FANNIN – INNOVATION STUDIO –

Houston's early-stage life science commercialization platform

Foundations of Cancer Therapeutics

Atul Varadhachary, MD, PhD August 25, 2021

Learning Objectives

 Challenges and development models for successfully advancing academic inventions outside the major biotech clusters.

 Unique elements to Fannin's approach to drug development / commercialization and people development.



Texas Medical Center – City of Medicine



Powerful Research and Clinical Engine



Over \$1B per Year in Basic Research

- 2,208 Active Grants
- 4,000 Active Clinical Trials





NIH Funding Crititical to Pharma/Biotech

Analysis of NME Approvals 2010-2016 *

	Approvals	NIH Contribution **
NMEs	201	198 (98%)
Targets	151	151 (100%)

* Cleary *et al*. Proc Natl Acad Sciences, 2018. Eprint February 12, 2018

** \$115.3 billion in inflation-adjusted spending estimates



M&A deal volume

Strong M&A and Investment Activity

Fotal M&A value (\$bn)

Pharma M&A Deals 2010 - 2019

Figure 1: Major biopharmaceutical industry M&A deals during 2010–19

Value (\$bn)

2011 - 1H2021 H1 biotech companies raise more than \$20

billion

US VC biotech & pharma deal activity



Biotech & Pharma VC Deals

*As of June 30, 2021

100%



Source: Biomedtracker®, February 2020

Houston Lags in Biotech Funding and Reputation

Investments (\$M)				
	4Q2020 – 1Q2021			
Total U.S.	\$30,700			
Houston	\$500 (1.6%)			

Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News March 2021

Top US Biopharma Clusters

- 1. Boston/Cambridge
- 2. SF Bay Area
- 3. NY/NJ
- 4. Maryland/DC
- 5. San Diego
- 6. L.A./Orange County
- 7. Philadelphia
- 8. Seattle
- 9. Raleigh-Durham
- 10. Chicago

Data source: U.S.: Pitchbook/NVCA VC-backed biopharma, pharmaceutical/biotech only; no devices or diagnostics Houston: Greater Houston Partnership all Healthcare related investments



Why the Commercialization Gap?





Need Both Scientific and Commercial Founder

Scientific Founder

- Deep domain expertise
- -Scientific rigor
- Relationships
- -But potentially noncommercial priorities and approach



Commercial Founder

- Development and fundraising experience
- Focus on commercially relevant de-risking
- Credibility with pharma and Investors
- Relationships

Orthogonal Skill Sets and Capabilities



Are Zombies Running Amok?

nearly 40% of ... university-licensed startups ... qualify as the "walking dead."

Data from University-licensed startups over 31 years (1980-2011).

Nature Biotechnology, 2020

The biotech living and the walking dead. Godfrey, Allen, & Benson. *Nat Biotechnol* **38**, 132–141





Finding Experienced CEOs Can Be Hard



Biotech Hub

Non-Hub City



Raising Early Capital Can Be Hard



* Consistent with other early stage Venture Capital Funds



Hurdle to Licensing Is High



Licensing/Acquisition Costs

Reconfirming original data Product characterization Intellectual Property GMP manufacturing Clinical programs Regulatory costs Marketing

Opportunity Costs (other options)



Data Reproducibility Can Be A Challenge

Drug development: Raise standards for preclinical cancer research

6 (11%) of 53 "landmark studies" reproduced by Amgen scientists.

Begley & Ellis. *Nature*. 483, 531-533, 2012

No Cure

When Bayer tried to replicate results of 67 studies published in academic journals, nearly two-thirds failed.



Drug Discovery. 10, 712 (2011)



Partner early: engage with Pharma **R&D** (as alternative to BD).

If science is "hot": **professional** investors may be interested.

Find creative ways (grants, family office, etc.), to **commercially** de-risk then re-engage with Pharma/investors.

Hybrid model offered by Fannin.





Build successful life sciences startups Grow local life sciences entrepreneurs

"Here at TMC Innovation, we understand the impact a strong local ecosystem can have on young entrepreneurs. Fannin Innovation's model is crucial for early-stage growth, as it affords access to ground-breaking science spun out of academia. This provides the foundation necessary for companies to flourish through the ecosystem, and ultimately, deliver impactful solutions to patients, faster."

> - Tom Luby Director, TMC Innovation Institute



Active Development Programs



Pulmotect's lead product, Pul-042, is a clinicalstage inhaled therapeutic that stimulates innate immune system to prevent infection.*



Allterum is developing an IL-7R antibody for the treatment of pediatric T-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.



Aptamer Therapeutics Creative Group is developing targeted agents against several diseases including cancers and ataxias.



