INTRODUCTION TO THE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFICE

1. Mission

The Technology Transfer Office directly contributes to the three-pronged mission of Dartmouth College: teaching, research and public service.

The Technology Transfer Office contributes to the research mission of the College by commercializing inventions generated at the College and its professional schools, assisting in obtaining research dollars from private sources, and ensuring compliance with Government technology transfer regulations.

The teaching mission of the College receives direct benefit from the Technology Transfer Office through its presentations at various workshops for faculty, staff and graduate and undergraduate students on intellectual property and university licensing. By transferring academic research to the private sector, the Technology Transfer Office provides graduate students and research fellows with an opportunity to apply their research skills in an industrial setting.

The Technology Transfer Office provides public service by transferring technologies to industry and participating in both state and federal business assistance and economic development programs, such as Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR), Small Business Technology Transfer program (STTR), and New Hampshire Industrial Research Center (IRC). As demonstrated by an Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM) study, research transferred from academic institutions to companies not only provides valuable technologies for the public good, but also leads to the creation of high-wage, high-skill jobs.

2. Federal Laws

The passage of Public Law 96-517, the Bayh-Dole Act, in 1980 (and subsequent guidelines and executive orders, issued during the 1980s) was the major milestone in the development of technology transfer activity for academic institutions in the United States. Under this Act, title to inventions arising from Federal Government sponsorship resides with the university; however, the university is obliged to transfer the inventions to the private sector for the benefit of the general public. If the university cannot demonstrate that it is actively transferring academic inventions to industry, the U.S. Government can exercise so-called "march-in rights" and take away the title to the inventions.

Any invention funded by Government grants and contracts is to be promptly and fully reported by the inventor to the university and the university in turn must report all disclosures to the Federal Government.

The Bayh-Dole Act also requires that universities have written agreements with all employees involved in research in which they agree to assign to the university any inventions made with Federal funding.
3. **Dartmouth College Patent Policy**

According to the Dartmouth College Patent Policy as voted by the General Faculty and ratified by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences on April 24, 1978, when an individual's effort in conceiving an invention is significantly assisted by the use of College facilities, resources or personnel, the invention is assigned to Dartmouth College. The College and the inventor will share in the net income generated from licensing of such invention.

Rights to inventions developed through individual initiative, not in response to a specific College assignment and with only incidental use of College facilities or resources, belong to the inventor. Any license income accrues to the inventor alone.

Dartmouth College Patent Policy is available as a separate document. Implementation of this Policy comes under the Technology Transfer Office’s purview.

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