Happy New Year! In this time of resolutions for a more prosperous future, Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures (JHTV) has adopted a rallying cry that exemplifies its mission to build a better Baltimore: Start here. It is our hope that this simple phrase, an embodiment of all the work and innovation found at JHTV and beyond, acts as a siren that reaches innovators, entrepreneurs and investors who might otherwise overlook Baltimore’s great potential.

In our first newsletter of 2017, you will see examples of the innovation, collaborations, third-party validation and progress that consistently pours out of JHTV and supports our call to start here.

Before the close of 2016, JHTV announced major collaborations with Abbvie and Bristol-Myers Squibb, introduced the 2017 Ralph O’Connor Undergraduate Entrepreneurship Fund cohort, added 16 members to its chapter of the National Academy of Inventors, received a $100,000 grant for its Social Innovation Lab and so much more. The good news didn’t end at the new year. Forbes named three entrepreneurs connected to JHTV to its annual 30 Under 30 list.

In addition to all of that, our newsletter will show you how the Technology Transfer Office has enhanced its relationship with Johns Hopkins innovators, will introduce you to Papgene Chief Scientific Officer Isaac Kinde and will explain what makes Maryland a great place for entrepreneurs.

The 1812 Ashland building has recently sprung to life. On Nov. 28, a ribbon-cutting ceremony featuring dignitaries like then-Baltimore City Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and Johns Hopkins University President Ronald Daniels welcomed the new six-story building to Eager Park. Two weeks later, Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures (JHTV) relocated its headquarters to the building’s first floor.

The 2-mile move from 100 N. Charles St. in downtown Baltimore to 1812 Ashland Ave. positions JHTV within blocks of the Johns Hopkins medical campus. This proximity will facilitate more face-to-face interactions with Johns Hopkins innovators in East Baltimore. JHTV continues to have key personnel stationed on the Homewood campus to ensure innovators there get the support they need.

By mid-January, the first tenants of FastForward 1812, a brand-new state-of-the-art innovation hub located on the first two floors of the 1812 Ashland building, will take office and co-working space. By mid-February, FastForward startups are scheduled to occupy the innovation hub’s 15,000 square feet of wet lab space.

Continued on page 7
AbbVie and Johns Hopkins to Collaborate on Cancer Research

AbbVie, a global biopharmaceutical company, and the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine today announced that they signed a five-year collaboration agreement with the goal of advancing medical oncology research and discovery at both organizations.

Designed to build strong collaboration between AbbVie and Johns Hopkins Medicine researchers, the agreement will focus on several areas of oncology research, which could include lung, colorectal, breast, prostate and hematological cancer.

“As an alumnus and a former faculty member of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, I know from my own experience that we will be able to combine AbbVie’s expertise in oncology with some of the most talented academic researchers in the field of medicine today,” said Gary Gordon, M.D., Ph.D., vice president, oncology clinical development, AbbVie. “This collaboration will combine our resources and talent with Johns Hopkins Medicine to help further advance our ability to develop new therapies available for cancer patients in need.”

The agreement allows Johns Hopkins Medicine physicians and scientists access to explore new therapies developed by AbbVie for use in preclinical research funded by the collaboration. In addition, the relationship includes opportunities for research and development teams from both organizations to work closely to promote scientific knowledge exchange. AbbVie also gains an option for an exclusive license to certain Johns Hopkins Medicine discoveries made under the agreement.

“The importance of cancer research is critical to developing new therapies that could have life-changing implications,” said William Nelson, M.D., Ph.D., Director, Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins. “Opportunities to advance science and further research help move us in a direction to yield positive outcomes.”

As part of the collaborative agreement, a joint steering committee consisting of representatives from each organization will determine the research projects that the collaboration will undertake. Researchers from Johns Hopkins and AbbVie will also participate in an annual symposium to discuss their joint research and evaluate potential new projects.

National Academy of Inventors Welcomes 16 Hopkins Researchers

The Johns Hopkins University has long had a reputation for bringing forth discoveries and inventions that benefit society and transform the world. That reputation lives on thanks to innovative work from researchers across the institution, including the 16-member class recently elected to the Johns Hopkins’ chapter of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI).

Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures (JHTV) selected this year’s class based on each member’s number of issued U.S. patents while working at Johns Hopkins. This year’s inductees and the first-ever class from 2015 have a total of 47 members who have produced 1,063 issued U.S. patents.

“The sheer quantity of innovation coming from the halls of Johns Hopkins is staggering, but what is truly incredible is how many of these discoveries, technologies and devices are benefitting people around the world,” says Neil Veloso, JHTV’s executive director of Technology Transfer. “We’re honored to partner with so many immensely talented innovators.

Of the 31 members in the inaugural class of the Johns Hopkins NAI chapter, seven are also NAI National Fellows. Election is a “high honor bestowed upon academic innovators and inventors who have demonstrated a prolific spirit of innovation in creating or facilitating outstanding inventions and innovations that have made a tangible impact on quality of life, economic development and the welfare of society,” the NAI writes.
Social Innovation Lab Adds 4 Mentors to Accelerate Venture Development

Entrepreneurs are forced to navigate unfamiliar, often-confusing terrain, and without proper guidance, even the most innovative ideas, products and services might fizzle.

Since its inception in 2011, the Social Innovation Lab (SIL) has provided the nonprofits and mission-driven for-profits it accelerates with intensive one-on-one support, but this year’s cohort will have even more opportunities for mentorship.

In addition to funding, office space and workshops, this year’s SIL cohort has access to four new mentors. These new advisors will join three returning mentors to help SIL’s ventures meet their goals and milestones.

“Among the many ways that SIL supports ventures in the cohort, mentorship is consistently rated as the most helpful and transformational resource the ventures receive,” says SIL Director Darius Graham. “SIL’s mentors come with varying levels of experience and from different industries and play a key role in moving the ventures forward.”

Devika Menon and Matt Barr, master’s students in the Maryland Institute College of Art’s Center for Social Design, will serve as Social Design Fellows to provide hands-on support as peer-advisers to the 10 ventures in SIL’s 2016-2017 cohort in the areas of program design and visual design.

“Devika and Matt will bring a unique perspective that helps our ventures integrate social design principles as they seek to make an impact,” Graham says.

Nan Rohrer will serve as SIL’s Neighbor-in-Residence, a mentor who will provide the cohort with connections in the community and a deep knowledge of Baltimore’s neighborhoods, community organizations and local government. Rohrer has experience leading initiatives in the mayor’s office, a city agency and at the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore.

“Nan will be a critical resource for our ventures that aim to make an impact locally,” says Graham, noting that nine of the 10 teams in this year’s cohort have a local focus.

Joining the existing Innovators-in-Residence group is Xavier Hughes, the Chief Innovation Officer at the U.S. Department of Labor.

Hughes will join three returning Innovators-in-Residence: Thread CEO and Co-founder Sarah Hemminger, Shea Yeleen International Founder Rahama Wright, and GuideStar VP of Strategic Partnerships Adrian Bordone. Each will hold monthly office hours in which they provide one-on-one support to teams.

“I’m delighted to welcome Xavier and welcome back Sarah, Rahama, and Adrian as SIL’s Innovators-in-Residence,” Graham says. “This impressive group of leading social innovators with a broad range of experience will support our ventures with key insights and connections.”

JHTV Inventor Portal

Got an invention?

Submitting your invention disclosure is now easier than ever. Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures’ user-friendly, simplified electronic portal includes fewer questions and forms, making invention disclosures less complex and time-consuming. Anyone with a JHED identification account can access the portal.

