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Academic Research Fueling Growth in New Technologies and Startups, Industry Survey Shows

OAKBROOK TERRACE, IL (November 8, 2016) – A survey of more than 200 academic institutions and hospitals nationwide shows that research institutions are fueling growth in new technologies with substantial increases in licensing agreements, invention disclosures, patent applications and the creation of new startups, according to findings released today in the Association of University Technology Managers' (AUTM) annual licensing activity survey.

Key findings of the report showed:

- The number of invention disclosures — a direct measure of institutional impact — grew 5% to 25,313 in 2015.
- 15,953 new U.S. patent applications were filed, a gain of nearly 15%, and 6,680 U.S. patents were issued in 2015, up 5%.
- The 1,012 startups formed, a jump of 11%, made a direct impact on local economies with more than 72% of the new businesses remaining in the institution's home state.
- Consumers and businesses benefited from 879 new products.
- New and existing licensed products generated more than \$28.7 billion in net product sales.

Every year, universities around the globe develop inventions — more than 380,000 in the last 25 years — that have real-world, sometimes life-changing, applications. These innovations are licensed by university technology transfer offices to companies for commercialization, and are the genesis of thousands of new companies, resulting in both benefits to society and solid economic wins in the form of new jobs and more than a \$1 billion in equity since 1991.

According to the report, licensing agreements were up 15% over the previous year, which AUTM president David Winwood says is solid evidence that the private sector values university partnerships and intellectual property more than ever. "When universities and businesses collaborate to advance discoveries, they become a powerful engine for innovation and economic growth. And the strong protections within the patent system incent businesses to invest in those ideas," added Winwood.

The licensing activity survey gathered data on a broad sample of U.S. research institutions including 169 universities and 31 hospitals. The report has been conducted annually by AUTM for the past 25 years and is available on the AUTM website, www.autm.net/survey.

About AUTM

The Association of University Technology Managers is an organization dedicated to bringing research to life by supporting and enhancing the global academic technology transfer profession through education, professional development, partnering and advocacy. AUTM's more than 3,200 members represent managers of intellectual property from more than 350 universities, research institutions and teaching hospitals around the world as well as numerous businesses and government organizations. To learn more about AUTM, visit www.autm.net.

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