

President Amy Gutmann
Office of the President
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President Gutmann:

I believe that no one should be denied access to essential medicines simply because they cannot afford them. As a member of the research community of the University of Pennsylvania, it is important to me that innovations resulting from our research be given the opportunity to improve the lives of all people who need them.

Research universities like Penn are key sources of these lifesaving medicines – they conduct more than half the United States' basic research and are responsible for important health technologies. Universities have the opportunity to develop and adopt licensing provisions that increase the global poor's access to key biomedical innovations.

Moreover, universities have a responsibility also to evaluate their research portfolios against a global, needs-driven research agenda, which necessitates a focus on neglected diseases.

I call upon the University of Pennsylvania to seize this opportunity to adopt licensing and research strategies consistent with its institutional commitments to the public interest by:

- (1) measuring the success of technology transfer activities by the degree to which they improve human welfare, including globally;
- (2) adopting licensing language that facilitates access in low and middle income countries to medicines and health technologies originating in university research; and
- (3) promoting research on neglected diseases that principally impact the global poor (where market forces fail to stimulate research and development), and finding ways to work with nontraditional partners that seek to develop medicines for those diseases.

Respectfully,
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CC: Provost Ronald Daniels