

VII World Congress of the International Council for Central and East European Studies, Berlin, Germany, from July 25 – 30, 2005

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XIV. 16 Panel: Innovation & Intellectual Property Management Education & Training in the Central and East European Countries

Room: Bldg. I/HS 3088

Friday, July 29, 2005, 10:30-12:00.

Abstract:

Several Central and East European (CEE) developing countries are very advanced scientifically and are academically minded, however, the countries have not reaped the benefits of their integration into the free market system. The academic sector continues to be vulnerable to having its intellectual property taken without fair compensation unless and until the research community and the universities in the developing countries are educated about innovation management best practices and intellectual property principles. In response to the requests from academic institutions in the developing countries Cedars – Sinai Medical Center and other US and EU Universities and Health Care Centers began providing assistance with the development of institutional policies and procedures to provide a basis for managing the intellectual assets in a professional manner. These individual actions formed the basis for our conviction that the developing countries deserve education and direct assistance with initiating technology transfer programs. Without this outreach project, we were concerned that our partners from the Central and East European developing countries would continue to be taken advantage of unfairly by multinational corporations due to the lack of institutional understanding and processes to manage these intellectual assets. This is, we believe, an important and essential foundation if the academic sector is going to be able to support the national efforts to establish development-oriented intellectual property policies. Without the ability to appreciate innovation management issues, the public will not receive the benefit of the implementation of these policies. The Panel Discussion which we are planning is the first step in the implementation of a comprehensive training program for the Central and East European developing countries' technology transfer managers. While the Panel participants are committed to the training program, our ability to reach each country that is interested in hosting a series of training seminars and focused assistance for a technology transfer program can be expanded with support from EU and US agencies to help to implement a training program for the medical and life science faculties in the CEE countries. After attending the training program, technology transfer managers from CEE developing countries should be empowered with the resources necessary to implement a technology transfer program at their institution which will enable them to identify, capture and protect discoveries made by their faculty members so that the technology can be licensed out and produce royalty revenue.

Panel duration: 90 minutes

Speakers should have not more than 10 minutes. Total 60 minutes.

Discussion 30 minutes

Panel participants:

Panel Chair:

Sandor G. Vari, MD
International Research Network Manager, Burns and Allen Research Institute
Department of Academic Affairs, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Panelists and Papers:

No 1

Cedars – Sinai Medical Center’s Innovation Management and Technology Transfer Training Program in the Central and East European Countries

James D. Laur, Esq.
Deputy General Counsel, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, California, USA

No 2

Technology Transfer training (“capacity building”) - lessons from MIHR’s experience and their potential relevance to C & EE.

Dr Hugh Penfold
Business Development Director, MIHR, Oxford Centre for Innovation

No 3

Starting Innovation Management and Technology Transfer at the Medical Universities in CEE

Iuliana Ceausu, M.D.
Assistant Professor, "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy
The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of "Dr. I. Cantacuzino" Hospital, Bucharest, Romania

No 4

International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw and management of intellectual property

Michal Witt, MD, PhD
Professor, Deputy Director for scientific matters, International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, Warszawa, Poland

No 5

Implementation of the Innovation Management and Technology Transfer Program at the Slovak Medical University

Ivan Čižnár, DSc.¹, PhD., Sandor G. Vari, MD²
¹ Vice Dean of Faculty of Public Hygiene, Slovak Medical University
²International Research Network Manager, Burns and Allen Research Institute, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

No 6

Integration of Medical Faculties into Technology Transfer in the Czech Republic

Ing. Simona Lauerová
American Science Information Center , Prague, Czech Republic

DISCUSSANTS:

Sandor G. Vari, MD
James D. Laur, Esq.
Hugh Penfold, PhD
Iuliana Ceausu, MD
Michal Witt, MD, PhD
Ivan Čižnár DSc
Ing. Simona Lauerová

ABSTRACTS:

