



VA Technology Transfer Program November 2025

Bringing Research Advancements for Veterans to Everyone!



TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER
PROGRAM



Agenda



TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER
PROGRAM

Bringing Research Advancements for Veterans to Everyone!

- **What is Technology Transfer?**
- VA TTP Responsibilities
- VA TTP History and Office Structure
- VA TTP Initiatives
- VA TTP Successes
- Questions

Five (5) minute video clip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLjnlexlliU>



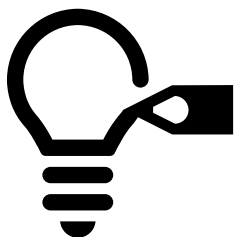
Technology Transfer Process



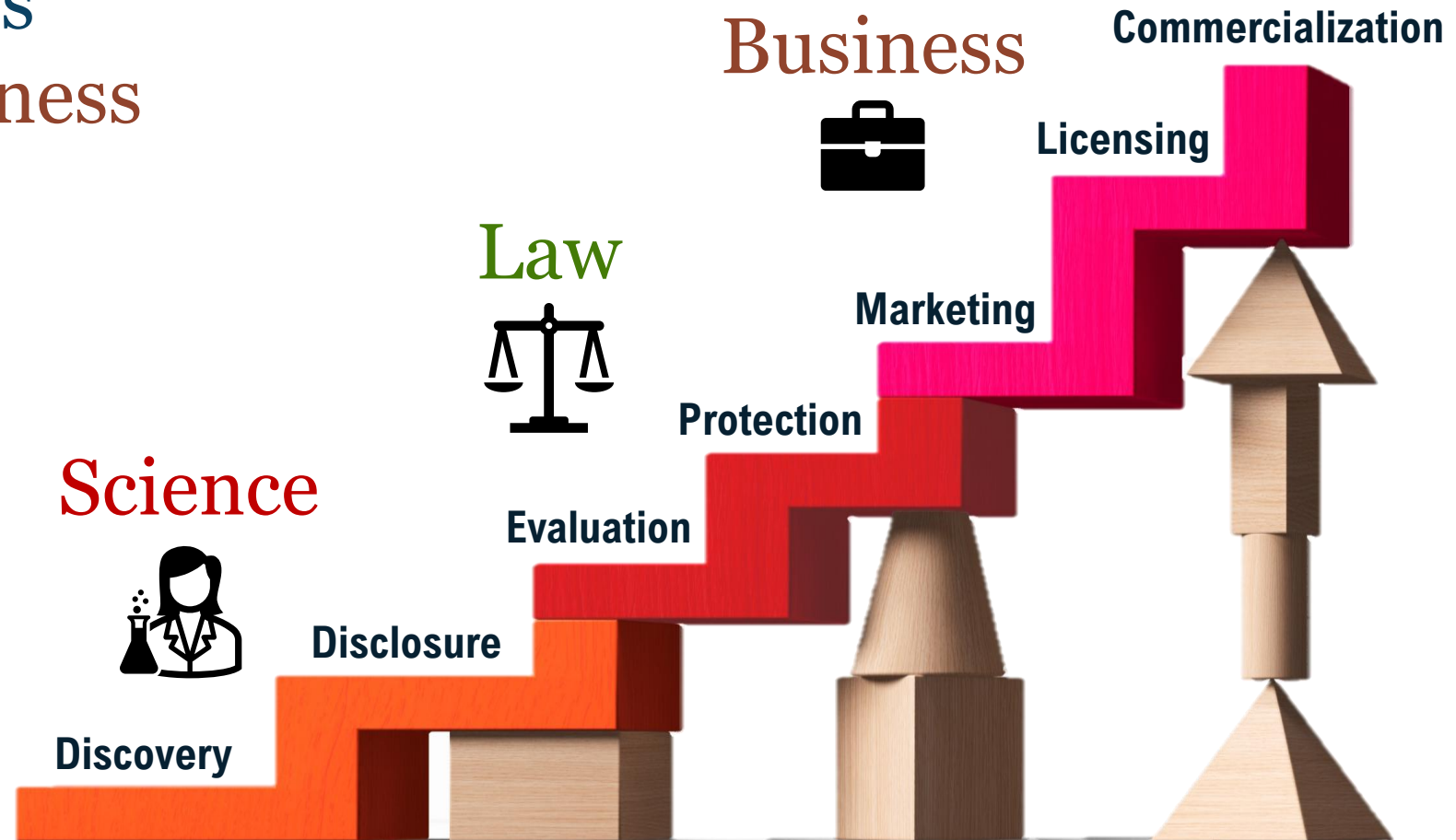
Bringing Research Advancements for Veterans to Everyone!

