



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND / MPOWERING THE STATE



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

MPOWERING THE STATE

Update Highlights | Fall 2014

The University of Maryland: *MPowering the State* is a special working relationship between the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) that promotes innovation and impact through collaboration. It leverages the considerable strengths of the two universities to attract exceptional faculty, better serve students, and solve important problems for the people of Maryland.

► **RESEARCH:** *Major new interdisciplinary research centers have launched important scientific projects.*

Center for Health-related Informatics and Bioimaging (CHIB)

CHIB brings together researchers in computer science at UMCP with experts in genomics and clinical medicine at UMB to collaborate on understanding diseases such as autism, cancer and diabetes. With *MPowering the State* funding, CHIB has built its technical infrastructure and brought teams of scientists from both universities together to compete effectively for major funding in critical areas of human health. Awards to date include an \$18M, 5-year award from the NIH and FDA to study tobacco products and their impact on public health, and participation in a \$35M award from NIH to provide cost efficient high-quality genome sequences. In FY 15, CHIB will continue funding for research projects on reasoning environments for electronic health records, visual analysis of structures in the human brain, and computational genomics. They will launch a new project in the explosive growth area of network and systems biology, capitalizing on strong resources at both universities and a new federal initiative in "Big Data".

Institute for Bioscience and Biotechnology Research (IBBR)

IBBR leverages the research strengths in biological and quantitative sciences, medicine, and engineering at both universities through cross-disciplinary team approaches to scientific challenges, technology development and education. IBBR is focusing on three core areas: Measurement Sciences, Biomolecular Engineering, and Disease Models and Biomolecular Pathways. In FY14, UMB and UMCP conducted a national search and appointed a new director of IBBR, who has already established a new Scientific Advisory Board, a Medical Advisory Board and undertaken a strategic plan. For FY15, IBBR will continue these efforts and important research projects, including a collaboration with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to begin proof of concept studies for a novel methodology for single peptide sequencing, and an industry collaboration to develop tools to improve research and treatment for Hepatitis C.

Seed Grants

The joint Research and Innovation Seed Grant Program promotes cross university research by providing seed funds to creative teams of investigators working across disciplinary boundaries and campuses. Its goal is to stimulate the submission of innovative basic and translational science research proposals to federal, public or private funding agencies. Projects that promote and further collaborative interests are given preference, including the fields of personalized medicine, bioinformatics, bioengineering, complex therapeutics, health care optimization, public health informatics, health information technology and health science research. To date, research has advanced important work involving researchers in a range of fields including engineering, medicine, computer science, dentistry, public health, nursing and pharmacy.

► **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:** *Opportunities for students have expanded in public health, law, social sciences, arts and humanities, and the biomedical sciences.*

Collaborative School of Public Health

The University of Maryland School of Public Health (SPH) and the University of Maryland School of Medicine (SOM) Department of Epidemiology and Public Health are seeking accreditation as a collaborative school. A first draft of a joint self-study has been completed and is under review. A Memorandum of Understanding is under development and is expected to be completed by Fall 2014. Joint recruitment of students for the Fall 2014 admission cycle resulted in 62 new MPH/MHA students enrolled under the name University of Maryland School of Public Health, with 49 resident at College Park and 13 in Baltimore. Thirty-one faculty from the UMCP SPH have obtained secondary faculty appointments in the SOM at UMB and 20 SOM faculty are receiving secondary appointments as Research Faculty in the UMCP SPH.

MLAW Programs

Unique in the country, MLAW Programs provide undergraduate training in law through courses and experiential opportunities taught by faculty at the College of Behavioral and Social Science and the College of Arts and Humanities at UMCP, and the Carey School of Law at UMB. In FY14, MLAW Programs faculty engaged in curriculum planning and provided a range of educational events for law students and undergraduates – including a visit to the Supreme Court. For FY15 MLAW Programs will offer its first courses, having recruited 70 incoming freshmen into its College Park Scholars Programs on Justice and Legal Thought, and 60 juniors into its Law & Society Minor.

Master of Science in Law

The Carey School of Law is launching a new Master of Science in Law to be delivered at the University of Maryland College Park. In FY 14, the project's main accomplishments included the successful completion of a market study to determine the feasibility and aid in the design of the program and approval of the program by Carey Law faculty, the American Bar Association, the Board of Regents and the Maryland Higher Education Commission. In FY15, the Program will recruit its first class of 20 to 40 students for to begin study in Fall 2015. Media outreach and a major marketing program in the DC metropolitan area are underway.

Agriculture Law Education Initiative

The Agriculture Law Education Initiative has expanded access to university resources by Maryland farmers and helped build capacity in the private bar around agricultural issues. The Initiative has produced 8 publications on issues ranging from agricultural leasing to estates and trusts. These publications resulted in over 2000 hard copy distributions and 1400 electronic downloads. Additionally, more than 600 Maryland farmers have been trained in legal issues in agriculture through workshops and presentations around Maryland. The Initiative hosted a major national meeting on agriculture law in June and collaborated with the Maryland Bar Association to establish a first ever Section on Agriculture Law with more than 100 members. For FY15, the Initiative will launch a series of webinars on agriculture law, cosponsor a major conference on urban agriculture in Baltimore, and expand on its publication and training programs.

School of Social Work at Shady Grove

The University of Maryland School of Social Work (SSW) will expand the Masters of Social Work (MSW) program at the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) starting in the Fall semester of 2014. The School of Social Work has been offering a portion of the master's program at USG for nearly 30 years. However, over the past several years there has been a strong demand for SSW to have the complete MSW program there due to an increasing pool of applicants from the Montgomery County area, growth in undergraduate students from USG interested in continuing into the MSW program, and increased need for graduate level social workers in behavioral health settings in Montgomery County.

► **COMMERCIALIZATION OF UNIVERSITY INVENTIONS:** *UM Ventures, the joint technology transfer operation of the University of Maryland, Baltimore and the University of Maryland, College Park, has catalyzed commercialization of university inventions.*

By expanding licensing staff, providing seed grants to promising technologies and aggressively marketing University of Maryland inventions to industry, outcomes along key metrics have advanced. Since these efforts took hold with significant funding in 2012, invention disclosures have grown by 38% to 366, licenses executed grew by 47%, and licensing revenues by nearly 75% to \$2.8M. Additionally, Maryland Innovation Awards increased to \$3.3M, the Medimmune Research Collaboration awarded \$3.8M to 5 projects, MTech's I-Corps brought 50 high caliber teams of entrepreneurs to Maryland and the Greater Washington area to help Maryland companies.