



*Creating Communities of
Innovation*

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PARKS

For Immediate Release

**University of Maryland's Discovery District to
Host 2018 AURP International Conference**

Tucson, AZ, Nov. 8, 2017 – The Association of University Research Parks (AURP) announces the University of Maryland's Discovery District as the host for the AURP annual International Conference, to be held in College Park, Md., October 22- 26, 2018.

"The University of Maryland is very proud to act as the host for AURP's 2018 International Conference," said Brian Darmody, Associate Vice President for Corporate and Foundation Relations, University of Maryland, and past AURP President. "The Baltimore-Washington area is a thriving technology corridor, and the University of Maryland Discovery District is a perfect venue to demonstrate the value of research parks as the true intersections of science and innovation."

The University of Maryland's Discovery District has been widely recognized for its leadership in research. In 2015, prior to its name change, the University of Maryland Research Park was recognized as AURP's Research Park of the Year. The park was also recognized by the Association of Public Land-grant Universities (APLU) with the 2015 'Connections' Award—the top award given to a public university demonstrating economic connections to its host community.

"There's no better place than Maryland to hold the 2018 AURP International Conference," said Maryland Commerce Secretary Mike Gill. "Our network of university research parks – coupled with nearly 75 federal labs – make Maryland a center of science, technology and innovation. In short, our state is the perfect location to explore unparalleled research facilities, expand partnerships at home and abroad, and enjoy all that Maryland has to offer."

Located only eight miles from the heart of Washington, District of Columbia, including the U.S. Capitol and White House, the Discovery District is in a unique position to be an example of innovation and research in the "backyard" of the federal government, as well as the nation's leading regulatory, medical and scientific institutions. Over the coming years, the University of Maryland has over \$1 Billion in planned construction projects in and around the campus, which will include numerous work and living mixed-use spaces—bringing home the concept of collaboration. This collaborative approach will also drive interaction between the research park and the surrounding community to help drive economic development and growth.

"Each year our selection committee works hard to find the best locations to showcase our host parks and the incredible innovations happening across the world at university research parks," said AURP CEO Carol Stewart. "In 2018, the University of Maryland and its Discovery District will provide ample opportunities for some of the most innovative minds in the world to experience a stellar research park and its community."



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About AURP

The Association of University Research Parks is a professional association of university related research and science parks. AURP's mission is to foster innovation, commercialization and economic growth through university, industry and government partnerships. For more information, visit AURP's Web site at www.aurp.net.

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