

## **University of Toledo and University of Cincinnati Professors Honored for Technology Commercialization Efforts**

Ohio Department of Higher Education Chancellor John Carey presented the 2018 Ohio Faculty Council Technology Commercialization Award to The University of Toledo's Dr. Vijay Goel in Columbus on Friday, October 12, 2018. Dr. Jay Lee from the University of Cincinnati also was recognized as the runner up for this year's award.

Dr. Goel was recognized for his accomplishments toward the development and commercialization of the Libra Pedicle Screw System, which is being used in a growing number of hospitals and spinal surgery centers.

Dr. Goel has been a professor of Bioengineering at The University of Toledo since 2001 and has demonstrated outstanding success in translating his research into patented technologies that serve as a foundation for commercial ventures. He directs the Center for Orthopaedic Research Excellence that brings together faculty from a number of disciplines at UT, such as engineering, medicine, kinesiology and physical therapy. He is an inventor on 42 invention disclosures at UT, has 25 issued patents, and LIBRA™ pre-sterilized pedicle screw system is being widely used in trauma, deformity and degenerative applications in the spine.

In nominating Dr. Goel for the award, UT Provost Andrew Hsu observed, "He contributes to the UT mission in many ways, but he is exceptional in his ability to translate his funded research into licensing and commercialization opportunities."

"I am honored to receive this Technology Commercialization Award on behalf of UT and my bioengineering colleagues and collaborators Dr. Anand Agarwal, Dr. Sarit Bhaduri, and several others," Dr. Goel said. "As faculty researchers we look for opportunities to solve problems. I am proud we were able to do that with LIBRA to combat contamination in the operating room and a few other FDA-approved products, the basis for the two startups, Spinal Balance, Inc. and OsteoNovus, Inc."

The University of Cincinnati's Dr. Lee was recognized for his development of Watchdog Agent® — a collection of machine learning and artificial intelligence software tools that can be customized for predictive health monitoring and diagnosis of equipment and systems in many diverse applications.

Dr. Lee's philosophy for guiding his researchers and staff focuses on a concept he refers to as "ABCDE," which stands for: Attitude, Breadth, Confidence, Diligence and Execution. Dr. Lee instills in his researchers and staff the importance of doing work that drives real-world impacts, and in understanding the needs of industry as well as academia. He also is continuously looking for, and encouraging his researchers and staff to look for, new opportunities in technology and in entrepreneurship.

Dr. Lee is director of the Center for Intelligent Maintenance Systems, a coalition of four public institutions that provide resources to more than 100 international corporations. He is launching a new industrial AI lab at UC to help companies take advantage of machine learning and the Internet of things. Lee also is co-founder of the Cincinnati-based company Predictronic, which helps manufacturers leverage predictive analytics to maintain equipment.

Dr. Lee said he was honored to be this year's runner-up for the Ohio Faculty Council Technology Commercialization Award. "I believe with the continued support of the University of Cincinnati and the state of Ohio, our IMS Center will continue to be a leader in the field of predictive analytics and the development of frontier Industrial AI technologies for years to come," Lee said.

The Ohio Faculty Council launched its annual Technology Commercialization Award in 2016 to recognize a faculty member in the state university system in Ohio for exceptional research discoveries and the role they have played in supporting the translation of those discoveries into marketable products and/or services.

"The public university system of Ohio is a critical incubator for innovation and the OFC embraces the opportunity to recognize the role that our world-class faculty play in economic development," notes Dan Krane, chair of the Ohio Faculty Council. "Dr. Goel's and Dr. Lee's work are outstanding examples of the ingenuity and entrepreneurship taking place on campuses across the state that are greatly facilitated by our institution's investment in higher education and commitment to academic freedom."

### **About the Ohio Faculty Council**

The Ohio Faculty Council represents the faculty at all of the four-year public universities in the State of Ohio. It addresses concerns common to faculty members across Ohio and presents a faculty perspective on major issues affecting higher education. It is committed to supporting and bringing attention to the critical role that Ohio's institutions of higher education play in revitalizing the economy of the State and the nation by attracting and training an educated workforce. Learn more at [www.ohiofacultycouncil.org](http://www.ohiofacultycouncil.org).