

Equitable Access License (EAL)

The Equitable Access License provides model licensing terms to promote open-access to university intellectual property. An estimated 40-50% of the drug industry's new profits rely heavily upon academic research. Under the EAL, manufacturers are permitted to produce a generic version of a drug for research on orphan diseases or to distribute in developing countries. The relaxation of patent restrictions in the developing world holds great promise to reduce the cost of essential medicines, thereby making them more accessible.

The full license is available at
<http://essentialmedicine.org>



*Universities Allied for
Essential Medicines*

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*University
Licensing*

Why start at the University?

Universities are dedicated to the creation and dissemination of knowledge in pursuit of the public interest. Global public health is a vital component of the public interest. Therefore, Universities best realize their objectives when they promote innovation and access to health related technologies.

Changing university policy alone is of course not enough, but it can help, both by removing potential barriers to access, and by setting an example. Universities are essential to the world's drug development system, and engage in much of the world's basic research. They're successful at it because their norms are different than those of industry – more cooperative, more open, and dedicated to the public good, rather than profit. Many of the most important medical innovations have some connection to universities. In some cases, universities have rights to drugs and processes right now that, if they took the right steps, could be made more accessible.

Proposed Solutions

In addition to the EAL, there are many other ways in which the University could encourage the private sector to place a larger emphasis on making their products available in the developing world.

Alternative options include but are not limited to:

1. Using the University's share of royalties to incentivize the licensee to facilitate access by offering discounts in LMI countries or by other means;
2. Making the distribution of drugs to the developing world a matter of due diligence, resulting in a breach of contract by the licensee if medicines resulting from University technology are not made available at a reasonable price in the third world;
3. Actively seeking a third-party non-profit organization to participate in research, development, and distribution to facilitate access in LMI countries; and
4. Including provisions that guarantee access to data and materials necessary to promote generic production or adaptations for LMI countries.

What can I do?

Be the voice for those lacking access to essential medicines in developing countries. Get involved with an on-campus group, such as Universities Allied for Essential Medicines, and let the administration know that this is an issue that students care about.



Public demonstrations and petitions by students at Yale University resulted in Bristol-Meyers Squibb allowing the generic production of the AIDS drug, d4t, saving countless lives in Africa. As members of universities, we also have the responsibility of advocating for socially responsible research and management of intellectual property.

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