



BENTLEY
UNIVERSITY

Center for Integration of
Science and Industry



2020 Newsletter

The Center for Integration of Science and Industry proudly presents the first issue of our biannual newsletter. There has been a flurry of activity happening recently, including new additions to the team, recognition awards, and impactful research citations.

The Center brings together the perspectives of natural science, business, analytics, and policy to understand, and advance, the path of translational science and the business models that create public value from the fruits of scientific discovery.

Please visit our website for [more updates](#).

New Member Highlights

The Center for Integration of Science and Industry has welcome 3 new members to its team of analysts.



Kevin Zhang joined the Center as a Research Assistant in June after receiving his MS degree in Business Analytics from Bentley University. His primary responsibility is to provide data analytics support to various projects, which includes data cleaning, visualization, nonlinear curve fitting and database management. His hobbies include watching comedy shows, swimming, and reading.



Dr. Matthew Jackson joined the Center as a Postdoctoral Fellow in December after receiving his PhD in Cellular Medicine from Newcastle University, UK. His current research interests focus on trends in new drug discovery including funding of R&D and societal impact of pharmaceutical activity. He also teaches Introduction to Biology in Bentley's undergraduate program. Outside of work, Matthew enjoys playing basketball, soccer, exercising, getting to know new places, reading non-fiction, and history books (particularly about the Wild West).



Dr. Franklin Bright joined the Center as a Postdoctoral Fellow in December after receiving his PhD in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Iowa. His current research involves studying stock buybacks, the relationship between R&D spending and innovation, and the potential consequences of targeting lower drug prices through singular aspects. He also teaches Introduction to Biology in Bentley's undergraduate program. His outside interests include swimming, angling, biking, and synthesizing new music/sounds when time permits.

The Center sends well wishes to the 6 members who have recently graduated:

[Sunyi Zhang](#) (Dana Farber), [Ryan Mash](#) (Commonwealth Care Alliance), [Dr. Sharotka “Xu” Simon](#) (Enozo), [Chinmoyee Karmakar](#) (pursuing MS degree), [Jeremy Holden](#) (Ortho Clinical Diagnostics), [Dr. Andrew Acevedo](#) (MGH)

[More about the team](#)

Awards and Recognitions

Two of the Center’s members have received recognition for their achievements within the Bentley Community.

Dr. Fred Ledley was awarded the 2019 Mee Family Prize for his exceptional research activities at the intersection of Science and Business.

[Read the full story](#)

Dr. Ekaterina (Kat) Cleary was awarded the 2019 Outstanding Scholarly Contribution for her lead role in the PNAS study examining the contribution of NIH funding to new drug approvals.

[Read the full story](#)

In the News

In March 2018 we published a study on the “[Contribution of NIH funding to new drug approvals 2010–2016](#),” demonstrating that every one of the 210 drugs approved in this time period traces its origin back to basic research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The work, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, continues to have an impact on public health policy. A brief [overview](#) of the work was given by Dr. Cleary at Geneva’s Graduate Institute Webinar series in April 2019.

Although not addressed directly in the study, implications of our findings towards drug pricing were highlighted in the media, policy reports and several Congressional hearings, including “Examining the Actions of Drug Companies in Raising Prescription Drug Prices” in January 2019. In the [video](#), Congressman Ro Khanna (at 7:20:00) and Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (at 7:25:00) reference the work in the context of public sector investment into pharmaceutical innovation.

Following the sentiment echoed in the New York Times article “[Paying Twice](#)”; a push for affordable prices for taxpayer-funded drugs,” two pieces of legislation have been introduced based explicitly on our research. The “[We PAID Act](#)” introduced by Senators Van Hollen (D-MD) and Scott (R-FL) calls for the government to have authority to regulate prices based on the level of NIH support for the underlying science. A [second bill](#) requiring affordable pricing on taxpayer funded drugs was introduced in the House by Representative DeFazio (D-OR) in October 2019.

