



2024 highlights

Academic inventions – from science to market



39

New ideas & inventions



17

New patents filed



10

New contracts for
IP commercialization

Venture funding & support



3

Spin-out companies
formed



2

Investments made*



5

Exits
realized

From science towards market..

Highlights 2024

After a thorough selection process in 2023, we presented the Utrecht Holdings Innovation Vouchers in 2024 to the following projects:



- **Hepatocyte-Like Liver Organoids (HeLLOs)**, invented at the UMCU, can break down drugs in the same way they would inside the human body, which allows us to study the toxic effects of the drugs more effectively.
- **Improved formulations of autoantigen Conjugates**, invented at the UU, an autoantigen-corticosteroid conjugate that can be taken up by antigen presenting cells.
- **Fungi waste treats water waste: contribution to a healthy society**, invented at the UU, uses spent mushroom substrate from industrial production of the white button mushroom to remove organic micropollutants from water in a sustainable and efficient manner.
- **Nanobody-targeted photodynamic therapy**, developed at the UMCU, is a therapy, that uses local light application to kill cancer cells.

License deals:

(some highlights)

visualise^{bio}

GelMap technology enables the first quality control standard in Expansion Microscopy. This holds great promise in pathology and diagnostics, as expansion microscopy constitutes a 10x resolution improvement over the standard light microscopy method, confocal microscopy.

NOBIAN

In the labs of Bert Weckhuysen, a hydrodechlorination technology using a platinum-based catalyst has been developed, which efficiently converts chloroform into dichloromethane under mild conditions. We have transferred the intellectual property to Nobian, allowing them to further develop and eventually implement the technology.

Cargill

In the labs of Bert Weckhuysen, a technology has been developed that uses acidic zeolites to produce branched fatty acids (these are compounds with a variety of uses) more sustainably, with lower energy consumption. Cargill has secured a license to scale up the lab-scale trials to full production, taking the next step toward commercial implementation.

Octo Vascular

In April 2024 Utrecht Holdings and Octovascular completed a licensing agreement for the Octocon Vessel Connector. The Octocon is an anastomosis connector to be used in coronary bypass surgery. This invention will make it possible to perform this challenging and invasive procedure via key-hole surgery and robotic surgery.

...and Venture funding & support

Highlights 2024

Figures and facts



Phlox Therapeutics raised 1.9M from existing and new shareholders to further their lead program: RNA therapies for genetic laminopathies, into preclinical development.

Cresco Spine has raised 850K from existing shareholders to progress their Spring Distraction System™ for Early Onset Scoliosis through validation and towards the market.



Cordys Analytics raised around 1.5 M in grants in 2024 for the development of AI-powered ECG analysis.



SentryX achieved promising results in their FIH clinical trial to reduce opioid use and pain after spine fixation surgery: patients treated with their implantable anesthetic required 52% less opioids and reported 36% lower pain scores.



Won the High Tech Trophy at the World of Technology & Science (WoTS) conference.



TargED's lead candidate entered phase Ia clinical trials, aiming to assess its safety and tolerability in healthy volunteers.



Fair Therapeutics completed enrollment of their Phase IIb CHOICES trial for adults with ultra-rare cystic fibrosis.



TigaTx Announces up to \$35.5M in Funding from ARPA-H and NIH Awards to Advance First-in-Class Engineered IgA Monoclonal Antibody for Cancer and Infectious Diseases.



And also..

We launched our new investment fund for Science based startups:

Utrecht Holdings Seed Fund!



A festive opening of the fund, by Margot van der Starre, vice president of the Executive Board UU, and Arno Hoes, vice-chairman of the Board of Directors UMCU. Startups, research groups and investors attended to celebrate the launch of the new fund.



We trained > 1000 scientists

On Intellectual Property, commercialization of science, how to collaborate with industry, and how to spin out a venture from academia. We did this through workshops and presentations at various divisions and departments of the UU and the UMCU and at UtrechtInc.

We were also present with a stand at the following conferences:

UMCU

- Brain Science Conference
- AIBIA Conference
- 3R's

UU

- Veterinary Science Day
- Utrecht AI Event
- Utrecht Life Sciences Conference

We have welcomed 4 new colleagues:



Peter Krekel
Business Developer Medtech



Maartje van Klinken
Jurist



Niek Tettero
Business Developer AI



Arjen van Vliet
Programmamanager

Team van Utrecht Holdings:



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