

# IMPACT REPORT 2023

BILL L. HARBERT INSTITUTE

FOR INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP



BILL L. HARBERT INSTITUTE  
FOR INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

2023  
innovation  
2023  
creation  
2023  
discovery  
2023  
invention  
2023



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

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2023 was fantastic – a year packed with accomplishments, including three start-ups launched and several in the pipeline; the very first application round of our Blazer Bridge Fund, which resulted in six worthy UAB technologies each winning \$50,000; and three new full-time employees, each of which has brought persistence, dedication and hard work to the HIIE. In November 2023, when some of our team were in Seattle to accept the Association of Public Land-grant Universities' prestigious Innovation Award, we found ourselves imbued with a sense of pride in what we've created here at the Harbert Institute. We are all grateful for the opportunity to serve the UAB community, and look forward to a robust, fruitful 2024.

*Kathy Nugent*

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# Standout Numbers



**\$6.12M**

Revenue  
Generated



**123**

Intellectual  
Property  
Disclosures



**684**

Inventors  
Engaged



**18**

U.S. Patents  
Issued



**40**

Licenses  
Executed



**3**

Start-ups  
Launched



**7**

Innovate  
Fellows



**45**

Marketing  
Campaigns



**53**

Fellows  
Reports

# Start-Ups

## SOLUTIONS



Kirklin Solutions, founded by James Kirklin, M.D., is a healthcare tech company dedicated to bringing research insights and analytic methods directly to clinicians at point of care to improve patient outcomes and reduce cost.

[READ MORE HERE >](#)



Adjuvax, founded by Pengfei Wang, Ph.D., specializes in vaccine adjuvant discovery and development. The start-up received \$100,000 from Innovate Alabama in 2023 to develop a new adjuvant formulation for various vaccines.



[< READ MORE HERE](#)

## ADJUVAX



## BIO



ImmPrev Bio, founded by Charles Elson, M.D., intends to commercialize a novel diagnostic tool and early-stage treatment for Crohn's disease. The treatment and tool are based on groundbreaking research efforts out of Elson's lab.

[READ MORE HERE >](#)



# Reinvesting in UAB

**\$50K**  
Per Project

**90**  
Inventors

Across

**34**

UAB Departments

**\$300K**  
Awarded

**48**  
Applications



**First-ever round of funding**



**Read More**

**6**

**Grants awarded**

Immunotherapeutic Targeting of FCRL6

Treatment Methods for Viral Infections

TeaCha, a Social App for Teachers

**School of Medicine  
School of Education  
School of Engineering**

Spiromatics: An AI-based Lung Function Solutions Suite

Designed Protein Nanopores

Antibiotic-eluting Sinus Stents

# APLU Innovation Award



The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) named UAB as one of the four winners of its 2023 Innovation and Economic Prosperity (IEP) University Awards.



The awards recognize innovative projects or programs in economic engagement. UAB received the IEP Innovation Award, which recognizes exemplary initiatives spurring innovation, entrepreneurship and technology-based economic development.

HIIE Executive Director Kathy Nugent, Ph.D., accepted the award at the APLU Annual Meeting, held in Seattle in November 2023.



**READ MORE HERE >**

# National Academy of Inventors

NAHM

MOON



Moon Nahm, M.D., and Michael Niederweis, Ph.D., both UAB inventors with patents, were honored as members of the 2023 class of NAI Senior Members.

NIEDERWEIS

MICHAEL



The UAB Chapter of the National Academy of Inventors, which is in its second year of existence, inducted seven new members in 2023. New members included:

- **Anupam Agarwal, M.D.**
- **Charles Amsler, Ph.D.**
- **Peter Anderson, DVM, Ph.D.**
- **David Bedwell, Ph.D.**
- **Kim Keeling, Ph.D.**
- **James McClintock, Ph.D.**
- **Tim Townes, Ph.D.**



# Innovation Awards



★ Recipients of this year's Innovation Awards included:

## **Most Prolific Inventors**

Kyle Wood, M.D.

- 1 Surya Bhatt, M.D.
- Sandeep Bodduluri, M.D.
- Arie Nakhmani, Ph.D.

## **Community Partnership of the Year**

- 2 Innovate Alabama
- Cynthia Crutchfield, CEO

## **Start-Up of the Year**

- 3 Adjuvax
- Pengfei Wang, Ph.D.

## **Most Outstanding**

- 4 Entrepreneurship Student
- Alex Cox

## **EntrepreHER Award**

- 5 Ashita Tolwani, M.D.

## **Award for Excellence in Entrepreneurship**

- 6 Vivek Lal, M.D.

# HIIE Highlights

In 2023, the HIIE welcomed our first two in-office student workers!

Birthe Franck-Petersen, also a UAB Track and Field athlete, served as a Communications Student Assistant, working primarily with video.



Jimmy Pham, our first Business Development Intern, was featured in a UAB Reporter story on how a childhood surgery at UAB set him on a path to study biotechnology and drug development.



[READ MORE HERE >](#)

Business Development Analyst Amanda Dove was named a UAB VIP Award winner in 2023. The VIP Awards honor employees who embody UAB's shared values, and are considered the highest honor for UAB staff.



[READ MORE >](#)

HIIE Executive Director Kathy Nugent, Ph.D., was named to the Birmingham Business Journal's Power 60, a list of the Magic City's most influential business leaders. She has been on the list consistently since 2014.



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# Staff Additions

BROWN



AUDREY

ESTIS



ANITA

NABEGU



AISHA

In 2023, we added three new full-time employees. Licensing Associate Audrey Brown, J.D., Financial Associate Anita Estis and Program Manager Aisha Nabegu, MBA, all became part of our quickly growing team.



**OUR TEAM** (from left): Aisha Nabegu, Audrey Brown, Nilu Agarwal, Amanda Dove, Diptiman Chanda, Karthik Gopalakrishnan, Kathy Nugent, Wink Crittenden, Amy Jones, Karen Bernard and Shawnda Jones. Not pictured: Nadia Cantu and Anita Estis.

# Year in Snapshots