No 1

Cedars – Sinai Medical Center’s Innovation Management and Technology Transfer Training Program in the Central and East European Countries

James D. Laur, Esq.
Deputy General Counsel, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, California, USA

The Innovation Management & Technology Transfer (IMTT) Training Program is a key element of Technology Collaboration Agreement that Cedars-Sinai enters into with its partner universities in CEE. There are three different stages in the execution of the IMTT Training Program: INTRODUCE, INVOLVE & IMPLEMENT. Each stage anticipates various levels of education and training activities for the partner university. The first step in the IMTT Training Program to INTRODUCE the basic structure and key elements of Innovation Management & Technology Transfer functions to the universities in a workshop setting and provide an overview of our experience and the IMTT systems. After the workshop, we explore whether the two institutions would benefit from working together to develop or enhance the university’s innovation management structure. If so, the parties enter into a Technology Collaboration Agreement and are ready to become INVOLVED. During this stage, we develop a comprehensive plan with the partner university which involves an on-site evaluation of the university’s unique environment (e.g., scientific, legal, financial & structural) in order to help formulate a plan to implement their innovation management and technology transfer infrastructure which will function as a part of the university’s existing structures. In the IMPLEMENT stage of the IMTT Training Program, Cedars-Sinai and the partner university work together to implement the plan created in stage 2 to establish or enhance the university’s technology transfer operation. At the beginning of the third stage, Cedars-Sinai has organized a training program (of approximately two weeks) which is provided on Cedars-Sinai’s main campus in Los Angeles, California. Armed with this knowledge and experience, it is our hope that the individuals will be in a much better position to manage the university’s innovation management program.

No 2

Technology Transfer training (“capacity building”) - lessons from MIHR’s experience and their potential relevance to C & EE.

Dr Hugh Penfold

Business Development Director, MIHR, Oxford Centre for Innovation

The Centre for the Management of Intellectual Property in Health Research and Development ("MIHR") is an Oxford-based non-profit organisation committed to improving access by the poor to the results of health research by the creative management of intellectual property (IP). It has organised and held training workshops in India and South Africa. Some of the results will be described, and the application of a similar model in C & EE will be discussed.

No 3

Starting Innovation Management and Technology Transfer at the Medical Universities in CEE

Iuliana Ceausu, M.D.

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After the changes in political structure in the last fifteen years the postsocialist economy is moving toward free economy market and it is time for the Universities in Central and East Europe (CEE) to restructure invention disclosure, patenting process and also the technology transfer. As in the USA and other free economy markets in the CEE countries also the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors differ deeply in their missions, cultures, resources, incentives and these differences deserve respect. Therefore, universities and industry need to maximise the upsides of collaboration and minimise the downsides by means of internal organisational change as well as formation of new models of collaboration. In effect, there is more that a university and a professor can accomplish beyond merely publishing peer-review articles and increasing that individual’s status based simply on impact factors and the citation index. All academic institutions simply must have a strong innovation management program in place if they are going to succeed in the 21st century. It is important to understand that the for-profit companies of the world will continue to try to take advantage of the academic institutions that are not prepared to protect and take control of the institution’s innovations. It is the reason the University has to introduce a mandate outlining the ownership, the faculty regulations, policies and procedures and workflow of the Innovation Management and Technology Transfer (IMTT) process. The "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania with the help of Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre, Los Angeles California already started to restructure the existing and less effective IMTT process.