Tech Transfer combines **Science**, **Law**, and **Business**

Technology transfer is transferring new knowledge or inventions from research laboratories to companies. This process enables the development of new products or services that benefit Veterans and the public by putting technology into practical use.



It all begins with an idea!



Tech Transfer
Lifecycle
Benefit to
Society and
the Economy

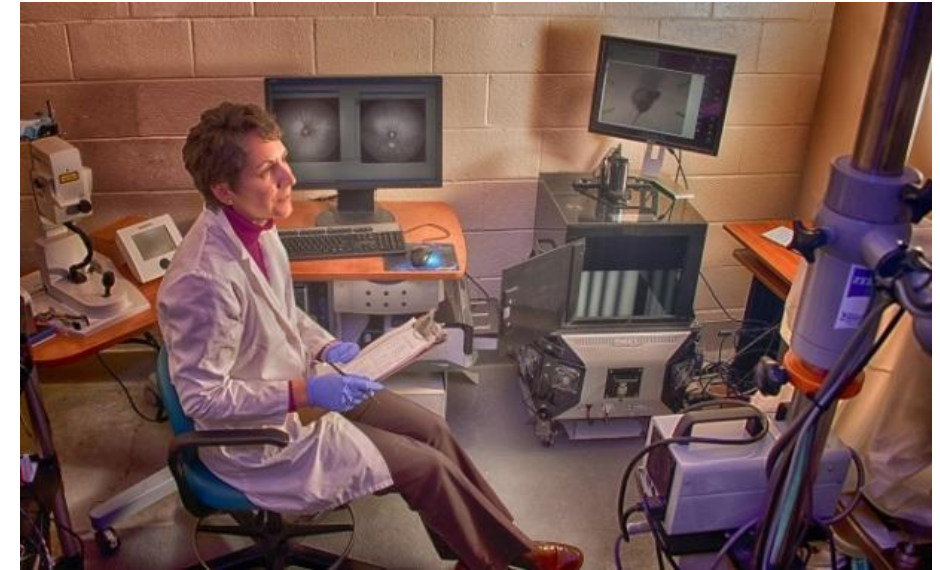


VA Technology Transfer



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- Educates VA employees on rights and obligations regarding inventions
- Assesses and protects Intellectual Property (IP)
- Seeks development and commercialization partners
- Reviews and assists with executing:
 - Cooperative Research And Development Agreements (CRADAs)
 - Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs)
 - Intellectual Property (IP) Agreements
- Works with Affiliates on jointly owned IP
- Manages IP and Licenses
- Distributes royalties



*Machelle Pardue
Atlanta VAMC*

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Responsibilities of VA TTP



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Reporting

- Reporting by academic affiliates
- Advises on policies, procedures
- Guidance on forms for invention disclosure & certification

Disclosure

- Accurate form completion and execution
- Clear description of technology
- Identifies inventors

Evaluation

- Reviews complete invention disclosure package to evaluate determination of rights (DOR)
- Evaluates commercialization & patentability potential

Protection

- Assesses protection of the invention, typically in the form of domestic and foreign patents

Marketing & Licensing

- Markets the invention to attract licensing partners
- Licensing and commercialization of the technology

Management

- Manages and distributes royalties
- Compliance with the license agreement

Currently, OGC is signing licenses; VAMC Directors will be signing licenses in FY26.

