



Association of University Technology Managers®
Advancing Discoveries for a Better World®

AUTM 2017-2018 Election Board of Directors



Laura Savatski, MBA, CLP, RTTP

*Technology Transfer Officer
BloodCenter of Wisconsin, Inc.*

Candidate's Background

Laura Savatski serves as the Technology Transfer Officer for BloodCenter of Wisconsin and the Blood Research Institute. Since 2000, she has directed the patent, licensing and business development activities of this academic and healthcare organization. With an annual research budget of approximately \$20M, the Blood Research Institute focuses on basic and clinically applied research in the areas of vascular biology, immunology, coagulation, bleeding/clotting disorders, transfusion medicine and blood cell biology. Under her guidance, BloodCenter has developed a strong portfolio of technologies in the areas of diagnostics and therapeutics and executed 1015 contracts, filed 191 patent applications and executed 51 licensing deals. While most deals were to license academically developed inventions, some of the deals were to in-license technology for BloodCenter's Diagnostic Laboratories and for other areas of this complex organization.

Prior to joining BloodCenter of Wisconsin, Ms. Savatski co-founded Prodesse, a biotech company developing molecular detection methods for infectious diseases. The company offers laboratory testing services and kits for the clinical detection of common respiratory diseases with service primarily to the oncology and immunocompromised market segments. Prodesse was acquired by the California-based company Gen-Probe who continues to offer the flagship products and others based on the platform technology.

Ms. Savatski has served as an AUTM volunteer in a variety of roles and areas including as a member of the cabinet advising the board of directors, as a panelist and moderator at AUTM regional and annual meetings, as one of the organizers of the executive leadership summit, as a chair and presenter for the small office course, as chair of the Better World Project, as chair of the Social Impact Committee and as a member of metrics committee. In 2010, Ms. Savatski was honored to receive the AUTM Volunteer of the Year Award.

Ms. Savatski earned an Honors BS in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry from Marquette University and an Executive MBA from University of Wisconsin Madison. She holds RTTP and CLP certifications.

Candidate Questionnaire

1. Why do you want to be on the AUTM Board of Directors (What motivates you to join the AUTM Board of Directors?)

I want to see the profession make amazing strides in the next decade and I want to be a part of those changes. We have a long way to go to include others in our vision to accelerate discovery and make it more impactful.

2. Have you served in a volunteer leadership role for other organizations? If so, please explain.

1. I have been a board member for a large non-profit called Hebron House, a homeless shelter for families.
2. I've also served on the scientific advisory board for NephCure International, a disease centric research based non-profit coming up with cures for kidney disease.
3. I've been a mentor and instructor in the ICorp program.
4. I was a board member for Prodesse, Inc. in the early days before success as a biotech start-up.
5. I have taught and helped organize courses for LES.
6. I have organized our regional tech transfer offices in collaborative event planning.
7. I have chaired national meetings.

3. What special experience do you have that you feel will benefit AUTM and its members (what makes you stand out above all others)?

I have seen the movie and can think up lots of creative plot twists.

I have a very broad range of experiences with many aspects of tech transfer and biotech business. I currently work in an organization that licenses out our discoveries like many universities. But I also license in the inventions of others for use in the mainly commercial aspect of our business. So I understand first hand the pressures and viewpoints of parties with different goals. As a biotech entrepreneur, I grew a business and went through a successful exit.

I would be able to take that first hand academic, start-up and industry experience to more fully understand the viewpoints of our members.

4. What do you see as the major strategic issues facing technology transfer today?

Where to start? There are so many but I will speak to my top three.

1. One major issue for many of our members is the expanding scope of technology transfer to include regional economic development. This is an entirely different deliverable and business line. This is one example of being asked to do more with less which is a recurrent theme for our profession.
2. Another major issue is the ongoing impact of globalization and the ability to source specialized products more easily from around the globe. Being able to clearly articulate and communicate how your solution is better and why someone should partner with you becomes incredibly important.
3. Changes to our political and legal landscape become more complex to understand and navigate effectively. Having strong advocacy and strategic communications is a must!

5. What would be your number one goal as a member of the Board of Directors for AUTM? (List the issues you would like the Board to focus on for next few years.)

1. Be even more welcoming and attractive as an organization to new members in industry, those with non-traditional "tech transfer" roles, and international members
2. Continue our strong tradition of education
3. Continue to communicate the value of innovation

6. How do the terms (both responsibilities and time commitment) of the position fit in with your other responsibilities?

I have an active role in AUTM now for the past many years that would transition to these new responsibilities. I have support of the executives who manage my work.

7. What is a challenge AUTM faces that you feel could be addressed by strategic thinking and discussion at the Board level?

Attraction of member diversity (international, non-traditional roles, etc). Additional service enhancements to the valuable tools AUTM provides is essential to keep AUTM members satisfied and coming back.

8. How has AUTM benefitted you in your work and career?

AUTM has provided a lot of opportunities to further my own education. Networking with colleagues has been extremely valuable and impactful. Opportunities to teach and mentor others have made my career more rewarding.

9. Is there anything else you would like AUTM members to know about you before they vote in this year's election?

I believe that a focus on partnerships, education and innovation will have a lasting impact. I am committed to delivering inventive products and services to our members.

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