

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Intellectual Property?

Intellectual property, or IP, is a broad term that captures many things: inventions, processes, discoveries, designs, formulae, technology, and so much more - developed by a creator. See the full definition of IP in the policy, available on the [VCH Research Institute's Intellectual Property website](#) or [VCH's Intellectual Property intranet site](#).

What is the Intellectual Property policy?

The policy ensures that contributors to the creation of IP are properly recognized. It also outlines information regarding commercialization and the sharing of benefits that stem from any commercialization of IP.

Who needs to know about this policy?

All VCH staff, including medical staff, students, volunteers and researchers, as the policy applies to IP developed by anyone considered to be a VCH staff member.

How does this policy affect my work?

It is important to understand the policy as it defines ownership rights associated with the creation of IP at VCH - including whether you are affiliated with a university, a third party or have appointments at more than one health authority. This, in turn, will determine what you and other interested parties can do with the IP.

When should I complete the Intellectual Property Disclosure and Assignment form?

When using VCH facilities, resources or funding, IP must be disclosed to the VP Research within 30 days of its creation. Ownership rights of all relevant parties will then be assessed based on the information received. Prior to publication, IP details must also be provided to the VP Research. This can help ensure creators' protection of the IP before public disclosure.

The [Intellectual Property Disclosure and Assignment form](#) sets out the information to be provided to the VP Research, and instructions as to where the form should be delivered.

I am a researcher who has an appointment at UBC. Will this policy apply to me?

Individuals who have UBC appointments will remain subject to [UBC Policy 88](#) dealing with Inventions and Discoveries. If IP creators are affiliated with a university, third party or other health authority, IP ownership will be governed by the relevant affiliation agreement(s) between VCH, and the relevant institution and that institution's IP policy.

My IP is being commercialized by VCH. What share of the benefits can I expect to receive?

Typically, net income resulting from the commercialization is distributed 50/50 between the IP creator and VCH. Of the VCH portion, two-thirds are retained by VCH and the remainder goes to the IP creator's VCH division or department where he/she was working at the time the IP was developed. This distribution changes depending on whether commercialization is done by the IP creator, or where a third party or university is involved.

Where can I find the policy?

The policy, IP disclosure form and university contacts are available on the [VCH Research Institute's Intellectual Property website](#) as well as the [VCH's Intellectual Property intranet site](#).

When does the policy come into effect?

The policy is in effect as of July 20, 2015.

Who can I contact for more information about the policy?

[Stephania Manusha](#), Director, Clinical Trials Administration at VCH Research Institute.