

Testimony of Dr. Corey Acker,  
Assistant Professor UConn Health  
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My name is Corey Acker, and I am an Assistant Professor at UConn Health. Originally from Canada, I joined UConn as a postdoc from Boston University in 2005.

Along with my role as Assistant Professor, which is 50% of fulltime, 50% of my time is spent at a biotech startup company I launched in 2017 with 2 other UConn faculty. The company, called Potentiometric Probes, develops technology for researchers working on a wide range of important diseases and disorders such as Autism, Alzheimer's. I would like to focus my testimony on this technology commercialization aspect, which is fairly unique, although more and more faculty members are starting companies like I did.

Over the past 2 years our company has generated over a half million dollars in federal grant money through what are called SBIR grants for small businesses. We were able to hire a bright master's level student from Southern Connecticut State University full time and are working towards growing our company even further. The State of Connecticut also made much smaller investments, which were critical early on to be able to successfully launch our company. With an actual line of products that we currently sell worldwide, UConn and the state profit due to our product licensing and royalty agreements.

For me and my company, the link between funding of research and commercialization and the generation of revenue and benefits for the state is very apparent. Your support of UConn Health has made it possible for companies like mine to get started, continue to grow and have a positive economic impact in the state. Thank you very much for your consideration of my testimony.