

September 18, 2009  
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## Material Transfer Agreements

Obtaining a specific Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) for each exchange of materials between academic and other non-profit institutions has become an increasingly onerous barrier to the free and open exchange of scientific information and materials. Seeking to affirm that collegiality, science, and sharing should take precedence over commercial considerations among researchers at such institutions, the universities identified below have adopted the following policy:

Subject to our obligations to existing research sponsors and licensees, we agree:

- 1) that a specific MTA is not required when our investigators and their research colleagues elsewhere are exchanging non-hazardous or non-human biological materials for in vitro research use; or
- 2) when thought to be necessary, that we will use the Uniform Biological Material Transfer Agreement (UBMTA) or the Simple Letter Agreement (SLA) recommended by the NIH, whenever possible.

Furthermore, we will encourage our investigators to support the above policy when entering into sponsored agreements that involve transfers of materials.

We agree that if materials are transferred without a specific MTA, the transfer will be presumed to be made under the terms stated in the UBMTA even though no written agreement has been signed. Recipients of biological materials are expected to obtain consent from the original provider before passing materials on to others and to acknowledge the source of the materials in resulting publications and presentations.

We encourage other academic and non-profit institutions to adopt this policy.

Addgene  
California Institute of Technology  
Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Dartmouth College  
Harvard University  
Howard Hughes Medical Institute  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai  
(formerly the Mount Sinai School of Medicine)  
Johns Hopkins University  
Kansai Medical University  
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Princeton University  
Sapporo Medical University

Stanford University  
The University of British Columbia  
Tokyo Medical and Dental University  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Davis  
University of Chicago  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Edinburgh  
University of Michigan  
University of Minnesota  
University of Oregon  
University of Pennsylvania  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Yale University