

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

LAUNCHPAD FUND

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA'S ENGINE FOR INNOVATION, CHANGE AND SOCIETAL GOOD

The University of California is a research powerhouse and one of the world's most prolific cradles of ingenuity.

Within its expansive inventory of intellectual property assets are solutions to many of society's seemingly intractable problems, from disease and hunger to social inequality and climate change.

To unlock that potential, the University of California proposes the creation of **Launchpad**, a new initiative to provide UC innovators with crucial, early financial support to translate discoveries into solutions which provide societal benefit and uplift the human condition.

UC IS AN INNOVATION POWERHOUSE

11,000

Over 11,000 active patents, globally

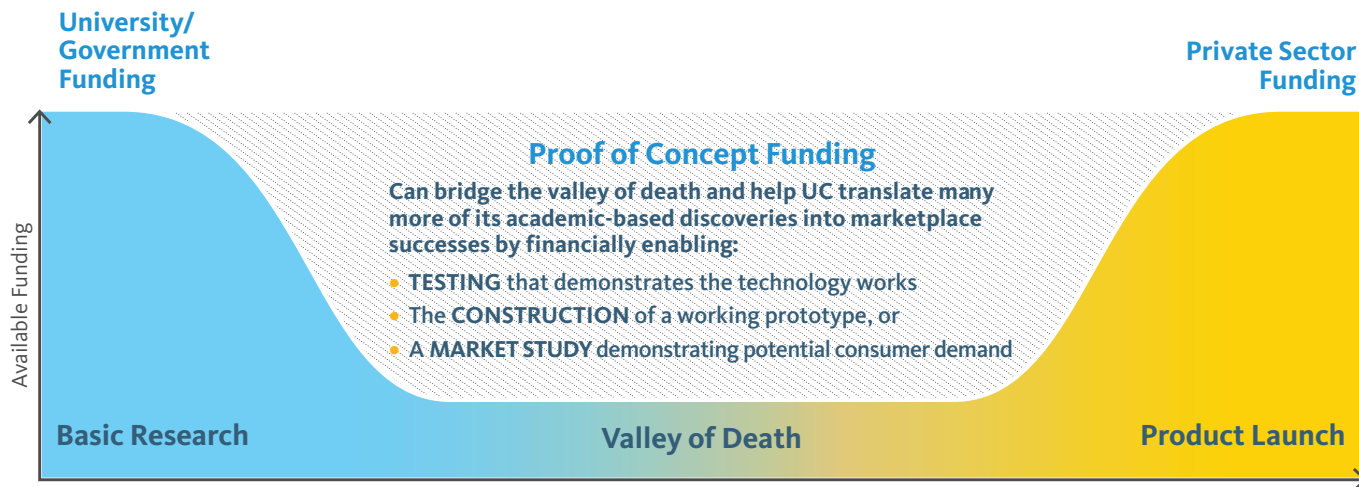
Averaging five new inventions per day

#1 For more than a decade, has annually produced more U.S. patents than any other university in the world

5
2020

In 2020 alone, UC researchers produced 1,706 new inventions and filed 2,026 U.S. patent applications

Proof of Concept (PoC) Funding — Bridging the Valley of Death



Despite UC’s unparalleled innovation productivity, fewer than 1 in 5 UC inventions are licensed. Underlying these unfavorable odds is the “Valley of Death,” or the gap in funding that exists between academic-based discovery and real-world application.

The Valley of Death, or funding gap, exists not for lack of interest or merit, but lack of information about commercial potential. This *information deficit* is where potential blockbusters and other important innovations stall or prematurely die.

To ensure that valuable potential is not wasted, often all that is needed is modest validation — such as additional testing demonstrating the efficacy and benefits of the discovery, the construction of a working prototype, or a market study demonstrating potential consumer demand.

Proof of concept funding — small grants to inventors of between \$25,000 and \$150,000 — would bridge the Valley of Death by shedding light on the invention’s true potential.

GAME CHANGER

Universities with PoC funds experience a **32% increase** in commercialization success

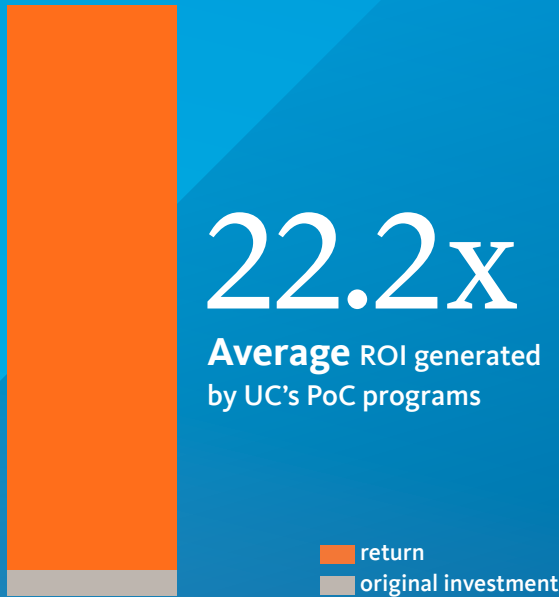
Source: Innosource survey of 140+ active PoC funds and accelerator programs at 84 universities

