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News: Gopal Rao Wins Prestigious Technology Development Award

UMass President Jack M. Wilson announced on Wednesday, March 26, 2008 that Professor Gopal Rao, physics department, has won one of [eight grants awarded](#) through the University of Massachusetts Office of Commercial Ventures and Intellectual Property. The award will help Professor Rao further develop his Fourier Phase Contrast Microscope, a lab model microscope that is based on a novel Fourier phase contrast microscopy technique and represents a major improvement over existing microscopes that are widely used for research.

News: Life Sciences Bill Offers Prospects

The state house and senate are deliberating a life sciences initiative bill to strengthen leadership in this sector. The senate version includes \$10 million for a center for personalized cancer therapy at UMass Boston, in collaboration with the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Institute. The center would include an antibody generation facility to assess biomarkers.

Coffee Break!

april 16, 2008

Meet the Venture Development Center's [team](#) over a cup of coffee or tea on Wednesday, April 16, 2008 from 9:00am-9:30am in the Harbor Art Gallery, McCormack Building, 1st floor.

Events: IP Basics: An Innovator's Guide to Choices and Implications

april 28, 2008

What is [intellectual property](#) and what do you need to know to protect and commercialize it? Join us on Monday, April 28 from 5:00pm - 6:00pm in the Campus

Center, 3rd floor, Room 3540, for "IP Basics: An Innovator's Guide to Choices and Implications." The guest speaker is Ruth Atherton, a senior patent counsel for Genzyme Corporation.

Updates: Computational Sciences, Analysis and Modeling Research Cluster Work Group

The computational sciences, analysis and modeling research cluster workgroup hosted an open meeting on Thursday, April 3 to gather input from the university community. A lively discussion ensued about strengthening capacity across disciplines or in a particular strategic area.

Invitation: Test Drive the VDC

18,000 square feet of space designed for innovation is opening in fall 2008. It is ideal for a start-up company with whom you want to collaborate; a colleague who wants to bring their innovative research to UMass Boston; or for you or your post-doc who want to engage in proof-of-concept testing without disturbing your current workspace. The VDC is now accepting proposals. Please [contact us](#) for more information about test-driving the VDC!

Tip: Great Panel Discussions

Some panels crackle with energy, elicit fresh ideas, and bring the audience into the discussion. Others plod along, and by the fifteen-minute mark audience members are checking Blackberries and thumbing through the program. Scott Kirsner, *The Boston Globe's* technology reporter, has a [great article](#) that features subtle, under-appreciated factors that make the panel memorable. One of them is to avoid the dreadful mistake of having an abbreviated Q & A period. One-half of the time allotted for the panel should be devoted to questions and discussion.

Contact Us!

You are welcome to contact Christine DePalma at 7-5629 or by [email](#) if you would like more information about the Venture Development Center or any of the items listed here. Please also visit our [website](#). If you do not want to receive our e-newsletter in your inbox, please let us know.