Washington State University (WSU) takes pride in its history of successful cooperation with industry in the support of research. WSU is the state's land-grant institution, as such, is committed to excellence in teaching, research, and public service. Industry support contributes to the education of scientists, engineers, and other professionals, and to the development of technologies with important practical applications. Improving the health and productivity of society through the transfer of technology is an important goal of university-industry cooperation.

This guide is a summary of the broad principles that govern research agreements between University and industrial and commercial organizations (Sponsor). This information is offered to facilitate research relationships that your organization may wish to initiate with the University. The principles set forth reflect the University's position as a publicly supported educational institution and are applicable at the main campus in Pullman, the urban campuses, and at research and extension centers in Washington State.

CORPORATE IDENTITY

WSU is an institution of higher education and an agency of the state of Washington. Washington State University Research Foundation (WSURF), a non-profit corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Washington, is the organization to which the university normally assigns intellectual properties created by Washington State University (WSU) employees.

COSTS

Sponsored research programs at the University are conducted on the basis of full cost recovery, including both direct and facilities and administrative costs. Substantial funding in advance is necessary since the University does not have a source of funds with which to finance Sponsored programs or to pay the interest on borrowed funds. The schedule of payments are negotiable between the Sponsor and the University depending on type and scope of project, the length of the project period, and the anticipated pace and pattern of actual expenditures.
PATENTS AND OTHER INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The University's intellectual property policies aim to promote the progress of science and technology, to assure that discoveries and inventions are used to benefit the public, and to provide appropriate royalty revenues to the University and the inventor(s). The University normally retains patent rights from Sponsored research, and any invention or patentable idea conceived or reduced to practice in the course of that research belongs to the University. The University typically grants an option for an exclusive or non-exclusive license, to resulting intellectual property. The cost of an option is fixed at the completion of the research agreement. Royalty rates are negotiated at the time of licensing by the WSURF or the University’s assignee.

CONFLICT OF OBLIGATIONS

The university does not knowingly accept a contract that conflicts with the obligations of another sponsored agreement or an employee's personal interests. An agreement may not include a general restriction that prevents the investigator or others from doing research for other sponsors in similar areas.

UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

WSU, a public entity and state agency, is subject to the laws enacted by the state legislature, including but not limited to, the state ethics law (RCW 42.52) and the public disclosure act (RCW 42.17.250 et seq)

AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT

Authority to negotiate and legally accept sponsored agreements on behalf of Washington State University is delegated to the Director, Office of Grant and Research Development (OGRD).

Further information may be obtained by contacting:

OGRD          Office of Research
P. O. Box 643140       P.O. Box 641033
Neill Hall 423          324 French Administrations Bldg.
Pullman, WA 99164-3140  Pullman, WA 99164-1033
phone: 509/335-9661     phone: 509/335-6424
fax: 509/335-1676       fax: 509/335-1949
web: www.ogrd.wsu.edu  email: ogrd@wsu.edu

To view WSU's Standard Research Agreement, see
http://www.ogrd.wsu.edu/agreement.asp

LIABILITY, RISK, AND BEST EFFORTS

Because research is by its nature an unpredictable undertaking with no guarantee of successful results, the University research can only be conducted on a "reasonable best efforts" basis. The University receives no fee or profit on its research. For this reason, and also because it is inconsistent with the reasonable best efforts principle, the University will not normally accept contract provisions that guarantee results, impose penalties for failure to make progress by firm deadlines, or require the withholding of payment if the Sponsor is not satisfied with the results. In accordance with state law, WSU has not been enabled
to indemnify or hold a sponsor harmless, however WSU will be responsible for its own acts and omissions.

ACADEMIC POLICY GOVERNING RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY

The academic environment and responsible management within the University assure the highest standards of performance in all research projects. University policies pertaining to health and safety (such as those governing protection of human subjects, use of biohazards, occupational and environmental protection, and animal welfare) are applicable to all research conducted at the University. All projects are conducted in accordance with equal opportunity principles. The University has strong financial management and internal audit programs that ensure accountability and careful control of all expenditures. One of the primary purposes of the University is to undertake research that will further science and technology and enhance the University's educational programs. The University will only enter into research agreements that do not interfere with university commitments and goals. Industry-Sponsored programs must provide faculty and students with opportunities to gain experience and knowledge valuable to their education and research; programs should permit faculty and students to make worthy contributions to knowledge and should benefit the public. Routine, commonplace tasks normally will not be undertaken. Tests, studies, and investigations that are purely commercial are undertaken only when satisfactory facilities for such services do not exist elsewhere or are not reasonably available to the Sponsor.

PUBLICATION POLICY

A fundamental principle of the University is that the teaching and research environment should permit the free exchange of ideas among faculty and students. Research is conducted as an integral part of the total educational process and often forms the basis for articles in professional journals, seminar reports, presentations at professional meetings, and student dissertations and theses. Research sometimes provides subject matter for credit courses. The University will undertake research or studies only if the scientific results can be published or otherwise disseminated on a non-discriminatory basis and within a reasonable time period. The University recognizes the legitimate proprietary concerns of industrial Sponsors. Where appropriate and with the approval of the faculty member, publications may be delayed for a limited time to protect patent rights or to facilitate other forms of technology transfer. Similarly, on those occasions where University has accepted a Sponsor's proprietary information as necessary background data for a research project, the Sponsor may review proposed publications to prevent any inadvertent disclosure of that data. Copyrights and publication rights belong to the University and/or the author.

USE OF THE UNIVERSITY'S NAME

The name Washington State University is the exclusive property of the institution and, consequently, should not be used in support of claims or advertisements without permission of the president or delegate of the University.