

The logo for UCLB, featuring the letters 'UCLB' in a bold, dark blue font. The letters are flanked by two yellow, trapezoidal shapes that point towards each other, creating a stylized 'V' or 'W' shape.

UCLB

Commercialising
Technology



Annual Report 2019/20

A year of global impact



Over the past year, universities around the world have played a huge part in responding to the coronavirus pandemic, one of the biggest global challenges we have faced in the last hundred years. UCL researchers have been at the forefront of these efforts, and it is this potential to bring leading research out of the university to deliver real world impact, that drives UCLB's work.

In March, our staff made the switch to remote working almost overnight. That we have been able to not only adapt, but also still deliver some of the company's biggest successes to date, is testament to their professionalism and dedication.

Amongst these successes has been the issuing of over 1900 free-of-charge licences for the UCL Ventura breathing device design, benefiting COVID-19 patients

around the world. This achievement saw UCLB win the Knowledge Exchange External Initiative of the Year in this year's KE Awards organised by PraxisAuril, for its innovative use of the E-lucid platform and powerful impact.

We continue to see an exciting pipeline of new technologies, with 174 invention disclosures this year, reflecting the strength and breadth of the UCL research base. Our funds have invested nearly £8 million in UCL technologies over the past 12 months, from a spinout teaching AI to learn more quickly from humans, to a novel approach repurposing cancer antibody therapies for COVID-19.

In July, the UCL Technology Fund successfully completed the first close of its £100m target Fund 2 – a significant

achievement in a challenging year. The strength of interest reflects the success of the first fund, which made 45 investments, including 27 that became spinout companies and programmes intended for licensing.

UCLB spinouts are attracting global interest, with Freeline Therapeutics becoming the fourth to list on Nasdaq in just three years this August, after closing a \$120 million extended Series C financing in July. Freeline is one of the companies revolutionising treatment for patients with chronic systemic diseases through gene therapy, in which UCL is a global leader.

A UCL gene therapy programme was also the first technology to be licensed out of the pioneering Apollo Therapeutics Fund. The fund is a collaboration with three global pharmaceutical companies

and the commercial offices of three leading UK universities. It is playing a vital role in bridging the translational gap between academic research and commercial drug development, with significant potential to benefit patients in areas of unmet need.

Over the past 12 months, we have intensified our efforts to develop the commercial and social impact of UCL research right across the spectrum. We extended the Portico Ventures programme, which offers a flexible model to create spinout companies for technology-based businesses. Spinouts like HumanLoop, which is using AI to solve business problems, have seen growing success including selection for the prestigious Y Combinator business accelerator.

Our social enterprise programme has also accelerated with the launch of a social venture proof of concept fund. UCL academics and clinicians are already tackling social issues from managing health conditions to providing online services for underserved communities, and the new fund promises to further boost their efforts.

UCLB's achievements rest on the strength of UCL's research base, cross-disciplinary work and innovation environment. The past year has shown the value of this enterprise culture, as academics and industry have worked together in new, nimble and powerful ways on the response to COVID-19.

The coming year will provide further challenges as the effects of the coronavirus pandemic and Brexit are felt by universities and businesses. However, the invigorated relationships and increased trust built in 2020 give us a compelling platform to create even more social and economic impact for UCL and its research in the years ahead.

Anne Lane, CEO & David Hunter, Chairman



The year in numbers



We filed **63 patents** and have **235 patent families**.



UCL TECHNOLOGY FUND



Our funds have invested **£7.9m** in UCL technologies this year.

7 spinouts were incorporated.



Our **equity realisations** for the year were **£14m**.



We returned **£19m** to our **stakeholders**.

This year we carried out **695 licence deals**.



4 spinouts now listed on Nasdaq. (Orchard Therapeutics, Autolus Therapeutics, MeiraGTx, Freeline Therapeutics.)



We received **174 invention disclosures** from the UCL community.



We also issued 1950 COVID-19 response licences via our COVID-19 Research platform.

*as of August 2020

UCLB financial results summary

Income analysis for 2019/20	2019/2020 £'000	2018/2019 £'000
Royalties and intellectual property income	16,823	6,331
Spinout exit (realised)	13,987	6,788
Fair value gain/loss on quoted investments (adjusted)	(13,694)	12,970
Services to UCL	1,500	1,571
Research and proof of concept funding	2,537	2,312
Other	2,689	2,039
Total	23,842	32,011

Expenditure analysis for 2019/20	2019/2020 £'000	2018/2019 £'000
Patent Costs	1,629	1,491
Distributions to academics and external parties	11,333	3,573
Distributions to UCL	7,684	4,518
Research and consultancy	2,847	2,587
Operating costs (Staff and other costs)	5,206	6,268
Total	28,699	18,437

The above figures include those of UCL Business Ltd.

The above figures include the fair value gains on quoted investments and exclude the values of investments and loans impaired during the year.

The Balance Sheet is not included in this report.

Full sets of accounts are available from: H Rothera, Director of Finance, h.rothera@uclb.com

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