



The Kauffman Foundation, Advancing Innovation, and the iBridgeSM Network *Finding the Missing Link Just Got Easier*

As the only foundation in the United States to focus on entrepreneurship as its major field of interest, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation works to catalyze an entrepreneurial society in which new, high-impact ventures, job creation, and the economy flourish. With this emphasis, the Foundation continually looks at the natural cycle of innovation to see where and how it can work to make the greatest difference. These observations brought Kauffman to study the process of more efficiently moving discoveries out of university laboratories.

It is well known that university-based research is responsible for some of the country's most profound discoveries, spurring breakthrough products and technologies that have markedly improved the way we live. A key to our nation's long-term success and our ability to remain competitive in the global economy is ensuring that *all* of universities' promising research makes it into practical use.

One of the ways the Kauffman Foundation is working to advance innovation in this country is through its Kauffman Innovation Network initiative, which is focused primarily on the iBridgeSM Network. Through a Web-based application and related services, the iBridge Network provides the research community an additional channel through which to disseminate discoveries, research methods, and findings and provides users access to research that may have otherwise been lost to them. By increasing awareness of existing research across the country and facilitating exchanges among those who are conducting and/or using the research, the Network aims to expand the number and scope of collaborative relationships. Studies indicate that such relationships are a critical component in advancing new discoveries and may likely lead to even more ideas and inventions, in turn generating greater innovation potential and collectively fueling more entrepreneurial ventures around the country.

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The iBridgeSM Network is a program of the Kauffman Innovation Network, Inc., an initiative of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation of Kansas City. To learn more, visit www.iBridgeNetwork.org, e-mail us at info@iBridgeNetwork.org, or call 800-573-5136.

More information about the Kauffman Foundation is available at www.kauffman.org.