COLUMBIA | Lab-to-Market Accelerator Network



THE 2026 L2M ANNUAL REPORT

A review of the breakthroughs, partnerships, and impact coming out of the Columbia Lab-to-Market Accelerator Network this year.

"The Lab-to-Market Accelerator Network supports Columbia's innovation ecosystem by connecting promising academic technologies with the funding, mentorship, and commercialization resources to move them closer to market. Over the past year, CTV's L2M program continued to be innovative in our models of collaboration with industry and work with state and federal agencies to disseminate best practices.



Maria Rahmany
Director of Business Development and Lab-to-Market

In the last two years, we have brought the Business Development and L2M teams together, streamlining operations, strengthening collaboration, and centralizing resources needed to support commercialization from discovery to launch. Looking forward, we are focused on expanding Columbia's entrepreneurial culture by hosting events and building new initiatives that bring together investors and researchers. The momentum we've built this year reflects the caliber of the technologies we support, and we are excited to share specific successes below. "

L2M is Columbia University's platform for translating academic research into scalable ventures. Operating across critical focus areas including oncology, digital health, clean energy, smart cities, diagnostics, artificial intelligence, dermatology, and more, L2M supports both Columbia-affiliated and select external innovation teams through tailored acceleration programs.

L2M TEAMS LIFETIME METRICS

$297M

FOLLOW-ON FUNDING RAISED

Driving impact. Building the future.

2,126	831	437	$62.5M
Applications Received	Teams Admitted	Awards Given	Funding Awarded

2026 FEATURED PROJECTS



Microneedle for Delivering Glaucoma Treatments into the Optic Nerve Head

Led by Dr. Gulgun Tezel (Ophthalmology) and Dr. Jeffrey Kysar (Mechanical Engineering), this team is developing a microneedle drug-delivery device to target optic nerve degeneration in glaucoma.

BIOMEDX

Bootcamp-driven accelerator empowering Columbia faculty-led teams to validate and commercialize biomedical solutions for unmet clinical needs as they advance toward patient impact.

- **20** applications
- **3** awarded teams
- **$110K** awarded

Learn more here

CDI

Grant funding and commercialization programs for academic teams & startups developing carbontech solutions.

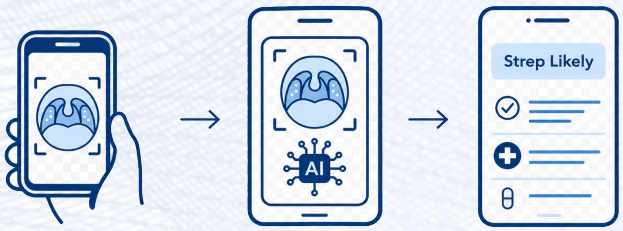
- **97** applications
- **12** awarded teams
- **$2.3M** awarded

Learn more here



Electrified Carbon Capture & Utilization via Perovskites

Led by Dr. Juliana Carneiro (Chemical Engineering), this team is developing tunable perovskite-oxide materials in protonic-ceramic electrochemical cells to capture CO2 and electrocatalytically convert it into fuels and chemicals.



Artificial Intelligence to Diagnose Common Infections Without a Swab

Led by Dr. Therese Canares, MD, MBA and Mathias Unberath, CurieDx is an AI-powered health platform and app that uses smartphone cameras and computer vision to screen for common infections like strep throat and urinary tract infections (UTIs) without a physical swab.

PORTENT

Global center that validates and commercializes point-of-care diagnostics for populations through needs assessment, multi-continent clinical validation, training, and lab-to-market support.

- **15** applications
- **6** awarded teams
- **$600K** awarded

Learn more here

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

BEIERSDORF

The Columbia–Beiersdorf Skin Science Collaboration is a five-year, $5 million research accelerator focused on skincare that currently supports six projects across Dermatology, Ophthalmology, Chemistry, and Engineering - with $100K+ of direct funds for academic research - and includes funding for a new Columbia Dermatology Biobank for Research in Skin Health and Disease (BRISK). Organized around the shared resources of BRISK, the cross-departmental engagement has catalyzed the generation of new research concepts and approaches, fostering innovation at the intersection of disciplines and expanding the scientific scope of the collaboration.

PORTENT

This year Columbia continued its partnership with Cornell University through the PORTENT Center. PORTENT translates breakthrough point-of-care diagnostics into rapid, affordable tests that reduce the burden of chronic disease, curb infectious threats, and strengthen prevention efforts.



CENTER FOR SMART STREETSCAPES (CS3) VALIDATE ACCELERATOR

The L2M team continued to provide operational support for the 2025 – 2026 CS3 VALIDATE Accelerator cycle. CS3 VALIDATE is an urban tech accelerator program led by the NSF Center for Smart Streetscapes (CS3) and Columbia University, in partnership with Florida Atlantic University, University of Central Florida, Rutgers University and CUNY Lehman College. The initiative supports early-stage streetscape innovators through a 10-week curriculum focused on product market fit, customer discovery, and smart cities specific training, with cohort projects spanning edge AI sensing for real time urban insights, privacy preserving mobility and safety tools, and digital twin platforms for streetscape planning and navigation.

