“Resources for Innovation and Entrepreneurship - Where to Go and Who to See”

UConn has a mission to support both students and faculty to commercialize their inventions through licensing and/or to start and grow scalable new businesses. Part of that support includes connecting and mentoring to help in the development and refinement of business ideas & strategies, testing a proof-of-concept, understanding the market impact as well as patenting and copyrighting. Through multiple resources within the UConn community as well as across the state of Connecticut, students and faculty have the opportunity to gain practical experience in commercialization, entrepreneurship and innovation. We will describe those resources in detail and elaborate on how they can help both students and faculty increase their chance of success in the marketplace, either as innovative employees or self-employed entrepreneurs.

Presented By:

Donna M. Cyr, Ph.D., Director of Technology Licensing
Donna is responsible for managing and licensing UConn inventions in the physical sciences and engineering in UConn’s Technology Commercialization Services Group. She also oversees University sponsored prototype projects to support the commercialization of UConn inventions and start-ups. Donna received her Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Yale University. After completing her post-doctoral training at Columbia University, Donna joined Rohm and Haas (which is now part of Dow Chemical) as a senior scientist and became a group leader before returning to Connecticut.

Karen Wardwood, Ph.D., Industry Liaison, Life Sciences
Karen Woodward is responsible for the external industry outreach marketing efforts of all life sciences and healthcare-related intellectual property generated at the University of Connecticut. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Program in Molecular Medicine. After postdoctoral work at both the University of Connecticut Health Center and Wesleyan University she joined Packard Biosciences (now part of Perkin Elmer) where she worked in research & development helping to commercialize genomics related instruments and consumables. After leading the R&D team to a successful beta launch, she later moved into supporting the Perkin Elmer sales team as their Senior Application Scientist for Genomic related Instrumentation products. After leaving PerkinElmer, Karen worked for a variety of life sciences and healthcare related seed funded start-ups and large corporations leading numerous business development efforts (GeneXP Biosciences, Cogenics, Beckman Coulter Genomics, BioStat Solutions, Covance, and Generation Health). Prior to joining UConn, Karen was the VP of Strategic Project Operations and Account Management for MetaDiagnostics, a seed funded spin out from Generation Health where she lead the both the business development and project management efforts for all molecular diagnostic test clinical test validation studies and the development of a software database for test reimbursement market analysis.