For questions or support, contact Tina Preston at 410-223-1735.
O’Connor Fund Showcases Entrepreneurial Spirit of JHU Undergrads

The 2017 cohort features:

**Fractal Tech** – Scalable mobile app security for enterprise applications
- Alex Sharata, Whiting School of Engineering, Junior
- James Charles, Whiting School of Engineering, Senior

**Gaius** – An online tool that utilizes college networks to source top technical talent for startups
- Ron Boger, Whiting School of Engineering, Senior
- Alex Owens, Whiting School of Engineering, Senior

**Kaleyedos** – Telemedicine for the retinopathy of premature screening procedures
- Rebecca Miller, Whiting School of Engineering, Senior
- Erica Schwarz, Whiting School of Engineering, Senior

**Squadz** – A social activity platform to find, organize and reserve space for pickup sports and events
- Nikhil Panu, Whiting School of Engineering, Senior
- John Stanton, Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, Senior

**Tearn** – An app to help college students connect with peers who can provide tutoring services
- Pava LePere, Whiting School of Engineering, Sophomore
- Andrew Wong, Whiting School of Engineering, Sophomore
- Brian Cuelo, Whiting School of Engineering, Sophomore

**The 2017 cohort features:**

**Foragerone** – A platform that streamlines and standardizes how students look for university-affiliated research opportunities
- Ansh Bhammer, Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, Sophomore
- Yash Jain, Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, Sophomore

**O'Connor Fund** – A platform that streamlines and standardizes how students look for university-affiliated research opportunities
- Ansh Bhammer, Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, Sophomore
- Yash Jain, Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, Sophomore

The entrepreneurs in the 2017 cohort have grand visions for their startups and see the O’Connor Fund program as a way to plant the seeds for sustained success. Take senior Erica Schwartz of Kaleyedos, a company developing a retinal imaging device. For now, the Kaleyedos team is currently focusing on infant retinal imaging but aims to expand the device and software suite to address many retinal imaging needs.

“Long-term, we want to see our device disrupt the retinal imaging industry,” Schwartz says. “Shorter-term, we want to use the resources from the Ralph S. O’Connor Fund to further build connections with key stakeholders.”

The six teams in the last year’s cohort used support from the O’Connor Fund as a springboard to raise $1.2 million in follow-on funding, hire 14 paid employees, interview more than 650 users or customers and complete 84 percent of their milestones.

As the 2017 cohort aims to reach those lofty heights, they will move through a program modified to better enable them to succeed. Based on feedback from the 2016 cohort and the program’s mentors, this year will feature an increase in engagement between teams, greater access to mentors, more networking opportunities, in-person workshops and online assignments based on each team’s individual challenges.

“The O’Connor Fund has evolved and will continue to evolve as we find better ways to serve our student entrepreneurs,” Ahmad says. “JHTV is committed to providing students the avenues that will help them turn ideas into sustainable businesses. The O’Connor Fund goes a long way in helping us achieve that.”
Inventors, 2-2-2 Is Technology Transfer’s Commitment to You

JHTV’s Commitment to You

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<th>2 Days</th>
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<td>JHTV will contact you within <strong>2 business days</strong> of receiving your disclosure.</td>
<td>JHTV will confer with you regarding your disclosure within <strong>2 weeks</strong>.</td>
<td>JHTV will provide a written decision on your disclosure within <strong>2 months</strong>.</td>
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Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures (JHTV) has received roughly 2,000 invention disclosures since fiscal year 2013. That number reflects the robust innovation culture at Johns Hopkins, but the sheer volume made it difficult for the Technology Transfer Team to be good partners to innovators—until a recent shift in focus, process and infrastructure.

"Before the change in March, I saw a lot of people with good ideas disclose and try to partner with Hopkins," says Dr. Mike Weisfeldt, the Department of Medicine chair from 2001 to 2014. "I also saw enormous delays within the Technology Transfer Office before it acted, composed a patent and submitted it."

Considering the United States Patent and Trademark Office has a first-to-file model, meaning the first person to submit a patent application has priority over subsequent ones, going months without hearing from Technology Transfer frustrated inventors.

This past March, that frustration began to subside as the Technology Transfer team aimed to increase its responsiveness and transparency by implementing the 2-2-2 program.

"2-2-2 is JHTV’s commitment to Johns Hopkins inventors," says Neil Veloso, the executive director of the Technology Transfer office. "If you submit a disclosure, we will contact you within two business days, set up a meeting to confer about your disclosure within two weeks and provide a written decision on your disclosure within two months."

