Laura Wolszon, Ph. D. Lrwolszon@gmail.com

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**: A former neuroscience researcher with expertise in technology transfer and building strategic collaborations between university researchers and corporate partners. Negotiated IP agreements at Columbia and UCSD (6 yrs), managed strategic partnerships for a UCSD’s Calit2 (5 yrs), and oversaw industry- and government-sponsored research programs (5 yrs).

**EDUCATION:** **Postdoctoral Fellowship**, **Developmental Neurobiology** (Columbia Univ.)

 **Ph.D., Biophysics/Neuroscience** (State University of New York)

 **B.S., Chemistry** (University of Minnesota)

**Continuing Education:**  *Corporate Finance* (Columbia School of Business), *Advanced Negotiation Skills* (Licensing Executives Society), *Project Management* (UCSD Extension), *Finance for Non-Financial Managers* (UCSD Rady School), *Copyright Licensing Strategies* (AUTM); *Spanish* (UCSD certificate)

**EXPERIENCE (**non-chronological):

**1) Strategic Planning**

October, 2005 – January, 2010: **Manager, Strategic Partnerships**, [Calit2](https://www.calit2.net/), UCSD

*Highlights:*

* Built new, multi-disciplinary national and international research alliances, liaising among business enterprises, university administrations, and researchers; examples provided on request.
* Created the *Calit2 Innovation Forum*, enabling industry executives to meet with university researchers without compromising IP or violating federal or state tax laws.
* Conducted educational sessions for members of both the research enterprise and the corporate environment, to help each ‘culture’ understand the agendas, needs and limitations of the other.
* Conducted outreach campaigns, organizing strategic research workshops with relevant companies to showcase university technologies and explore potential academic-industry relationships.
* Developed searchable database to catalogue and strategically bundle university technologies; created brochures to highlight ongoing university projects for industry.
* Recruited local venture capitalists to evaluate business interests in university IP.
* Interfaced with NIH, NSF and other non- and for-profit funding agencies on behalf of faculty; co-wrote and/or reviewed institution-wide research agreements before formal submission.
* Member of Calit2 committees: Executive Council; New Strategic Directions in Health; New Research Initiative; Industry Advisory Board; and Search Committee.

**2) Technology Transfer**

April, 2004 - October, 2005: **Senior Licensing Officer**, UCSD Technology Transfer Office (TTO)

May, 2001 - March, 2004: **Licensing Officer,** UCSD TTO

January, 1999 - April, 2001: **Licensing Officer**, Columbia Innovation Enterprise, Columbia University

*Highlights:*

* Developed working knowledge of Intellectual Property law and patenting, legal drafting and analysis, business plan development, technology valuation, equity financing, drug-discovery practices, and federal laws governing relationships between universities and industry.
* Negotiated complex and mutually beneficial relationships among universities, faculty and corporate partners, to build national and international research alliances and facilitate IP agreements.
* Managed a portfolio of 220 inventions held by 65 faculty members, encompassing pharmaceuticals, nanotechnology, biotechnology, software, and research tools. Negotiated licensing, research and collaboration agreements, including several licenses that formed the foundation of 6 UCSD start-ups.
* Educated and advised faculty on matters central to commercializing research, such as business-plan development, strategic technology bundling/acquisition, equity financing, risk management, due diligence and intellectual property protection.
* Frequent panelist in [CONNECT’s Springboard program](https://connect.org/springboard/) and the *La Jolla Research and Innovation Summit*, advising on formation of technology-based start-ups.
* Showcased university technologies at national trade-organization meetings and regional events.

**3) Program Management**

January, 2020 – Present: **Chief Financial Officer**, [Academy of Neuroscience for Architecture](https://anfarch.org/HomePage)

* Provide financial management for this 501(c)(3) organization.

April, 2018 – March 2023: **Scientific Associate**, [Sanford Burnham Prebys](https://www.sbpdiscovery.org/), San Diego (P/T)

*Highlights:*

* Managed relationships for five industry-funded research programs and three with the NIH and DoD.
* Edited grant proposals and manuscripts for publication. Co-edited Springer volume: *Methods in Molecular Biology,* for human Alzheimer’s research.

January, 2010 – May, 2011: **Assistant** **Director**, [CYCORE](http://cycore.ucsd.edu/index.php), Center for Wireless Health, Calit2 (UCSD)

*Highlights:*Provided strategic and managerial leadership, fiscal and personnel oversight and long-range planning for the CYCORE team (*Cyberinfrastructure for Comparative Effectiveness Research*). CYCORE was a 2-year, $4 million [*Grand Opportunity*](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CLaura%5CDesktop%5CPersonal%5CHR%5CResumes%20et%20al%5CDirector%20Industry%20Alliance%20description.docx) grant awarded to Calit2, UCSD Supercomputing Center, the MD Anderson Cancer Center and the University of Alabama.

**4) Research and Teaching – Expertise: Neuroscience and Biophysics**

Oct. 2017 – Dec. 2019: **Adjunct Faculty,** [NewSchool for Architecture and Design](https://newschoolarch.edu/), San Diego

*Highlights:* Developed and taught an introductory course in *Neuroscience for Architecture* for graduate students in the Architecture and Design programs.

1992 - 1998: **Assistant** and **Associate Research Scientist**, Columbia University

1989 - 1992: **NRSA Postdoctoral Fellow**,Columbia University

1991 – 1996: **Instructor,** [Marine Biological Laboratory](http://www.mbl.edu/): *Neural Systems & Behavior* (Woods Hole, MA)

1990: **Grass Research Fellow**, Marine Biological Laboratory

*Highlights:*

* Published 11 full-length, peer-reviewed research papers and 1 book chapter, 7 as first author, and co-authored many successful grant proposals.
* Trained 100 postdocs and graduate students in neurophysiology at an internationally renowned marine science institute.
* Managed core imaging facility.