LAUNCHPAD FUND

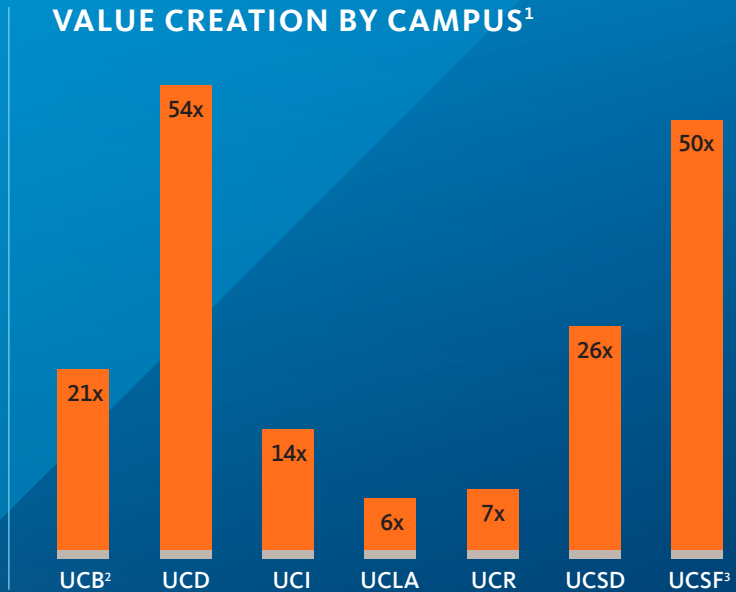
by the numbers

“\$1 million in PoC grants resulted in a higher return, dollar for dollar, than any other innovation funding on campus.” — Paul Roben, Associate Vice Chancellor for Innovation & Commercialization, UCSD

RETURN ON INVESTMENT



VALUE CREATION BY CAMPUS¹



Projects receiving PoC funding not only generated licensing royalties and equity, but also \$1.22 billion in additional investments from venture capitalists, federal grants, and corporate sponsorships.

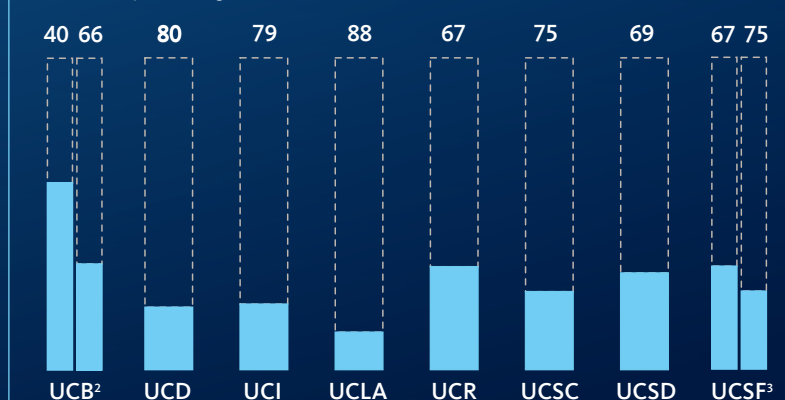
UNTAPPED POTENTIAL

70.6% Average high-potential projects turned away not based on merit, but solely due to lack of funding



UNTAPPED POTENTIAL BY CAMPUS⁴

shown in percentages



¹UCM and UCSC data is not available, funds were launched in 2023

²UCB data consists of Bakar Fellows Program and LSEC Venture Grant Program

³UCSF data consists of Innovations Venture Philanthropy Fund (InVent Fund) and Catalyst Awards Program

⁴UCM data is not available, funds were launched in 2023

Saving Lives, Improving Health, Uplifting the Human Condition

UC innovation & entrepreneurship is changing lives — and the world. Each year, hundreds of new discoveries search desperately for a path from the laboratory to consumers, patients, and societal application. Those that receive PoC funding — like those below — are propelled forward and represent what’s possible. With expanded PoC funding via the UC Launchpad Fund, imagine what could be achieved, how society could be improved . . . and millions more lives touched, even saved.



UCLA Gestational diabetes in pregnant mothers, if untreated, can lead to serious complications for both the mother and child, including dangerously high blood pressure, an oversized baby that can threaten safe delivery, and lifelong diabetes for both. UCLA, which has an undersized PoC program, funded independent tests to demonstrate the efficacy of a new diagnostic tool developed by Dr. Brian Koos. Demonstrating a 96% accuracy rate, UCLA was able to successfully spin off a company. **BruinDX**, is focused on replacing the glucose tolerance test, with a non-invasive urine test that can be administered much earlier in pregnancy with higher accuracy.



UCSD The planet is in an environmental crisis from plastics. Professor Steven Mayfield creates products from algae that are environmentally sustainable, and economically viable. UC San Diego invested \$50K to create the first commercial prototypes. Subsequently a startup company, Algenesis, was founded, which scaled up production of **Blueview**, a 100% biodegradable sneaker. The PoC funding allowed them to transition from a research project to a commercial entity that is not only creating high-paying jobs but serves to curb human-made environmental harm.



UC Berkeley Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a powerful medical diagnostic tool, but because it is not designed for infant anatomies, the image quality can be poor and it can cause patient discomfort and anxiety. With the help of PoC funding, Professor Ana Aria developed a prototype for flexible and feather-light mobile MRI coils that are being commercialized by **Inkspace Imaging** for MRI applications, including to wrap, soothe, and image babies. Not only is patient comfort improved, but the exam can be completed more quickly and with better diagnostic images.

Explore More

UC seeks to not only be the best public research university, but also the nation’s #1 public *impact* university. From curing chronic disease to alleviating hunger to reversing human-caused climate change, the University of California’s innovation and entrepreneurship enterprise is ready to become a more powerful force for innovation, change and societal good.



On behalf of the UC Regents, we extend an invitation to you to become a financial partner in supporting generations of inventors, entrepreneurs, and discoverers.

Explore more about the UC Launchpad Fund at ucop.edu/research-innovation/programs-and-initiatives/entrepreneurship-network-council/index.html or email Richard Lyons at lyons@berkeley.edu