

Emory Tech Transfer has Record Year

The past fiscal year was a record year for Emory's Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) in several areas. An outstanding milestone for OTT was the record high number of licensing deals signed. There were 44 AUTM reportable agreements signed surpassing the FY07 record high of 40. This is up 25% and 50% respectively from their 5-year averages which is a "satisfying milestone" says Todd Sherer, Associate VP Research and Director of OTT. Of these agreements 12 were "high net worth" including 5 start-up deals. These agreements are expected to generate at least \$1 million during their lifetime. "These agreements, in particular, have the potential for the greatest impact on society and return for Emory in the long run." says Sherer. Completing new licenses is a major focus of the office and continues to be the most direct measurement of our commitment to transfer technology from Emory to industry.

Against the backdrop of US patent reform the office processed the most patent applications since 2000. With a two-year average of 61 patent applications previously, this year's record of 181 new applications passed many expectations and the previous high of 99. Susanne Hollinger, Chief IP Officer at OTT, says that "[w]e were thrilled with the records that were set this year." Unlicensed patents are handled in-house by the Emory Patent Group (EPG). Among universities, Emory is unique to have such an asset internally. The first full year with EPG has successfully decreased patent-related costs while increasing both quality and quantity. Hollinger goes on to say that "[t]he addition of the EPG was even more successful than anticipated, allowing us to increase new filings by more than 30% over previous records. Indeed, we achieved an 80% increase in all new filings and a whopping 250% increase in new non-provisional filings as compared to our prior five year average, and expect these additional filings to lead directly to more licensable technology in the upcoming years."