EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S LETTER

When I was standing on stage at our 2022 Innovation Awards Breakfast, ready to honor some of UAB’s brightest inventors, I took a second to appreciate the scene. People were reconnecting, talking, laughing, and doing it all in the same room. It was an invigorating moment and a reminder of why the Bill L. Harbert Institute exists. We guide those instances when curiosity meets practicality. Our team’s work shapes UAB’s legacy beyond our campus. But it starts with forging those relationships, and I am proud to say that 2022 held many such moments of connection between the HIIE team and UAB’s inventors. We are grateful to serve our community, and look forward to a bold, fruitful 2023.

Kathy Negroti
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The Bill L. Harbert Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (HIIE) fosters an entrepreneurial community and innovative ecosystem at UAB and provides the infrastructure required for faculty, staff, and students to commercialize innovation within the region and beyond.
STANDOUT NUMBERS FOR 2022

4 Start-ups Launched
8th Straight Year in the Black
108 Intellectual Property Disclosures
39 Licenses Executed

$5.6M Revenue Generated
8 U.S. Patents Issued
53 Innovate Fellows Reports
7 UAB Start-ups Received Grants from Alabama Innovation Corporation

417 Inventors Engaged
Thaddaeus Kwan, one of the very first Innovate Fellows, took a deep dive into how it felt to come full circle and actually lead the program.

Seven UAB start-ups received grants from the Alabama Innovation Corporation. Those seven included:
- AeroNeph Therapeutics, Inc.
- AI Metrics, LLC
- Endomimetics, LLC
- Reliant Glycosciences, LLC
- Sunfire Biotechnologies, LLC
- Trialtus Bioscience, LLC
- TruSpin Nanomaterial Innovation, Inc.

HIIE Executive Director Kathy Nugent, Ph.D., was honored twice by the Birmingham Business Journal in 2022. In July, Nugent was named one of the BBJ’s 60 most influential executives in Birmingham, along with UAB President Ray Watts, M.D. Then in September, she was chosen as one of the 2022 Top Birmingham Women.
One of HIIE's newest start-ups, Zorro-Flow, specializes in devices designed to safely and effectively collect urine in critically ill female neonates and infants less than 1 year old. Correctly measuring urine production is essential for proper patient care.

IN8bio, the UAB start-up company behind innovative therapeutic research toward treating aggressive brain cancers, expects to advance its lead solid tumor drug program into Phase 2 clinical trials next year.
In 2022, the HIIE launched the UAB chapter of the National Academy of Inventors. The inaugural class included:

- Gattadahalli Anantharamaiah, Ph.D.
- Venkatram Atigadda, Ph.D.
- David Briles, Ph.D.
- Vladimir Fedorov, Ph.D.
- William Ferniany, Ph.D.
- George Gillespie, Ph.D.
- James Johnston, M.D.
- John Kappes, Ph.D.
- Richard Marchase, Ph.D.
- Sergey Mirov, Ph.D.
- Jan Novak, Ph.D.
- Haibin Ning, Ph.D.
- Moon Nahm, M.D.
- Cynthia Owsley, Ph.D.
- Selvum Pillay, Ph.D.
- Dean Sicking, Ph.D.
- Gary Warner
Recipients of this year’s Innovation Awards included:

1. **EntrepreHER Award**, Anath Shalev, M.D.

2. **Start-Up of the Year**, ResBiotic

3. **Most Outstanding Entrepreneurship Student**, Patrick Murphy, Ph.D., accepting for recipient Malcolm J. Hollifield

4. **Award for Excellence in Entrepreneurship**, IN8bio

5. **Community Partnership of the Year**, First Avenue Ventures

6. **Most Prolific Inventor**, Ramaraju Rudraraju, Ph.D., accepting for recipient James Kirklin, M.D.
Zorro-Flow specializes in devices designed to safely and comfortably collect urine in critically ill female neonates and infants less than 1 year old. A male version of the device is in the works.

TPM Research engineers ergonomic patient transport vehicles that safely and comfortably work for both patients and the hospital staff responsible for their care.

Alveolus Bio is a drug development company creating FDA-approved inhaled therapeutics for chronic lung diseases. The company currently has seven drug development programs at various stages, designing therapies to treat conditions such as COPD, BPD and pulmonary hypertension.

ResBiotic Nutrition, Inc., is a CPG company creating science-backed, clinically tested over-the-counter supplements to support gut, lung and immune health. The company's flagship product, resB Lung Support, was named 2022's "Most Innovative Probiotic" by Global Health and Pharma Magazine.
If you see a gap in your ability to care for your patients, spend some time thinking about how innovation can help you better care for your patients. Speak to people in the HIIE and around campus who understand patents, commercialization and the business of devices and drugs.

David Askenazi, M.D., MSPH
Founder of 2022 UAB start-up Zorro-Flow