No 4

International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw and management of intellectual property

Michal Witt, MD, PhD

Professor, Deputy Director for scientific matters, International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, Warszawa, Poland

The International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw (IIMCB) is one of the most modern country's research institutes in its field. The IIMCB's research topics cover the wide area of cancer biology, molecular immunology, neurobiology, protein structural biology, bioinformatics/computer modeling, etc. The International Advisory Board, the rules of recruitment of all faculty members through international competition and lack of tenure employment make it unique among Polish research institutions. The growing number of foreign researchers working here additionally justifies the name of this institute. At IIMCB we are fully aware that it is essential to be able to protect the intellectual advances that arise from our laboratories and to negotiate commercially appropriate licensing deals - learning from experience of such advanced in this matter institutions like Max-Planck Institute (Germany) and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (USA) greatly enhanced awareness of the problem and stimulated formal arrangements undertaken at the Institute. Since no countrywide regulations have been implemented in Polish academic institutions, IIMCB introduced its own set of rules to protect intellectual property and to make innovation management and technology transfer smooth, efficient and giving chance for future profitability. IIMCB collaborates with specialized Polish patent attorney office focusing on legal assistance in all aspects of industrial property rights in the fields of pharmacy, biotechnology, agro-biotechnology, chemistry, medicine; the Institute is also open to cooperation with international partners.

No 5

Implementation of the Innovation Management and Technology Transfer Program at the Slovak Medical University

Ivan Čižnár, DSc.¹, PhD., Sandor G. Vari, MD²

¹ Vice Dean of Faculty of Public Hygiene, Slovak Medical University

²International Research Network Manager, Burns and Allen Research Institute, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Breakthroughs in the molecular and genetic bases of disease have opened up vast therapeutic opportunities, underscoring the importance of research that can translate fundamental biological insights into clinical progress. Innovation emerges from the interplay of universities, national laboratories, and industrial firms in an environment shaped by the governmental rules and incentives. "Training for better practice" to implement a more effective innovation and technology transfer procedures and management at the Universities is necessary to accelerate the translation of fundamental biological insights into clinical treatments. Because innovation requires recurring exchanges among different types of researchers, legal entities, government authorities and industry one promising development is the creation of list of recommendations organised by needs of universities, by the necessary regulatory and legal changes, and by slow and controversial changes in the post socialist transition toward to market economy. During this transition our partner Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (CSMC) from the USA is helping to the Slovak Medical University to make a thorough on-site evaluation of the university's structure and processes, to formulate a technology transfer operation which will function as a part of the university's existing

structures. The Innovation Management and Technology Transfer (IMTT) Program includes the development of a comprehensive plan which involves the commitment for a university mandate to declare ownership of inventions were conceived on the ground of the University, establishment of a faculty regulation, issuance of policies and procedures, development of standard form documents (e.g., Invention Disclosure Form, Confidentiality Agreement, Material Transfer Agreement, etc.) and training of IMTT managers.

No 6

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Ing. Simona Lauerová

American Science Information Center , Prague, Czech Republic

The National R&D Policy of the Czech Republic for 2004-2008 implies the principles of the Government towards the area of R&D. The primary general objective of the Policy is to contribute to creation of the economically highly competitive society and one of the national priorities is a utilization of R&D results in practice and close cooperation of academic and private institutions.

Quality of technology transfer at research organizations varies very much. Universities, the biggest consumers of the public R&D funds, often do not have any general rules for technology transfer. Main reasons for this behavior could be seen in a funding system that forces scientists to produce publications as the main results of their research in order to justify funds; lack of sources to cover fees connected with IPR; no infrastructure at the universities; and long process of patent registration.

Nowadays the universities recognize the necessity and importance of IP protection and understand that it can bring them additional funds for research activities in future. The Charles University in Prague has a grant from European structural funds to establish "The Center for Transfer of Knowledge and Technology". Its aim is to build an infrastructure and set up IPR directives for all university faculties. Representatives of six Medical Faculties took part in a workshop organized in Prague by the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (CSMC) and the American Science Information Center (AMVIS). Workshop was a part of Bridges in Life Sciences activities devoted to technology transfer and management. The role of AMVIS, as a national contact point for CSMC, is to provide information and support in order to foster international cooperation in science and to facilitate further research and technology transfer collaboration activities between CSMC and medical faculties and institutions in the CR. AMVIS is involved in follow-up activities of the CSMC training program for technology transfer managers.

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