Investment for TCD Campus Companies

TCD technology accounted for approximately 20% of the Life Sciences deals in Ireland in 2011. In Q4 2011 alone, three of TCD’s campus companies raised a total of €6.5 million in venture capital funding. Genable Ltd (a gene based medicines company) completed a €5m financing round led by Fountain Healthcare Partners alongside existing investors Delta Partners. Biocro Ltd received €800,000 in investment from Kernal Capital, and Trimod Therapeutics Ltd raised €750,000 from, among others, Oyster Technology Investments, Ltd, Enterprise Ireland and Opsona Therapeutics.

High Potential of TCD IP

At EI all Ireland High Potential Start-Ups “Class of 2011” showcase, TCD-created IP was the main driver in 18% of the HPSUs created in the field of Medical Devices & Pharma., 11% of those in Engineering & Electronics and 2.8% of those in Software – in total 6.3% of all HPSU companies in Ireland in 2011 were based solely on IP created in TCD.

TTO team

Dr Margaret Woods  
- Technology Transfer Manager  
Ms Audrey Crosbie  
- Industry Liaison Manager  
Dr Gordon Elliott  
- Translational Science  
Dr Graham McMullin  
- Physical Sciences  
Dr John Whelan  
- ICT  
Dr Emily Vereker  
- Life Sciences  
Ms MaryAnne Courtney  
- Administrator

TCD Campus Company to launch new product

BioCro Ltd was established as a TCD campus company in 2011 in order to commercially exploit technology developed by Dr. Tony Davies at the Institute of Molecular Medicine in St James’ Hospital. BioCro’s initial focus is on the development of a range of unique multi-well micro-plates, based on IP licensed from TCD, for use in the high throughput screening of cells in advanced drug discovery research and development.

BioCro and TCD are currently finalising a second licence agreement for the rights to commercialise IP covering a related product. This innovative technology development is an optimised suspension growth medium that will enable the 3D culture of cells and which is formulated to encourage spheroid growth. The new product is to be called “Happy Cell”.

Engagement with the Academic Research Community – the TTO is here to help!

The TCD Strategic Plan 2009 -2014 states that TCD “will foster an internationally positive environment for industry-academic engagement in research programmes”. One of the functions of the Technology Transfer Office is to promote and foster a culture of innovation across all sectors of College through continued outreach to the academic and graduate student communities. All members of the TTO deliver seminars, workshops, and course modules on IP, technology transfer, commercialisation and licensing throughout College and to the Innovation Academy, M.Sc Neuroscience, B.Sc Human Health & Disease and M.Sc. Immunology.

If your research group, Department or School would like to learn more, any member of the TTO will be pleased to give a customised seminar - please just contact one of us – see the side panel to the left.

Government to launch new National IP Policy

A number of Implementation Groups were established by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation in late 2010, tasked with drawing up documents to implement the recommendations of two reports published earlier the same year: the Innovation Task Force’s ‘Innovation Ireland’ report, and the Forfás report on exploitation of university IP. A new National IP Policy, to be launched shortly, will lay out policies and procedures to help industry make good use of Ireland’s public research institutions, and will govern the management of intellectual property created on projects which are either wholly-funded by State agencies or partly-funded by State agencies and partly funded by one or more industry partners.
Cellix Ltd, a TCD campus company founded in 2004, was shortlisted for the 'Irish Times' InterTradeIreland Innovation Award 2012. The company develops innovative microfluidics drug screening tools, used by pharmaceutical companies and academic research institutes all over the world. Its best-seller is a system for thrombosis research, examining blood clots using a platform technology, built on patented intellectual property licensed from TCD in 2006. Cellix has recently graduated from the bio-incubation facilities in the Trinity Centre in St James’s Hospital. Cellix is led by co-founders, Vivienne Williams, Managing Director, and Dmitry Kashanin, Head of R&D, both of whom studied in the School of Physics under Prof. Igor Shvets, who came up with the original idea. Also involved in the company’s inception were Prof. Dermot Kelleher and Prof. Yuri Volkov from the Dept. of Medicine.

Congratulations to the 12 TCD Principal Investigators who were awarded funding in the recent SFI Technology Innovation Development Award (TIDA) funding round. TIDA funding is provided to enable research groups to focus on the first steps of an applied research project which may have a commercial benefit if further developed.

In total 58 projects were funded (to a tune of €6.5M) by SFI across both Universities and Institutes of Technologies.

TCD secured more projects than any other Institution with >20% of the projects awarded. The TTO office will assist in the commercialisation of the outputs of these projects.

Previously Prof. Tewari received funding from an external investor to develop a wireless security technology known as EaziPass. Before that EI provided significant financial support for a research project to silently authenticate 3G subscribers onto existing WiFi networks. Several patent applications have been submitted by Hitesh and the researchers and Hitesh is now an expert in software patents and the “technical effect” as required by the European Patent Office.