Atrapos is developing immunomodulatory therapeutics relevant to diseases including asthma.



Brimstalt is developing a targeted chemotherapy for cancer.



Goldenrod is developing a small molecule to prevent pathogenic activity in a variety of immune cells, including those that contribute to neurodegeneration.



Raptamer Discovery Group[™] specializes in the rapid development of Raptamers[™] – nextgeneration DNA aptamers–using our proprietary methodology. Raptamer Discovery Group's mission is to help you find high-affinity binding molecules for your research or commercial application.



Procyrion is in Phase 2 clinical testing of Aortix, a minimally invasive ambulatory device for treating the 2 million heart failure patients too sick for medication.*



BreviTest is developing a rapid point-of-care diagnostic platform for sensitive and quantitative detection of analytes.



The **Cygnet** catheter system is a novel catheter and deployment system that will enable right heart catheterization in the cardiologist's office.



Fannin has several programs whose licensing is underway.



IP3 is a partnership with Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine that is developing a pipeline of novel medical devices that meet major unmet needs in the pediatric and neonatal space including:



ChorioAnchor is an absorbable implant that enables minimally invasive prenatal surgery to improve outcomes for babies with birth defects.

securine

Securine is an implantable device that allows incontinent patients to have complete control over their bladder function resulting in a vastly improved quality of life.



* Clinical Stage

The Studio – In a Nutshell

An integrated approach to life sciences and human capital development



"My primary responsibility at MD Anderson is to support innovation by assisting our faculty who are pursuing the commercialization their research. Fannin plays an important role in this process, working closely with some of our researchers and clinicians to advance development and spin out companies, while providing opportunities for life sciences entrepreneurs to train and grow. I enjoy working with the Fannin team and I appreciate the critical role they play in our local ecosystem."

- Chris Taylor

Director, Office of Career & Entrepreneurship Advancement, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center



Our Inventors and Collaborators



Roberto Adachi, MD Associate Professor **Pulmonary Medicine**



Michael Belfort, MD, PhD Professor & Chair Dept of OB/GYN Baylor College of Medicine



Achu Byju, PhD Research Associate II **Biomedical Engineering** Texas A&M University



Roy F. Chemaly, MD, MPH Professor Infectious Diseases MD Anderson Cancer Center



Seong H. Cho, MD Associate Professor Allergy and Immunology University of South Florida





Center for Technology Innovation Texas Heart Institute



David Corry, MD Professor

Immunology, Allergy & Rheumatology Baylor College of Medicine





Mechanical Assist Devices Texas Heart Institute

















Texas Children's Hospital Scott E. Evans, MD, FCCP



David Gorenstein, PhD President and Founder AptaMed, Inc.







Corey Hopkins, PhD Associate Professor Pharmaceutical Sciences University of Nebraska

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Kanwal Raghav, MBBS, MD Associate Professor Genitourinary Medical Oncology MD Anderson Cancer Center

Sebastian Johnston

Imperial College London

Respiratory Medicine & Allergy

John Morgan Knight, PhD

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital

Andras Lacko, PhD

Physiology & Anatomy

University of North Texas

Duncan Maitland, PhD

Biomedical Engineering

Texas A&M University

Urology, Pediatrics, and OB/GYN

Chester Koh, MD

Immunology, Allergy & Rheumatology

Professor

Instructor

Professor

Professor

Professor



Eric S. Schafer, MD, MHS Assistant Professor Pediatrics-Oncology Texas Children's Hospital











Kara Toman, MPH Senior Research Director Pediatric Urology Texas Children's Hospital



Michael Tuvim, PhD Professor Pulmonary Medicine

MD Anderson Cancer Center



Sara J. Ward, PhD Assistant Professor Pharmacology Temple University

"As the world's leading cancer hospital, the research and clinical faculty at MD Anderson generates a remarkable breadth of basic sciences and clinical insights. Fannin provides unique approach to partnering with academic researchers to advance innovation, with the goal of helping shape the future of patient care."

