

UAMS News Bureau

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BioVentures and UAMS Commit to COVID-19 Technology Licensing Principles, Maximizing Access to UAMS Innovations

LITTLE ROCK — BioVentures and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) has committed to a set of technology licensing principles that will allow for broad and equitable access to UAMS discoveries during the Global COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 Technology Framework was developed and established through a cooperative effort by Stanford University, Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This framework provides a model by which critically important technologies that may help prevent, diagnose or treat COVID-19 may be deployed for the greatest public benefit in the shortest period of time.

“Consistent with UAMS’s mission to improve the health, health care and well-being of Arkansans and of others in the region, nation and world, BioVentures is committed to translating and accelerating UAMS innovations into health improvements,” said Nancy Gray, Ph.D., BioVentures president. “The seriousness and urgency of the COVID-19 public health crisis means that today we cannot wait for tomorrow. We need to help now in every way we can.”

Gray said that with the best interests of the public in mind, BioVentures is glad to join in this cooperative effort with Stanford, Harvard and MIT and to commit to the guidelines stated in the framework below.

COVID-19 Technology Access Framework

We strongly believe that while intellectual property rights can often serve to incentivize the creation of new products, such rights should not become a barrier to addressing widespread, urgent and essential health-related needs.

To address the global COVID-19 pandemic, we are implementing technology transfer strategies to allow for and incentivize rapid utilization of our available technologies that may be useful for preventing, diagnosing and treating COVID-19 infection during the pandemic.

To achieve our goal, we commit to the following guidelines:

1. We are committed to implementing COVID-19 patenting and licensing strategies that are consistent with our goal of facilitating rapid global access. For most types of technologies, this includes the use of rapidly executable non-exclusive royalty-free licenses to intellectual property rights that we have the right to license, for the purpose of making and distributing products to prevent, diagnose and treat COVID-19 infection during the pandemic and for a short period thereafter. In return for these royalty-free licenses, we are asking the licensees for a commitment to distribute the resulting products as widely as possible and at a low cost that allows broad accessibility during the term of the license.
2. We are committed to making vigorous efforts to achieve alignment among all stakeholders in our intellectual property, including research sponsors, to facilitate broad and rapid access to technologies that have been requested to address the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. We are committed to making any technology transfer transactions related to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic our first priority, and to minimize any associated administrative burdens.

BioVentures is a technology commercialization organization and startup incubator focused on promoting a biomedical technology industry for Arkansas and translating research into products that benefit human health. BioVentures links the health care research minds to global markets to advance Arkansas' scientific and economic development.

UAMS is the state's only health sciences university, with colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Health Professions and Public Health; a graduate school; hospital; a main campus in Little Rock; a Northwest Arkansas regional campus in Fayetteville; a statewide network of regional campuses; and seven institutes: the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute, Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute, Psychiatric Research Institute, Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging, Translational Research Institute and Institute for Digital Health & Innovation. UAMS includes UAMS Health, a statewide health system that encompasses all of UAMS' clinical enterprise including its hospital, regional clinics and clinics it operates or staffs in cooperation with other providers. UAMS is the only adult Level 1 trauma center in the state. *U.S. News & World Report* named UAMS Medical Center the state's Best Hospital; ranked its ear, nose and throat program among the top 50 nationwide; and named six areas as high performing — cancer, colon cancer surgery, heart failure, hip replacement, knee replacement and lung cancer surgery. UAMS has 2,727 students, 870 medical residents and five dental residents. It is the state's largest public employer with more than 10,000 employees, including 1,200 physicians who provide care to patients at UAMS, its regional campuses, Arkansas Children's Hospital, the VA Medical Center and Baptist Health. Visit www.uams.edu or www.uamshealth.com. Find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) or [Instagram](#).

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