

# INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM AT CHOP: ENABLING ACADEMIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Daria Ferro, MD: [Ferrod@chop.edu](mailto:Ferrod@chop.edu)

Innovation Ecosystem  
Clinical Informatics, Pediatric Hospital Medicine

Monday, October 13, 2025



# AUDIENCE CHECK

- What's your motivation for attending today?
- What does "innovation" mean to you?
- What does "academic entrepreneurship" mean to you?

# SESSION OVERVIEW

- Introduction & Motivation
- Define Academic Entrepreneurship
- Describe CHOP's Innovation Ecosystem
- List resources & programs
- Suggest next steps & engagement

INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

# ABOUT ME

Daria Ferro, MD, FAAP, FAMIA

- Attending Physician, Sections of Hospital Medicine & Clinical Informatics
- Clinical Informatics Fellowship Faculty, Course Director for CI & QI, DBHi
- Clinical Informatics Medical Director, Health IT Measurement and Outcomes
- Clinical Advisor, Phrase Health
- Co-Director and Capacity Pillar Lead, Innovation Ecosystem



INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM





Pediatrics Unit, Mercy, Cedar Rapids (Iowa)



Inpatient Room, Johns Hopkins Medicine (Maryland)

## INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

# CHOP Innovation Ecosystem (IE)

## A connected, distributed team



Suzanne Hill  
Community  
Pillar Lead



Flaura Winston,  
MD, PhD  
Director



Natalie  
Oppenheimer  
Program Manager



Tia Regec  
Outreach  
Coordinator



Vicki Bartek, MS,  
MSW  
Project Manager



Daria Ferro, MD  
Co-Director &  
Capacity Pillar  
Lead



Asif Chinwalla, MS,  
EMBA  
Connections Pillar  
Lead



Rich Tsui, PhD  
Tsui Lab Director



Sifei Han, PhD  
NLP Data Scientist



Sachin Grover, MS  
AI/UI/UX Data Scientist

# WHAT IS ACADEMIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP?

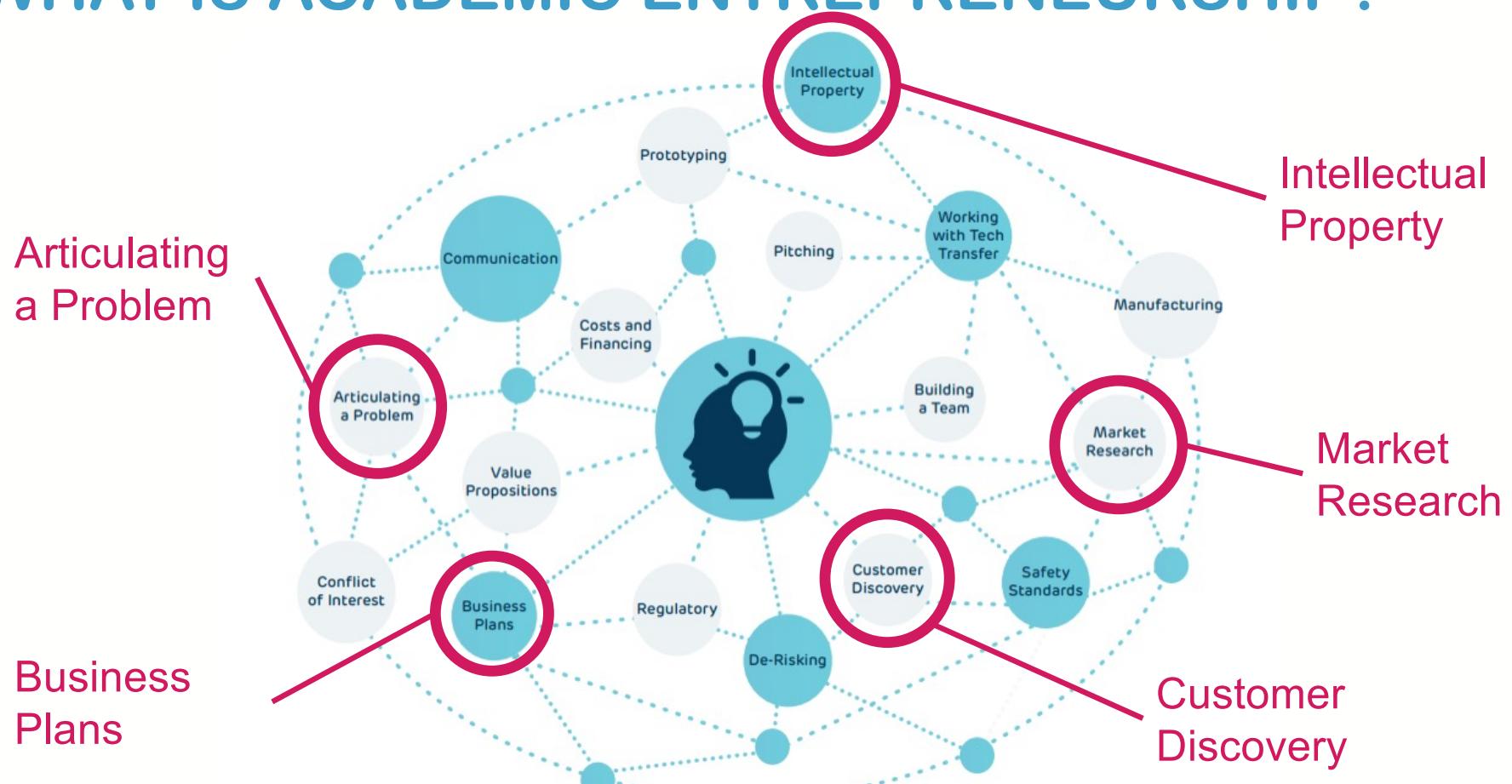
As a *field*...

