

Novo Nordisk Foundation Intellectual Property Policy for Stand-Alone Grants

1 Purpose

The purpose of Novo Nordisk Foundation (the “Foundation”) Intellectual Property Policy for Stand-Alone Grants is to promote and support innovation and scientific research for the benefit of the people, society, and the planet. The key objective is to increase awareness and understanding of Intellectual Property (IP) and its potential to drive innovation and real-world impact. Additionally, the Foundation aims to ensure that the innovation generated by our funding supports the development of strong innovative research ecosystems.

2 Guiding Principles

The Foundation aims to improve people’s health and the sustainability of society and the planet through promoting research and innovation.

2.1 IP as an Enabler

The Foundation recognises that IP may be an essential enabler for innovation to reach society. It attracts investments, fosters collaboration, and encourages the dissemination of valuable knowledge and technology. The Foundation therefore encourages its grant recipients to secure intellectual property rights for inventions generated in funded projects. However, for some projects the Foundation supports an open access approach.

2.2 IP Education and Awareness

The Foundation is committed to raising awareness about IP rights and their importance among its grant recipients.

2.3 Access and Accessibility

The Foundation aims to ensure that innovative solutions and knowledge generated through its funding are disseminated broadly to the public.

3 IP Ownership and Rights

By default, the IP rights generated as a result of research and innovation funded by the Foundation shall belong to the researchers, institutions, or entities conducting the work. However, when setting up mission driven strategic initiatives, the Foundation will engage in solutions which enables the innovation to reach society. This engagement may exceptionally include ownership of IP rights.

4 Equitable Access

The Foundation encourages its grant recipients to develop a strategy for achieving global access to funded research protected by intellectual property rights which has a potential for real world impact. This strategy should ensure that innovation is available and affordable in relevant low and lower-middle income countries. For selected projects, we will specifically request grant recipients to create a global access plan to guarantee accessibility and affordability in these regions.

5 Open Access and Data Sharing

Generated data and results derived from funded research should be made publicly available and easily accessible to all. Providing free, online access to published research will enhance the accessibility and usability of publications, ensuring that the research the Foundation funds can serve as a foundation for further innovation and development.

6 Reporting and Accountability

Grant recipients are required to provide transparent and accurate information to the Foundation on IP related to projects funded by the Foundation.

7 IP Awareness and Education

The Foundation will organise and support training sessions on patent rights for grant recipients when relevant.

8 IP Funding

The Foundation encourages its grant recipients on most projects to protect their intellectual property. To support this, the Foundation will support selected universities receiving grants for these projects by covering a portion of the costs associated with patenting the funded inventions.

9 Collaboration

The Foundation encourages collaboration among researchers, institutions, and organisations to foster the sharing of knowledge and expertise for the benefit of society.

10 Review and Amendment

This IP policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure that it remains aligned with the Foundation's mission and the evolving landscape of IP and innovation. Amendments to this policy may be made as needed.