



UNIVERSITY-INDUSTRY LIAISON OFFICE



PRINCIPLES FOR GLOBAL ACCESS TO UBC TECHNOLOGIES

The University of British Columbia, aspiring to be one of the world's best universities, will prepare students to become exceptional global citizens, promote the values of a civil and sustainable society, and conduct outstanding research to serve the people of British Columbia, Canada, and the world. [TREK 2010: VISION]

Ensuring global access to discoveries and technologies developed at UBC is an important element in achieving the TREK vision. UBC technologies have the potential to generate significant societal impacts, and our technologies relating to the advancement of health, the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainability have the most obvious benefits for a global society.

The UBC University-Industry Liaison Office has completed a period of stakeholder feedback and has developed a strategy to provide global access to appropriate UBC technologies. For more information on how the global principles may apply to specific technologies or general questions related to our strategy, please email global@uilo.ubc.ca.

GLOBAL ACCESS PRINCIPLES

In order for UBC technologies to maximize their societal impact, practical mechanisms and partnering strategies are required that (a) enhance both the economic and societal impact of University innovations; (b) extend these impacts to broader global settings; and (c) ensure fair access to these technologies for the world's poor within an evolving framework of licensing practices, legal concerns, business opportunity and time constraints.

Broadening the societal impact of and global access to UBC technologies requires that these concerns are addressed when new UBC technologies are developed, patented and licensed. To this end, while applying the University's intellectual property policy, UBC will:

- Promote global access by entering public/private partnerships to develop new technologies to benefit the developing world

- Prioritize environmentally friendly research and green alternatives, and take the lead in community sustainability

- Respect biodiversity, ensuring value return to countries of origin

- Endeavour to ensure that under privileged populations have 'at cost' access to UBC research innovations through

negotiated global access terms whenever appropriate

As the understanding of issues relating to societal licensing evolves, balancing ambitious objectives with legitimate business concerns requires patience, determination, and the willingness to be both pragmatic and flexible. To support our social licensing commitment, UBC will, where possible, employ the following strategies:

- Build on the values of access and dissemination as demonstrated in the open source movement in the IT sector
- Promote the use of non-exclusive licensing of research tools (for example, the West Coast Licensing Partnership on Flintbox™)
- Consider field-of-use and jurisdictional limitations in exclusive licenses to exclude developing world countries
- Negotiate developing world access 'at cost' to relevant technologies which are licensed on a world-wide exclusive basis (required for technology development)
- Continue to seek partnerships with not-for-profit and charitable organizations to provide much needed funding for neglected disease areas
- Design patent strategies with our development partners that ensure quality product delivery to those most in need, while promoting sustainable, local infrastructure

In measuring the success of technology transfer activities at UBC, societal impact has become a key metric alongside standard throughput, financial and economic measurements. Positive societal impacts include improving human and veterinary health, supporting international biodiversity, protection of the environment, and promoting sustainable green alternatives.

Examples of current global access projects at UBC:

Dr. Brett Finlay is leading a project for which UBC received a Grand Challenges in Global Health grant from the Foundation for National Institutes of Health and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Projects receiving these grants have pre-defined global access strategies in place, with the aim of developing essential medicines for the developing world. The UBC-led project explores ways in which the body can boost its own immune system to fight infection, particularly in relation to drug-resistant superbugs. The research team includes UBC's Dr. Robert Hancock as well as international academic collaborators from Institut Pasteur (France), Sanger Institute (UK), St. George's Hospital (UK), Albert Einstein School of Medicine (New York), Stanford (California) and Walter and Eliza Hall Institute (Australia). Inimex Pharmaceuticals Inc., a local UBC spin-off company, is also contributing to the research effort for the project.

Another local company, iCo Therapeutics Inc., has partnered with UBC to advance Dr. Kishor Wasan's new formulation of Amphotericin B for the treatment of leishmaniasis and other fungal infections. In developed countries, fungal infections are a leading contributor to death among immunocompromised individuals (e.g. cancer and AIDS patients). In the developing world, leishmaniasis is contracted by 2 million people a year. Dr. Wasan's formulation, being developed to be taken orally without serious side-effects, will be a significant improvement on the current treatment which is expensive, can only be administered by injection and is highly toxic. This makes the technology ideal for application in the developing world, and our commercialization agreement with iCo ensures that development of the formulation will embrace our global access objectives.



On **March 10, 2008**, the UILO hosted "**A Global Legacy**", a presentation by three UBC researchers currently working on projects with global access provisions, as part of **Celebrate Research**. [More details...](#)

Developing World: Those countries defined as low income or low middle income by the World Bank

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