

2019 National Institutes of Health (NIH) Tribal Consultation on Policies on Intellectual Property, Inventions, and Patent Rights in Biomedical Research

This document was prepared to aid Tribal leaders and community participants in the upcoming NIH Tribal Consultation on Policies on Intellectual Property, Inventions, and Patent Rights in Biomedical Research on June 24, 2019 in Sparks, Nevada in alignment with the NCAI Mid-Year Conference and Marketplace.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

NIH's mission is to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the applications of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.

- The NIH invests nearly \$37.3 billion¹ annually in medical research for the American people.
- More than 80% of the NIH's funding is awarded through almost 50,000 competitive grants to more than 300,000 researchers at more than 2,500 universities, medical schools, and other research institutions in every state around the world.
- The NIH is composed of 27 Institutes and Centers which often have an organ- or disease-specific focus, and the Office of the Director, which is responsible for setting policy and planning, managing, and coordinating NIH programs and activities.

We highly encourage Tribal leaders and members of the community to discuss how the NIH policies, grounded in US laws,, are applied to Intellectual Property and Inventions arising from federally funded research projects. We are seeking your input on how these policies impact NIH-supported biomedical research with Tribal communities. Tribal input will help the NIH support Tribal Nations in taking full advantage of the US laws applied to Intellectual Property and Inventions – such as obtaining patents and licensing them. Understanding these complex processes and policies will allow Tribal nations to engage in effective and meaningful research either as principal investigators or with academic partners.

Some suggested questions:

What is intellectual property and why is it important in biomedical research?

What can or cannot be patented?

What should Tribal communities be aware of when reviewing research applications regarding patents?

What recourse does a Tribe have if researchers violate IP or patent agreements?

How might data sharing impact patents?

How can establishing copyrights be useful in biomedical research?