

# ICO Newsletter

## MTA Madness!

Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs) are a significant part of ICO's workload and, not surprisingly, a major challenge to negotiate and administer. Fundamentally, an MTA documents the transfer of materials, whether biological or chemical, from one entity to another. In many instances, an MTA is only intended to track possession. Where a provider has invested significantly in the materials (knockout mice, for example), the MTA may control usage as well as address IP rights and other concerns. More detailed information about MTAs can be found on ICO's website at: <http://www.stanford.edu/group/ICO/researcher/reMTA.html>

Stanford, like many other academic research institutions with policies that promote openness in research and collaborative effort, does not require an MTA for any material transfer other than for *outbound* human tissue.

Among academic institutions (and even some corporations), there's a move afoot to implement a "no-MTA" policy, at least where the transfer is routine and IP surrounding the material is not in question. Stanford was an early advocate of this approach, but thus far it has gained only limited acceptance in the research community.

## What's an SLA/UBMTA?

Many academic research institutions have adopted the Simple Letter Agreement (SLA) or Uniform Biological Material Transfer Agreement (UBMTA) to facilitate transfers of plasmids, cell lines and mice. The SLA addresses ownership and limits provider liability. The UBMTA is more comprehensive, addressing downstream ownership of progeny, modifications, and derivatives. Copies of the SLA and UBMTA can be found on the ICO website.

## MTAs with Industrial Partners

Corporations often insist on an MTA with unique ownership terms or licensing options; these demands are handled by ICO on an exception basis, and may require approval by the Dean of Research. ICO's goal is to assure that the researcher retains the right to pursue research objectives, publish and exploit IP within Stanford policy.

## Newsletter Potpourri

**Clinical Trials:** The newly formed CT-RMG team handles industry sponsored clinical trial contracts. More information about RMG roles and responsibilities can be found at: <http://med.stanford.edu/rmg/roles/>

**SeRA:** Sponsored research is administered through the online Stanford Electronic Research Application, which hosts Proposal Development Routing Forms (PDRFs), budgets and research project descriptions. An RMG or ERA administrator, assigned to each school department or faculty group, initiates the tracking process in SeRA by creating a PDRF. For government- or non-profit-funded projects, OSR issues awards through SeRA. For industry-sponsored projects, ICO does the dirty work.



1705 El Camino Real  
Palo Alto, CA 94306  
Mail Code: 1850

T (650) 723 0651  
F (650) 725 7295  
[ico@stanford.edu](mailto:ico@stanford.edu)

## MEET OUR TEAM

Sally O'Neil  
Manager  
[sally.oneil@stanford.edu](mailto:sally.oneil@stanford.edu)

Neil Morimoto, Senior  
Industrial Contracts Associate  
[neil.morimoto@stanford.edu](mailto:neil.morimoto@stanford.edu)

Stefani Shek  
Industrial Contracts Associate  
[stefani.shek@stanford.edu](mailto:stefani.shek@stanford.edu)

Jim Gasiewski  
Industrial Contracts Associate  
[jim.gasiewski@stanford.edu](mailto:jim.gasiewski@stanford.edu)

Jaysen Rajkomar  
Material Transfer Associate  
[jaysen.rajkomar@stanford.edu](mailto:jaysen.rajkomar@stanford.edu)

Khatera Ahrary  
Material Transfer Assistant  
[khat.ahrary@stanford.edu](mailto:khat.ahrary@stanford.edu)