

University of Pittsburgh

Affirmation of University Policies Regarding Openness in Research

The University of Pittsburgh is committed to maintaining openness in the dissemination of research results, consistent with the University's non-profit mission of sharing knowledge. This commitment is codified in several University research policies, including specifically Policy No. 11-01-02, "Rights, Roles and Responsibilities of Principal Investigators," which affirms the right of faculty to publish the results of their research, and Policy No. 11-02-01, "Patent Rights and Technology Transfer," which expressly states that the University reserves for itself, as well as faculty, students and staff, "all publication rights relating to sponsored research or research supported entirely or largely by University resources," subject only to brief delays to permit patent applications to be filed. Policy No. 11-02-03, Commercialization of Inventions Through Independent Companies, section II.C.4, similarly recognizes the importance of the ability to publish, and permits limitations only for brief delays to obtain patent protection.

The University's commitment to openness in dissemination of research results may also be affected by other terms in sponsor agreements. For example, the University's policy regarding non-discrimination in the workplace, Policy No. 07-01-03, prevents the University from accepting sponsored research contracts that restrict foreign nationals from participating in the research.

In order to ensure that we continue to meet our goal of ensuring the broadest possible dissemination of the results of our research, the University of Pittsburgh does not support and faculty may not engage in any potential sponsored activity that involves classified research or any research that restricts the ability of the University to freely publish the results of the research. In order to avoid situations where issues regarding the dissemination of the research results are not identified until a program is funded, researchers are encouraged to preview any specific concerns with the Office of Research at the earliest opportunity, so that alternative solutions may be explored in the furtherance of an intended research plan.

It is the policy of the University to comply with all laws applicable to research, including export control regulations. Because of export controls, some provisions in funding contracts may restrict dissemination of research results or limit access to the research to United States citizens. Such contract clauses are generally not consistent with the University's policies on openness in research and non-discrimination and will not be accepted.

Note: The University of Pittsburgh Project Checklist for Openness in Research is available at osp.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/OSPFiles/opennessinresearchchecklist.pdf