Over the 2-2-2 initiative’s first eight months, JHTV received 331 disclosures, and the Technology Transfer team, almost without fail, held up their end of the commitment. They met each of the three goals 95 percent of the time.

The team has increased efficiency over the life of the program as they have worked out the kinks in their process. In October and November, they had a 100 percent success rate across each of the commitments. The work hasn’t gone unnoticed.

"The 2-2-2 program is a very ambitious commitment," Weisfeldt says. "The change has been amazing. Faculty really need to understand they will get serious attention from real experts who can help them in a commercial sense."

Veloso attributed this newfound efficiency to a greater focus on customer service, infrastructure changes to the invention database and workflow, and accountability among each part of the team.

"Internally, we have more rigor and process in our workflow," Veloso says. "This has led to an excellent response from inventors."

Though the team is currently operating at near maximum efficiency, Veloso is eyeing improvements to the 2-2-2 program.

"We certainly want to be consistent, have high levels of service and keep our success rates high, but we are also looking to implement the 2-2-2 program in other ways," Veloso says. "In the future, we could very well add another digit to 2-2-2. We have taken a tremendous first step in improving our responsiveness and transparency, but that doesn’t mean we can’t improve our customer service even more."
Fusiform's Param Shah and Alex Mathews Named to Forbes 30 Under 30

Add Forbes’ 30 Under 30 to Fusiform’s growing list of awards and accomplishments. The publication placed Fusiform CEO Param Shah and CTO Alex Mathews on its 2017 list of young people reinventing manufacturing.

Shah, 21, and Mathews, 22, co-founded Fusiform in 2015 while still enrolled as undergraduates at The Johns Hopkins University to update the decades-old orthopaedic workflow in place today with digital order forms, a 10-minute 3-D scan that replaces an hours-long hand-casting process and automated manufacturing of custom orthotics.

Shah and Mathews currently have their products in two Maryland orthopaedic clinics and have raised more than $550,000. Now, with a team of 15 employees, Shah and Mathews are leading the company’s pivot to the development of middleware that makes custom manufacturing more feasible.

Standing out for their vision and accomplishments, Shah and Mathews were among the 600 honorees selected from more than 15,000 nominations. Forbes, in its sixth year of putting together its 30 Under 30 list, winnowed the field to 30 winners in 20 categories, selecting those who are “challenging the conventional wisdom and rewriting the rules for the next generation of entrepreneurs, entertainers, educators and more.”

“We’re thrilled to be part of the Forbes 30 Under 30 list for Manufacturing and Industry and alongside other young people who are driven to positively impact the world,” says Shah, who was also named to the Baltimore Business Journal’s 2016 40 Under 40 list. Shah and Mathews were joined on this year’s list by Dreamit Health Baltimore alumnus Niko Skievaski, the co-founder of Redox. The trio continue what is becoming a tradition of JHTV entrepreneurs being featured on the annual list. Last year, Forbes named Sonavex Surgical CEO David Narrow to its 30 Under 30 list.

Shah credits the mentorship he has received at Johns Hopkins and around Baltimore for helping his company achieve this honor. Since forming the company, Shah and Mathews have participated in Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures’ Social Innovation Lab, won the inaugural JHU Undergraduate Entrepreneurship Award and completed ETC’s Accelerate Baltimore boot camp.

“We’re so fortunate for the resources that have helped us grow as a company,” Shah says. “This honor is a credit to all the employees, investors, mentors and programs that have helped Fusiform grow over the past two years.”

Why Should Entrepreneurs Choose Baltimore?

Bloomberg named Maryland the fifth most innovative state in the country on the strength of its research and development, STEM concentration and high volume of science and engineering talent.

While certainly true, those aren’t the only reasons why entrepreneurs have been looking to develop their technologies and startups in Maryland or, more specifically, Baltimore.

The Maryland Department of Commerce interviewed FastForward Director Brian Stansky who explained how Baltimore’s strong education system and an abundance of mentorship, services and space are helping entrepreneurs bring their innovations to the world.

