



UTSA HOSTS THIRD ANNUAL

INNOVATION AWARDS

FIFTEEN UTSA RESEARCHERS AND TWO COMMUNITY LEADERS ARE RECOGNIZED

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO (UTSA) recognized UTSA physics professor **ARTURO AYON** as its 2015 Innovator of the Year for his productivity, based on his new invention disclosures, filed patent applications, and licensing of his technology, at its third annual Innovation Awards. Ayon's Surface Mounted Monitoring System detects the presence of both ordinary and excessive loads on a surface, and provides real-time or near real-time trending data.

Ayon joined UTSA in 2006 and specializes in micro devices, photovoltaics, metamaterials, sensors and materials science of thin films. He investigates the physics of materials at the micro and nanoscale level, and their potential uses in practical applications.

Additionally, UTSA recognized 17 members of its research community at its Innovation Awards ceremony. Organized by the UTSA Office of Commercialization and Innovation

(OCI), these annual awards are presented in four categories, reflecting UTSA's success at commercializing new knowledge and technologies.

"Our Office of Commercialization and Innovation is helping our faculty and students by providing resources and expertise to develop avenues to commercialize their research and inventions," said **MAULI AGRAWAL**, UTSA vice president for research. "Ultimately, we should find ways for the public to benefit from our discoveries. Our faculty and students are true innovators. Their achievements strengthen our capabilities and solidify our reputation to be recognized as a top-tier research university."

The OCI works with UTSA faculty to facilitate technology transfer and commercialization, and to assist with university-industry partnerships. Through the OCI, the university provides intellectual property management and licensing, proof-of-concept development, new venture incubation, entrepreneurial training, and policies and procedures that accelerate and ease the transition of intellectual property from the university to industry.

The following researchers and community leaders were recognized for advancements in their fields.

1ST CATEGORY >>> RECIPIENTS OF ISSUED PATENTS



Arturo Ayon, Professor, Physics & Astronomy, was issued – along with **Cory Hallam**, Director of UTSA CITE – three foreign patents in 2015 for their invention, “Surface Mounted Monitoring System”. The patents were issued in Australia, China and New Zealand, licensed by a San Antonio company.



Jose Lopez-Ribot, (Not Pictured) Professor, Biology; **Anand Ramasubramanian**, (Not Pictured) Associate Professor, Biomedical Engineering; and **Anand Srinivasan**, Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering were issued United States Patent 8,962,531 for the “Development of a High-Throughput Screen for the Identification of Novel Antifungal Drug Candidates”.



Rajendra Boppana, Professor, Computer Science and **Ram Tripathi**, Professor, Management Science & Statistics, were issued United States Patent 8,868,630 for “Verification of Pseudorandom Number Streams”.



Joo L. Ong, Professor, Biomedical Engineering, was issued United States Patent 8,916,228 for “Bi-Layered Bone-Like Scaffolds”. This patent is licensed by a New Jersey company.



Steven Robbins, Professor, Computer Science and **Kay Robbins**, Professor, Computer Science, were issued United States Patent 9,111,459 for a “Classroom Response System”.



Rena Bizios, Professor, Biomedical Engineering, was issued United States Patent 8,945,894 for an “Alternating Electric Current Directs, Enhances, and Accelerates Mesenchymal Stem Cell Differentiations into Either Osteoblasts or Chondrocytes but not Adipocytes”.

2ND CATEGORY

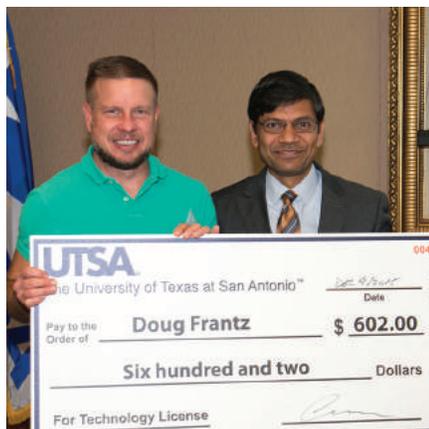


LICENSING REVENUE

This category recognizes the recipients of licensing revenue derived from technology that has been optioned or licensed and is generating returns for the inventors, their labs, and the university.



Arturo Ayon, Professor, Physics & Astronomy, “Surface Mounted Monitoring System”.



Doug Frantz, Professor, Chemistry, “New Chiral Phosphite Ligands for Asymmetric Catalysis”.

3RD CATEGORY >>> I-CORPS™ RECOGNITION

This category recognizes faculty and staff who participated in the federal I-Corps™ program, overseen by the National Science Foundation. An I-Corps™ team is awarded a \$50,000 grant to evolve its research to fulfill a market need whether it's a new therapy, invention or device. A business mentor from the local community is matched with a principal investigator (PI) and a student; these matches are facilitated by the OCI. The team is then immersed in a seven-week entrepreneurial curriculum to understand how to take the laboratory's research to market. Teams are led by the student with assistance from the PI and mentor who provide guidance and their network of experts and resources.

Currently, UTSA has four national I-Corps™ teams. Two teams were recognized for completing the program (see below), a third finished this past December, and the fourth is currently ensconced in the boot camp.



The Gdovin Laboratory

Zachary Jordan, Research Associate, Science/Biology. Zachary recently graduated from UTSA with a Master's Degree, specializing in Cell/Cellular and Molecular Biology.

Matthew Gdovin, Professor of Biology, College of Sciences.

Becky Cap, President at Athena Biomedical Strategies.

The Gdovin team has developed a photodynamic cancer therapy that can target cancer growth in triple negative breast cancer without attacking or destroying the healthy cells or the organs that surround it. The business training provided by the I-Corps™ grant helped them focus on the next steps to move this research closer to market. With 18 students from the lab assisting with the research, the team is hoping the therapy can be ready for phase 1 clinical trials in the near future.



The Feng Laboratory

Michael Lasch, Research Assistant/Lab Manager. Michael has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from UTSA and is currently working on his Master's Degree.

Yusheng Feng, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering.

John Fritz, M.S, MBA, MHA, is the Senior Business Development Manager at UT Health Science Center at San Antonio's Office of Technology Commercialization.

The Feng team developed a medical suction device to clear the airways of critically injured patients without damaging other body parts. The technology, noted for its ease of use, can be used in clinics or in the field. The I-Corps™ program helped them solicit input on engineering specifications from a wide range of users to maximize the needs of the end user.