In the broadest sense, technology transfer is the transfer of knowledge, ideas, discoveries and innovations to the public. There are many avenues to accomplish this, including publication, students graduating and joining the workforce, participating in scientific meetings, collaborating with industry and licensing innovations.

For the purposes of this handbook, technology transfer is limited to the evaluation, protection, marketing and licensing of intellectual property to start-ups and existing companies. Also, the terms technology and intellectual property are used interchangeably here, even though there are subtle differences between them. Technology is a subset of intellectual property and commonly refers to commercially useful intellectual property.

Dear Colleagues,

To innovate is to translate knowledge and ideas into economic growth and social well-being. With an annual funded research budget of more than $645 million dollars, the University of Illinois is a leader in generating advances that translate into products and services that have a profound impact on human lives. This impact creates businesses, jobs and economic well-being, and these advances have come from all corners of the University.

The University has embraced this role by incorporating economic development as one of the cornerstones in its mission of teaching, research and public service. Also one of the results has been the creation of a system of resources designed to facilitate the protection and transfer of University intellectual property, helping ensure that University innovations have maximum public impact.

This handbook is an introduction to the University’s intellectual property policies, to the patenting and commercialization services, intellectual property fundamentals, and most importantly, to your role in the process of commercializing University innovations.

Avijit Ghosh
Vice President for
Technology and Economic Development
The University’s System for Technology Transfer

During the past several years, the University has put in place a series of resources designed to facilitate all stages of the process of technology transfer. Overseen by the Office of the Vice President for Technology and Economic Development (OVPTED), the University’s technology commercialization infrastructure is comprised of the following entities:

- **The Offices of Technology Management** (OTMs) on the Chicago and Urbana campuses evaluate, patent and license the University’s intellectual property.

- **IllinoisVENTURES LLC** provides consultative services, potential funding and business development support for early-stage, research-driven companies, particularly those deriving from the University of Illinois and other midwestern Universities and federal laboratories.

- University-associated **research parks and incubators** in Chicago and Urbana support and nurture the growth of early-stage companies, encourage R&D collaboration between the University and private industry and public agencies and attract established companies that benefit from close working relationships with University faculty and students.
Sponsored Research

The Office of Research Services (ORS) on the Chicago campus and the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research Administration (OSPRA) on the Urbana campus are often the first step in the technology transfer process, since they are responsible for University research agreements involving government and corporate sponsors.

Agreements with outside sponsors often define the role of the outside sponsor in the commercialization process. ORS and OSPRA review the intellectual property terms in such agreements to ensure the interests of the University and the researcher are addressed. They consult with the OTMs when such agreements involve existing intellectual property being managed by the OTMs or when the intellectual property terms of the agreements are non-standard.

Because the OTMs and ORS/OSPRA work closely together, it is sometimes confusing to know which office to call when an intellectual property issue comes up. The Chicago and Urbana campuses are slightly different; the chart on the next page gives general guidelines for each Office’s area of responsibility.
AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY ON THE CHICAGO AND URBANA CAMPUSES:

ORS/OSPRA:
- Federal and industry sponsored research agreements
- Non-disclosure agreements involving University research (company & University proprietary information being exchanged)
- Materials transfer agreements-in, covering materials being transferred by third parties to the University for use in University research programs (see note below)
- Technical testing agreements
- Collaborative agreements, including no-dollar agreements
- Federal CRADAs (Cooperative Research and Development Agreements)
- SBIRs and STTRs
- Center and consortium agreements
- Visiting scientist agreements
- Facilities use agreements

OTM:
- Non-disclosure agreements involving OTM-managed intellectual property
- Interinstitutional agreements
- Options
- Evaluation agreements
- Licenses
- Intellectual property and data sharing plans in center and consortium agreements

Note: Materials transfer agreements-out (involving University materials transferred to colleagues and others) is the one area handled differently by each campus. In Chicago, they are handled by ORS, and in Urbana, they are handled by OTM.