



UNIVERSITIES ALLIED FOR ESSENTIAL MEDICINES

## Equitable Technology Access Framework 2020

Every university-developed technology with potential for further development into a drug, vaccine, or medical diagnostic should be licensed with a concrete and transparent strategy to make affordable versions available in resource-limited countries for medical care. To help turn this into a reality UAEM published its [Global Access Licensing Framework](#) in 2010 which consisted of 6 principles for universities to adhere to.

However, technology transfer at universities does not just involve direct licensing of a patented innovation to a pharmaceutical company and a more extensive framework covering a wider range of technology transfer modalities was needed. Consequently, UAEM has developed ETAF as a step-up from our previous SRL policy work. Access to the full document can be found here [[include hyperlink](#)].

ETAF is a policy framework to support universities in improving the access and affordability aspects of their current technology transfer processes. It will help universities lay out strategies so that when this transfer does happen, it can be done in a way in which the university itself retains as much oversight as possible over what happens with the end products of its initial research findings.

### Goals of ETAF:

- 1 Improve Equitable Access
- 2 Promote Further Development of Health Technologies
- 3 Strengthen the Transparency of Health Technology Transfer

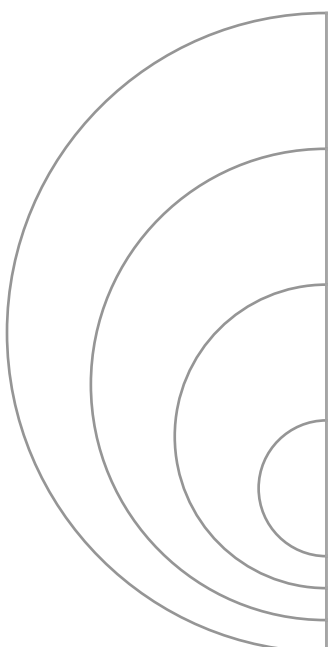
## General Principles of Global Access Technology Transfer:

As publicly funded research institutions (PFRI), universities' main priority with the use of research is to maximize return on public investment by promoting the accessibility and affordability of health technologies. For this reason, it is important for the PFRI to hold intellectual property (IP) rights to initial research in order to maximize influence over the end health product. Any transfer or rights to a third party should attach conditions to promote access and affordability and hold these conditions to be applicable to future technologies created. If a third party does not agree to act in accordance to the general principles of global access the PFRI should have the authority step in and revoke the technology transfer agreement.

## Modalities of Technology Transfer:

When outlining the mechanisms of the technology transfer the rights of the university to hold authority over their research should be prioritized. The university should only transfer their research to third parties that have agreed to produce their product at a marginal cost to low- and middle-income countries during the period of IP protection on the health product. In addition to this universities and third parties should ensure transparency by disclosing all relationships/contracts pertaining to the development of health technologies.

Arrangements of Technology Transfer are as follows:



Licensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When a PFRI grants exclusive or non-exclusive rights for a third party to use their research</li> </ul>
Commissioned Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When a third party commissions a PFRI to do research on a specific issue</li> </ul>
Product Development Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When a PFRI will collaborate with other institutions to develop research into a product</li> </ul>
Spin Off Companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When a PFRI will create its own company in order to develop research into a product</li> </ul>

## Mechanisms for Accountability:

Regardless of the policy the university adopts from ETAF, mechanisms of accountability should be present in order to ensure that universities are adhering to their commitments. Without such measures included in the policy's language to enforce the university to abide by those guidelines, the practice of such principles is insignificant.

Examples of Accountability Measures include (but are not limited to):

- Publishing full contracts pertaining to health technology licensing on the universities' website.
- The university releasing an annual, publicly available, annual report detailing the universities technology transfer pertaining to health technology produced of the previous year
- Establishing a research ethics committee with faculty members and students to oversee the technology transfer process of the university
- Outlining potential mechanism of responsibility and assessment with the university is not upholding their pledge to equitable technology transfer of health products