



2007 FLC Midwest Region Awards

Partnership Award

This regional award will be presented to an American-owned company, a nonfederal government entity, or a college or university within the Midwest Region that has made outstanding efforts to promote either the actual transfer of federal technology or the federal technology transfer program during the 12 months preceding the nomination.

Air Force Research Laboratory, Human Effectiveness Directorate and the University of Cincinnati. The Air Force Research Laboratory's Human Effectiveness Directorate (AFRL/HE) has teamed with the University of Cincinnati (UC) to leverage UC's unique biosciences laboratory resources while giving UC researchers access to the unique AFRL laboratory and testing assets. This relationship features a series of multiple and varied technology transfer mechanisms including three Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs), two Education Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and one Commercial Test Agreement (CTA).

The collaborative research being conducted under these agreements includes efforts related to: the establishment of a repository of unique bacterial strains from both existing and emerging collections; the development of high-throughput technologies that will allow rapid interrogation of pathogen and host biology; finding a biomarker for ALS; and identifying genes and protein factors that will provide significant new insights into disease processes associated with kidney cancer. These projects will allow UC researchers access to key equipment such as AFRL/HEP's Finnigan™ LTQ FT-ICR™ mass spectrometer, one of only four such specialized instruments in Ohio, and benefit AFRL by applying the research results to enhancing, extending and optimizing the human performance of our nation's warfighters.

AFRL/HE has executed technology transfer mechanisms in a novel fashion to create a continuum of scientific exploration and partnerships that opens facilities between the partners, allows sharing of knowledge, and even physically locates Air Force scientists at a university's laboratory facility with offices and support staff. This new partnership process model involving multiple agreements to place federal researchers within academic facilities breaks new ground for research, facility and information exchange methodology and will lead to similar mutually beneficial arrangements with other universities in future federal laboratory technology transfer efforts.