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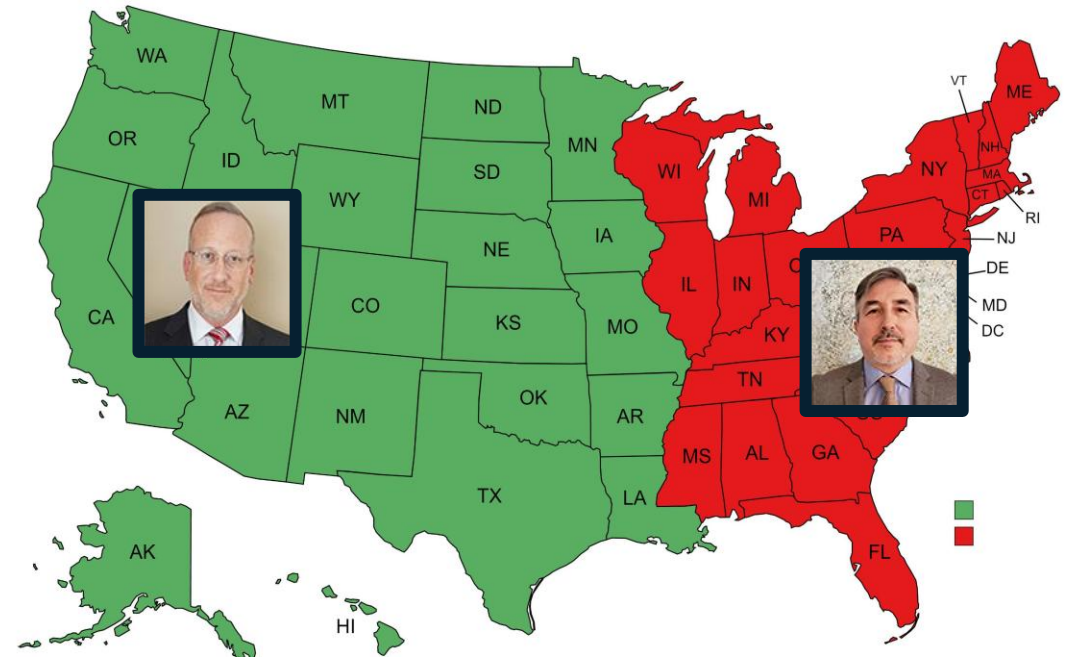
VA TTP Organization – Team



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Technology Transfer Team (FY16)

- No Director (Dr. Kaplan joined in April 2016)
- Two (2) Technology Transfer Specialists
 - Eastern US
 - Western US
- Three (3) Support Staff
- Located in Washington, DC



VA TTP Organization – Team

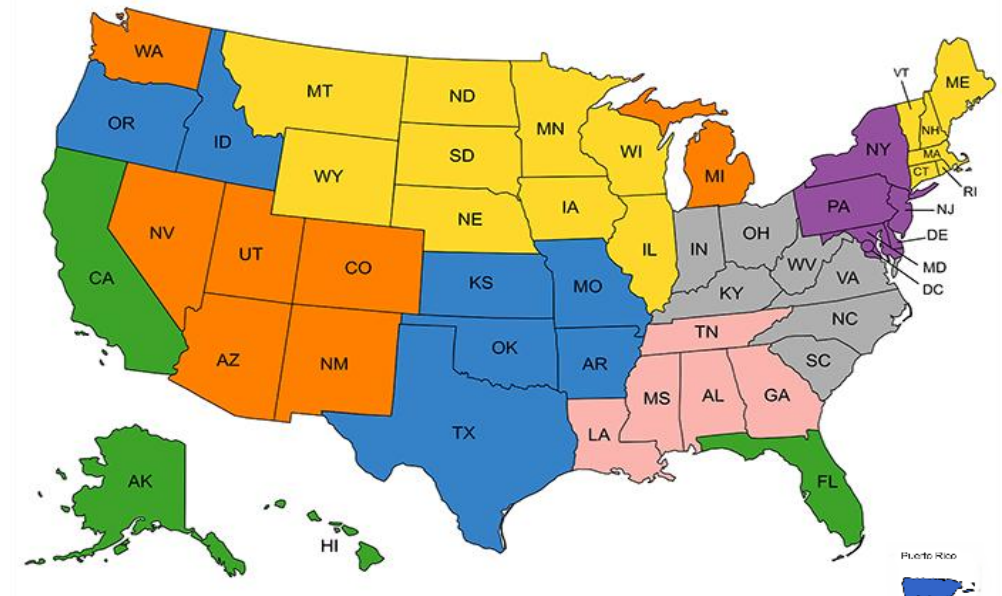


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Technology Transfer Team (FY25)

- Director, Dr. John Kaplan, PhD, JD, MBA, PE
- Team
 - Deputy Director
 - 7 Regional TTSs (Remote)
 - 2 Senior TTSs (CRADAs, Licenses, Audits)
 - 14 Field TTSs
 - 5 Support Staff
- Regional TTS for each region as displayed on the map
 - Field TTSs work on-site at a VA Medical Center


TTP Team has experience in Government, Private Industry, University TTO, Consulting, Pharmaceutical Research and Regulations, Biotechnology Industry




