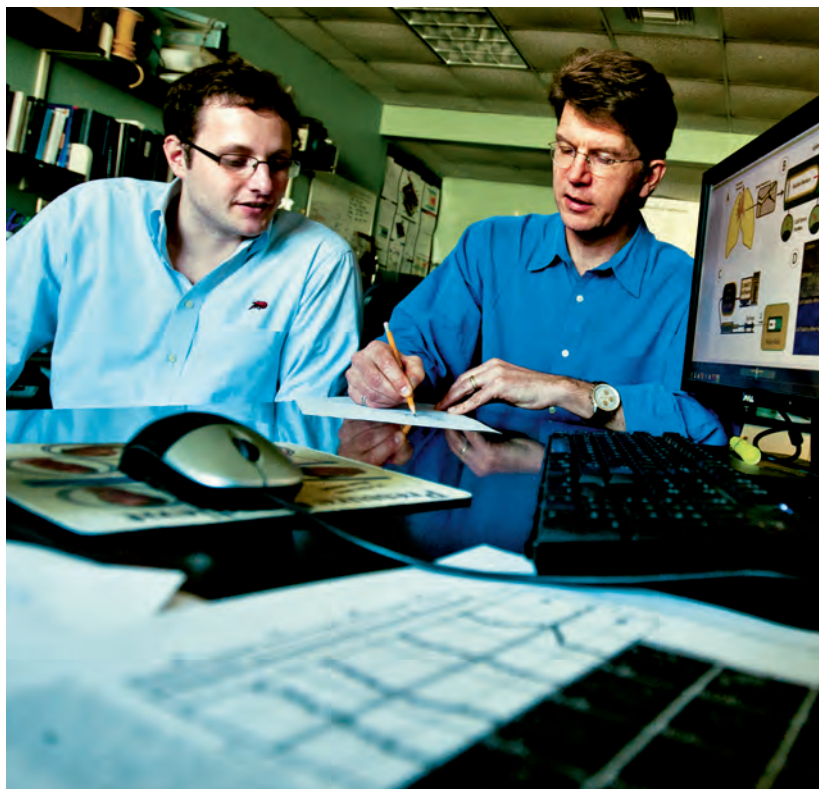


Letter from The Editor



PAULA BURCH-CELENTANO

SCIENCE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The innovative spirit of New Orleans is showing up in new and surprising ways. The city is on the verge of becoming a hub of bioinnovation. Its bioscience is poised to be as inspired as its food, music and architecture.

This optimistic view belongs to, among others, biomedical engineering professor **Donald Gaver** (pictured above, right, with graduate student **Will Glindmeyer**). Gaver's vision is that medically related biological innovations will be discovered, developed, designed and commercialized right here at Tulane and in New Orleans.

"We aren't the top when it comes to technology development. I don't think anybody talks about New Orleans that way yet," says Gaver.

But since Hurricane Katrina, an entrepreneurial ethos has taken hold.

"We have a lot of promise in New Orleans for this," says Gaver.

New advances, technologies, devices, products and procedures—anything that can positively affect human health—are the desired outcome, says Gaver. The goal is help clinicians diagnose and treat disease, improve quality of life and reduce the cost of medical care.

Take, for example, regenerative medicine or tissue engineering. It's an area filled with possibilities in the medical marketplace to aid in procedures such as lung transplants. Also, there's a crying need for breakthroughs in low-cost drug delivery systems.

There's a demand for the invention of more sensitive and accurate biosensors to monitor and gather information about the body.

Gaver sees barriers to progress in that there is often a lack of understanding by scientists about what it takes to get something to the marketplace.

The ideal candidate for the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship, a new PhD program in bioinnovation directed by Gaver and funded by the National Science Foundation, is a top-notch scientist as well as a driven entrepreneur.

"I would very much like to change New Orleans through this," says Gaver. "I want for there to be a better environment for scientists and engineers here."

Right here, at the intersection of science and entrepreneurship. Why not? The climate and timing may be right.

—MARY ANN TRAVIS

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