

ACADEMIC ENTREPRENEURS: SCIENTISTS FORGING NEW RELATIONSHIPS WITH FOR-PROFIT COMPANIES AND STARTUPS

Dr. Rhonda Reger

Research Director, Anderson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, University of Tennessee,
Chattanooga, TN, USA
Email: rreger@utk.edu

Presentation Summary (limited to 200 words)

Throughout the world, university scientists are being asked - and sometimes required - to actively commercialize their inventions through entrepreneurial activities. The National Science Foundation and other federal funding agencies are increasingly supporting entrepreneurial activities, which is changing the very definition of what it means to be a university scientist. Other countries, such as the UK and France, have gone even further, with entrepreneurial activities being required for university funding (in the UK) and all STEM doctoral students required to take entrepreneurship courses (in France). In this environment, what can entrepreneurship faculty and centers do to help scientists think and act more entrepreneurially? How can leaders help them continue to achieve their traditional research, teaching and service roles, while also taking on new roles in the modern university?