The Technology Transfer Team



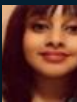
John Kaplan, PhD, JD




Terri Hunter, PhD




Loraine Kelley



Rebecca Megabaw



Todd Bell




Alicia Ming, MPA



Gloria Winford




Mr. Chris Drabik, JD



Jenish Patel, PhD



David Marks, JD




Emily Rosenthal, PhD




Brandy Wade, PhD



Lee Sylvers, PhD



Ryan Davis, JD




Trina Voss, RTP, CLP



Pattie Cullum, MEd



Chi Ng, MS




Richard Vermillion, BS




Renee Shaw, JM, MPH



Grace Yeh, MPH



Rebecca Holmes, PhD




Bhoomija Hariprasad, MS




Rowan Wagner, MPH




Richard Bodnar, PhD




Robert Masterson, PhD




Davis Becker




Nicholas Cilz, PhD



John Beard, MBA



Paige Zimmerman, MS



Kristine Moes, JD

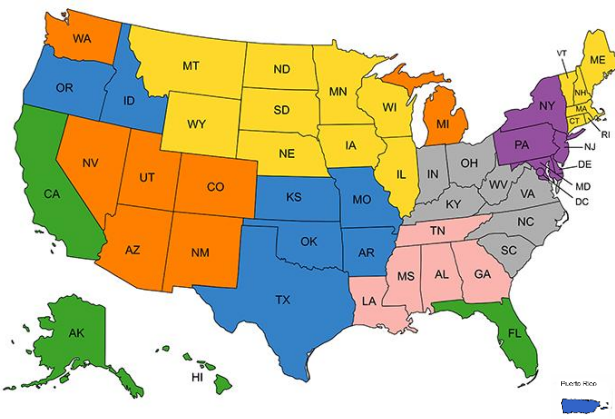


Photo: iStock

VA TTP Team Qualifications



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- Four (4) Patent Attorneys
- Two (2) Patent Agents
- Two (2) Former Patent Examiners
- Eleven (11) PhDs
- Seven (7) Veterans
- Two (2) Business CEOs
- Broad spectrum of experience across all aspects of technology transfer
 - Legal, Business, Academic
 - IT
 - Contracting
 - Finance
- Marketing and Licensing Expertise

Sample of Academic Affiliates Technology Transfer Offices



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VA	30
Affiliate	Technology Transfer Staff
University of Minnesota	40
University of Michigan	64
Stanford University	62
University of Washington	52
Harvard University	55
Duke University	65
University of Pennsylvania	70
Yale University	40
Case Western Reserve University	62

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VA Technology Transfer Program



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The mission of the VA Technology Transfer Program (VA TTP) is to facilitate the commercialization of useful discoveries made by VA employees to benefit Veterans and the American public.



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TTP Audit Program



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VA Office of Business Oversight (OBO) provides audit services to improve TTP oversight and operations

- OBO is part of VA Office of Management
- OBO provides services through Service Level Agreement



Perform audits of Invention Management Agreements (IMA) with academic affiliates



Improve TTP oversight of academic affiliates to ensure IMA compliance



Facilitate communication between TTP and academic affiliates to improve invention reporting, patenting, and licensing



Perform additional reviews and studies to support TTP mission and oversight



Support TTP, Office of General Counsel (OGC) and Department of Justice (DOJ) legal proceedings involving VA inventions

TTP Audit Program



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Audit Coverage 2019 to 2024

32 Academic Affiliates • 3 VA Licensees • 2 TTP Mission Needs Studies

2,316
Inventions

449
Licenses

\$32,665,660
Gross Revenue

\$13,401,102
Patent Expenses

\$2,532,630
Royalties

Audit Results 2019 to 2024

370
Inventions
Found
(193 by TechLink)

106
Incorrect Patent
Assignments

10
Incorrect
Licenses

19
Incorrect
Annual Reports

16
Missing Annual
Reports

\$4,260,935 Royalties Recovered

- Partnership Intermediary
 - Portfolio Management
 - Marketing
 - Licensing Opportunities
 - Industry Contacts
 - Downstream Economic Impacts



VA Technologies

Source: [15 USC 3715](#)

Technology Transfer Assistance Project (TTAP)



