

Intellectual Property at Stanford...a very brief intro

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Basics

- Intellectual property (IP) includes patentable inventions, software, data and other content.
- If something is done in the course of your job responsibility or using “more than incidental use” of Stanford resources, Stanford owns the IP (what it says when you sign the SU-18)
- Stanford faculty and students get to decide whether to put research results in the public domain, or disclose it to the Office of Technology Licensing (OTL) for possible commercialization
- Many government and commercial grants/contracts require that you disclose any patentable inventions
- In order to disclose it to OTL, go to:
 - <https://otldisclosure.stanford.edu/>

More Detail

- If you talk about something only among Stanford people and not in a publicly accessible meeting, we can still file a patent on it...
- If you disclose something publicly first (open seminar, poster session, published thesis, online journal article...), Stanford won't pursue a patent.
- Disclosing an invention to OTL isn't enough to be able to talk freely about an invention outside Stanford....only after filing a patent with the USPTO, is it safe to put information in the public domain.
- OTL can file patents very quickly, so don't let that be an impediment to disclosing your invention if it is only a short time before an external publication/presentation
 - (we appreciate at least 1 month notice!)

Possible Financial Reward

- After taking 15% as an OTL administrative fee, Stanford's policy is to split licensing revenues:
 - 1/3 to inventors
 - 1/3 to the Department
 - 1/3 to the School
- Since 1970, total revenues to OTL are \$1.9B
- Taking out 15%, and taking 1/3 of that, \$538M has been distributed to Stanford inventors over time

For More Information

- Numerous guides for inventors (about industry, startups, etc) are on the OTL website at: <https://otl.stanford.edu/>
- Direct any questions to: info@otlmail.stanford.edu or call our office at (650) 723-0651