

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

Research, Economic Development, & Innovation Committee

Thursday, February 10, 2022
8:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Union South
1308 W. Dayton St.
Northwoods Room, 3rd Floor
UW-Madison Campus
and Via Webex Videoconference

- A. Call of the Roll
- B. Declaration of Conflicts
- C. Approval of the Minutes of the December 9, 2021, Meeting of the Research, Economic Development, and Innovation Committee
- D. UW-Madison: Highlighting the Impact of Groundbreaking Biotechnology Research
- E. Corporate Research and Clinical Trial Contracting Processes and Approvals Presentation and Discussion

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON:
HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPACT OF
GROUNDBREAKING BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH**

REQUESTED ACTION

For information only.

SUMMARY

Research activities at UW-Madison surpass \$1.3 billion annually. In the most recent Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) Survey released by the National Science Foundation in December, UW-Madison again ranked 8th among all U.S. universities, public or private, for total research expenditures. UW-Madison researchers produce cutting-edge research results across a wide range of areas, from data science to quantitative cell imaging to clean energy and beyond.

The discoveries and technology innovation that occur because of this research often lead to the creation of companies that further develop and commercialize this research for the marketplace. According to a February 2021 Economic Impact Report from NorthStar Analytics, there have been more than 400 new businesses formed based upon UW intellectual property and/or the work of UW faculty, staff, and students. These businesses generate more than \$10 billion in economic activity annually, create more than 42,000 jobs, and generate more than \$320 million in state and local income taxes for the State of Wisconsin each year.

Many of these companies get their start at UW-Madison's research park. Established in 1984, University Research Park (URP) is an internationally recognized research and technology park which supports early-stage and growth-oriented businesses across a range of sectors. These include engineering, computational, and life sciences. Through the years, URP has fostered a neighborhood of ideas, entrepreneurship, and other opportunities with its cutting-edge facilities and strong ties to the ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the City of Madison, and the State of Wisconsin. A particular area of strength is research focused on biotechnology, including biomedical research that leads to significant human health impacts.

UW-Madison Chancellor Rebecca Blank will open the discussion and introduce University Research Park Managing Director Aaron Olver, who will be followed by Vice Chancellor Steve Ackerman and two entrepreneurs engaged in biomedical research driving health care advances and strengthening Wisconsin's economy.

Presenters:

- Rebecca Blank, Chancellor
- Aaron Olver, Managing Director, University Research Park
- Steve Ackerman, Vice Chancellor for Research & Graduate Education
- Michael Sussman, Professor of Biochemistry, UW-Madison
- Sara Pirnstill, Site Director, Stratatech

BACKGROUND

Michael Sussman, Professor of Biochemistry, studies plasma membrane receptor proteins and transporters and other components of the signaling pathways that connect the plasma membrane and nucleus in higher plants. He uses the plant *Arabidopsis thaliana* as a genetic model to study these proteins. His lab also develops and applies new genomic technologies to study the role of these proteins. Sussman is part of a team developing a blood test for predicting colon cancer earlier and more effectively.

Sara Pirnstill, Site Director for Stratatech. Pirnstill is a UW-Madison graduate with a bachelor's degree in biology and zoology. She has been with Stratatech since its early founding days. Her previous positions include director of biomanufacturing and director of quality assurance. The company is manufacturing StrataGraft, a synthetic skin-graft replacement material for burn victim treatment, which it grew from a UW-Madison discovery in 1996.

**CORPORATE RESEARCH AND CLINICAL TRIAL
CONTRACTING PROCESSES AND APPROVALS
PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION**

REQUESTED ACTION

For Information Only

SUMMARY

Extramural research grant funding exceeds \$1.5 billion across the UW System each year and is becoming an increasingly important source of revenue for university researchers across the UW System network. Traditionally, the largest source of grant funding has been from the federal government, with a significant and increasing proportion coming from private industry.

Regent Policy Document 13-1 requires UW System Board of Regents review and approval of research grant contracts with values totaling \$1 million or more prior to contract execution. Today's discussion provides a review and analysis of current and anticipated research grant activity from both public and private funding sources.

Any such changes would be designed primarily to add flexibilities for researchers at UW-Madison, and could also streamline approvals for researchers at other UW System campuses. The intent is to highlight potential opportunities for university researchers to be more responsive to industry decision-making time frames and in order to align UW practices more closely with peer research institutions.

Presenter:

- Dr. Steve Ackerman, Vice Chancellor for Research & Graduate Education

BACKGROUND

This review aligns with the REDI Committee's strategic objectives of accelerating university outreach and community service in line with principles of the Wisconsin Idea and adheres to REDI's overall mission, as stated in the Regent bylaws, which is to:

- Adopt policies and develop strategies designed to strengthen the UW System's overall contribution to the economic development of the state, and to support professional development, outreach, and research at all UW System institutions;
- Consider matters related to the UW System's role in enhancing its applied and basic research enterprise in an effort to bolster the state's economy;
- Highlight successful research and economic development efforts, partnerships, and innovations involving UW System institutions; and,
- Focus attention on the Board's statutory responsibilities to report on and ensure accountability for research and economic development activities at UW System institutions.