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- TTAP partners
 - Use a Veteran-centric, experience-based, and outcome-driven design process to create practical, commercially viable solutions
 - Creation and clinical translation of novel of cross cutting devices or methodologies
 - Promotes regulatory compliance, outsourcing by contract manufacturers, clinical testing, and dissemination throughout the VA to support our Veterans
- Human Engineering Research Laboratories ([HERL](#))
 - Collaboration between Pittsburgh VAMC and the University of Pittsburgh
 - Strong team of engineers, fabrication, and standards testing facilities
- Minneapolis Adaptive Design & Engineering ([MADE](#))
 - Develops and distributes adaptive technologies and interventions
 - Close collaboration with rehabilitation clinicians and industry partners
- Cleveland Advanced Platform Technology Center ([APT](#))
 - Harnesses the most recent developments in engineering and science disciplines
 - Design and disseminate new rehabilitation interventions



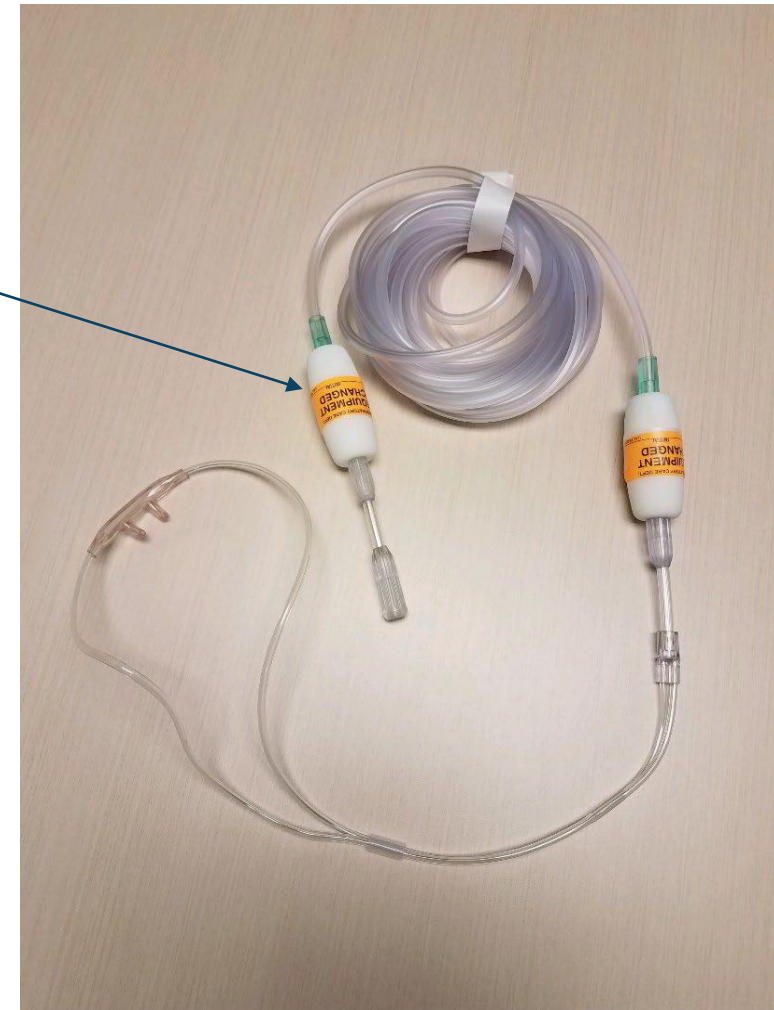
Technology Transfer Assistance Project (TTAP) Example



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- Thermal Fuse Cover
 - Safety device to prevent fires
 - VA ID 2018-355
 - Invented in Pittsburgh with assistance from Mr. Hilliard from VA Safety
 - Currently being tested in Pennsylvania
 - Goal: license to oxygen contractor for use throughout the VA



Additional VA TTP Partnerships



Bringing Research Advancements for Veterans to Everyone!