Ronald A. DePinho, MD -Former President of MD Anderson Cancer Center







Core Fannin Team & Portfolio Leadership

Our Core Team



Team Attributes:

- Experience in drug and device development
- Medical/Scientific/Engineering background
- Interest in life sciences entrepreneurship
- Business/project management experience
- Strong history of leadership





Eric Fain, MD President & CEO, Procyrion



Jason Heuring, PhD COO, Procyrion



Av Edidin, PhD Sr. VP, Development & Manufacturing



PULMOTECT_



Colin Broom, BSc, MB BS, MRCP, FFPM CEO, Pulmotect



Brenton Scott, PhD, MBA President, Pulmotect



John Schaumberg, PhD Clinical Operations, Pulmotect



Our Internship & Fellowship Program



- Targets 8,000+ early-career scientists and engineers with interest in entrepreneurship opportunities in Houston
- Provides experiential learning though hands-on development with life sciences startups
- Part-time internships and 2-year fulltime fellowship programs for different career stages.
- 225+ interns and fellows from 40 different institutions across the U.S. over the last decade

"Baylor College of Medicine values its strong relationship with Fannin Innovation Studio. The Fannin approach is particularly valuable in Houston biomedical commercialization ecosystem because it directly addresses the pressing need for more experienced entrepreneurial talent through its innovative internship program, which has served with "real-world" product development experience."

> -Michael Dilling, PhD Director, Baylor Licensing Group



Grants and Disciplined Capital Deployment

_	GRANTS		INVESTORS
\$140M	\$22M	\$16M	\$102+M
Total investment in programs	SBIR/STTR funding awarded	Additional non-SBIR/STTR grant funding	Total investor dollars raised across technologies

Program	Торіс	Agency; SBIR/STTR grant number	
Pulmotect	Asthma, Anti-infective	NIH/NHLBI: 1R43 HL115903 01; 2R44 HL115903 02 ; 1R43 HL118926 01A1; 2R44 HL118926 02; 9R44 HL127677 04; 5R44 HL127677 05; 5R44 HL127677 06; NIH/NIAID : 1R43 Al092904 01; 2R44 Al092904 02A1; 5R44 Al092904 03; <i>Has also received a UO1 & support from the Texas CPRIT fund</i>	
Allterum	T-ALL Therapeutic Antibody	Has received support from the Texas CPRIT fund	
Acelerox	Alzheimer's Disease	NIH/NIA:1R41 AG 055254 01 A1; Has also received support from the Texas CPRIT fund	
ATCG	Aptamers / Friedreich's Ataxia	Has received a a grant from the Christina Foundation for Friedreich's Ataxia. NIH: 1R44OD030205-01	
Atrapos	Stat6/Asthma/Atopic Dermatitis	NIH/NIAID: 1R41 AI125007 01A1; 1 R43 AI131867-01; 7R44AI125007-03 Has also received a SMARTT award from NHLBI	
BreviTest	POC-ELISA/Opioid/ Health Disparities	NIH/NIDA: 3R43 DA041966 01S1; 1R43 DA041966 01; 1R43DA043325-01; 2R44DA043325-02; 1R43MD013409-01A1	
Exotect	Asthma	NIH/NHLBI: 1R41HL136057-01	
Goldenrod	Opioid Dependence	NIH:162 1R43DA053124-01	
GuidaBot	MRI robot	NSF:1622946	
IP3	Pediatric & Fetal Surgery	NIH/NIDDKNIH/ NICHD: 1R43 DK115336-01; 1R43 HD094456-01; 2R44HD094456-02; 1R43DK123908-01; Has also FDA subaward: 1P50FD006428-01	
Raptamer Discovery Group	Aptamers	NIH: 1R43GM084552-01; 5R43GM084552-02; 1R43CA141842-01; 2R44GM084552-03; 5R44GM084552-04; 1R43GM086937-01A1; 1R43GM100777-01; 1R43GM108110-01; 5R43GM108110-02; 2R44GM108110-03; 5R44GM108110-04; 3R43GM108110-02S1; 2R44GM086937-02; 5R44GM086937-03; 1R43GM126604-01; 5R43GM126604-02; 6R43GM126604-03; Has also received support from NASA and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	
rHDL	Cancer & Liver diseases	NIH/NCATS: 1R43TR002043-01; 3R43TR002043-01W1; 1R43AG062064-01	

"Fannin's unique model has successfully created new ventures locally in partnership with faculty at top-tier academic institutions. Their impact is further amplified by their entrepreneur development program which includes active outreach to women and minorities. We are pleased that Fannin has been actively engaged with the SBA in many ways. Apart from winning many SBIR/STTR awards, as well as the Tibbetts Award, they have served on review panels and participated in outreach events across the country and work locally with several groups within our network. We wish them the very best."

Director, US Small Business Administration – Houston District Office



Creating Value for Early-Stage Technologies



"The Fannin Innovation model addresses (an) obvious mis-match by addressing the needs of medical device and therapeutics start ups from a long term, capital efficient perspective. It is my observation that such a business development model also develops the human skill set that empowers future industry leaders. Fannin is a blueprint for a business model that should be honed and expanded nationally."

> - Rob Tucci Managing Director, Texas Halo Fund



Questions? Suggestions?



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