

MIT has a long and proud history of entrepreneurial success. MIT is committed to moving the results of its research into societal use in a way that benefits the public by creating new products and promoting economic development. MIT and its researchers are responsible for achieving this in a way that mitigates potential conflicts of interest when licensing intellectual property to companies owned by one of our researchers. To accomplish this, the responsibilities that rest with the MIT Vice President for Research (VPR), MIT Technology Licensing Office (TLO) and the researcher, are detailed below.

### **Vice President for Research (VPR)**

The researcher's department head and the VPR must review any actions that present a potential conflict of interest in research. If the conflict is deemed manageable by the VPR based on this agreement with the involved faculty, TLO may proceed with the licensing.

### **Technology Licensing Office (TLO)**

Make licensing decisions based on TLO's professional judgment about technology transfer to achieve the best possible benefit to the public, without undue influence from internal or external parties. To determine the most effective way to transfer the technology:

- TLO "markets" all MIT technology to ensure fair and open access to potential licensees
- MIT researchers are not allowed to represent the potential licensee and must not negotiate directly with TLO. TLO licensing agreements may be exclusive or non-exclusive depending on what is most suitable for achieving technology transfer.

### **Researcher Responsibilities**

Researchers are responsible for disclosing to department heads and the VPR any new financial interest in a startup company, including any equity in a non-publically traded company, within 90 days of acquiring the interest (30 days if the investigator has funding from the Public Health Service, including NIH funding).

#### **The researcher must:**

- disclose (via Coeus) any interest (consulting fees and/or options) in the start-up, or any involvement of other MIT personnel
- separate and clearly distinguish on-going Institute research from work being conducted at the company
- limit outside professional activities (paid and unpaid) to a maximum of one day per week (39 days in the academic year) *[Note: Faculty members and senior research scientists/engineers/associates have consulting privileges of one day/week. Principal research scientists/engineers/associates are permitted 20 days/year. Others (full-time Professors of the Practice, Adjuncts, Senior Lecturers) may be granted consulting privileges with the approval of the department head and the Dean.]*
- serve only in advisory or consultative roles at the company
  - Do not take managerial roles or titles at the company suggesting management responsibility without the express approval of the department head
- take a leave of absence if engaging in a management role
- avoid situations in which junior members of the staff might feel expected to be involved in company activities

**The researcher must not:**

- use Institute facilities for company purposes
- negotiate with the Institute on behalf of the company
- receive research gifts or sponsored research from the company
- involve research staff or other Institute staff in activities at the company
  - Company personnel cannot be affiliated with the Institute without the prior notification to the department head and approval by the appropriate Dean
- involve company personnel in MIT's research
- involve current students in company activities
  - If a student asks to take a leave of absence to participate in the company, refer the student to the department head for review of the request and independent advice
- withhold dissemination of data from MIT work, or provide the company with advance access to MIT research results
- undertake or supervise others that undertake human subjects research related to the company