

1985 TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF INNOVATION

CONNECT is founded by: Irwin Jacobs, Bob Weaver, Richard Atkinson, Lea Rudee, Mary Walshok, Buzz Woolley, David Hale and Dan Pegg.



Mary Walshok hires Bill Otterson as CONNECT's first Entrepreneur-in-Residence.

Barbara Bry joins as Associate Director the following week.

Meet the Researchers and Meet the Entrepreneur programs are launched.

The San Diego Venture Group (SDVG) is founded by Ray McKewon, Ronald Meadows, Terry Schmidt, John Sherman, Michael Stolper, Sanjay Subhedar, Duwayne Townsen and Bob Weaver.

1986



1988

CONNECT publishes our first membership directory.



The San Diego Technology Financial Forum is launched in partnership by CONNECT, the EDC, Gray Cary, Knobbe and Bank of America.

Under the leadership of Cub Parker, CONNECT launches the Most Innovative New Product Awards.



Founding and sustaining sponsors and companies that continue to support CONNECT today:

Arthur Young & Co.
(now Ernst & Young)

Avalon Ventures

Bank of America

Deloitte, Haskins & Sells

Domain Associates

Enterprise Partners

Ernst & Whinney
(now Ernst & Young)

Gen-Probe, Inc.

Gray, Cary, Ames & Frye (now DLA Piper)

Kleiner, Perkins, Caulfield & Byers

Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear

Latham & Watkins

Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps

Price Waterhouse

Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch

Qualcomm Inc.

San Diego Economic Development
Corporation

Science Applications International
Corporation

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton

1989

Bry launches Athena.



Abigail Barrow is hired as Project Coordinator and her role evolves into Director of Programs.



The Biotechnology/
Biomedical Corporate
Partnership Forum is
launched.

Carole Ekstrom joins
as Director of Sponsor
and Member Services.

1990

1991

Mentus and Guy Iannuzzi produce the CONNECT directory pro bono until 1997.

BIOCOM founded by Jim McGraw and David Hale.



1993



The Springboard program is launched and each month an entrepreneur receives feedback from a panel of CONNECT sponsors.



 **BIOCOM**

CONNECT launches the Defense Conversion Program with the help of the EDC, City College and the San Diego Consortium and Private Industry Council (now San Diego Workforce Partnership) to help transition displaced defense innovators into commercial industries.

Otterson starts The Bill Otterson Letter.

The San Diego Software Industry Council is founded by Nikki Krutop, Art Budman, John Neal, Paul Stannard and Jim DeLapa. Bill Otterson and Dan Pegg provided guidance instrumental to the organization's early success.



1992

1994

CONNECT is an early adopter of the Internet with the launch of CONNECTNET, an online database of investors and technology resources.

To impact FDA reform legislation, CONNECT completes a study with Price Waterhouse to explore ways to streamline the drug approval process and presents findings to the House Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation.



To meet federal clean air requirements by the 1999 deadline without negatively impacting employers CONNECT creates the Transport Demand Management Program.

Crossborder CONNECT is launched to foster cross border regional economic development and help pass NAFTA.

The California Environmental Technology Center is launched to accelerate environmental technology development and commercialization.

Bry launches monthly CONNECT TV Show.

The San Diego Software Industry Council is founded by Nikki Krutop, Art Budman, John Neal, Paul Stannard and Jim DeLapa.



1995

1996

Bill Otterson wins the national E & Y Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

CFO CONNECT is launched.

The Band of Angels and Tech Coast Angels merge and CONNECT takes on program administration.



GEORGE GILDREN, BOB CONN AND IRWIN JACOBS
AT THE FIRST EVOLVING MARKETS CONFERENCE



CONNECT InVest is founded to create a database of angel investors and source investments in local VC funds.

SDVG and CONNECT partner to hold the annual Technology Convergence Conference.

CONNECT holds the AG BIO Conference.

John Otterson conceives of Evolving Markets in Telecommunications and George Gildren is the first keynote.

CONNECT Entrepreneurs' Roundtable is launched.

