

Chair: Steven J. Siegel

Presenters:

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Title: *Confluence of Interest: Transferring Intellectual Property from Academia to Industry*

This study group addressed factors that hinder or facilitate transit of information from Academia to Industry. There was consensus on the need for technology transfer from academia to industry. There was also consensus regarding factors that hinder this process.

Barriers included a lack of awareness of pertinent issues among academic scientists. These include insufficient attention to regulatory issues such, lack of evaluation of existing intellectual property and failure to remain engaged in the development of ideas throughout the transfer process. Additional factors among scientists and universities include unrealistic expectations regarding financial value of inventions (overvaluing ideas) and assuming that someone else is responsible to find partners and provide information to interested companies and investors. Barriers raised by audience include an overabundance of ideas presented to industry, creating the perception that Universities do not provide sufficient triage and present too many offerings without value, demising the ability to find truly valuable ideas among the noise.

Additional barriers include disclosing and filing patent applications too early in development, compromising patent life and ability to license once the idea has matured. Departure of the inventor to another institution and scientists' desire to do experiments that contradict or obstruct the development plan after it moves to a partner were also cited as hindrances to successful technology transfer.

Several factors related to development of ideas after a scientist discloses to their University were also noted. These include insufficient scientific / technical foundation to develop an idea, solutions without a sufficient clinical problem, lack of anyone willing to pay for development or the development path that is not feasible, the commercial/business development strategy is not feasible or you can not stop others from doing same thing. Management team shortfalls, too much money and too long required to justify development were also noted as common problems.