



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR
RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT
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January 26, 2012

Mr. David Kappos, Director
United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)
600 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Director Kappos:

The Office of Technology Development at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) is an enthusiastic supporter of the opportunity for a satellite office of the United States Patent and Trademark Office to locate in North Carolina. My office pursues over 100 new US patent applications each year based on technologies arising from our extensive research programs at Carolina. We expect this number to double in the next five years and would welcome an opportunity to enhance our interaction with the USPTO through a local office.

Entrepreneurship and innovation are vital and prominent initiatives at UNC and throughout the Research Triangle Park region and the State of North Carolina. Locating a satellite office of the USPTO here would place patent examiners in close proximity to a highly educated workforce, cutting edge innovators and researchers, and leading biotechnology and information technology hubs. These components provide a rich environment for entrepreneurship, outreach, interaction and continuing education that would benefit both the objectives of the USPTO and the State of North Carolina.

UNC relies heavily on the USPTO to help us obtain patents on our innovative ideas so that we can advance disruptive technologies, potential cures for disease and improvements to our lives. The process is complex and time consuming for us all, but it is an essential ingredient in the innovation economy. We applaud the initiative to locate USPTO satellite offices in areas with strong technical expertise and human capital and strongly support Governor Beverly Purdue's desire to support location of a USPTO office in North Carolina.

Sincerely,

Catherine Innes
Director