

MICHAEL J. DIXON, PHD



EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

UNeMed Corporation at the University of Nebraska Medical Center

- President & Chief Executive Officer *May 2011 to Present*
- President *April 2009 to May 2011*
 - Manage and oversee all aspects of the UNeMed Corporation, a for-profit C-corporation owned by the University of Nebraska and tasked with translating innovations from UNMC to the marketplace. This includes signing UNeMed agreements, drafting and implementing standard operating procedures and policies, hiring staff, overseeing intellectual property prosecution, marketing and licensing of University technology.
 - Advise and assist university faculty or other entrepreneurs who are interested in forming a new company for the commercialization of research discoveries.
 - Primary industrial liaison for UNMC, managing a team of intellectual property attorneys and licensing specialists.
 - Developed a strong team and standard operating procedures which have led to significant increases in all metrics. Since the re-organization in 2007, inventions and licenses have increased more than two-fold (45 to over 100 for inventions and licenses are up from 5/year to 22/year). Revenue has increased more than 10-fold (from \$200K/year to over \$2 Million/year).
 - Successfully developed a robust intern and postdoctoral technology transfer program, bringing in interns and postdocs from scientific, legal and business schools.
 - Developed collaborative programs with academic, government and private organizations.
 - Responsible for negotiating solutions to intellectual property agreements with international partners in many countries, including Russia, China, Australia, and Germany.
 - As part of a complex licensing arrangement, I successfully negotiated an equity liquidation which paved the way for a multi-million dollar deal.
 - Using our for-profit status, we successfully invested in a non-UNMC startup, mentored the inventors/entrepreneurs and received a 3x return on our investment.
 - Created UNeMed’s first “Entrepreneur-in-Residence” program in 2012.
 - Worked with University of Nebraska Central Administration to create a “Proof-of-Concept” fund to help develop technologies with commercial potential.
 - Established the UNMC Biomedical Innovation Accelerator
- Vice President & Chief Operating Officer *December 2007 to April 2009*
 - Worked closely with the President of UNeMed to manage the day-to-day operations of the company.
 - Doubled the number of licensing specialists and streamlined the office while developing UNeMed Standard Operating Procedures.
 - Hired an experienced accountant and patent attorney to help manage the University patent portfolio and cut IP-related expenses.

- Director of Intellectual Property *January 2007 to December 2007*
 - Helped guide the merger of the UNMC Intellectual Property Office into the UNeMed Corporation.
 - Continued to manage invention evaluation, IP protection, invention reporting, accounting, contract negotiation and support staff.
 - Took over the duties of the Director of Marketing and Licensing to direct technology marketing, license negotiation, and entrepreneurial activities in the spring of 2007.

University of Nebraska Medical Center

- Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology & Microbiology *November 2009 – Present*

- Director, Intellectual Property Office *September 2005 – January 2007*
 - Guide and direct daily operations of UNMC Intellectual Property Office, including invention evaluation, IP protection, invention reporting, accounting, contract negotiation and management of UNMC technologies.
 - Served as Patent Administrator for UNMC
 - Chaired the Science and Technology Advisory Committee meeting and the Committee for Proceed Distribution.

- Faculty Liaison/Technology Transfer Associate *July 2003 – September 2005*
 - Worked with all UNMC researchers and clinicians to help develop a strong culture of invention disclosure and participation with the Intellectual Property Office.
 - As the only Technology Transfer Associate, I grew the number of invention disclosures from 20 to 40 within one year.
 - Managed and negotiated the entire Material Transfer Agreement and Confidential Disclosure Agreement portfolio for the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Creighton University

- Assistant Professor, College of Business *August 2009 – May 2012*
 - Developed and currently teach the Bioscience Innovation (MBS 721) course for the Creighton Professional Science Masters (PSM)
 - The students develop and deliver business plans based on technology created at local Universities.

Eppley Cancer Research Institute at the University of Nebraska Medical Center

- Graduate Research Associate *July 1998 – July 2003*
Biomedical research, investigating the cause of a unique class of inherited genetic diseases.

Heartland Grain Fuels (Aberdeen, SD)

- Head Chemist *April 1996 – July 1998*
Managed quality control and quality assurance testing on all products leaving the ethanol plant. Developed many protocols and tests that served as the basis for the plant and allowed for expansion.

EDUCATION

University of Nebraska Medical Center Omaha, Nebraska July 1998 – August 2003
 Ph.D. Eppley Cancer Research Institute and the Department of Pathology and Microbiology
 – Dissertation: “Genetic Instability of Trinucleotide Repeats in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*”

Northern State University Aberdeen, South Dakota August 1994 – May 1998
 Graduated *Cum laude* with a B.S. in Chemistry and a B.S. in Biology

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Board of Directors, UNeMed Corporation 2011 – Present
- Board of Directors, Invest Nebraska 2008 – Present
 - Chair of Investment Committee 2012 – Present
- Board of Directors, Bio Nebraska 2011 – Present
- Board of Directors, Trak Surgical 2013 – Present
- Board of Trustees, SID 493 2009 – Present
- Board of Trustees, SID 386 2005 – 2008

