



January 26, 2012

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

Dear Director Kappos:

It has come to my attention that the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is evaluating different regions across the nation to select and facilitate the formation of satellite of offices to support and service the needs of America's patent filers and innovators. As the USPTO examines locations for these satellite offices, we urge you to examine North Carolina because of its preeminence and leadership in so many different technology fields such as materials science, nanotechnology and biotechnology.

Wake Forest University and Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center (collectively WFU) form a comprehensive academic institution with broad ranging missions in the provision of healthcare, education, research and economic development. Because of these missions, WFU is major driver of intellectual property and economic development both directly and indirectly in North Carolina's Piedmont Triad region. Since 2000, WFU has demonstrated the following metrics from its commercialization activities:

**WFU Innovation, Intellectual Property and Economic Development FY2000-Present**

Inventions	Patents Issued	New U.S. Patent Apps	Licenses executed	Start-ups	Licensing Revenue
613	118	276	132	22	\$582,969,722

Under WFU, Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center is the major academic medical center serving the multi-state region surrounding Northwest North Carolina-bringing broad-ranging biomedical research, bioscience and health sciences education, and a top 50 ranked hospitals and health system for clinical care. Increasingly recognized for its quality nationally and internationally, WFBMC has an established reputation in research across such diverse fields as regenerative medicine and public health, and has a demonstrated commitment to translating research discoveries into useful medicines and medical technologies through its investment in the Piedmont Triad Research Park. Through a strategic focus on obesity, diabetes, neuroscience and cell development/therapy, and existing strengths in fields such as aging, cardiovascular disease, cancer, pediatrics, trauma and infectious disease, WFBMC is working on the front lines of bioscience research, education and clinical practice.

With combined employment of 13,588 personnel and combined revenues of \$1.9 billion for fiscal year 2011, WFBMC by itself is a significant economic engine within the State of North Carolina and the

surrounding regions. Recently, WFBMC commissioned the Battelle Memorial Institute to undertake a detailed review of the many positive benefits generated in North Carolina by the presence and operations of the medical center. The study uses the standard regional economics modeling method of input/output analysis to quantify the direct and indirect (multiplier) impacts of WFBMC on the North Carolina economy, on the medical center's service area, and on Forsyth County.

**The FY2011 impacts of the WFBMC on the economy of the State of North Carolina total over \$3.8 billion.** This impact consists of \$1.9 billion in direct impact and another \$1.9 billion in indirect and induced impacts (an output multiplier of 2.0). **WFBMC also generates 30,608 jobs in North Carolina** (13,588 direct jobs at the two institutions and an additional 17,020 indirect and induced—multiplier effect jobs). Together, this WFBMC-related workforce receives nearly \$1.8 billion in wages and benefits. WFBMC operations, the indirect impacts of in-State suppliers, and the induced impact of WFBMC staff and supplier personal spending combine to **generate over \$161.6 in state and local tax revenue** and \$335.3 in federal tax revenues.<sup>1</sup>

**Table ES-1: Economic Impact of WFBMC Operations on the State of North Carolina, FY2011 (dollar values in \$Millions)**

Impact	Employment	Labor Income	Value Added	Output	State/Local Tax Revenue	Federal Tax Revenue
Direct Effect	13,588	\$1,096.0	\$1,167.2	\$1,909.6	\$46.1	\$178.8
Indirect Impacts	6,072	\$235.5	\$452.5	\$699.6	\$37.8	\$56.5
Induced Impacts	10,948	\$422.4	\$763.4	\$1,233.8	\$77.7	\$100.0
<b>Total Impact</b>	<b>30,608</b>	<b>\$1,753.8</b>	<b>\$2,383.0</b>	<b>\$3,842.9</b>	<b>\$161.6</b>	<b>\$335.3</b>
Impact Multiplier	2.25	1.60	2.04	2.01	n.m.	n.m.

Source: NCBH and WFUHS data and Battelle calculations using state, regional and county-level IMPLAN I/O tables.

In summary, WFU plays a pivotal role in the intellectual property and economic development of North Carolina and surrounding states. We greatly appreciate the efforts the USPTO is making with the formation of satellite offices. These offices will be critical for educating America's innovators on the details of HR 1429, 'The Leahy-Smith America Invents Act', as well as the recovery and growth of the United States economy over the next decade. These satellite offices will greatly facilitate and expedite patent prosecution which is critical for our new companies to be competitive in the world markets. We hope you find North Carolina as compelling as we do, and we would greatly appreciate having one of the satellite offices in our state.

Sincerely,



Mark E. Welker  
 Interim Provost  
 William L. Poteat Professor of Chemistry

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise noted all figures are for FY2011. Throughout this report totals may not sum due to rounding.