1997

1998

Jim Pope pulls team together to launch San Diego Telecom Council (SDTC, now CommNexus) including Vicki Marion, Martha Dennis, Lance Bridges, John Otterson, Jim Skeen, Mike Krenn, Marco Thompson, Joe Markee, Franz Birkner, Mark Dankberg, Jeff Jacobs, Lindsey Burroughs, Bill Stensrud, Tom Dillon, Dave Overskei, David Lyon and Bill Otterson.



VICKI MARION IS 1ST CHAIR OF SDTC AND WINS MIP IN 1997



BILL AND TED WAITT

Ekstrom and Camille Sobrian publish the special Millenium 2000 Directory with major support from Gateway.

Bill passes away after a 20 year battle with cancer.



1999

2000

For the next year Abi Barrow and Carole Ekstrom shepherd CONNECT's programs with support from Extension COO, Berit Durler.

Harvard Professor Michael Porter studies San Diego for the U.S. Council on Competitiveness study on "Clusters of Innovation" and credits San Diego for dramatically outpacing the nation in job creation, productivity and exports and VC funding.



The University seeks a replacement for Bill and hires Fred Cutler. CONNECT builds more alliances with tech transfer offices on campus and across the Mesa.

A series of dinner meetings is launched – Nicholas Negroponte, co-founder and director of the MIT Media Laboratory is early speaker.

CONNECT experiments with different business, leadership and governance models.

2001

2002

Distinguished Contributors Award given to Tyler Orion in 2002.



TEMECULA CONNECT HEAD RON BRADLEY AND CAMILLE SOBRIAN



Distinguished Contributors Award given to Marco Thompson in 2003.

Global CONNECT is formed due to growing interest in other regions and countries in the CONNECT model and the formation of Cross Border CONNECT, CONNECT Sweden, Scotland, Temecula and Sacramento.

The CONNECT board decides to return to a collaborative, community-based approach.

Walshok forms a search committee to find a new director led by David Hale and comprised of Malin Burnham, Duane Roth, Marco Thompson, Abby Silverman, Martha Dennis and Paul Kreutz.

2003

2004

Distinguished Contributors Award given to Jim Berglund.

Greg Horowitz moves from CONNECT to UC San Diego Extension, to formalize Global CONNECT with Walshok.

CONNECT refocuses on its regional agenda, rebuilding membership support and its volunteer base.



2005

By acclamation the search committee invites Duane Roth to become the next Director of CONNECT.

Hecht-Nielsen Neurocomputer Corporation is honored with the William W. Otterson Award.

CONNECT spins out from the University to better serve San Diego's entire research community.

The Regional Technology Alliance merges with CONNECT and Tyler Orion becomes CONNECT COO.



Bill Carpenter, Marco Thompson and Camille Sobrian rebuild Springboard.

Rob McCray, Don Jones and Camille Sobrian co-found the Wireless Life Sciences Alliance (WLSA) with the help of CONNECT and BIOCOM.

Malin Burnham launches the Entrepreneur Hall of Fame Awards and Irwin Jacobs is the first inductee.

Distinguished Contributors Award given to Bill Carpenter.

CONNECT takes on program administration of MIT Enterprise Forum San Diego.

Bethany Kraynack joins CONNECT Team and her role evolves into leadership of CONNECT's Education Programs.



Wireless-Life Sciences
Alliance

MIT ENTERPRISE FORUM
SAN DIEGO

When the new CONNECT board is formed, Barbara Bry, Malin Burnham, Jerry Caulder, Ray Dittamore, Cub Parker, Peter Preuss and Abby Silverman Weiss are named Honorary Lifetime Members along with CONNECT's founders.



CONNECT's Financial Forum and RTA's venture programs are revamped into Venture Roundtable.

Hall of Fame inducts Walter Zable and Ivor Royston.

Hybritech Incorporated is honored with the William W. Otterson Award.

Distinguished Contributors Award given to David Hale for Life Science; Peter Preuss for Technology.

CONNECT EIR Ruprecht von Buttlar comes on board to manage the Springboard program.

