



Message from the Team*

AI is overwhelming our subway adverts, browser suggestions, and investment news. For those of us not creating the next AI-driven app, we may be sharing a similar feeling: **When does hard tech get its share of the spotlight (\$\$\$)?** Will another software bubble bursting lead investors further away?

In NYS at least, government is showing its resolve against Fed uncertainty in long game plays, like Green Economy. Recently, the importance of **Data-driven AI innovation** in Material Science has been in the news with opening of the \$45M Materials Innovation Hub (Gotham Foundry), and RadicalAI headquarters. The changing landscape requires that universities adapt - successful models already exist - where increased industry collaboration not only fills research funding gaps, but builds pathways for student jobs. The reality is that universities don't get one without the other.

- **Tavis Ezell, Managing Director** (*100% written by a real human)

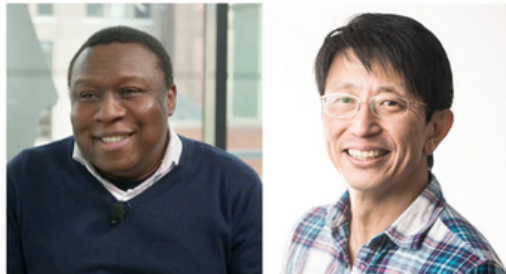


Launch event of Gotham Foundry - a NYCEDC-funded hub led by CUNY ASRC, Columbia, FIT, and Genspace



Academic-Industry Model. Left to right: Tavis Ezell, Ian Johnston (MIT The Engine), and Yuki Chen

Company Highlights



Dr. Chidiebere Awah (UTR) and Dr. Hiroshi Matsui (Hunter College)

Founded in 2021 by Dr. Chidiebere Awah (then CUNY Postdoctoral Fellow), UTR Therapeutics has grown from a bold scientific vision into a biotechnology company now standing on the precipice of its first clinical trial. By combining Dr. Awah's invention of the 3'UTR mRNA engineering platform technology and expertise in cancer biology with Dr. Hiroshi Matsui's (Professor of Chemistry, CUNY Hunter College) invention of iron oxide nanocage, UTR Therapeutics Inc has developed a first-in-class RNA Overwriting platform targeting cMYC-driven cancers and other diseases long considered undruggable.

This work was advanced through matching-fund support from the CAT, which facilitated the collaboration with Hunter College and enabled access to the ASRC Vivarium. These resources supported critical in vivo mouse studies and the generation of preclinical data needed for publication and IND submission to the US FDA.

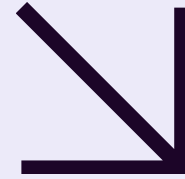
NEWS UTRx Therapeutics Announces IND Submission for C-MYC mRNA Drug



Dr. Awah in a fireside chat at LifeSci NYC event on the next generation of Biotech talent

Workforce development has been woven into UTR's DNA from day one. Through the LifeSci NYC Internship Program, seven CUNY graduates, Queenie Chen, Petvy Li, Jigme Dorji, Maxie Safdie, Tanjina Sania, Fizza Aijaz, and Alex Yumiseba, have played an essential role in advancing discoveries from the Awah and Matsui labs, helping translate breakthrough science from concept to clinical readiness.

UTR Therapeutics is proof that transformative medicine can start in a university lab, and **it all started here at CUNY.**



Announcements

CAT x BIOTECH XYZ

Thursday, April 9
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

What Drives Biotech Investments in 2026?

This panel brings together operators and investors to unpack what it takes to build, fund, and scale a successful biotech company in 2026.

BIOTECHXYZ ASRC CAT
CONNECTING INDUSTRY TO CUNY

What Drives Biotech Investment in 2026?

	Lottery + Light Refreshments

Date: Thursday, April 9, 6:00- 8:00PM
Location: CUNY Advanced Science Research Center
Address: 85 St Nicholas Terrace, New York, NY 10031

RSVP

5 Years of the CAT!

Wednesday, April 22
1:00 PM - 7:00 PM

We're celebrating 5 years of our CAT program!

Join us for our 5th Annual Industry Showcase Event. Speakers and agenda will be announced soon!

ASRC CAT
CONNECTING INDUSTRY TO CUNY

04/22/26
1-5PM

5TH ANNUAL INDUSTRY SHOWCASE

SUPPORTED BY: Empire State Development

Upcoming Opportunities

Check out our Linktree for highlighted opportunities.

Have one to share or interested in collaborating? Email us at asrccat@gc.cuny.edu!

ABOUT US

The CUNY-ASRC Center for Advanced Technology (CAT) provides matching funds for collaborative research partnerships between New York State companies and the City University of New York (CUNY). The program supports workforce and early-stage technology development on the pathway from the lab to the marketplace.