



Workshop on Genetic Inventions, IPRs, and Licensing Practices

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Workshop Goals

- Identify new data and studies about licensing practices for genetic inventions
- Help governments understand both the benefits and costs of patenting and licensing practices and their impacts on:
 - the research process, new product development, clinical use
- Assess whether present system of protection is working in the broad public interest and avoiding potential “breakdowns”



Topic Timeliness

- Complete sequencing of human and other genomes
- National debates about the appropriate breadth and scope of protection for genetic inventions
- Slow implementation of European Directive on Biotechnology 98/44/EC
- Discussions in patent offices over administration and debates in courts over interpretation of gene patents



Biotechnology, IPRs and the OECD

- OECD active in Biotechnology policy for > 20 years
- Early work on IP in 1980s, relevant to many projects
- OECD helps countries assess the social, ethical and economic consequences of modern biotechnologies
- Mandate to facilitate international exchange of information, develop best practices, infrastructure building, and standard setting



Workshop Outcomes

- A better understanding of licensing practices for genetic inventions and their economic implications
- Publication of Workshop Conclusions Spring 2002
- Possible follow-on actions to be discussed at OECD's Working Party on Biotechnology



Special Thanks

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