- Translational Education and Mentoring Center (VA-TEAM)
 - Use a Veteran-centric, experience-based, and outcome-driven design process to create practical, commercially viable solutions
 - Creation and clinical translation of novel of cross cutting devices or methodologies
 - Promotes regulatory compliance, outsourcing by contract manufacturers, clinical testing, and dissemination throughout the VA to support our Veterans
- Pharmaceutical Advancement Collaboration (T-PAC)
 - VA Cooperative Studies Program (CSP)
 - Clinical Research Pharmacy Coordinating Center (PCC)
 - Project Management
 - Clinical Trial Materials Management
 - Regulatory and Patient Safety Management
 - Laboratory Services and Biological Storage
 - Quality Excellence



Additional VA TTP Partnerships



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- BRAVE Funding Program
 - Began as a pilot program in FY20 to supplement existing merit award to concentrate on the Development side of Research & Development
 - Partnered with BLRD
 - Program was successful – moved to stand-alone funding program in FY23
 - Program formalized for FY24 and beyond (estimated \$1M/Year)

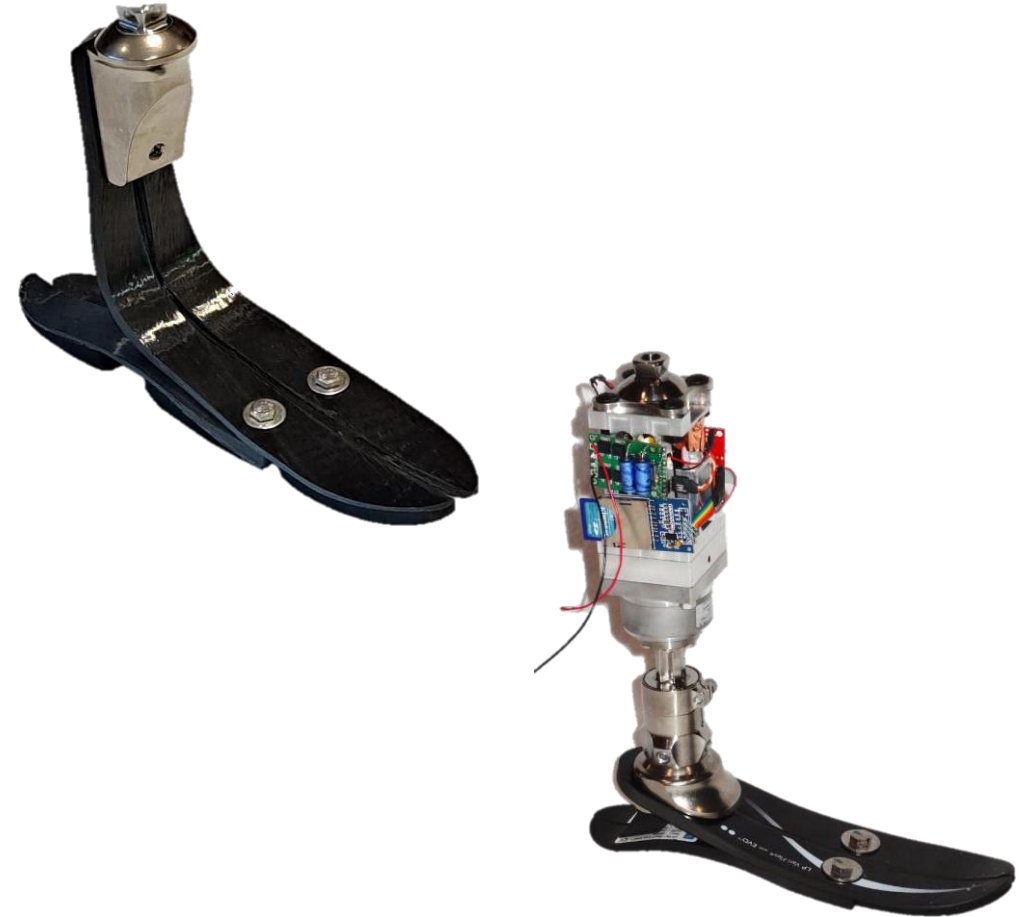
Additional VA TTP Partnerships



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- Example of BRAVE Project: Pivot-Flex Foot for Veterans and Everyone
 - \$99,990 to build a set of Pivot-Flex Feet
 - Use them in structural integrity tests and in initial human subject field tests
 - PI also working with VA-TEAMS



Path Forward



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- Staffing: continue to expand with Field TTSs
 - 7 Regions with 3 Field TTSs in each Region
- Acquisition: Systematic and straightforward approach to bring VA-developed technologies into the VA
 - Incorporate into licenses
- Legislative and Regulatory Changes
 - VA Regulations from 1990s and earlier; TTP stood up after Year 2000
 - DOR regulations
 - License Signatory
 - Assist with changing Conflict of Interests for VA inventors
- Leverage use of AI to become more efficient
- DORs into TTP and Licenses signed by VAMC Director



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TTP Successes



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- New TMS online learning course ([VA 131008977](#))
“VA Technology Transfer Program Training”
- Increased marketing and licensing inventions
- Expanded the hiring of Technology Transfer Specialists which led to increased disclosures, licenses, and royalty income
- TTP and OGC won litigation regarding VA co-ownership of PTSD therapy
 - Resulted in large royalty payments to VA
 - Approximately \$4M so far

TTP Successes



Bringing Research Advancements for Veterans to Everyone!

