Innovates!



Questions? Contact us at Innovates@ohsu.edu

This bi-monthly publication is created in collaboration with OHSU Technology Transfer, OHSU Collaborations and Entrepreneurship, Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute and the Knight Cancer Institute.

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