Intellectual Property Committee

Faculty Council Presentation

UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL

IPC Roster 2026–2027 and Committee Mandate

Committee Roles and Responsibilities

The IPC oversees intellectual property strategy, invention review, patent advising, and compliance to support research commercialization.

Interdisciplinary Membership

The committee includes faculty from medicine, basic sciences, and translational research to ensure diverse expertise and relevance.

Term Structure and Continuity

Defined member terms balance institutional memory with new perspectives, adapting to evolving legal and research landscapes.

Non-voting Participants

Non-voting members provide operational insights and ensure alignment with institutional policies and administrative continuity.

Core Committee Membership

Name	Department School	Appt Term
Paul Thompson (Chair)	Program in Chemical Biology	25-28
Roger Davis, PhD, FRS	Program in Molecular Medicine	06-27
Andrew Fisher, MD	Pathology	15-27
Christian Klaucke, MD	Emergency Medicine	23-29
Guocai Zhong, PhD	Genertic and Cellular Medicine	26-29
Kevin Donahue, MD	Medicine	26-29
Wen Xue, PhD	RNA Therapeutics Institute	23-29
Non-Voting members		
Kate Fitzgerald	Medicine	
Marcy Culverwell	Chancellor’s Office	
Patricia Wynne, PhD, MBA	Bridge Office	

Recent Activities

Overview

The IPC met on April 10, 2026, to discuss intellectual property strategy and receive an update from the **BRIDGE (Innovation & Business Development) Office**, the University’s central platform for commercialization. Patricia Wynne delivered a presentation summarizing BRIDGE operations, performance, and strategic priorities.

Attendance

- Klaucke
- Wynne
- Davis
- Culverwell
- Fitzgerald
- Lim
- Xue

BRIDGE Office: Role and Mission

BRIDGE serves as the **hub of commercialization activities** at UMass Chan, connecting faculty innovations with industry, investors, and the broader life sciences ecosystem.

Key functions include:

- Guiding faculty through the **commercialization process**
- Protecting and managing **intellectual property**
- Identifying **industry partners and investors**
- Supporting **licensing, startup formation, and sponsored**
- The IP team manages external counsel and compliance, while the New Ventures group focuses on pitching technologies to companies and VC firms.

Leadership Update

- **George Xixis**, a lawyer by training, is serving as **interim head of BRIDGE**

Performance Highlights

FY2025 Metrics

- **$10.7M** in sponsored research processed through BRIDGE
- **4 startup companies formed**
- **35 patents issued**
- **$19.92M in licensing and royalty revenue**
    - Revenue has remained **stable over the past 5–10 years**

Multi-Year Activity

- **14 startups launched (FY21–FY25)**
- **17 startups currently in development**

These data reflect consistent commercialization output and sustained institutional impact.

Commercialization Pipeline and Process

BRIDGE provides **end-to-end support** for faculty innovations:

- **~70 invention disclosures annually**
- Patents filed on **~75% of disclosures**
- **~15 European patent filings per year**
- Average **~3 years to patent issuance**

Support includes:

- Evaluating **patentability and market potential**
- Connecting faculty with **external patent counsel**
- Identifying **commercial partners and funding sources**
- Developing **licensing or startup strategies**

Funding and Investment

BRIDGE Fund

- Invests approximately **$2 million annually** in internal technologies
- Structured as **milestone-based funding**
- Projects may be discontinued if milestones are not met

The committee emphasized that this funding mechanism is **critical to advancing translational research** and should be maintained.

External Engagement and Outreach

- BRIDGE connects faculty to **industry, investors, and additional funding sources**
- Hosted a **VC Pitch Day (May 18, 2026)** featuring early-stage companies
- Actively participates in major industry events and partnerships

Technology and Process Improvements

AI-Enhanced IP Evaluation

- Adoption of **Trade Space AI platform** to:
  - Assess patent novelty
  - Identify potential partners
  - Map competitive IP landscapes

Committee Feedback

The IPC noted:

- Strong performance and **positive trajectory of BRIDGE activities**
- Effective improvements following organizational and platform updates
- High value of the New Ventures team in external engagement and deal-making

Recommendations

- **Continue institutional support for the BRIDGE Fund**
- Maintain investment in commercialization infrastructure
- Expand faculty engagement through targeted education and outreach

Questions?