

Overview
of the
Intellectual Property Policy
For Partners-Affiliated Hospitals and Institutions

The *Intellectual Property Policy for Partners-Affiliated Hospitals and Institutions* governs how intellectual property created at these institutions is owned and managed and how income derived from that property is distributed. The Policy focuses primarily on two forms of intellectual property: inventions, whether they are patentable or not, and copyrightable works, including software. It also addresses tangible research property, such as biological materials. Everyone who is employed by, or on the faculty, Medical, or Professional Staff of these Institutions, and most other persons engaged in activities at the Institutions, are subject to this Policy.

After an introduction, the Policy is divided into sections which address the different types of property covered: inventions and patents, copyrights and other intellectual property; and tangible research property. Each section defines the nature of the particular property, sets forth who owns it, describes when and how it must be disclosed, and then states the subsequent actions which the institution may take with respect to the property, including licensing it to a for-profit entity in order to make it available to the public. The final substantive sections address income distribution and dispute resolution. All defined terms are contained in a glossary at the end.

The office responsible for administering the policy is the office of Corporate Sponsored Research and Licensing (CSRL) which has separate offices at BWH and MGH; questions pertaining to the policy should be directed to the Director of the relevant office:

CSRL, BWH: 617-525-6010
CSRL, MGH: 617-726-8608

Questions relating to Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital and McLean Hospital should be directed to the CSRL, MGH office, and those pertaining to the Institute of Health Professions should be directed first to the Academic Dean of the Institute.

A document of Frequently Asked Questions summarizes the key terms of the Policy in question and answer format. It, as well as this overview, should be read in conjunction with the Policy itself which provides the complete treatment of each subject.