ICO Newsletter

Hot Off the Presses!

ICO’s very own publication, a “Researcher’s Guide to Working with Industry,” is now available. The Researcher’s Guide provides a compact wealth of information for Stanford researchers and administrators who interact with industry, for those who expect to do so, and for those who’ve always wondered what ICO does exactly.

The Researcher’s Guide addresses topics of general and specific interest, including fundamental differences regarding research between universities and corporations, and common issues related to sponsored research agreements, material transfer agreements, and a variety of other agreements. A PDF version of the Researcher’s Guide is available at http://www.stanford.edu/group/ICO/docs/res_ind_guide.pdf. A limited number of autographed copies are available at the OTL/ICO offices.

ICO invites reader feedback on the Researcher’s Guide. Please send comments to: ico@stanford.edu

When a Gift Isn’t Necessarily a Gift

Researchers appreciate industry gift funding since it can be used to further research goals without the administrative requirements of a sponsored research agreement. Corporations, when their policies and business objectives allow, may choose to bestow gifts since the donation process is straightforward and efficient.

For funding to qualify as gift at Stanford, however, the donor can’t attach terms or conditions—the donation truly has to be “no strings attached.” Obligations to produce reports, or to notify the donor of arising intellectual property, are not acceptable under Stanford policy. Requiring the recipient researcher to contribute inventions or other IP to the public domain, even if he or she is likely to do so, disqualifies the gift.

Donors may direct the gift to a specific department or researcher, and the general area of research for which the funds are to be expended. The donor cannot, however, require that the gift be spent on the same research objectives that it has funded via sponsored research.

When a corporation’s gift policies require terms that Stanford can’t accept, a sponsored research agreement may offer the most viable alternative.

Gifts are handled by Stanford’s Office of Development, which can also advise on specific gift requirements and related issues. The Office of Development assignments are available at: http://corporate.stanford.edu/contact/index.html.

Awards Don’t Happen by Themselves

Following execution of a sponsored research agreement, but before the responsible account setup team issues a Notice of Award (NOA), ICO issues an Award Announcement Notification (AAN) through SeRA. Before ICO can issue the AAN, however, all elements of a project must be in order. For an award to happen smoothly, researchers must have, among lesser items, applicable IRB or APLAC protocols approved and current, and COI declarations resolved. For more information on SeRA requirements, contact your ICO Contracts Officer.

Previous issues: http://www.stanford.edu/group/ICO/newsletters.html
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