



## WHY SHOULD I FILE AN INVENTION DISCLOSURE?

**The simple reason INVENTION DISCLOSURES are important is to protect the faculty and the intellectual property assets they invent!**

Unlike most countries, the United States has a first to invent patent system (as opposed to a first-to-file system). The invention disclosure is a way to document your invention with the Office so that the Florida State University can apply for a patent and protect the intellectual property rights. Patent rights are dependent on publication dates. Under US patent law, disclosure is construed very broadly and includes informal discussions with FSU and outside colleagues, unprotected emails, public in-person presentations and print and online publications. Our office recognizes the significant importance of discussion and publishing to further scientific discovery. If you disclose your invention to our Office early, you can more freely have open discussion and publish while keeping your invention protected and unconstrained. But, with a formally submitted invention disclosure our office will have the information it needs to advise you on how to avoid premature disclosure to third parties.

The invention disclosure is also the easiest and best way to transform your invention from a laboratory concept into commercial development so that it reaches its fullest potential and provide a benefit to society. By seeking patent protection for your invention, we will be able to help you gain potential resources from the private sector for further research and development. This is especially useful when the value of the invention is a potential diagnostic or therapeutic product. Patents and patent applications may give commercial partners the incentive they need to license or further develop your technologies through Collaborative Research and Development Agreements, Sponsored Research Agreements or other funding vehicles.

We have tried to simplify the disclosure process so that we can protect an invention while at the same time being sensitive to your academic priorities. We understand that for faculty who are tenure track publishing is vitally important so we have tried to make the disclosure system and the patenting process as efficient as possible.

If you have any questions about invention disclosures or the disclosure process please contact Eric McNair by phone (644-3328) or email ([emcnair@fsu.edu](mailto:emcnair@fsu.edu))