- VA technology transfer featured on CBS “Eyes on Veterans” Podcast
- VA TTP featured in January 2024 Edition of Military Officer Magazine
- Seminar series about Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property for entire Federal Government
- Wreaths Across America Radio Interview: Dr. Kaplan on TTP
- Created online electronic Invention Disclosure and Certification forms accessible outside the VA’s firewall via Commercial Cloud
 - VA leading the way: Adopted by Dept of Energy and Army
 - First time FEDRAMP certification

Federal Lab Consortium Awards



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- Technology Transfer Professional of the Year
 - Dr. John Kaplan 2022
- Technology Transfer Rookie of the Year
 - Mr. Ryan Davis, 2021
 - Ms. Patricia Cullum, 2022
 - Ms. Bhoomija Hariprasad, 2025 (Honorable Mention)
- FLC's Impact Award
 - 2022: RightEye – an eye motion test that could help detect and diagnose Parkinson's disease at an early stage
- Excellence in Technology Transfer Award
 - 2023: Habit Camera – Habit Camera – a device to enable a person to check their own skin even those with limited sensation, limited hand function, and limited flexibility

Federal Lab Consortium Awards



Bringing Research Advancements for Veterans to Everyone!

- Excellence in Technology Transfer Award
 - 2023: Habit Camera – Habit Camera – a device to enable a person to check their own skin even those with limited sensation, limited hand function, and limited flexibility.
 - 2024: TrackMate – a small device that attaches to medical equipment and registers each disinfection/clean event, stores the data in a secure portal.
- Innovation Award
 - 2024: VA's Technology Transfer Audit Process/Program – first government agency to develop and implement a standard process to review Academic Affiliate and Licensee agreements with the VA with respect to Intellectual Property.

VA TTP Successes

Invention Disclosures trending upward



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- FY16 – 246 FY21 – 744
- FY17 – 606 FY22 – 520
- FY18 – 497 FY23 – 631
- FY19 – 733 FY24 – 599
- FY20 – 625 FY25 – 633



VA TTP Successes

Royalties trending upward



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- FY16 – \$ 317,530.27
- FY17 – \$ 490,876.00
- FY18 – \$ 690,324.04
- FY19 – \$ 1,160,667.00
- FY20 – \$ 1,459,555.86
- FY21 – \$ 3,043,277.86
- FY22 – \$6,982,210.59
- FY23 – \$1,521,918.92
- FY24 - \$5,352,834.37
- FY25 - \$7,009,730.07



VA TTP Successes

License Agreements trending upward

- FY16 – 0
- FY17 – 1 license
- FY18 – 2 licenses
- FY19 – 3 licenses
- FY20 – 5 licenses and 6 option agreements*
- FY21 – 9 licenses and 2 option agreements
- FY22 – 6 license agreements
- FY23 – 11 license agreements
- FY24 – 10 license agreements
- FY25 – 12 license agreements



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- **Technology Transfer Emails:**

VA TTP Invention Disclosures: vattid@va.gov

VA TTP Patents: vatechtp@va.gov

VA TTP Sophia Portal: VATTPsophia@va.gov

VA TTP CRADA: VHACOTTTC@va.gov

- **VA TTP Director:**

John Kaplan, PhD, JD, MBA

Director, Technology Transfer Program

john.kaplan@va.gov

- **VA TTP Regional and Field Contacts:**

[Technology Transfer Team](#)



Helpful Links



Bringing Research Advancements for Veterans to Everyone!

- Intranet:

http://vaww.research.va.gov/programs/tech_transfer/

- Internet:

http://www.research.va.gov/programs/tech_transfer/

- VA Online ID and IC Submission Portal (Sophia):

<https://va.wellspringsoftware.net/>

- VA TechLink:

<https://techlinkcenter.org/labs/departments-of-veterans-affairs/>

- TMS online course ([VA 131008977](#)) “VA Technology Transfer Program Training”

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