

Talking Points

The University of California supports robust and sustained federal investments in research, which are critical to our health, economic prosperity and international competitiveness. Through its partnership with the federal government, UC is an economic engine for California and the nation – helping to create new knowledge, technologies, cures, jobs, startup companies and spinoff industries.

UC research tackles the nation's biggest scientific and technological challenges and creates solutions to some of our most complex problems. UC researchers identify diseases; develop cures and life-enhancing biotechnologies; and, discover and develop materials and products for energy, industrial and national security. We are committed to research excellence across all disciplines from health and the humanities to computing and engineering, agriculture, the oceans and the environment.

Economic Benefits of UC Research

- The economic benefit of UC research to the state of California is significant. For every dollar spent by UC on research, the state's economy increases by about two dollars.
- Continued investment in UC's research enterprise stimulates the economy by bringing new patented technologies to market and creating jobs, companies and industries. Almost all the industries in which California leads the world – agriculture, biotechnology, telecommunications, digital media, computers and semi-conductors, and environmental technologies – grew out of university-based research.
- UC develops more patents than any other U.S. university. The UC system averages nearly five inventions a day, and many of UC's active patents have led to the creation of today's leading industries.
- Nearly 1,000 startups have been formed on UC patents since 1980, supporting over 20,000 jobs with over \$11 billion in venture funding and bring in \$14 billion in annual revenue. UC's research partnership with the federal government is vital to these successes.
- In addition to direct economic impact, many businesses in California grew out of technology developed at UC or rely on the skills of UC graduates. UC graduate students create almost 600 new inventions a year – creating and growing much of California's biotechnology and computer industries, developing research breakthroughs that have led to major medical advances, shaping ideas about our world and culture, and creating the economic and social infrastructure of our communities.
- More than 300 startup companies have been launched by UC graduate students or emerged directly from their discoveries.

Federal Investment in UC Research

Federal funds are the university's single most important source of support for research, accounting for more than 50 percent of total research funding and having an immediate effect on UC's ability to support graduate students and post-doctoral scholars. Each year, UC advocates for the highest level of federal funding to ensure the university's research enterprise remains a source of scientific and technological solutions and can continue as an engine for economic growth and innovation.

- Federal support for research is key to UC – and California – in continuing as a global leader in identifying solutions to the greatest scientific and technological challenges of our time.
- Combined, the UC campuses represent the federal government's largest university research partner. Of the \$4.93 billion in research awards received by UC investigators in Fiscal Year 2016, nearly \$2.9 billion was from federal agencies, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Departments of Defense, Energy, Agriculture, State and Commerce, as well as NASA and other agencies.
- Additionally, UC receives funding for its role in managing three Department of Energy national laboratories: Lawrence Berkeley, Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos.
- UC is the largest recipient of funding from the two federal agencies principally responsible for academic research: the NIH and the NSF.

UC's Research Enterprise

- The University of California is the world's largest academic research system, conducting approximately one-tenth of all academic research in the U.S.
- UC research helped create the biotechnology industry and led to breakthroughs in many other fields, including the electronics, pharmaceuticals, telecommunications, nanotechnology and special-effects film industries. These industries have produced millions of jobs for workers at all levels.
- UC's more than 54,000 graduate and professional students are a driving force behind the research, innovation and solutions that keep California on the leading edge. Graduate students also serve as teachers and mentors to more than 210,000 undergraduate students.
- Sixty-one faculty and researchers affiliated with UC have won 62 Nobel Prizes in the areas of chemistry, physics, economics, and physiology and medicine.