



# 2024 IMPACT REPORT



BILL L. HARBERT INSTITUTE  
FOR INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
The University of Alabama at Birmingham



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2024 was our best year yet at the Harbert Institute. To start, we launched five start-ups with many more in the pipeline for 2025, funded six new UAB technologies through our Blazer Bridge Fund, and brought in \$6.5 million in revenue. We saw two UAB faculty members selected as Fellows of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). We honored some of the most innovative thinkers on our campus at our annual Innovation Awards and inducted seven new members into our campus chapter of the NAI. We also started a new tradition of celebrating each of our new start-ups at launch and even welcomed the Indian Consul General. I'm so proud of our UAB community for all that we contribute to the innovation ecosystem, and especially proud of our team for the tireless daily support they offer our inventors. We look forward to 2025.

*Kathy Nugent*

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# STANDOUT NUMBERS



**\$6.5M**

Revenue  
Generated



**124**

Intellectual  
Property  
Disclosures



**837**

Total Inventor  
Outreach



**17**

U.S. Patents  
Issued



**34**

Licenses  
Executed



**5**

Start-ups  
Launched



**7**

Innovate  
Fellows



**27**

Marketing  
Campaigns



**48**

Fellows  
Reports

# 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 funded by the HIIIE and funds 5-6 projects per year at a maximum of \$50K per project.



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## WE RECEIVED



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## WE AWARDED



# 2024 START-UPS

## ALPHA YOUNG

Alpha Young, founded by Christian Faul, Ph.D., a professor in the UAB Division of Nephrology, focuses on developing life-saving drug therapies that will integrate into dialysis treatment to restore biological kidney functions and combat chronic kidney disease.



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## BODY CHECK

Body Check, founded by Steven Rothenberg, M.D., assistant professor in the UAB Department of Radiology, focuses on developing and furthering artificial intelligence algorithms that identify patients with underlying cardiovascular diseases such as cardiomegaly, also known as an enlarged heart.



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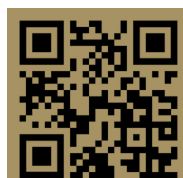


## INOVODEL

iNOvodel, founded by Nagababu Enika, Ph.D., and Dan Berkowitz, M.D., both of the UAB Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, focuses on developing non-gas-tank-based devices for the delivery of inhaled nitric oxide to treat pulmonary hypertension in infants and pulmonary hypertension and right heart failure during and after cardiac surgery.



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## PERIOP ORTHO

Periop Ortho, founded by Ashish Shah, M.D., of the UAB Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, works to prioritize patient well-being during surgical care through proactive patient engagement, personalized care plans and streamlined processes.

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**ReACT**  
RETRAINING AND CONTROL THERAPY

## REACT FND HEALTH

ReACT FND Health, founded by Aaron Fobian, Ph.D., of the UAB Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurobiology, is focused on helping patients with functional neurological disorder manage their symptoms and return to their everyday lives.

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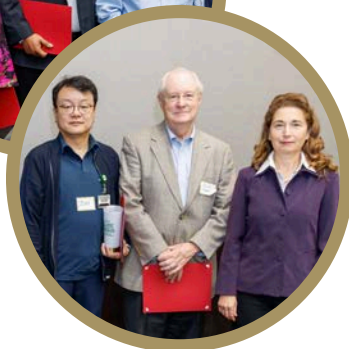
# UAB NAI CHAPTER

The National Academy of Inventors honors the most accomplished inventors and patent holders from across the country. In 2024, two UAB faculty members were selected as NAI Fellows. Michael Niederweis, Ph.D., of the Department of Microbiology, and Cynthia Owsley, Ph.D., of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, were nominated by the HIIIE team for their innovative products and procedures.



The UAB Chapter of the National Academy of Inventors, which is in its third year of existence, inducted seven new members in 2024. New members included:

**Charles Elson, M.D.**  
**Ho-Wook Jun, Ph.D.**  
**C. Vivek Lal, M.D.**  
**Joanne Murphy-Ullrich, Ph.D.**  
**Ashita Tolwani, M.D.** (*not pictured*)  
**Anath Shalev, M.D.**  
**Sadanandan Velu, Ph.D.**





# INNOVATION AWARDS

Recipients of this year's  
Innovation Awards included:

1

## **Award for Excellence in Entrepreneurship**

Anath Shalev, M.D.



2

2

## **Start-up of the Year**

ReACT FND Health



3

3

## **Community Partner of the Year**

Station 41



4

## **Most Prolific Inventor**

Maria Grant, M.D. (*not  
pictured*)

Rubin Pillay, Ph.D.

Steven Rothenberg, M.D.



5

## **Most Outstanding Entrepreneurship Student**

Krishna Patel



# HIIE HIGHLIGHTS

## CELEBRATING START-UPS

In 2024, our team started a tradition of celebrating each of our new start-ups with a Start-up Launch Celebration. These celebrations included short presentations on the mission of each start-up, a congratulatory cake and a symbolic gong ceremony to mark the happy occasion.



## INNOVATE FELLOW NAMED ON TWO PATENTS

Innovate Fellow Riley Yager, a physics doctoral student at UAB, was named on two patents for inventing a unique catalytic reactor that uses nanofibers as catalysts to convert carbon dioxide into consumable oxygen.



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## INDIAN CONSUL GENERAL VISITS

In July 2024, the Indian Consul General, Ramesh Babu, visited the HIIE office to hear a short presentation on our mission and goals as UAB's tech transfer office.



### START-UP GETS \$2.8M

Endomimetix received \$2.8 million in funding from the Small Business Innovation Research program to continue development of a peptide-based biomaterial, called Bionanomatrix, that coats medical devices and helps to reduce complications associated with implantation.

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### START-UP GAINS RIGHT TO TEST NEW DRUG

UAB start-up TIXiMED gained approval from the FDA to proceed to clinical trials with TIX100, its novel oral Type 1 diabetes drug. This major milestone in the development of the new drug allows TIXiMED to start human studies with TIX100.

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# 2024 IN SNAPSHOTS

