

ICO Newsletter

Collaborations Do Happen

A collaboration is a simple thing (or at least it's supposed to be)

Fundamentally, collaborations between Stanford faculty and company researchers allow scientists with common interests to pursue common research objectives. Each party contributes certain scientific and intellectual capital to the effort and covers its own costs. Their cooperation forms the basis of the relationship and the terms of the related project, which is generally documented in an agreement.

Based on this understanding, ICO's industry Collaboration Agreement template addresses the following basic concerns:

- The research obligations of each party, through a statement of work (SOW).
- Disclosure of confidential information, if any.
- Ownership of inventions based on inventorship. No licenses or license options are offered to the other party.
- Publication and authorship based on academic standards, consistent with Stanford policy.
- Each party's liability for its own research activities.

"Collaboration" shouldn't be confused with sponsored research

Researchers and their collaborators should be aware of two key differences between collaborations and sponsored research: First, both parties are performing research or other activities essential to the common project objective, as described in the SOW. Second, since no funding is provided by the collaborator, the Stanford researcher must fund his/her activities by other means, such as gifts or other available funds.

And yet complications do arise

Collaboration agreements can become complicated when the parties provide data, materials or loaned equipment to each other for the research. The providing party may expect Stanford to accept obligations regarding use, liability, and arising intellectual property. In particular, providers may expect rights in inventions or copyrighted works from the project. Generally, Stanford will grant material providers rights in modifications or improvements to their materials. Equipment poses a different challenge, as Stanford generally doesn't grant rights to inventions created through the use of loaned equipment. Data brings its own issues since providers may want rights in copyrightable materials created from the data. Generally, ICO consults with the researcher to determine how rights in resulting copyrightable materials should be handled.

For questions on collaborations, contact your ICO contract officer (<http://web.stanford.edu/group/ICO/general/da.html>) or ICO at ico@stanford.edu

MTA Intake Is Now Online!

Those familiar with Material Transfer Agreements will be happy to hear that ICO now has online MTA Routing Forms for lab materials and sending human tissues.

- For MTAs: ico.stanford.edu/mta
- For HTAs: ico.stanford.edu/hta

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STANFORD
INDUSTRIAL
CONTRACTS
OFFICE

3000 El Camino Real
Building 5, Suite 300
Palo Alto, CA 94306
Mail Code: 1850

T (650) 723 0651
F (650) 725 7295

MEET OUR TEAM

Sally O'Neil

Director

sally.oneil@stanford.edu

Stefani Shek

Associate Director

stefani.shek@stanford.edu

Neil Morimoto

Senior Contracts Officer

neil.morimoto@stanford.edu

Jim Gasiewski

Senior Contracts Officer

jim.gasiewski@stanford.edu

Jaysen Rajkomar

Industrial Contracts Officer

jaysen.rajkomar@stanford.edu

Janina Maniaol

Material Transfer Associate

janina.maniaol@stanford.edu

Van Dinh

Administrative Associate

van.dinh@stanford.edu