

## **University of Pittsburgh Signs Uniform Biological Material Transfer Agreement (UBMTA): New Procedure for Material Transfer Agreements**

Effective July 1, 2008, the University of Pittsburgh has signed the Uniform Biological Material Transfer Agreement ("UBMTA"). The UBMTA is used by participating public and nonprofit organizations to record individual exchanges of biological material for research purposes via a simplified process that entails acceptance of material transfer agreement ("MTA") terms by signatory organizations, thus eliminating the need for individual negotiations. The goal of the University's adoption of the UBMTA is to reduce both the administrative burden of MTA negotiations and also to shorten the time it takes to execute MTAs for biological materials.

For institutions that have signed the UBMTA Master Agreement, applicable materials can be transferred under the terms of the UBMTA upon execution of an Implementing Letter for the particular transfer. The University does retain the option to transfer specific material with commercial or research value on a customized basis. Thus the Office of Research ("O/R"), in consultation with the PI and other relevant University stakeholder offices, may decide that the UBMTA would not be used for a particular transfer, even for signatory organizations.

The University's organizational policies with respect to signing MTAs are different than those suggested in the standard UBMTA Implementing Letter. The federal guidelines for use of the UBMTA state that organizations are free to develop their own signatory policies regarding the UBMTA. University policy states that the signatory scientist is not legally authorized to bind the organization, and as such, O/R must sign all Implementing Letters, whether the University is providing materials or receiving them.

Effective immediately, O/R will now source all Outgoing MTAs to recipient entities and recipient investigators upon receipt in O/R of a faculty member's Outgoing MTA Submission Form. Please visit the MTA procedure section of the O/R website to view the new instructions and to access the Submission Form:

<http://www.pitt.edu/~offres/mta.html>

To view more information about the UBMTA, including the master agreement terms, the implementing letter, and a list of signatories, please visit:

[http://www.autm.net/aboutTT/aboutTT\\_umbta.cfm](http://www.autm.net/aboutTT/aboutTT_umbta.cfm)

Allen A. DiPalma, Director, Office of Research  
Kelly Downing, Assistant Director, Clinical and Corporate Research  
412-624-7419  
[orcontracts@offres.pitt.edu](mailto:orcontracts@offres.pitt.edu)