# Academic Technology Transfer Expense, Income and Efficiency

Ken Polasko IGF Consulting Solve general relativity problem Solve mass-energy problem Solve academic tech-transfer problem

### Outline

Academic Technology Transfer "Business" Model

- Expense
- Income
  - Academic institutions
  - Summary database, AUTM
  - Venture capital

"Efficient" zoneConclusions

### **Business Model**



# Technology Transfer Office Expense

#### Patent Prosecution Cost Model Back testing





## Technology Transfer Office Income

# Historical Venture Capital Returns



### **Power-law Distribution**



# Power-law Distributions are Not Rare

- Early stage venture capital returns
- Name frequency in US
- US city population
- Paper citations
- ➢ Web hits
- Individual net worth
- Books sold
- Telephone calls
- Earthquakes
- Solar flare intensity

### Two Very Different Academic Institutions



#### Two Very Different Academic Institutions



### Institutions Reporting to AUTM



**Royalty Income** 

AUTM FY16

### Institutions Reporting to AUTM



**Royalty Income** 

### Institutions Reporting to AUTM



#### Two Very Different Academic Institutions



100

1000

10

Royalty Income

Royalty Income

## Technology Transfer Office Efficiency

# **Efficient Operating Zone**



Research Expenditures/Invention

# **Efficient Operating Zone**



Royalty

# Conclusions

- Academic technology transfer income tends to be a fat/heavy tailed distributions.
- Similar to venture capital the hits/winners are a significant percentage of the total return.
- AUTM and academic technology transfer data indicate that royalty income is power-law distributed.
- Ideas are cheap; get as many as possible (e.g. invention disclosures), is reasonable; however, inefficiencies of scale (cost) may eliminate or limit return.
- AUTM data indicate an income optimum of \$2-2.5M in research funding per filed invention disclosure.

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