Check it out!
https://ventures.jhu.edu/why-should-entrepreneurs-choose-baltimore/
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company announced today that the company has entered into a five-year research collaboration with The Johns Hopkins University. The collaboration is designed to identify mechanisms of response and resistance in patients whose cancer is being treated with checkpoint inhibitor-based immunotherapies, including Opdivo (nivolumab) monotherapy, or Opdivo combination with Yervoy (ipilimumab) or other investigational immunotherapies.

Under the collaboration, Bristol-Myers Squibb and Johns Hopkins’ scientists will launch an interdisciplinary research program that will study patient tumor samples in four primary research areas: characterization of tumor antigens and tumor antigen-specific T-cells, multifaceted profiling of the tumor microenvironment, assessment of microbiome components that modulate systemic anti-tumor immunity, and elucidation of novel tumor and immuno-metabolism factors that modify responsiveness to immunotherapy.

“This important collaboration with Johns Hopkins University, a leader in the field of translational Immuno-Oncology research, builds upon our strong working relationship and will enhance our scientific understanding of the role of various immunotherapies both alone and in combination, and at different points in the treatment continuum,” said Francis Cuss, MB, BChir, FRCP, chief scientific officer, Bristol-Myers Squibb. “We believe that findings from this research may help to inform the future of immunotherapy drug development as it relates to patient selection, clinical trial design and the identification of new biomarkers.”

“We’re at an inflection point of understanding the root causes of response and resistance to immunotherapy, and this collaboration will help propel the research needed to identify ways to expand immunotherapy effectiveness to more patients,” says Drew Pardoll, M.D., Ph.D., Director of the Bloomberg-Kimmel Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy.

Bristol-Myers Squibb and Johns Hopkins will also explore several early-stage clinical trials primarily focused on, but not limited to, the study of neoadjuvant immunotherapeutic interventions.

This agreement builds on the productive track record of collaboration between Bristol-Myers Squibb and the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center—both leaders in the transformative field of Immuno-Oncology. Johns Hopkins is a founding member of the International Immuno-Oncology Network (II-ON), a global collaboration between Bristol-Myers Squibb and 13 academia centers that aims to further the scientific understanding of immuno-oncology. The two organizations also entered into an agreement in November 2015 as part of Bristol-Myers Squibb’s Immuno-Oncology Rare Population Malignancy (I-O RPM) program in the U.S.

Collaboration Aims to Develop a Personalized Approach for Immune Checkpoint-Based Cancer Therapy

JHTV moves

Continued from page 1

Sharing a building with FastForward innovators will enable JHTV staff members to keep a finger on the pulse of startups’ successes, challenges and needs. Additionally, having industry partners, investors, entrepreneurs, and Johns Hopkins faculty and staff members under one roof will lead to the types of collisions that ultimately drive success.

Besides the JHTV headquarters and the future FastForward space, tenants of the 1812 Ashland building include a Starbucks Opportunity Cafe and JH Genomics, a gene sequencing lab.

This summer, FastForward Homewood will move from the Stieff Silver Building to new, purpose-built space for startups at R. House, a renovated warehouse in the burgeoning Remington neighborhood that sits just a few blocks from the Johns Hopkins University Homewood campus.
Startup Awards/ Funding:

PathoVax was among the eight startups to beat out more than 500 applicants at the 43North startup competition. With the win, the startup will receive $500,000 as it moves forward in its goal to commercialize an HPV vaccine developed at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. As a stipulation of the award, PathoVax will spend at least a year in Buffalo, New York.

Weijie Poh and Joshua Wang, the Johns Hopkins Ph.D. graduates who co-founded the company in 2014, told Technical.ly Baltimore that they consider themselves a “cross-border” operation and will continue some of their engagements in Baltimore. Click here to read more.

Quantified Care raised an undisclosed sum from KiwiVenture Partners II. Based in FastForward East, the startup makes health care more efficient with a platform that integrates digital health tools. In October, Quantified Care’s CEO and founder, Michael Batista, said the company was nearing the end of a $1.25 million seed round of investment.