- The intentional focus on **translating science and technology** developed in academic settings **into health impact via commercialization routes** for larger scale uptake.

As a *career path*...

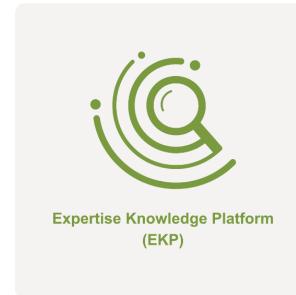
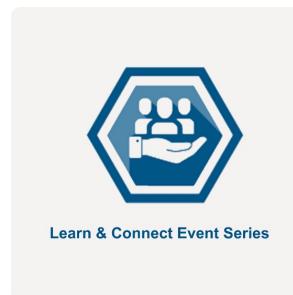
- Involves **translational research activities that target impact** and return on investment in medical and health science.

# WHAT IS ACADEMIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP?



# CHOP'S INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM (EST. 2019) ASSET PORTFOLIO

Our mission: to facilitate innovation by preparing CHOP faculty and staff via opportunities to **strengthen community, build connections, and increase capacity** related to innovation and entrepreneurship.



# ASSET GOALS



Academic Entrepreneurship  
Medical and Health Scientists  
eBook

- Free Open Educational Resource (OER) to teach and guide innovators
- 50+ “bite-sized” textbook chapters, event recordings, and interactive online learning modules organized into eight collections



Learn & Connect Event Series

- Prepares innovators for expert conversations and introduces key academic entrepreneurship concepts
- Facilitates cross-silo networking and community-building through interactive storytelling and case-based learning
- Serves as an entry point to deeper professional development offerings like courses and bootcamps



Academic Entrepreneurship  
Fundamentals: A Professional  
Development Course

- Seven weekly, 3-hour, in-person skill-building sessions, with current academic entrepreneurs and industry experts
- CHOP / Penn resources highlighted throughout the course to guide participants on their entrepreneurial journeys



Translating Discoveries to the  
Bedside: A Medical Devices  
Course

- NIH R25-funded program featuring expert-led instruction, real-world case studies, and collaborative projects focused on medical devices
- Includes personalized mentorship, career development support, and networking opportunities across academia and industry



