U PIVOT Center:
What to do when you have an invention & available resources
The PIVOT Center is the University of Utah’s office for innovation management.

- Economic Development
- Technology Commercialization
- Corporate Engagement
Integrated Stakeholder Engagement

- Public Companies
- Start-ups
- International

- Administration
- Healthcare
- Philanthropy

- Corporate Venture
- Seed
- Angels

- Industry

- Entrepreneurs
  - Incubators
  - Accelerators
  - SBIR/STTR

- Ecosystem

- Investors

- Mentors
  - Trade Organizations
  - Chamber of Commerce

- The U
Metrics & Notable Success

- **189** First-time Disclosing Inventors
- **340** Total Inventors
- **14** Total Startup Companies
- **252** Invention Disclosures
- **$884M** Total Investments in our startups
- **126** Issued Patents

*Metrics reported from FY21*
Why disclose to PIVOT Center?

Advance the University’s Mission & Goals

Strengthen Industry and Community Ties

Public & Economic Benefits

Recognition

University Policy 7-002: Patents & Inventions
Each full or part-time faculty member, non-faculty academic employee, staff member and student-employee, and each student participating in University research or making non-incidental use of University resources, is expected to inform promptly the director of PIVOT concerning all inventions created within his or her area of expertise, in the course of University research, or the non-incidental use of University resources as applicable; to cooperate with and assist the director of PIVOT in the handling of such matters;
Comprehensive Array of Services

- New Ventures
- Funding
- Industry
- Economic Development
- Space
- Talent
- Innovation Management
- Training & Education

The University of Utah
PIVOT Center
Partners for Innovation, Ventures, Outreach & Technology
What is a Patentable Invention?

**Key Criteria:**
- Eligible Subject Matter
- Novel + Non-Obvious
- Written Description / Enablement

**Indicators of patentability:**
- Identification of previously unknown/unpredictable elements; elements resulting in unexpected advantages

**Inventor:** Someone who has made a creative contribution toward or solved non-routine problems relating to what is claimed in the patent.

*Contributing routine skills, providing consultation, or following directions is not enough to be considered an inventor – **inventorship is not authorship.**
Patenting – Additional Considerations

**Alternative Modes of Protection:** Consider alternatives to patent protection. Trade secret or contractual agreements (e.g. tangible property) may be superior forms of protection.

**Right to Exclude & Freedom to Operate:** A patent is not an affirmative right to practice the technology, it confers the ability to prevent others from practicing. A patent does not grant freedom to operate.

**Ownership & Inventorship:** Most employment agreements transfer all rights to the institution/employer. Inventorship alone confers no rights.
Patenting – Additional Considerations

**Public Disclosures:** Your own publications can be used against you. Patentability more frequently turns on the publication history of an invention rather than it’s technical merit.

**Provisional Applications:** Provisional applications are largely a triage measure, they only establish a possible priority date. Applications cannot be updated with new subject matter without sacrificing the priority date.

**Timing:** Filing too early is just as bad as filing too late. Filing a prov is only a soft commitment, but filing and then publishing is a hard commitment.
Disclose Your Invention with PIVOT

https://pivotcenter.utah.edu/disclose/

Click the Disclose link, log in with University credentials

Fill out the disclosure with as much detail as possible

Submit disclosure 3+ months before disclosing publicly

What is “Public Disclosure”?:
- Printed/online publication (article, abstract, meetings, etc.)
- Posting data/information online (social media, website, etc.)
- Presentations, seminars, etc. open to those outside of the University community
I’ve disclosed – now what?

https://pivotcenter.utah.edu/disclose/

Intake/disclosure screening
Onboarding meeting

Commercial and IP assessment

Potential commercial pathways
PIVOT Resources

Ascender Grant Program
• Designed to bridge the gap between research and commercialization
• Milestones: Working prototype, technology validation, preclinical data package studies, etc.

Eligibility Criteria:
• Technology has been formally disclosed to PIVOT
• Technology is not licensed or optioned
• Principal investigator is a University employee
PIVOT Resources

**Corporate Engagement Team**
- Foster connections for industry and University faculty/students
- Match companies with resources specific to their goals
- Guidance/Identification of varied funding resources
- Identify Subject Matter Experts and programs for sponsored research
Greenhouses

What is the Greenhouse Strategy?
• Initiative implemented by PIVOT in support of President Randall’s goal to increase the commercial impact of University
• Provide a controlled environment to seed and advance research ideas along a commercialization pathway with equipment, insight, guidance, and investment
• Commercialization pathway
  • Strategy based on data and intelligence from entrepreneurs, industry, investors, and market studies
  • Goal: Enhanced partnering and licensing opportunities to increase financial value and societal benefit
Greenhouses

Current Programs
- Therapeutics Accelerator (U2TAH)
- Energy Accelerator

Launching during FY23
- Medical Device Accelerator (in conjunction with CMI)
- Diagnostics Accelerator
Therapeutics Accelerator

The University of Utah Therapeutics Accelerator Hub (U2TAH) was created to enable innovative therapies emerging from discoveries made at the University of Utah to reach patients with unmet medical needs in a more efficient and timely manner.

Areas of focus:

- Indications: oncology, neurology, immunology, and rare diseases.
- Modalities: small molecules, biologics, novel delivery, gene therapy, & cell therapeutics.
- Any stage of development with a valid target and a commercialization trajectory.
- Small molecule therapeutic projects with optimized leads or screening hits that can form the basis for a lead optimization program.
I-Corps

**What is I-Corp?**
National Science Foundation program designed to increase U.S. economic competitiveness, enhance academic/industry partnerships, and commercialize cutting edge technologies

**Program Specifics**
- Training focused on obtaining potential customer feedback to clearly define the problem and develop a validated value proposition
- Ranges from local 2-week programs to a national 7-week program
- Up to $50,000 stipend in the national program to cover costs of travel and conferences associated with customer interviews

**Utah is part of the I-Corps Hub West Region – Next Cohort October 2022**

https://icorpshubwest.org/
I-Corps

Upcoming Information Sessions

September 21 @ 10am
https://pivotcenter.utah.edu/events/icorps-info-session-via-zoom/

September 27 @ 2pm
https://pivotcenter.utah.edu/events/icorps-info-session-via-zoom-2/
Startup 360™ Program

PIVOT Center's StartUp 360™ is a comprehensive program to connect University of Utah (U) spinout companies with the resources they need to be successful. And for whatever stage a company is celebrating: conception, creation, growth or acquisition.
Thank you!