This is just the latest in a string of good news for Quantified Care. In October, the company won the Health 2.0 Start-Up Stand-Up pitch competition in Boston. The week after Thanksgiving, Batista and his team pitched at IMPACT 2016 in Philadelphia.

The Baltimore Angels supported area startups with $1.6 million in early-stage investments in 2016. Sonavex Surgical, a tenant of FastForward Homewood, was one the 13 ventures receiving investments from the group composed of more than 50 entrepreneurs and investors.

News:

The SC&H Group has become a corporate sponsor of FastForward and will provide accounting and financial services to aid startups as they grow their businesses. In addition to mentorship, SC&H will host networking events, roundtable discussions and workshops geared toward technology, life sciences and health care startups.

The Social Innovation Lab (SIL) received a $10,000 grant from the T. Rowe Price Foundation that will be reinvested into members of its current cohort. This funding comes on the heels of a $100,000 grant SIL received from Baltimore Development Corporation’s Innovation Fund.
For the 37th consecutive year, The Johns Hopkins University invested more in research and development than any other university in the United States. Johns Hopkins spent $2.3 billion on human health and technology projects in fiscal year 2015, up 2.8 percent from the previous year.

Maryland now ranks as the fifth most innovative state in the country, according to Bloomberg Markets. Top four rankings in R&D intensity, STEM concentration and science and engineering degree holders pushed Maryland up two spots from its position last year. The only states that Bloomberg ranked as better for innovation were Massachusetts, California, Washington and New Jersey.

Seventeen leaders from the Mid-Atlantic region, including Under Armour’s Kevin Plank and Johns Hopkins University President Ronald Daniels, have joined forces to spur economic growth from Baltimore to Richmond. Through the Greater Washington Partnership, the group has pledged to improve infrastructure and transit, increase workforce development and provide better marketing of the region’s business and innovation opportunities.

Features:

Why is Maryland a great place to grow your startup? FastForward Director Brian Stansky explains how an abundance of education, mentorship, services and space in Baltimore is allowing local startups to bring their innovations to the world. Watch the Maryland Biz News video here!

Watch Shrenik Jain, the founder of Beacon, discuss how his SIL startup is introducing an innovative way to fill gaps in mental health care with CityBizList. Jain, an undergraduate student in the Whiting School of Engineering, covers a number of topics, including how Johns Hopkins has been vital to his startup’s development.

Check out this great story from the Baltimore Business Journal about how Dr. Jennifer Townsend and her team are using the 16-week accelerator operated by the Technology Innovation Center to develop a startup that aims to reduce antibiotic resistance in patients.

Redox co-founder Niko Skievaski was named to Forbes 30 Under 30 for health care. Skievaski leads a team of 26 people working to solve one of the biggest challenges in health care: the movement of data from one place to another. The company, a participant of Dreamit Baltimore, has raised $4 million and has partnered with more than 1,000 software vendors.

Skievaski joins Fusiform co-founders Param Shah and Alex Mathews as JHTV entrepreneurs featured in Forbes’ annual list.

Space:

More startup space is coming to Baltimore in 2017 thanks to a collaboration between City Garage and Betamore. The two accelerators will work together to add desks, conference rooms and private offices to City Garage, enabling Baltimore startups to “learn to code and weld under one roof.”

The Baltimore Business Journal put together a brief reflective of the eight startup-supporting hubs that opened in and around Baltimore in 2016. The list includes the University of Baltimore’s new innovation space for student startups and the Impact Hub in Station North. The article includes a glance at four innovation hubs opening in 2017, including FastForward 1812.

On December 8, R. House completed its transformation from warehouse to innovative food hall. The building in Baltimore’s Remington neighborhood opened its doors to a hungry crowd. By mid-2017, R. House will serve as a popular meal destination for entrepreneurs. That’s when JHTV will move its FastForward Homewood innovation hub from the Stieff Silver Building to an 8,000-square-foot space above the food hall.