Expertise Knowledge Platform  
(EKP)

- An up-to-date, searchable database of institutional research expertise that links together the CHOP employee database, PubMed, NIH Reporter, and eSPA
- Used to conduct keyword searches (much like PubMed) that find subject matter experts, generate summary reports, or provide a “360° view” of any individual’s expertise and research products (grants & papers)

# *ACADEMIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENTISTS*



- **Free** Open Educational Resource (OER) to teach and guide innovators
- 50+ “bite-sized” textbook chapters, event recordings, and interactive online learning modules organized into eight collections:



<https://academicentrepreneurship.pubpub.org/>

# LEARN & CONNECT EVENT SERIES



- “L&C” format was designed to
  - Prepare innovators for informed, productive conversations with expert legal, technology transfer, business, and other resources
  - Facilitate networking and community-building – particularly between silos
  - Use content from the e-book
- Awareness Sessions: Core Concepts of Academic Entrepreneurship in Medicine / Weaving Academic Entrepreneurship into Your Career Path
  - Introduce clinical and research professionals to entrepreneurship pathways in and beyond academia through storytelling & cases
  - Provide a preamble to the full professional development course / bootcamp content

# ACADEMIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP FUNDAMENTALS: A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE



- Seven weekly, 3-hour, in-person skill-building sessions, with mentorship/coaching from current academic entrepreneurs and industry experts
- CHOP and Penn resources highlighted throughout the course to guide participants on their entrepreneurial journeys

Date (all 1-4PM)	Topic
Oct 9	Opening Session/Intro to Academic Entrepreneurship
Oct 16	Defining/Refining Problem Statements
Oct 23	Early Solutioning
Oct 30	Regulatory Basics
Nov 6	Legal Considerations
Nov 13	Business Planning
Nov 20	Closing Session/Pitch Evaluation Activity

INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

# TRANSLATING DISCOVERIES TO THE BEDSIDE: A MEDICAL DEVICES COURSE



- Core curriculum of Academic Entrepreneurship content – taught by experts in the field
- Case-based activities and team-based project work using real-life medical devices
- Opportunities to connect with like-minded individuals from across academia and industry
- Personalized training and mentorship to pursue a career focused on medical devices and academic entrepreneurship (up to 2 years of support for qualifying participants)

[research.chop.edu/service/medical-device-course](http://research.chop.edu/service/medical-device-course)

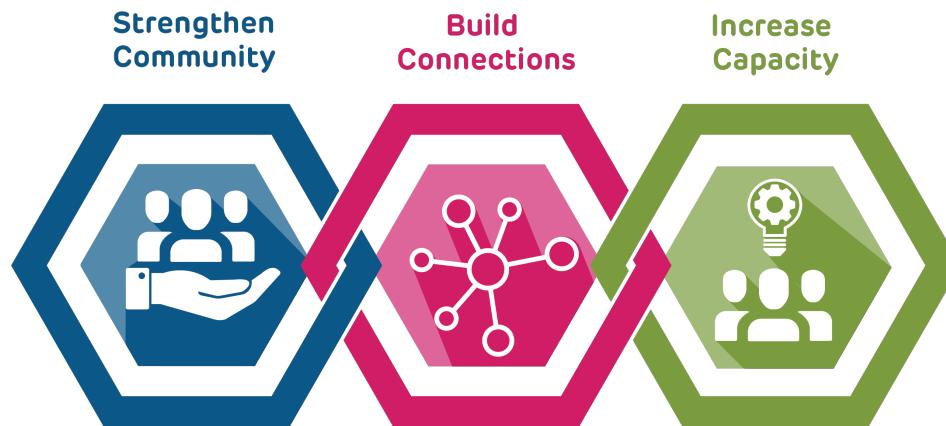
## EXPERTISE KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM (EKP)



