

Wed 11/30/2011 8:43 PM
SBIR/STTR - Proposal to change set-aside amounts for funding

Dear Persons,

The SBIR/STTR program is in danger of losing its pre-eminent status as a supporter and developer for innovative technologies and products for the health, agricultural and energy sectors.

I would strongly urge the committee, the President and Congress to increase the set-asides that are part of the existing budgets to NIH, DOD and other agencies from 2.5% to 3.5% or even 5% of those budgets.

For example, in the case of NIH, the majority of translational activities where research at the bench leads to compounds that are developed in clinical trials and then sold on the market are coming from small companies. While intramural NIH continues to attempt to develop drugs, and so do many academic medical centers, the real drive and ability to develop drugs comes from companies, particularly small business. While the ownership of patents may be great for academic non-profit institutions, those patented discoveries often languish in the institutional portfolio and are largely lost to help patients with diseases.

Research on not-for-profit institutional patented materials, if they are to be developed into drugs that improve the public health, should be increased to accomplish the likelihood that the public health will be improved.

Thanks,

Mike Vitek

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