

## **ALLERGAN** and UCSB: A Winning Collaboration For *Medical* **California State Grant**

Allergan, a global health care company focused on discovering, developing and commercializing innovative pharmaceuticals, biologics and medical devices, has established its Medical Device R & D center, Allergan Medical, in Goleta, California. For one of the world's leaders in the field, the move to the area has been a productive transition due in part to its deep relationship with UC Santa Barbara. Key concerns of technology based companies, such as Allergan Medical, in their choice for a headquarters include the availability of relevant infrastructure, such as facilities (both owned by the company and available in the community), future employee base, and an ability to expand research activities by collaborating with domain experts. Allergan Medical has an ethic to develop both exceptional internal capabilities and to reach out to develop ties to key resources at the university. This partnership has contributed to their successful growth in the Goleta community. This next year Allergan Medical will be hiring over 50 new employees into its R&D unit.

One resource on campus that has helped them in their aims is their active involvement in UC Santa Barbara's Corporate Affiliates Program. The program provides a portal for companies to explore prospective research partnerships, utilize world-class facilities and equipment, and to recruit top students.

Allergan Medical chose to become a member of the Corporate Affiliates Program three years ago. At that time Dennis Van Epps, Ph.D., Vice President of Research and colleagues, had already established relationships with a number

of researchers in the Materials department at the university. UC Santa Barbara's materials researchers are well known as leaders both in their industrial collaborations and in the academic community. However, in an effort to develop new products for their business Allergan Medical needed to branch out to areas within the life sciences, such as tissue regeneration and leading-edge imaging technologies. To do this, Allergan Medical needed access to both expertise and the facilities and equipment.

By working through the Corporate Affiliates Program they were introduced to Dennis Clegg, then the chair of the Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology department and the co-director of the campus' stem cell center. Professor Clegg was able to be a resource in many ways by conducting research, helping Allergan Medical to locate a temporary facility on campus to rent that helped the company to expand when their own facilities were being renovated, and together, with Allergan Medical, obtaining matching funding for their research efforts. The program that Prof. Clegg and Allergan Medical used to gain these funds was the UC Discovery Grant program. The UC Discovery program is aimed at building lasting relationships between UC researchers and California industry to enhance the state's economy and to help address critical problems facing California. In order to do this, the program forms a 3-way partnership between the UC, industry sponsors and the state of California. The grant



provides matching funds to help supplement faculty research and allow the industry partner to focus their funds on R&D, as opposed to administrative or overhead costs.

In addition, Allergan Medical found unique imaging capabilities on campus in the laboratory of Dr. Scott Grafton, an expert on MRI applications. UCSB boasts some of the newest and most comprehensively equipped facilities in the country for materials characterization of all types and compound semiconductor device fabrication. In addition, it has pioneering analytical, stem cell, and biological laboratories all of which are available on a fee-for-service basis for use by industry.

To learn more about how your company can work with UC Santa Barbara, contact Leslie Edwards (805-893-3944/edwards@engineering.ucsb.edu) or Chris Russo (805-893-5544/crusso@engineering.ucsb.edu) in the Corporate Affiliates Program office.



Dennis Van Epps feels that Allergan Medical has capitalized on many strategic opportunities by becoming more involved at UCSB. In addition to the research connections that have developed through the collaboration, Allergan Medical has obtained many valuable employees from UC Santa Barbara. UC Santa Barbara has benefitted from the joint research collaborations, which give students real world problems to work on, and by the many lectures that have been provided by Allergan Medical employees. Dr. Van Epps concluded that “Working together with UCSB has been an extremely worthwhile endeavor for Allergan Medical and has provided us with the opportunity to collaborate with globally recognized scientific and engineering experts as well as to identify and hire well trained exceptional student interns and UCSB graduates”