



## **Statement of Principles for Access to Medical Technologies in Developing Countries.**

### Background

Universities have long played a fundamental role in contributing to the improvement of public health including through discovery of new knowledge (such as novel therapies or diagnostic tests), dissemination of knowledge, education of students, and training of physicians and other health professionals.

In addition, many universities work to facilitate the commercialisation of the health-related inventions of academic researchers by developing and disseminating these technologies for the public good.

The University of Edinburgh conducts world-class research into novel medicines, diagnostics, medical devices, and other health-related technologies. We are mindful of the importance of the development and distribution of resultant products within developing countries and recognise that improving health and access to these technologies and products are amongst the most pressing needs for these countries.

### Statement of Principles and Strategies

To facilitate making the outputs of health-related research conducted at the University of Edinburgh available in developing countries, its strategy when licensing its technology for commercial exploitation purposes is, so far as is practicable:

1. To prosecute patent applications in less developed countries only as necessary (for example, to provide development and marketing leverage for new products, or to exert leverage over global licensees) in order that intellectual property should not become a barrier to provision of essential health-related technologies in developing countries.
2. Encourage early publication and wide dissemination of research to reduce opportunities for interfering patents being filed by other parties.
3. In our negotiations with potential licensees, we will make vigorous efforts to develop creative and effective licensing strategies that help to promote global access to health-related technologies:
  - a) We will make potential commercial partners aware of the University of Edinburgh's commitment to contribute to the health and well-being of populations in developing countries, and to establish productive relationships with companies that share our values and are able and willing to advance our global health vision.

- b) We will recognize, and fairly balance, both the early-stage nature of the university's health innovations, and the importance of commercial organisations in making the substantial investment needed to demonstrate the safety and efficacy of new technologies which, in turn, will allow them to be brought to market in developing countries.
  - c) To grant licences with provisions that seek to increase the availability of medicines and other health-related technologies at affordable prices in developing countries.
  - d) We will expect our commercial licensing partners to appreciate and co-operate with these principles.
3. The University of Edinburgh will, without regard of the economic value to the institution, further support the development of new health-related technologies for medical conditions that disproportionately burden individuals and societies within developing countries, through such means as:
- a) Partnerships with not-for-profit and charitable organizations to provide collaboration and funding for researching of medical conditions that have a particular impact in developing countries.
  - b) Seeking to attract and secure appropriate commercial partnerships in support of such research.

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