Sponsored Research Dollars Top Half-Billion Mark

UMB continued its annual double-digit growth in extramural funding with $517 million in sponsored research, service, and training awards in Fiscal Year 2009 (FY09). This represents an astounding 16 percent increase over the $447 million realized in FY08. The School of Medicine accounted for 90 percent of the growth and now brings in 85 percent of UMB’s total extramural funding. The Dental School had the biggest percentage increase with 47 percent.

UMB was not immune to the global economic crisis. Funding from corporations and foundations declined in FY09, and project funding from state and local government agencies was flat. However, UMB had its best year ever in competitive federal grants, winning $298 million—a 27 percent increase over FY08.

As usual, the National Institutes of Health was the largest source of funding, but the largest individual grant awarded to UMB was from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for $56 million to support the work of the School of Medicine’s William Blattner, MD, with HIV/AIDS patients in Nigeria. This grant contributed to the significant globalization of UMB’s activities—funding for international projects grew from less than $15 million five years ago to nearly $100 million in FY09.

### EXTRAMURAL FUNDING, FY09 – $517 MILLION

- **Medicine**: $440.1M
- **Pharmacy**: $17.3M
- **Dental**: $15.4M
- **Social Work**: $14.2M
- **Nursing**: $10.8M
- **Campus Administration**: $8.7M
- **Law**: $8.4M
- **Graduate**: $2.1M

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Expanding Collaborations to Build New Technology Commercialization Ventures

UMB’s Office of Research and Development (ORD) has partnered with the School of Medicine to integrate all UMB staff handling corporate-sponsored research and clinical trials, technology commercialization, and startup company creation into a single unit within ORD. In Fiscal Year 2009, ORD executed 478 corporate contracts and 31 licenses and option agreements, a 24 percent increase over FY08. Total licensing revenues grew by 64 percent to $2.6 million. UMB now has a total of 150 active licenses, which represents 65 percent of its total technology portfolio.

### Highlights of New Partnerships

- A technology-based startup in Clarksville, Md.—Xcision Medical Systems, LLC—is developing a stereotactic radiosurgical device capable of performing a noninvasive procedure, to spare breast cancer patients from lumpectomies. William Regine, MD, and Cedric Yu, ScD, of the School of Medicine, together with Ying Yu of Xcision, envisioned an alternative procedure that benefits the patient by decreasing scarring and the amount of unnecessary radiation exposure. Xcision exclusively licensed the technology rights from UMB and has received a Small Business Innovation Research grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop the device.

- ORD built a relationship with Cancer Research UK as a co-development partner for a leading breast cancer therapeutic. Vincent Njar, PhD, and Angela Brodie, PhD, of the School of Medicine developed a new drug candidate for cancer known as retinoic acid metabolism blocking agents. The partnership targets breast cancer therapeutics and includes preclinical and early clinical testing of select candidates. Responsible for finding a private partner to continue development, ORD has entered into an exclusive option with the newly formed Chesapeake BioDiscovery Management, LLC, of Baltimore.

- Varian Medical Systems, Inc., of Palo Alto, Calif., obtained an exclusive license to a radiation therapy procedure that aims to reduce exposure of normal tissue by improving treatment-planning procedures. Together with out-of-state colleagues, Cedric Yu and Matthew Earl, PhD, of the School of Medicine developed a single arc dose painting procedure that can be incorporated into Varian’s existing medical devices. The technology resulted from a long-standing research collaboration between UMB and Varian.

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