

FSU researchers receive cash to help turn ideas into global products



TaMaryn Waters, Democrat staff writer 4:11 p.m. EST January 6, 2016



(Photo: Courtesy of Florida State University website.)

Several Florida State researchers behind early-stage concepts, including a new drug to treat cognitive inflexibility and a process to create cheaper permanent magnets, are getting money that may help put the products on the market.

The university is giving a combined amount of \$155,000 from FSU's GAP Program, which is geared toward university researchers who have ideas and concepts that have commercialization potential.

That money, according to FSU, may then lead to outside investors. The university distributed nearly \$2.2 million to help develop research ideas over the past 10 years.

"We have some outstanding faculty at Florida State," said Gary Ostrander, vice president of research. "This program gives them the financial support to help move their ideas to the next level and explore business opportunities that could arise from their research endeavors."

Here are the winning projects/scientists:

A new treatment for cognitive inflexibility

Researcher: Pradeep Bhide, director of the Center for Brain Repair at the FSU College of Medicine — developing a new, non-stimulant drug to treat cognitive inflexibility.

Why it's important: About 25 million people suffer from cognitive inflexibility, which can affect a child's ability to learn. Challenges surface when switching between thinking about one concept to another or multiple concepts. It's associated with autism, obsessive compulsive disorder, schizophrenia and attention deficit hyperactive disorder.

Organic light emitting diodes (LEDs)

Researcher: Biwu Ma, associate professor of chemical engineering, is working with a class of materials called perovskites to build organic LEDs.

Why it's important: Perovskites are materials with the same type of crystal structure as calcium titanium oxide. They're attractive since they can be used in Perovskites have shown tremendous potential in creating LEDs that are both more cost efficient and brighter than traditional LEDs.

Nanostructured permanent magnets

Researchers: Geoffrey Strouse, chemistry and biochemistry professor, and Mykhailo Shatruk, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry, have developed a new process to make permanent magnets.

Why it's important: This process would reduce costs and decrease dependency on rare-earth metals.

Computational drug discovery

Researcher: Wei Yang, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry, is developing a computer-aided drug design system using novel approaches.

Why it's important: This will slice time and cost necessary linked to developing drugs. The system would be based on an algorithm that predicts the efficacy of potential drug molecules.

Hybrid li-oin battery and li-ion capacitor

Researcher: Jianping Zheng, electrical and computer engineering professor, is working on creating a hybrid lithium battery and capacitor.

Why it's important: It would provide both energy and the power sources.

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