



Creating Communities of  
**Innovation**

**ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PARKS**

**For Immediate Release**

**Association of University Research Parks Invites Southeast Regional Leaders to Experience Its 2017 International Conference Hosted by Cummings Research Park in Huntsville**

*Business, University and Research Park Leaders Can Benefit from Conference Focused on Creating Unique Communities of Innovation*

**Tucson, AZ, September 28, 2017** – The Association of University Research Parks (AURP) welcomes business, university and research park leaders to attend its 2017 International Conference (IC2017) in Huntsville, Alabama. Under the theme of “Launching Cities. Catalyzing Legacies,” this year’s conference takes place October 9 to 12. Cummings Research Park (CRP), the conference host, is one of the largest and longest standing research parks in the world and is best known for its early and on-going impact on the aerospace, defense and technology industries.

“Despite its history as a research park, CRP has long been a catalyst for change and growth having played a pivotal role in the development of the U.S. aerospace and defense industries and related high-tech enterprises,” said AURP President Mason Ailstock. “It truly embodies AURP’s conference theme for this year, and we are excited to invite its neighbors to attend IC2017. The Southeast is truly a ‘hot bed’ for innovation.”

Institutions across the region with a similar vision and focus on innovation are encouraged to attend AURP IC2017. Among these organizations are:

- Alabama Launchpad
- Birmingham’s Innovation Depot
- Southern Research
- Innovation PortAL
- Chattanooga’s Innovation District
- Enterprise Center
- U.S. Department of Energy’s Oak Ridge National Laboratory
- National Nuclear Security Administration’s Y-12 National Security Complex
- University of Tennessee’s (UT) Cherokee Farm Innovation and Research Campus
- UT’s Anderson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- Vanderbilt University’s innovation center, “The Wond’ry”
- Nashville Healthcare Council
- Tennessee State University’s Cumberland Campus (new research park is being planned)
- Launch Tennessee, a public-private partnership that fosters entrepreneurship
- Life Sciences of Tennessee
- NOAA’s National Center for Environmental Information Headquarters
- Mission Health Center of Innovation
- Venture Asheville
- The Collider
- Tennessee Valley Corridor

In addition to the rich content from thought leaders from across the globe, AURP IC2017 will feature unique networking opportunities and tours. James (Jim) R. Hudson, Co-Chairman, HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology headlines the conference. Mr. Hudson co-founded the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology, a nonprofit research institute that opened its doors in Huntsville in 2008. More than 30 biotech companies share space at HudsonAlpha, working in close proximity with researchers to help bridge the gap from the laboratory to life science applications. Mr. Hudson has advised and helped foster many successful companies that focus on benefiting society, from those involved in internet services to genetics research. A tour of HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology will conclude the conference on October 12.

“We encourage all our neighboring innovation leaders and company representatives to join us in Huntsville,” said Cummings Research Park Director Erin Koshut. “For many organizations in the region, Huntsville is a short drive away. We’ve worked collaboratively with AURP to ensure this one-of-a-kind event will inspire and propel organizations and their leaders to new levels.”

AURP is offering CRP’s neighboring organizations a **special AURP membership conference rate**. A full run-down of AURP 2017 International Conference activities – including programming, speakers, networking events and tours – can be found at: <http://international.aurp.net/>. For more information, contact Vickie Palmer at (520) 529-2524. To register for AURP’s International Conference, click [here](#).

***About the Association of University Research Parks (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](http://www.aurp.net).*

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