

## Paula Bates, PhD

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**Professor of Medicine | University of Louisville**  
**Co-Director | KYNETIC (an NIH REACH hub)**  
**Fellow | National Academy of Inventors**

Paula J. Bates is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Louisville and the James Graham Brown Cancer Center. She also co-directs the Kentucky Network for innovation & Commercialization (KYNETIC), which is a statewide program that helps academic researchers turn their health-related discoveries or ideas into real-world products. KYNETIC provides research grants, entrepreneurial education, mentoring, and access to a network of relevant expertise; these opportunities are open to all faculty, staff, and students at Kentucky's public universities and community colleges. Bates was involved in the discovery and bench-to-bedside translation of AS1411, an aptamer (a synthetic DNA) that binds specifically to a cancer-associated protein called nucleolin. She co-founded a Louisville-based biotechnology company named Aptamera to develop AS1411, which culminated in it becoming the first anticancer aptamer to enter human clinical trials. Bates is a co-inventor on 14 issued US patents and more than 30 foreign patents. She was elected as Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors in 2016.