



On The Prowl: The Research Review

September 2022

Licensing News



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UWM Research Foundation grants second patent license to Pantherics for Novel drug compounds

MILWAUKEE _ The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Research Foundation (**UWMRF**) has granted a second patent license to **Pantherics Incorporated** to support the company's commercial drug development programs.

The latest license provides worldwide commercial rights to patents for novel drug compounds useful in the prevention and treatment of inflammatory diseases. The license was issued to Pantherics jointly with the following partners:

- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (**CAMH**) in Toronto
- **WiSys**
- **University of Tours** in France
- **University of Belgrade in Serbia-Faculty of Pharmacy**

UWMRF previously granted a license to Pantherics covering a separate family of drug compounds that includes lead compound PI301, also being developed by the company for inflammatory disorders. That license was issued jointly with Columbia University. Formed in 2018, Pantherics is at the forefront of developing drugs that modulate GABAA receptors (GABAAR) to treat inflammatory and smooth muscle disorders. Their pioneering work offers an improved approach to treat inflammatory diseases with a focus on oral treatment of pulmonary (such as asthma and COPD), dermatologic and

gastrointestinal disorders.

The patents are based on research by the following individuals:

- Alexander Arnold: Pantherics' chief scientific officer, professor of chemistry at UWM, and director of the **Milwaukee Institute for Drug Discovery** (MIDD). The institute advances research and later-stage development of new drugs developed at UWM and collaborating institutions.
- James Cook: Distinguished professor emeritus of chemistry and MIDD member.
- Douglas Stafford: President of Pantherics and former MIDD director.

UWMRF has supported the founding scientists through three catalyst seed grants that fund translational academic research.

Pantherics has also received two recent awards through the UWMRF **Bridge Grant** program to support development of licensed technologies. The program bolsters efforts to commercialize innovative research developed at UWM and support new companies that improve the Wisconsin economy. The program leverages grant funding from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation **Capital Catalyst** program.

“Our partnership with UWMRF has provided essential resources for patenting, licensing and financial support for early-stage commercial drug development,” Stafford said. “The UWM Research Foundation’s support is essential to our work.”

UWMRF is a nonprofit corporation that supports research, commercialization and innovation at UWM through a variety of programs, including patenting, licensing and startup support. “The Pantherics leadership team and their research collaborators are truly top-notch with deep experience in all stages of drug discovery and commercial development. PI301 is a great example of the impactful research taking place in MIDD labs,” said Jessica Silvaggi, vice president of the UWMRF.

For more information, please contact Silvaggi at jessica@uwmrf.org or Stafford at info@pantherics.com.

NEW CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS WITH PANTHER PARTNERING



Panther Partnering

As the designated technology transfer office for UW-Milwaukee (UWM), the UWM Research Foundation (UWMRF) is offering several options for Intellectual Property (IP) licensing tied to sponsored research conducted with industry partners. The goal is to make partnering transparent, fair, and with minimal negotiation, in order to focus on research, innovation, and bringing new products to market.

When a company is interested in conducting a research project with UWM faculty, they can lock in up-front specific royalty rates for a one time flat fee on top of the costs of the research. These rates are lower than the rates normally utilized for comparable deals for early-stage technologies. Companies with Wisconsin headquarters will be offered an up-front fee that is half of that for external companies. Any license will require that the company pays all patent costs. Royalties will only be paid to the university once the licensed product is proven to be successful, with a cumulative net sales of \$20 million.

For more details, [click here](#).

Erin Puro promoted to Technology Commercialization Manager

Erin Puro joined the Research Foundation at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in May of 2018 as a Technology Transfer Associate. This Texas A & M University graduate brings her knowledge of ocean engineering and international experience as a production engineer with her.

During her part-time tenure, Erin focused on intellectual property management activities including: identification and assessment of intellectual property, management of patent prosecution and marketing technologies. She also helped with the creation of business and market research plans to gain support for promising technologies in industry.

Since December 2021 Erin has taken over many additional roles, such as, reviewing and drafting communications, creating and editing presentations, facilitating mailing projects, managing grant projects, coordinating Board Meetings, maintaining the UWMRF website, coordinating grant programs and acting as liaison between UWMRF and campus on graphic design projects.



Erin Puro at Milwaukee Yacht Club in June for UWMRF Annual Awards Night.

As part of her new position, Erin's multifaceted skills and expertise will be utilized as she continues with more industry collaboration, commercialization and licensing.

Join the University of Wisconsin Research Foundation in celebrating the addition of Erin Puro to the full-time staff.

Events and Deadlines



**LES Software Webinar
Part 1 of 3
Intellectual Property
Protection
for Software**

**September 28 | Wednesday
12:00 - 1:00PM CST
via Zoom**

RSVP [here](#)

WELL ENTREPRENEUR PRESENTS
**Well-Being for the Innovative Mind:
Leading with Curiosity and Compassion**
EXPLORING THE SCIENCE AND APPLICATION OF MEDITATION AND MINDFULNESS

Dr. Richard Davidson
Founder & Director
Center for Healthy Minds,
University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Sept. 29
6:00 - 7:30 pm
UWM LEC Atrium**

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