

University biotech patenting 2013

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The University of California system again tops our list of the most active academic centers for biotech patenting over the past five years (Table 1), followed by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation and, lower down, the Pasteur Institute. Last year, the California system also recorded the most patents issued from the United States and European Union combined. Overall, the number of US biotech patents awarded in 2013 skyrocketed (Fig. 1); this jump is attributed to a greater number

of biotech patent examiners at the US Patent and Trademark Office, which has allowed the office to work through a backlog of submissions brought on by increased university technology transfer efforts across the United States.

COMPETING FINANCIAL INTERESTS

The authors declare competing financial interests: details are available in the online version of the paper (doi:10.1038/nbt.2918).

Table 1 Top academic centers ranked by number of biotech patents, 2009–2013

University	Total	Yearly average	US total	EU total	2013	2013
First assignee					US	EU
University of California system	504	100.8	432	72	107	19
Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation	278	55.6	244	34	45	2
Stanford University	242	48.4	209	33	41	7
University of Texas system	230	46	205	25	45	6
University of Pennsylvania	203	40.6	160	43	41	8
Duke University	201	40.2	186	15	46	2
Pasteur Institute	195	39	115	80	24	12
Johns Hopkins University	168	33.6	140	28	30	9
California Institute of Technology	153	30.6	131	22	32	7
University of Massachusetts	132	26.4	116	16	28	2
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	125	25	115	10	31	1
University of Michigan	120	24	107	13	23	2
New York University	110	22	98	12	20	3
University of Illinois system	104	20.8	94	10	20	3
Harvard University	102	20.4	85	17	21	3
University of South Florida	102	20.4	97	5	32	1
University of Utah	96	19.2	72	24	13	8
University of Maryland system	94	18.8	82	12	16	5
University of North Carolina system	90	18	71	19	25	1
University of Southern California	83	16.6	68	15	16	3
University of Washington	79	15.8	67	12	15	2
University of Florida	77	15.4	64	13	20	1
Yale University	77	15.4	58	19	11	5
Rockefeller University	76	15.2	64	12	16	4
Yissum (Hebrew University)	61	12.2	41	20	3	2
University of Iowa	58	11.6	50	8	6	2
Ramot at Tel Aviv University	58	11.6	37	21	13	5
Ohio State University	37	7.4	37	0	36	0
Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM)	33	6.6	32	1	28	1
Cornell University	29	5.8	22	7	8	3

Source: IP Checkups Inc.

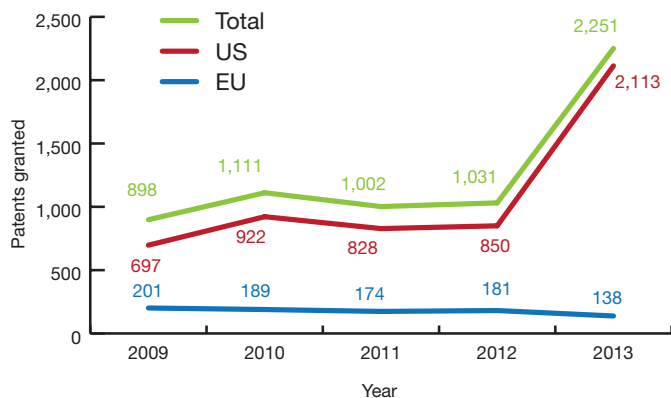


Figure 1 Biotech patent trends, 2009–2013. Source: IP Checkups Inc.

First Rounders Podcast: Leroy Hood

Lee Hood was one of the pioneers involved in the Human Genome Project as well as a cofounder of Applied BioSystems and numerous other biotech startups over the past three decades. In 2000, he cofounded the Institute for Systems Biology (ISB) in Seattle, where as president he is currently leading research with a view toward precision medicine. *Nature Biotechnology* spoke to Hood about his long association with the California Institute of Technology, the P4 pilot project at ISB and playing football in the Rose Bowl. <http://www.nature.com/nbt/podcast/index.html>.



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