

**Richard J. Brenner, Ph.D. --- Director, ATIP Foundation (Agricultural Technology Innovation Partnership)**



Dr. Rick Brenner joined the ATIP Foundation (Agricultural Technology Innovation Partnership) in January 2013 as Director, coordinating the activities of the nine members representing research and economic development organizations across the U.S. The ATIP Foundation currently has corporate offices in Arlington, TX, and Board of Director members in 6 additional states.

In 2012, Dr. Brenner retired from 30 years of service with USDA ARS (Agricultural Research Service), serving most recently as the Assistant Administrator in ARS for Technology Transfer (2004 – 2012), representing the Secretary of Agriculture on issues pertaining to management of intellectual property arising from USDA research, and with delegated authority for licensing inventions developed through intramural research from any of the USDA agencies. He was the Agency Representative to the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer for USDA, the Interagency Working Group for Technology Transfer convened by the Department of Commerce, and also represented USDA on the White House (WH) Innovation and Entrepreneurship working group, the WH Startup America task force, and the WH Task Force for Advancing Regional Innovation Clusters, established by the Obama Administration. In May / June 2011, Dr. Brenner served a detail with Ms. Ginger Lew of the WH National Economic Council / OSTP to assist in developing policy proposals that resulted in the release of the Presidential Memorandum “Accelerating Technology Transfer and Commercialization of Federal Research in Support of High-Growth Businesses” on October 28, 2011.

Prior to this position, Dr. Brenner served as the Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Technology Transfer (OTT), USDA-ARS, from August 2001, where he managed much of the daily operations on CRADAs, patents, and licensing. Previous positions in ARS include a 2-year research assignment in Chiapas, Mexico (1982-1984), serving as a Research Entomologist (1982-1996) and as a Research Leader in Gainesville, Florida (1996-2001). Career awards include Outstanding Senior Scientist, USDA Award for Superior Service, ARS Technology Transfer Awards, an Federal Laboratories Consortium (FLC) Excellence in Technology Transfer Award, and the “Pollution Prevention Project of the Year,” award in 1999 under the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program, jointly awarded by the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, and the EPA. In 2008, he received a Senior Executive Service, Presidential Meritorious Service Award for his career accomplishments and the 2010 FLC Outstanding Technology Transfer Professional of the Year award largely in recognition of his leadership in establishing the Agricultural Technology Innovation Partnership (ATIP) program with well-positioned regional economic development organizations strategically distributed across the U.S. Dr. Brenner holds degrees from the University of Illinois (B.S. 1975; M.S. 1976) and Cornell University (Ph.D. 1980). He served 18 months as a post-doctoral associate at the University of California, Riverside (1980-1982).

In his function as the Director of the ATIP Foundation, Dr. Brenner has led the development and implementation of two public-private partnerships requested by the USDA: Resilient Economic Agricultural Practices (REAP), and the Branded Food Products Database for Public Health. The latter augments USDA’s National Nutrient Database with thousands of specific products on the grocery shelves; this PPP was successfully completed and announced via press release in November 2015.

Also in late 2015, the USDA and Department of Energy, under the auspices of the Biomass Research and Development Board (BR&DB) requested the ATIP Foundation to orchestrate and co-host a series of regional Bioeconomy Forums titled “Addressing the Challenges & Opportunities of Advancing the Billion Ton Bioeconomy” with the goal of advancing the bioeconomy in the U.S. Forums (attendees by invitation

only) were convened in the Southeast with the Georgia Institute of Technology as co-host (September 16, Renewable Bioproducts Institute, Atlanta, GA), in the Southwest with the Mineral Wells Chamber of Commerce, 5 Mineral Wells, TX, (September 29, Holiday Hills Country Club, Mineral Wells, TX), in the Pacific Northwest with Washington State University (October 3, Sea-Tac Conference center, Sea-Tac airport), in the Northeast with The University of Maine, (October 18, Orono), and in the Midwest with The Ohio State University (November 15, Schisler Conference Center, Wooster, OH). Five regional reports were generated from these forums along with a final report synthesizing the 5 regions; these were provided to the BR&DB in December 2016, and are available for download from the ATIP Foundation website ([www.atipfoundation.org](http://www.atipfoundation.org) ).

In 2017, the ATIP Foundation orchestrated three regional forums to seek stakeholder input on the challenges and opportunities for adoption and commercialization of research results on converting oilseeds to hydrotreated renewable jet fuel. The underlying purpose was to determine a path forward that would support broad scale development of a sustainable alternative fuel industry; the ultimate goal being to promote rural economic development resulting in job opportunities along the supply chain from crop to jet fuel.

Forums were convened in Richland, WA, (June 6; co-host Washington State University), Fargo, ND, (June 13; ND Department of Commerce and North Dakota State University), and Wichita, KS, (July 11; Wichita State University and Kansas State University). The goal of each regional forum was to assemble a mix of stakeholders (about 40-60 participants) from various community sectors to seek their input on the challenges and opportunities for adoption and commercialization of research results on sustainable alternative jet fuel (SAJF), from HEFA-SPK processing, or other processes currently finalizing development. Forum attendees were by invitation-only, issued by co-hosts, to key regional thought leaders from sectors of: (1) local, state and federal elected and appointed officials; (2) economic and workforce development; (3) academia; (4) investment and finance; (5) agricultural and environmental organizations, and (6) industry, representing the entire supply chain from growers to end users. Representation from all these sectors is critical in shaping the growth of this industry. A final report on the 3 forums was issued to USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA NIFA), and is available for download from the ATIP Foundation website ([www.atipfoundation.org](http://www.atipfoundation.org) ).

In 2018, as a follow up to the 2016 bioeconomy forums, the ATIP Foundation embarked on a 1-year project to engage thought leaders in a 16-county area of North Texas to evaluate the merits of developing and implementing a “biochar initiative” to benefit entrepreneurs, consumers and farmers (both crop production, and animal feed operations) with reduction of agricultural / animal wastes through a process that creates consumer products to fertilize soil and improve water quality by remediation of waste water (farm, municipal). Ongoing project documents are available for download from the ATIP Foundation website ([www.atipfoundation.org](http://www.atipfoundation.org) ).

Subsequently, based on these outcomes, the ATIP Foundation received four grants in 2019 from USDA Rural Development in TX (Renewable Energy for America Program, Renewable Energy Development Assistance) and three grants on “Advancing the Bioeconomy” from USDA (Rural Business Development Opportunity Grant) in TX (4 counties in North Central TX), the San Joaquin Valley of California (8 counties) , and Northwest Ohio (9 counties).

He and his wife Joann of 41 years now live in Fernandina Beach, FL near Amelia Island northeast of Jacksonville.