Only weeks after JHTV staff moved into its new office space in the 1812 Ashland Building, the first startups moved into the office space at FastForward 1812. Next month, the 23,000-square-foot innovation hub should be fully operational as startups begin using the lab space.
Entrepreneur’s Corner: Isaac Kinde of PapGene

Early detection of ovarian and endometrial cancers is key to saving thousands of lives each year.

PapGene, a startup based in the FastForward Homewood innovation hub, is advancing the early detection of curable cancers through the application of genetic cytology to routinely collected patient samples, such as those collected through Pap smears.

Founded by world-leading cancer researchers from Johns Hopkins, PapGene has seen tremendous success since it was started in 2014. In September, the venture received a Fast-Track Small Business Innovation Research contract from the National Institutes of Health with a potential value of $2.2 million.

PapGene’s chief scientific officer, Isaac Kinde, is a nationally recognized expert in molecular cancer diagnostics and the inventor of two core PapGene patents the company has licensed from The Johns Hopkins University.

Below, the graduate of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (B.S. in biological sciences) and The Johns Hopkins University (M.D.) discusses PapGene’s startup journey, entrepreneurship, the value of Baltimore and more.

1. In five words, what does your company do?
PapGene commercializes tests for cancer.

2. What are your goals, and how will you get there?
From an early age, I have been passionate about improving public health through technology. I am now taking full advantage of my opportunity at PapGene to prevent deaths from cancer by identifying patients with early-stage, curable disease.

3. Why have you chosen Baltimore as your startup’s home?
Baltimore was a natural choice, given PapGene’s beneficial relationship with the Johns Hopkins community and the generous support provided by Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures.

4. What opportunities make it a good place for growing a business?
In our field of clinical cancer diagnostics, our connection to the expertise and resources of Hopkins and nearby institutions is invaluable, giving PapGene a competitive edge.

5. In terms of startups and innovation, what’s one thing that separates Baltimore from other tech hotbeds?
Baltimore offers a favorable combination of investment to developing its local startup industry and an affordable cost of living.

6. If you could give your past self one piece of advice for creating a startup, what would it be?
Start sooner.

7. How has PapGene benefited from working with Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures?
FastForward provides the custom, state-of-the-art facilities we need to develop our technology at an affordable cost.

8. What book are you currently reading?
Built to Last, by Jim Collins

9. What innovator do you look up to? Why?
William Kamkwamba, a young, self-taught Malawian renewable energy developer who learned how to create a wind turbine to address a local power need through reading books available at his local library.

10. It’s after a long day of work, and you don’t feel like cooking. What is your go-to Baltimore restaurant?
The Brewer’s Art.

11. What’s your favorite nonwork-related thing to do in Baltimore?
Biking around the city and on its nearby trails.
Mayor Rawlings-Blake Awards Social Innovation Lab $100,000

A $100,000 award presented by Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake on November 30 will support the Social Innovation Lab’s (SIL) mission of accelerating difference-making nonprofits and mission-driven for-profits.

At City Hall, Rawlings-Blake disbursed between $50,000 and $100,000 in city funds to seven Baltimore organizations, including SIL. The money was awarded through the Baltimore Development Corporation’s Innovation Fund, which was set up to support entrepreneurship and job growth in the city. SIL will use the funds to help cover the program’s operating costs.

“I’m thrilled that SIL has been selected to receive this funding alongside other leading organizations in the Baltimore innovation and entrepreneurship sector,” says SIL Director Darius Graham. “This award not only recognizes the impact of our work to date, but it will help advance our mission of accelerating ventures that work to create change and opportunity in Baltimore and beyond.”

The other recipients were Innovation Village ($100,000), Conscious Venture Lab in Innovation Village ($100,000), Light City ($100,000), Baltimore Angels ($75,000), Impact Hub ($50,000) and Betamore ($50,000).

Help us bring life-changing innovation to the world

Innovation is essential to our culture at Johns Hopkins. Across our campuses, faculty members and students are eager to develop their ideas and discoveries and put them to use in benefit to society – here in Baltimore and around the world.

We welcome gifts of any size. We would be happy to discuss our range of giving opportunities and other giving options.

For more info, please visit
http://ventures.jhu.edu/support-our-mission/