Harnessing novel targets and mechanisms to discover tomorrow’s medicines.

Connecting medicine and engineering to innovate new technologies, micro to macro.

Leveraging big data and new algorithms, enabling mobile technology and making personalized wellness a reality.

Identifying new detectors at the molecular level and beyond to treat patients earlier and more effectively.
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Identifying new detectors at the molecular level and beyond to treat patients earlier and more effectively.
The ultimate goal of our research is for it to impact patients and their families.

The University of Michigan Medical School is committed to investing in a culture of innovation today, for better outcomes tomorrow.

Steven L. Kunkel, Ph.D.
Senior Associate Dean for Research
University of Michigan Medical School
Fast Forward Medical Innovation

at the University of Michigan Medical School focuses on nurturing commercialization and entrepreneurship. The initiative brings together organizations across campus and...

- Pushes innovations out of the Medical School research enterprise onto a viable commercial path.
- Provides a “front door” for accessing U-M’s rich environment for biomedical innovation for both internal and external partners and stakeholders. We pull innovations into the research enterprise to incubate, co-develop with partners, and drive new product development opportunities.
- Creates a virtual cycle to engage faculty and students, making commercialization and entrepreneurship a natural academic behavior.

We offer a holistic approach to biomedical innovation for both faculty researchers and potential external partners to help discoveries make the transition to the clinic and beyond, with the ultimate goal of positively impacting human health.
Our faculty are making breakthroughs on the bench.

We have over a hundred invention reports every year, thousands of patients enrolled in trials and studies, and we’re using the latest technologies in the clinic. The University of Michigan offers a uniquely robust environment for successful collaboration on the path to commercialization.

Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs
University of Michigan Health System
Innovation Navigator

Fast Forward Medical Innovation offers U-M biomedical researchers an innovation navigator across translational gaps, the “valley of death” between traditional funding sponsors and investors in late-stage innovation. Leveraging existing resources and filling gaps where needed, Fast Forward Medical Innovation offers...

- University of Michigan Translational Research and Commercialization for Life Sciences (MTRAC), a resource to advance promising biomedical technologies down the path to commercialization.
- A biomedical “strike force” that proactively mines the U-M biomedical research enterprise for promising faculty and projects.
- Seed funding programs to help accelerate nascent U-M biomedical start-ups.

With a strategy that nurtures innovation and de-risks technologies, Fast Forward Medical Innovation creates new pools of U-M biomedical innovations ready for industry partnership and licensing, reducing time to market and benefiting patients.
External Partnerships

Stakeholders across healthcare - industry, patient advocacy groups, foundations - are forming partnerships in an effort to accelerate new technologies to market. Fast Forward Medical Innovation offers external partners access to an academic research powerhouse and a proven business development track record, as well as novel new venture expertise, including…

• Business Development Team driving external relationship management, including initial collaboration discussions, agreement execution, and implementation.

• Complete integration into the larger University of Michigan Health System (UMHS), engaging external partners more fully in one of the largest academic clinical health systems in the world, adding value to existing and future products.

• Formation and execution of strategic ventures via the Michigan Health Corporation, a non-profit membership corporation under which joint ventures of the UMHS can be formed and operated.
Consistently benchmarking in the top ten across multiple disciplines, the schools and colleges of the University of Michigan are renowned for their team science approach to research and commercialization track record.

**COLLABORATING SCHOOLS**
- College of Engineering
- Ross School of Business
- School of Public Health
- School of Nursing
- School of Pharmacy
- School of Dentistry

**CAMPUS OFFICES**
- Medical School Office of Research
- Business Engagement Center
- Coulter Translational Research Partnership
- Center for Entrepreneurship
- Zell Lurie Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies
- Tech Transfer Office
- Venture Center
- Michigan Institute for Clinical & Translational Research
- Office of Development
- UMHS Clinical Enterprise
- Office of Research & Sponsored Projects

**EXTERNAL COLLABORATION**
- Michigan Economic Development Corporation
- William Davidson Foundation
- Ann Arbor SPARK
- MichBIO
- Regional & International Industry Partners
Commercialization Education

Fast Forward Medical Innovation supports a culture of innovation across the Medical School and beyond, with specific programs and services geared toward actively nurturing commercialization including...

- Commercialization education events that help drive culture change, supporting activities such as ideation sessions, seminars, and partnered programs with campus collaborators like the Center for Entrepreneurship and others. Activities culminate in opportunities to access pilot funds to advance breakthrough ideas and new cross-discipline research projects.

- Events featuring thought leaders and experts in commercialization and entrepreneurship.

Robust outreach and engagement strategies create a culture of innovation as students, scientists, and clinicians participate in the Fast Forward Medical Innovation programs.
From the trials of the first safe polio vaccine to the latest breakthroughs in treatments for neurological diseases, the University of Michigan and its Medical School continue to be at the forefront of pioneering research that significantly impacts human health.

Exceeding $1.3 billion, the University of Michigan is the top public university in research spending in the United States, and the Medical School is responsible for almost half of those research expenditures.

The U-M Medical School consistently ranks amongst U.S. News & World Report’s top 10 medical research schools, hosts over 1.6 million square feet of laboratory space, and is an NIH Clinical and Translational Research Science Award institution.

Fast Forward Medical Innovation is part of the University of Michigan Health System’s Strategic Research Initiative and provides focus for biomedical commercialization efforts across campus and beyond.