2020–21 Highlights

UC Berkeley accelerates the translation of ideas and inventions developed by faculty, researchers, and students into products and services that benefit society.

• The university holds the largest CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing portfolio in the United States with 41 US patents to date.

• As of July 31, 2021, companies under IP licenses from UC Berkeley have commercialized more than 730 products.

• The Berkeley Research Infrastructure Commons (RIC) program enables early stage (pre-product sales) startup companies affiliated with UC Berkeley to temporarily conduct new product R&D in faculty labs - under certain conditions and rigorous oversight.

• A drug royalty, monetized for $93 million, helps fund biological research facilities, students, faculty recruitment and retention, and new initiatives.

• Two thirds of all biotechnology companies in California are spin-outs from five universities, including UC Berkeley.

New Flagship Facility

Bakar BioEnginuity Hub

Opening in late 2021, the Bakar BioEnginuity Hub will provide a home to Bakar Labs, an incubator serving startups from around the world and will cultivate the innovators of tomorrow with a vibrant set of entrepreneurship programs at the intersection of the life sciences with the physical, engineering, and data sciences.

A donor-developed project, the Bakar BioEnginuity Hub will thoughtfully preserve Woo Hon Fai Hall, a National Register building and City of Berkeley designated landmark that was the former home of the University Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive. Featuring a transparent glass addition, the 40,000-square-foot facility of flexible lab and office space will accommodate up to 80 startup companies, so that they can develop, test, and grow their game-changing ideas. The Bakar BioEnginuity Hub will also offer fellowships and programming for Berkeley students and researchers, bringing campus scholars and startup founders together under one roof to transform research in the life and physical sciences into viable companies. Approved by the UC Regents in 2018, the renovation is almost complete. The opening coincides with the 50th anniversary of Woo Hon Fai Hall.

Tech Transfer and Licensing

At UC Berkeley innovators and entrepreneurs are creating groundbreaking products, revolutionary companies, and entirely new industries. The University plays a critical role in California’s economy. Last year the campus expanded the dynamic ecosystem that fosters novel approaches to research and its translation into real-world applications. As of July 2021, UC Berkeley has:

- Total Active Inventions: 1,605
- Active License Agreements: 368
- Active US Patents: 884
- Active Foreign Patents: 933

Innovation and Entrepreneurship

UC Berkeley Startups are Represented in Many Sectors

Over the last three decades, over 250 start-up companies have been founded to commercialize IP rights under license from UC Berkeley.
In 2020, UC Berkeley's ecosystem of campus programs devoted to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among students, faculty, and researchers continued to expand. As of fall 2020, the campus accelerator SkyDeck had supported 390 start-up teams that collectively have raised $1.2B. 65 companies had completed the CITRIS Foundry program raising more than $100M in follow-on funding. In the Life Sciences, the QB3 incubator network counted 230 current and alumni companies that had raised a combined $6.6 billion in venture funding.

Success with Founders' Pledge
Over 440 company founders have used the Founders' Pledge to promise philanthropic support to the campus. Learn more at http://founderspledge.berkeley.edu.

Berkeley Changemakers
“*The Berkeley Changemaker narrative is fundamentally about the values that make Berkeley so distinctive.*”

- Berkeley Chief Innovation and Entrepreneurship Officer Rich Lyons

The Berkeley Changemaker codifies an essential part of what UC Berkeley has always stood for and provides a future-oriented narrative that the campus is rallying behind, humanists and scientists alike. Its inclusive curriculum activates undergraduates’ passions and helps them develop a sharper sense of who they want to be and how to make that happen. This breadth-plus-depth approach to harnessing Berkeley's intellectual creativity promotes a unique and much-needed integration of disciplines. Learn more at changemaker.berkeley.edu.

More information: http://vcresearch.berkeley.edu, research@berkeley.edu