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Association for University Technology Managers 2003 – Present
- Licensing Executives Society 2005 – Present
- Bio Nebraska 2005 – Present
- Association for Corporate Growth 2010 – Present
- National Association of Seed and Venture Funds 2010 – 2012
- Leadership Omaha – Class 32 2009 – 2010
- Leadership Omaha Selection Committee 2013 - Present
- Congressional Directed Medical Research Program Study Section 2008
- Congressional Directed Medical Research Program Study Section 2014
- United States Association of Small Business Entrepreneurs 2004 – 2005
- UNMC Graduate Student Association 1999 – 2003
 - President (2002-2003)
 - Vice President (2001-2002)
- UNMC Student Senate 1999 – 2003

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Midlands Business Journal “40 under 40” (2011)
- UNMC Employee Performance Stipend Award (2004)
- Silver U Award (June 2004)
- Norman and Bernice Harris Award in Cancer Research (2002, 2003, 2004)

- Phillip Mocket Leadership Award (2002)
- Eppley Cancer Center Award for Excellence in Cancer Research (2002)
- Featured graduate student presenter at the 2nd Annual Great Plains States Society for Molecular Biology and Genetics Meeting (2001)
- 1st prize poster division – 31st Annual Midwest Biomedical Research Forum (2000)
- Outstanding presentation by the UNMC Pathology and Microbiology department (2000)
- 1st prize oral presentation division – 33rd Annual Midwest Biomedical Research Forum (2002)
- UNMC graduate student fellowship/assistantship (1999-2002)
- Cancer Research Training Program training grant (1998-1999 and 2002-2003)
- N. Bharathan Biology Scholarship (1997)
- J. Naughton Anatomy Scholarship (1997)
- Lenore Koczon Chemistry Scholarship (1996)
- Presidential Scholarship at Northern State University (1994-1998)
- Century III Leadership Scholar representing South Dakota (1994)

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

- 2014 AUTM National Conference “How the Next Generation of Technology Transfer Professionals is Preparing to Take the Helm”
- 2012 AUTM Central Conference “Alphabet Soup for X & Y: How the Next Generation of Technology Transfer Professionals is Preparing to Take the Helm”
- 2012 Invited speaker for Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing “University Technology Commercialization”
- 2012 Tonji University in Shanghai “University Technology Commercialization”
- 2012 INBRE Presentation “University Technology Commercialization”
- 2011 Midwest Technology Exchange (mTechx). Developed, organized and delivered two day conference in accordance with USAMRMC grant
- 2011 Nebraska State Chamber Summit “Building Nebraska’s Economic Future Through Technology”
- 2008 EPSCoR “Commercialization of Bioscience at UNMC”
- 2008 AUTM Central Conference “Collaborative Technology Transfer”
- 2006 USASBE Conference “Involving Business Students in the University Technology Transfer and Commercialization Process”
- 2006 BioNebraska Annual Meeting “UNMC Technology Transfer”

PUBLICATIONS AND GRANTS

- **PI, USAMRMC TATRC** Grant to University of Nebraska Medical Center entitled "Implementing and Delivering a Novel Technology Commercialization Meeting" (2011).
- **DNA Elements Important for CAG·CTG Repeat Thresholds in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*** [Michael J. Dixon](#) and Robert S. Lahue *Nucleic Acids Research* 2004 Feb 24;32(4):1289-97.
- **Genetic Assays for triplet repeat instability in yeast** [Michael J. Dixon](#), Saumitri Bhattacharyya, and Robert S. Lahue *Methods in Molecular Biology* 2004;277:29-45.

- **Identification of *RTG2* as a Modifier Gene for CTG/CAG Repeat Instability in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*** Saumitri Bhattacharyya, Michael L. Rolfmeier, Michael J. Dixon, Kara Wagoner, and Robert S. Lahue (2002) *Genetics* 162: 579-589
- **Examining the potential role of DNA polymerases δ and ϵ in triplet repeat instability in yeast** Michael J. Dixon and Robert S. Lahue (2002) *DNA Repair* 9: 763-770
- **Cis-Elements Governing Trinucleotide Repeat Instability in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*** Michael L. Rolfmeier*, Michael J. Dixon*, Luis Pessoa-Brandao, Richard Pelletier, Juan Jose Miret and Robert S. Lahue (2001) *Genetics* 157: 1569-1579
- *These authors contributed equally to this work
- **Mismatch Repair Blocks Expansions of Interrupted Trinucleotide Repeats in Yeast** Michael L. Rolfmeier, Michael J. Dixon, and Robert S. Lahue (2000) *Molecular Cell* 6, 1501-1507.
- **Inhibition of FEN-1 Processing by DNA Secondary Structure at Trinucleotide Repeats** Craig Spiro, Richard Pelletier, Michael L. Rolfmeier, Michael J. Dixon, Robert S. Lahue, Goutam Gupta, Min S. Park, Xian Chen, S. V. Santhana Mariappan, and Cynthia T. McMurray (1999) *Molecular Cell* 4, 1079-1085.