



## OUI named Technology Transfer Office of the Year

*Oxford's research commercialisation office named best in the world while OSI's David Norwood also celebrated in annual Global University Venturing awards.*

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Oxford University Innovation (OUI), the research commercialisation office of Oxford University, has been named Technology Transfer Office (TTO) of the Year at the GUV Awards 2017.

OUI beat stiff competition from peers at Cambridge, Toronto, and Warwick universities, as well as the University of California Los Angeles and SATT Sud-Est, which manages research commercialisation for the South East region of France.

University innovation trade magazine Global University Venturing (GUV), which organises the awards, highlighted the sharp increase in activity around OUI and Oxford's innovation ecosystem over the past year. During 2016, OUI produced 21 spinout companies – more than doubling its output from 2015. Meanwhile, the seed funding raised for the 2016 cohort – critical investment cash for young companies – increased fivefold from £9.5m to £52.6m. Oxford University spinouts have also had a great deal of success in finding additional financial support to accelerate their growth. Since 2011, Oxford spinouts have secured £1.4bn in external funding.

David Norwood, CEO and co-founder of Oxford Sciences Innovation (OSI), was named Personality of the Year at the GUV Awards in recognition of his role in the creation and leadership of the investment company. Launched in 2015, OSI manages a spinout-focused £580m fund, and acts as a major catalyst for the innovative activity around Oxford. At present, OSI's fund is the largest university venture fund focused on a single institution worldwide.

Among the collaborations between OUI and OSI highlighted at the GUV Awards was the LAB282 Partnership, the £13m drug discovery fund for Oxford University. Supported by OUI, OSI and Germany-based biotech Evotec, LAB282 addresses the challenge of generating more focused drug discovery programmes out of the University's research into novel biological mechanisms associated with disease. The fund will allow hasten the evolution of projects into technologies and companies faster, while also providing industry validation during development.

Matt Perkins, CEO of Oxford University Innovation, said:

#### Oxford University Innovation

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“OUI is committed to drawing the best ideas out of Oxford University to have impact on the wider society. This award validates the work we’re doing here at Oxford, and demonstrates to the international innovation community that we’re a world leader in what we do.”

David Norwood, CEO of Oxford Sciences Innovation, added:

“OUI is an essential partner for us in identifying and developing Oxford companies with world-changing potential. Matt and his team deserve recognition for the work that they do, and we look forward to continuing to strengthen our partnership so that we can better support the innovation spilling out from Oxford University.”

Thierry Heles, Editor of Global University Venturing, added:

“For Oxford University Innovation to tower over its peers is an extraordinary feat in a year where it was a genuine challenge narrowing down nominees to a shortlist – a true testament to the ecosystem’s continuing successes. Ultimately, making OUI the recipient of our GUV Tech Transfer Unit of the Year award was the only logical choice after 12 months of headline-grabbing news, from a fivefold increase in seed capital secured by its spinouts to a £100m round for Oxford Nanopore Technologies. With Matt Perkins and Adam Stoten now at the helm, and an incredibly dedicated team behind them, Global University Venturing firmly expects OUI will remain the one to watch.”

**ENDS**

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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### **About Oxford University Innovation**

Oxford University Innovation supports innovation activities across all University Divisions, managing technology transfer and consulting activities, and providing an innovation management service to clients around the world.

We provide access to technology from Oxford researchers through intellectual property licensing, spinout company formation and material sales, and to academic expertise through our Consulting Services team. The New Venture Support & Funding team supports investors or donors with an interest in early-stage ventures, and manages the Oxford Angels Network.



Our Startup Incubator supports members and ex-members of the University who wish to start or grow entrepreneur-driven ventures that are not University spinouts.

Oxford University Innovation is the highest university patent filer in the UK and is ranked 1st in the UK for university spin-outs, having created over 140 new companies in 25 years. In the last reported financial year we completed 529 licenses and consulting agreements. Isis Enterprise, our innovation management consultancy, works with university, government and industrial clients from offices around the world.

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