- An up-to-date, searchable database of institutional research expertise that links together the CHOP employee database, electronic Sponsored Projects Administration (eSPA), PubMed, NIH Reporter
- Can be used to conduct keyword searches (much like PubMed) that
  - Find subject matter experts
  - Generate summary reports that can be filtered & refined, or downloaded to Excel
  - Get a “360° view” of any individual’s expertise and research products (grants & papers)

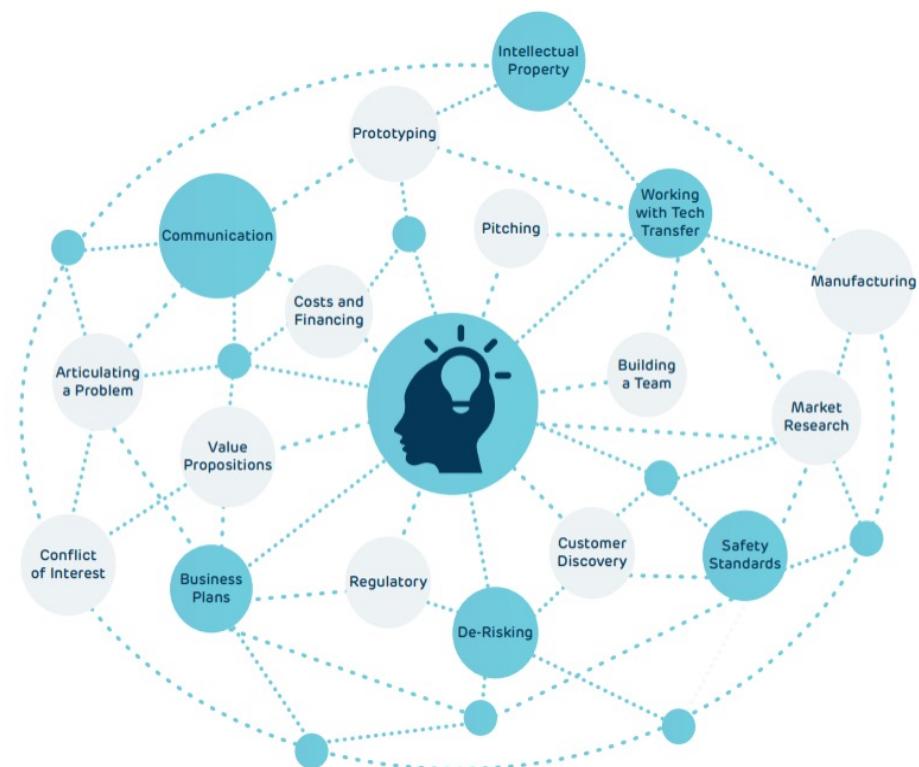
# OUR MISSION

- Facilitate innovation by preparing CHOP faculty and staff via opportunities to **strengthen community**, **build connections**, and **increase capacity** related to innovation and entrepreneurship



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# WHAT IS ACADEMIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP: ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES



- Involvement with clinical trials
- Included an innovation-specific aim in a grant application
- Met with Office of Technology Transfer
- Discussed with or Submitted to the FDA
- Written or collaborated on a business plan
- Held a consulting role for a business
- Applied for or an accelerator program

What activities have you done or plan to do that might relate to Academic Entrepreneurship?



Penn Health-Tech  
Center for Health, Devices and Technology

# CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Apply for the Health Tech Accelerator Program by November 5, 2025



Selected medtech and healthtech teams receive up to \$75k funding and one year of advising to support development, commercialization, and more.



## Virtual Information Session

- Tuesday, October 14th at 12p
- Details about the program & application process.
- [Register here](#)

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## STAY IN TOUCH WITH IE



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NEWSLETTER



 FOLLOW US ON  
LINKEDIN



 CONNECT TO  
ACADEMIC COMMUNITY



 VISIT OUR RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE WEBPAGE

<https://www.research.chop.edu/innovation-ecosystem>

[ecosystem@chop.edu](mailto:ecosystem@chop.edu)

# THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING

Please fill out our brief post-session survey at [redcap.link/AE1013](https://redcap.link/AE1013)  
or scan the QR code below:

