



# 2025 IMPACT REPORT

**UAB**  
The University of  
Alabama at Birmingham.

Bill L. Harbert Institute for  
Innovation & Entrepreneurship



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2025 marked another strong year for the Harbert Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. We launched five startups, executed 50 agreements, received 153 intellectual property disclosures, and funded nine early-stage UAB technologies through the Blazer Bridge Fund. These efforts helped generate \$7.45 million in revenue across UAB's innovation ecosystem. We expanded our programming with the launch of the Blazer App Accelerator, supporting 19 participants as they refined software-based ideas, and introduced the Patent Coin program to celebrate UAB inventors named on U.S. Patents. The team at the Harbert Institute is deeply grateful to the faculty, students, entrepreneurs and partners who make this work possible, and we look forward to continued growth in 2026.

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# STANDOUT

## NUMBERS



**\$7.45M**

Revenue Generated



**153**

Intellectual  
Property  
Disclosures



**2,000+**

Total Inventor  
Outreach



**22**

U.S. Patents  
Issued



**50**

Licenses  
Executed



**5**

Start-ups  
Launched



**24**

Story  
Features



**31**

Marketing  
Campaigns



**912**

LinkedIn  
Followers

# STAFF ADDITIONS

## FULL-TIME STAFF



**Trey Melazzo, PharmD, MBA**  
Faculty Liaison



**Angelia Ashley**  
Financial Associate

## STUDENT EMPLOYEES



**Kamdi Akwuba**  
Biotech Marketing &  
Program Assistant



**Samuel Bharti**  
Business  
Development Fellow



**Christian Lopez  
Blanco**  
Business  
Development Fellow



**Riley Yager**  
Business  
Development Fellow



**Catie James  
Wilson**  
Communications  
Student Assistant

# BLAZER BRIDGE FUND

The Blazer Bridge Fund (BBF) is an early-stage translational fund that supports the development of novel intellectual property (IP) to attract licensee interest and/or position the technology for IP protection. The BBF is supported by the HIE and provides funding of up to \$50,000 per project.



## IN 2025, WE RECEIVED

**41** applications from **98** innovators across **45** departments and divisions within four schools

## WE AWARDED

**9**

grants to faculty from

Collat School of Business  
Heersink School of Medicine  
School of Dentistry  
School of Engineering

## IN THREE YEARS, THE BBF HAS INVESTED

**\$900K**

in a total of

**21**

projects

# BLAZER

## APP ACCELERATOR

The Blazer App Accelerator (BAA) helps potential UAB software and app creators validate ideas that are ready for further funding via the Blazer Bridge Fund application process or to launch as potential startup companies. The Harbert Institute has partnered with Harmony Venture Labs, a Birmingham-area company, to create the BAA. Harmony Venture Labs' AppThink program guides participants through an entrepreneurship curriculum, focusing on real-world applications.



### THE FIRST TWO COHORTS HAVE INCLUDED

**19**

**participants  
from these  
UAB entities:** ArtPlay Community Education  
Collat School of Business  
College of Arts & Sciences  
Heersink School of Medicine  
Graduate School

### IN THE 2025 BLAZER BRIDGE FUND CYCLE

**33%**

**of winners were Blazer App  
Accelerator participants**

# PATENT COINS



In 2025, the Harbert Institute launched a Patent Coin program, which awards personalized commemorative coins to UAB inventors who are named on U.S. Patents.



# INNOVATION AWARDS



## 2026 Innovation Award Winners:

### Award for Excellence in Entrepreneurship

Ashish Shah, M.D.

### Startup of the Year

iNOvodel

### Community Partner of the Year

Harmony Venture Labs

### Most Prolific Inventor

Masakazu Kamata,  
Ph.D.

### Most Outstanding Entrepreneurship Student

Jaival Vikal

## 2026 Members of the UAB Chapter of the National Academy of Inventors:

Namasivayam  
Ambalavanan, M.D.

Amit Gaggar, M.D.

Richard Popple,  
Ph.D.

Steven Rowe, M.D.

Andrei Stanishevsky,  
Ph.D.

# HARBERT

## HIGHLIGHTS

### NEW FACULTY LIAISON

The Harbert Institute has created a new Faculty Liaison role to better connect UAB researchers with innovation and commercialization support. In the role, Trey Melazzo, PharmD, MBA, works closely with faculty to help turn promising lab discoveries into protected technologies, partnerships, and real-world impact.



### UAB'S FIRST NONPROFIT STARTUP

One of the newest UAB startups, which is working to redefine and drastically improve cystic fibrosis care around the world, also marks a major milestone. Dream a Little Dream (DALD), founded by UAB Professor Hector Gutierrez, M.D., is the university's first nonprofit startup.



## UAB STARTUP PARTNERS WITH HARDWARE PARK

Electric Indigo LLC, a UAB spinout, has partnered with Birmingham-based Hardware Park to develop light-emitting eyewear designed to slow the progression of myopia in children. The technology builds on UAB research led by Rafael Grytz, Ph.D., which identified indigo light as playing an important role in healthy eye development.



## UAB STARTUP FEATURED IN WSJ

A fast-growing UAB startup company was recently featured in the Wall Street Journal. The publication's Buy Side, which reports on new products, featured a hair serum that uses technology developed by UAB spinoff company Yuva Biosciences.



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## RESBIOTIC RAISES \$14.5M IN FUNDING

ResBiotic, a UAB startup founded by C. Vivek Lal, M.D., recently announced \$14.5 million in funding. The company develops products based on the Gut-X axis, which studies how the gut microbiome communicates with organs throughout the body.



# 2025

## IN SNAPSHOTS

