



## **AUTM Board of Directors 2020 Candidate Form**



### **Brion Berman, MS, JD, RTTP**

Assistant Director  
University of Central Florida

#### **Candidate Biography**

Brion is currently an Assistant Director for the Office of Technology Transfer at the University of Central Florida and has worked at UCF since 2010 where he is responsible for managing and supervising the Life Sciences team and intellectual property portfolio management and commercialization of all the life sciences technologies. Brion is a Registered US Patent Attorney, Registered Technology Transfer Professional, has worked in the State, Federal, and corporate sectors protecting and commercializing IP for over 15 years. Before joining UCF, he worked as Intellectual Property Counsel for Gillette/The Procter & Gamble Company, Technology Transfer Specialist for a NASA contractor at Kennedy Space Center, and interned at the NIH and the University of Virginia.

Brion routinely teaches and provides training and educational seminars and counseling related to intellectual property, business development, career advice, and policies and procedures at LES, BIO, Association of Corporate Counsel and Life Sciences Patent Network events and serves as a Technology Transfer Specialist for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs, whose mission is to transform healthcare for Service Members and the American public through innovative and impactful research. Brion has been active in AUTM for many years, most recently as the Chair of Public Policy Legal Task Force and member of the Public Policy Advisory Committee.

## Candidate Q&A

### **Why do you want to be on the AUTM Board of Directors and what motivates you to join the AUTM Board of Directors?**

AUTM plays a vital role in the technology transfer from defining the profession to creating best practices. I want to use my broad based experience from working in State, Federal, and corporate sectors as well as my passion for advocacy to continue advocating to stakeholders the importance of the profession, academic research and the ecosystems that are created. AUTM helped me make a career out of a profession that I previously did not know existed. I want to advocate for and give back to the organization, profession, and next generation of professionals.

### **Have you served in a volunteer leadership role for other organizations? If so, please explain.**

I currently serve as/on:

- Member of the Programming Committee for the Central Florida Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel, since 2017
- President of the Coastal Southern Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association, since 2013
- Referee Assignor for the Central Florida Women's Lacrosse Association, since 2018
- Board of Directors of my Homeowners Association, since 2017

### **What special experience do you have that you feel will benefit AUTM and its members? What might distinguish you from other candidates?**

For the last 5+ years, I have been privileged to help AUTM advocate on behalf of the technology transfer profession. As Chair of the Public Policy Legal Task Force and member of the Public Policy Advisory Committee, I have worked closely with AUTM, AAU, APLU, BIO, etc. to identify, draft, review and advocate on legal, legislative and regulatory developments that impact the work of technology transfer professionals. For example, my committee is actively involved in advocating on Section 101 issues both at the Supreme Court through amicus briefs as well as in Congress working with AAU to offer suggestions on draft legislation.

### **What do you see as the major strategic issues facing technology transfer today?**

With less government spending on research and uncertain legal environment on protecting IP combined with the difficulty from stopping infringers without long, costly litigation, we need to better advocate and communicate our professions' impact/importance to the stakeholders and society. Additionally, to help the longevity of the profession as well as growth potential for the professionals, we need to work together with industry to be able to translate a technology transfer professionals' skills in academia into industry terms and vice versa.

**What challenges does AUTM face that you think could be addressed by strategic discussion at the Board level?**

To support AUTM's mission and ensure the longevity of the profession, AUTM can be the indelible leader in supporting research at universities, research centers, hospitals, businesses and government organizations by having stronger advocacy (judicial, regulatory, legislative, etc.) and communication about the importance of to the stakeholders and society.

**How do the terms (both responsibilities and time commitment) of the position fit within your other responsibilities?**

The terms align with my current responsibilities at UCF and I have had an active role in AUTM for many years. I have full support from my leadership to commit the necessary time needed to participate on the board.

**How has AUTM benefitted you in your work and career?**

AUTM has played a very important role in my career as a technology transfer professional because it has helped me make a career out of a profession that I previously did not know that existed. I cannot begin to say enough about the educational resources, mentorship, and the collegiality of all the members that I have had a chance to interact with and those that I hope to work with.

**Is there anything else you would like AUTM members to know about you before they vote?**

I am happily married to my wife, who works in clinical trials, and we have a beautiful 16-month-old daughter.

I have also refereed soccer at all levels for more than 20 years and women's lacrosse for 5 years. Refereeing has taught me many valuable life lessons such as being on time, how to orchestrate people to a common goal, understand and promote diversity, make decisions in high pressure situations and stick with those decisions with the information at hand, admit and correct mistakes, and continually assessing performance to achieve better results.