

UI Research Foundation

CATALYZING DISCOVERY AND INNOVATION

What is the UIRF?

The University of Iowa Research Foundation (UIRF) assists University of Iowa faculty researchers in the transfer of technology from the lab to the global marketplace. The UIRF team works to ensure that the world-class research created by our faculty and staff brings about a world-class impact. The office manages a wide variety of intellectual properties arising from research programs throughout the University of Iowa and is the resource for faculty and staff researchers in the areas of patent prosecution, outgoing material transfer agreements, marketing, and licensing.

What is technology transfer?

Technology transfer is the process of moving research from the laboratory into public use. Success often requires investing time and money into patent or copyright protection, technology development, and external partnerships. The UIRF facilitates this process by

- Building relationships with researchers through IP protection and commercialization;
- Working collaboratively with industry through licensing or other partnerships; and
- Supporting new ventures through streamlined agreements, resources, training, and funding referrals.

I have an invention or idea. Now what?

Congratulations! Contact the UIRF whenever you have a new, unique, and useful idea or solution to a problem that may be of commercial interest. By letting us know about your invention before you publish or present it, you give us the best opportunity to review, protect, and commercialize it. To disclose an invention to the UIRF and start our process, please follow the instructions at uirf.research.uiowa.edu/our-process/submit-invention. If you have general questions or would like to discuss your technology before disclosing, contact us at uirf@uiowa.org.

What happens after I submit a disclosure?

The UIRF team, along with your assigned licensing associate, will work with you to figure out the best way to get your technology into the world. The UIRF process consists of four phases: intake, strategy development, intellectual property protection, and commercialization. See uirf.research.uiowa.edu/our-process for more details.

How does a technology get commercialized?

A license agreement provides a company the right to commercially use intellectual property such as a patent, copyright, or tangible material. Some companies may also sponsor research at UI to further develop the technology. Active involvement from inventors can dramatically improve the chances of finding a licensee. Typically companies are most interested in licensing technology where the inventor is invested in moving the technology toward commercialization. Inventors and authors share in the income from licensing agreements, which also supports the missions of the University of Iowa and the UIRF through disbursements to departments, colleges, the Office of the Vice President for Research, and to the UIRF.

University Policy on Intellectual Properties

The University of Iowa's Intellectual Property policy describes the rights of responsibilities of University of Iowa faculty, staff and students in relation to intellectual property. Please refer to the University of Iowa Operations Manual, Part V, Chapter 30 for the Intellectual Property Policy

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