2006

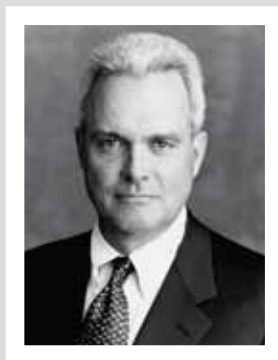
2007

Camille Sobrian joins CONNECT as COO.

CONNECT takes on program management of CEO Strategy Forum founded by Michael Lurie and WLSA.

Karen Winston is hired to take on program management of WLSA and MIT Enterprise Forum San Diego.

Tyler Orion launches the CONNECT Innovation Report and is named an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Board of CONNECT.



The board of CONNECT approves creation of CleanTECH San Diego at the recommendation of Roth, and he launches the organization along with Jim Waring and Tony Haymet.

Hall of Fame inducts William Rastetter.

Cymer is honored with the William W. Otterson Award.

Distinguished Contributors Award given to Ted Roth for Life Science; Mary Walshok for Technology.



2008

At the recommendation of the CONNECT board, Deal Network is launched.

Taylor Peterson comes on board to head CONNECT's Innovation Programs.



Reo Carr leads launch of CONNECT Homeland Security initiative with the support of Linden Blue, Ken Slaght, Jim Zortman, Rick Ludwig, Steve Koepenick, Mike Elconin, Eli Mansour, Susan Snow and Gene Ray.

Hall of Fame inducts Robert Beyster.

Pyxis MedStation is honored with the William W. Otterson Award.

Distinguished Contributors Award given to Joe Panetta for Life Science; Neil Senturia and Barbara Bry for Technology.



2009

Under the leadership of Dan Goldin, CONNECT holds the La Jolla Conference on Innovation Support for National Security to explore autonomous robotic and cyber security solutions to 21st century threats.

The board of CONNECT approves creation of San Diego Sport Innovators at the recommendation of Marco Thompson.



SDSI CO-CHAIRS LUDO BOINNARD AND MARCO THOMPSON



CATHERINE MACKEY



CONNECT-Assist is created to help attract and retain research talent.

La Jolla Research & Innovation Summit is launched in partnership with SDVG, CommNexus, BIOCOM, CleanTECH San Diego and SDSIC.

Technology Transfer Roundtable begins work on Seed Fund to finance provisional patents and prototyping.

Tyler Orion, Mike Krupp, former CONNECT COO June Cocheles and Greg Horowitz help create The La Jolla Conference on Accessing Federal Funding.

General Atomics is honored with the William W. Otterson Award.

Distinguished Contributors Award given to Catherine Mackey for Life Science; for Todd Gutschow for Technology.

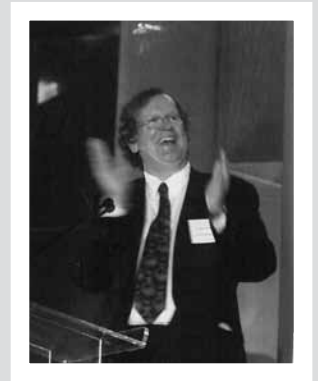
Hall of Fame inducts Neal and Linden Blue.

2010

CONNECT opens DC office and hires Timothy Tardibono as DC Policy Director.

The Biogen Idec Young Innovators Program is created by CONNECT to inspire middle and high school students to pursue life sciences careers.

USD and CONNECT launch the Technology Entrepreneurship Law Clinic.



NBA Legend Bill Walton becomes Executive Chairman of CONNECT SD Sport Innovators.

The Professional Services Provider Initiative is launched with Symposium and online Resource Guide.

CONNECT/Calit2 grants portal and revamped Financial Forum are launched to increase access to capital.

SPAWAR and CONNECT partner to hold Wireless Health and EMR Conference track at AFCEA West.

Weekly eNews and Policy News are launched.

Roth co-authors Kauffman Paper on new model for drug discovery and development.

Hall of Fame inducts Peter Preuss.



CONNECT celebrates its 25th anniversary.