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ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PARKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

University of Utah Research Park to Host AURP 2020 International Conference

AURP's International Conference to spotlight the University of Utah Research Park's technology commercialization and high-growth entrepreneurial prowess

Tucson, Arizona, September 16, 2019 – The Association of University Research Parks (AURP), a global nonprofit membership organization serving the university and institutional research parks community, announced today the University of Utah Research Park will host AURP's 2020 International Conference, November, 2020, in Salt Lake City, UT.

AURP's International Conference annually brings together more than 200 research park and innovation district leaders from around the world for high-impact knowledge exchange and networking with the industry's premier experts and leaders.

The University of Utah and the state of Utah continue to stand as leaders in the US and globally in driving research-based innovation and high-growth entrepreneurship. In 2017, the Milken Institute's *Best Universities for Technology Transfer* report ranked the University of Utah as the number one research university in the US for commercializing technology.

In addition, the Milken Institute's *2018 State Technology and Science Index* ranked the state of Utah fifth in the US for its "capabilities and broader commercialization ecosystems that contribute to firm expansion, high-skills job creation, and broad economic growth."

"It is great to see Salt Lake City and the University of Utah selected to host the 2020 AURP International Conference," says Andrew Weyrich, PhD, Vice President for Research and Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Utah. "We are honored to be recognized for the innovation and growth being fostered here and we look forward to engaging, learning and sharing knowledge with our colleagues from around the globe at this exciting event."

AURP's Annual International Conference is hosted by a university or institution-based research park, giving conference attendees dynamic opportunities to learn about and see first-hand how other research parks operate and chart their growth paths. AURP's 2019 International Conference takes place this November 4-7, 2019 at Georgia Tech's Tech Square research park in Atlanta, GA.



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“All of us at AURP are excited to collaborate and partner with the team at the University of Utah Research Park in hosting our 2020 conference,” says Brian Darmody, CEO of AURP. “Utah and the University of Utah together are true research and entrepreneurial powerhouses. We know the energy Salt Lake brings to tech events such as Silicon Slopes and can’t wait to bring our international membership and community to Salt Lake City to meet and network with the extraordinary people at the University of Utah Research Park.”

“I’m delighted AURP and the University of Utah Research Park are teaming up to hold our 2020 International Conference,” said Dan Duncan, AURP President, and Executive Director of Nebraska Innovation Campus. “Western states like Utah and Nebraska are building and growing university research parks because they bring important research and economic development benefits to our regions, the US and globally. I look forward to being a part of seeing the University of Utah Research Park first-hand and celebrating its achievements at our 2020 International Conference.”

The AURP International Conference host committee is chaired by the University of Utah’s Jonathon Bates, Executive Director for Real Estate Administration at the University of Utah Research Park. Additional representatives will be added from the Salt Lake technology community, AURP Board of Directors and membership to support the initiatives and planning of the conference. Registration for the conference will open in June of 2020.

About AURP:

AURP, a not-for-profit international organization with offices in the Washington, DC area at the University of Maryland Discovery District and in Tucson, AZ at the University of Arizona Tech Park, focuses on creating communities of innovation and education for research parks both operating and planned, plus innovation districts, incubators, accelerators and the businesses that support the research park industry. AURP and its global membership promote research, institute-industry relations and innovation districts to foster innovation and to facilitate the transfer of technology from such institutions to the private sector. Learn more: www.aurp.net

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