Quote from 2026 awardee, Mahshid Ghasemi:
"We made many contacts who we are still in touch with today. As we pitched to more customers, we were able to significantly improve our pitch and better understand how to position the company."



IRVING CANCER DRUG DISCOVERY PROGRAM (ICDDP)

The ICDDP bridges the gap between the lab and the clinic by providing hands-on project management, IP strategy, and industry mentorship to accelerate the advancement of early-stage, faculty-led cancer research discoveries. ICDDP projects span all stages of therapeutic development, from target validation and high-throughput screening to preclinical testing and IND-enabling studies. A full list of projects and an overview of the program can be found here.

OUR STUDENT VENTURE ASSOCIATES


MEHEK KANDRU


VANESSA YIRAN LI


ANASTASIA DWI TANTYA


SOPHIA JAKEL


SARAH ALSHARIF

LAUNCHING NEW INITIATIVES





INNOVATION TO IMPACT SERIES (I2I)

The CTV Innovation-to-Impact Series is a university-wide, multi-session initiative that equips Columbia innovators with practical guidance at every stage of technology translation through expert-led panels, lectures, and workshops focused on funding, commercialization, company formation, and regulatory pathways.

In FY26, the series delivered three sessions:

- Funding Life Science Breakthroughs featuring perspectives from ARPA-H, Neta Foundation, and Regeneron Ventures;
- Intellectual Property 101 for Academic Entrepreneurs on building startup value from university research;
- Bring Your Innovations to Life: Design, Prototyping, and Manufacturing with Synectic, spotlighting pathways from concept to product.

Mentorship is a core pillar of our L2M programs. To get involved, click here.

BUILDING ON OUR PARTNERSHIPS

NSF ART EXCEED

CTV **provides mentorship and guidance** to SUNY Binghamton via the EXCEED program as they develop commercialization resources for faculty. These initiatives include the development of a translational fund to support research in academic labs. This year, **16** participants went through the program and **8** projects were selected for funding, representing **6** departments.

The program places an emphasis on faculty, administrator, and student engagement. In total, EXCEED held events across **15** departments, oriented **90** new faculty, and hosted **5** guest lectures.

COLUMBIA | TECHNOLOGY VENTURES

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

COLUMBIA DEPT OF SURGERY INNOVATION FUND

The Department of Surgery Innovation Fund provides non-dilutive grant support for faculty projects advancing towards commercial launch. The program is designed to support Columbia IP–backed projects with strong near-term commercialization potential. On an annual basis, the fund awards **$650K** across supported projects and has provided **more than $2.1M in project support** to date.

COLUMBIA DEPT OF ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY INNOVATION FUND

The Dept. of Orthopedic Surgery Innovation Fund provides support for CUIMC/VP&S faculty projects advancing towards commercial launch. This program is specifically designed to support projects with strong, near-term commercialization potential based on Columbia-owned intellectual property. Across 2 cycles the program has awarded **$187K** in funding.

UPDATES FROM OUR ALUMNI TEAMS

VISIONCLEAR (Sinisa Vukelic, Mechanical Engineering) raised pre-seed funding to advance its non-invasive corneal vision-correction technology toward key development milestones.

NANOVIB (Elsy El Khoury & Naixin Qian, Chemistry) was selected as a 2026 Activate Fellow company, enabling the team to accelerate development and commercialization of its nanoscale particle detection platform.

APATEK BIOSCIENCES (Milan Stojanovic & Tilla Worgall, Systems Biology & Pathology) secured a $1.5M follow-on contract to advance the PheCheck PKU in-home monitoring device through verification and validation, moving it toward clinical trials and regulatory submission.

XL BATTERIES (Colin Nuckolls, Chemistry) raised $7.5M from investors to accelerate commercialization of its organic, non-flammable long-duration flow battery and scale deployments.



REVORA MATERIALS (Greeshma Gadikota, Earth & Environmental Engineering) signed an MOU to pilot their IonMet technology on Twin Sisters olivine feedstock (WA), advancing validation of its multi-mineral extraction platform and enabling a pathway toward domestic magnesium production in North America.



BRIDGING INNOVATION AND IMPACT TO INDUSTRY AND INVESTMENT

L2M's structured model supports teams at every stage of venture creation. From early technology, validation through commercial launch, and growth. By connecting founders, mentors, and alumni in a thriving ecosystem of peer learning, expert guidance, and lasting collaboration, we support the translation of promising research into real world impact. We are grateful for your continued support and look forward to what comes next.

THE TEAM



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