The Drug Development Institute (DDI) is:

- A biotech-like institute embedded within The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute
- The catalyst for advancing Ohio State’s basic research into clinical development
- Actively investing in promising development candidates or technologies
- Led by industry-experienced scientists with a background in pharmaceutical drug development

DDI Process

- Identify promising early-stage therapeutic candidates or technologies
- Determine the viability of the candidate as a commercial product
- Advance projects toward critical decision milestones using targeted investments
- Implement rigorous project plans to guide candidate development and ensure data integrity
- Create value by accelerating innovative projects across the drug-development value chain
- Formalize meaningful strategic alliances with internal and external partners
- Receive strategic direction from the DDI Advisory Board, which has extensive scientific and business expertise in the pharmaceutical industry

Results

The DDI partners with pharmaceutical and biotech companies to bridge the gap between academic discovery and early clinical development, accelerating development timelines and delivering innovative treatments to patients sooner. By bringing an industry-focused perspective to all investment and management decisions, the DDI ensures that programs have a high likelihood of success.

The DDI works with world-renowned investigators who are performing cutting-edge research in multidisciplinary teams. Our projects are distributed across the entire discovery and early-development value chain and encompass multiple therapeutic platforms.

The DDI has established productive partnerships and successfully out-licensed several projects. These partnerships have high-value potential to bring new therapies to patients.

Highlights of key achievements to date include:

- More than 100 potential projects or technologies reviewed
- 14 invested or managed projects
- 3 projects out-licensed or partnered
- 1 spin-out company launched
- 28 patents or invention disclosures generated from DDI investment

Contact the DDI: ddi@osumc.edu

Learn more: cancer.osu.edu/ddi
DDI Operations Team

**Erandi De Silva, PhD – Molecular Biologist**
Dr. De Silva earned her PhD in molecular biology at Princeton and completed postdoctoral research at Genentech. She brings biology and project management experience to the DDI.

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**Chad Bennett, PhD – Medicinal and Process Chemist**
Dr. Bennett earned his PhD at Indiana University and has over 10 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry at Merck and Schering-Plough, working in both the discovery and early-development phases.

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**Larry Schaaf, PhD – Clinical Pharmacologist**
Dr. Schaaf earned his PhD at the University of Arizona and has more than 25 years of experience performing clinical pharmacology assessments in the pharmaceutical industry and academia. He has held positions with Upjohn, Pharmacia and Pfizer, and he was director of the Phase I Unit at the OSUCCC –James for 11 years.

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Partnersing for Researchers
The DDI is always eager to learn more about innovative new research projects that address unmet medical needs. While we have periodic requests for new proposals, you can discuss your projects with us at any time. The DDI can also advise on the preclinical development of your candidate or assist you with seeking an industry partner.

Partnersing for Industry
The DDI portfolio provides potential partners with de-risked therapeutic candidates, industry-standard data packages and consolidated intellectual property. Partnering with the DDI provides earlier access to projects, reducing development time and costs. Talk to us about Ohio State’s innovative therapeutic candidates that the DDI is advancing.