

# **Managing Technology Transfer at a Large State Institution: The University of California at Los Angeles**

*Andrew Neighbour, PhD*

*Since writing this article in early 2005, Andrew Neighbour, PhD, who was associate vice chancellor for research at the University of California at Los Angeles, has retired. Currently, he is living as an artist in Santa Fe, New Mexico.*

## **Background: A Brief History of Technology Transfer at the University of California**

The University of California (UC) comprises ten campuses situated throughout the state. Each is a comprehensive teaching and research university, with its Los Angeles campus (UCLA) as the largest in student enrollment and research activity. Over the past five years, UCLA has consistently ranked in the top five research universities in terms of research award dollars. As a public institution, with approximately \$800 million of extramural research funding, a research faculty in all disciplines of more than 4,000, and more than 10,000 graduate students from all over the world, the University of California is a major contributor of innovation and economic development for the state and the nation. Collectively, each year, the campuses together file more U.S. patent applications than any other U.S. university.<sup>1</sup>

Traditionally, technology transfer has been centered at the Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) in the UC Office of the President (UCOP), now located in Oakland. The OTT served the entire university by providing disclosure review; patent evaluation, prosecution, and management; licensing; and accounting for all technology transfer activities. Almost fifteen years ago, recognizing the need for local campus involvement,

UCLA obtained permission from UCOP to establish its own technology transfer unit, as an authorized licensing office (ALO). Successful implementation led to the establishing of ALOs at the Berkeley, San Francisco, San Diego, Davis, and Irvine campuses over the next few years. s