

NMRC Begins Enterprise Training Series for Researchers

The Naval Medical Research Center (NMRC) Office of Legal and Technology Services (OLTS) recently provided training for researchers focused on intellectual property and technology transfer. Later this year, the team intends to provide on-site training at the Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory, Groton, Conn., and the Naval Health Research Center, San Diego, Calif. It is anticipated that the training will be the first in an annual series.

The OLTS team generates almost half of all Navy Cooperative Research and Development Agreements and they are a major player in Navy, U.S. and international patenting.

This annual training series covers key topics in areas relevant to researchers who are involved in collaborative research. It is designed to orient them to available tools that help them meet the laboratory's mission and more efficiently move research from the Navy to the private sector. The commercialization aim is to more effectively leverage Navy funds to better support warfighters' medical needs.

"This technology transfer training provides our investigators with the tools to ensure that needed products get into the hands of our warfighters," said Mr. Joseph Hemby, NMRC OLTS department head. "We are committed to educating and empowering our researchers to help achieve this objective. One very valuable part of the training explains the business and intellectual property processes related to collaborative research with other federal entities and private industry."

One of the key take-aways from this training experience is successful technology commercialization requires internal synergy between researchers and technology transfer professionals to successfully do business with industry. We all bring together the pieces of the commercialization puzzle.

A compelling example of this hybrid business and legal process is a recent commercialization partnership between

NMRC Office of Legal and Technology Training Topics for Researchers

- Support Agreements
- Intellectual Property
- Patent License Royalties
- Patent License Agreements
- Cooperative Research and Development Agreements
- Technology Transfer Ethics

NMRC and a major international biopharmaceutical company to develop an enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* (ETEC) vaccine against travelers' diarrhea. The successful Patent License and Cooperative Research and Development Agreement negotiations required the joint expertise of researchers, business and legal teams. The net result is effective leveraging of Navy research funds and scientific expertise with the private sector commercialization resources.

"One of the key take-aways from this training experience is successful technology commercialization requires internal synergy between researchers and technology transfer professionals to successfully do business with industry. We all bring together the pieces of the commercialization puzzle," said Capt. Stephen Savarino, NMRC enteric diseases department head.

Researchers who attend the OLTS training will get information on identifying and disclosing new inventions, intellectual property protection, the legal tools available for research collaboration, royalty income from licensing agreements, as well as other subjects.

Individual module presentations are also available online at http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmrc/Pages/ott_training.htm.



A year ago, Naval Medical Research Center signed a major research agreement with an industry partner to accelerate development of a promising new vaccine against enterotoxigenic *E. coli* (ETEC), the predominant cause of travelers' diarrhea.