Patents' Benefit to Inventor, University, and Society Stressed In Seminar Series

The December 1974 *Chronicle* introduced to the University graduate community the experimental "patent awareness programs" currently underway at eight universities in the country, including the University of Maryland. Operating on the basic assumptions that more inventions can arise from university research than are currently being patented and that these inventions can be put to practical use, Research Corporation, through a three year, $198,700 grant from the National Science Foundation, is conducting the four phase program, which includes a review of ongoing institutional research, a seminar series designed to educate university staff about patent procedures, a program of continuing support through monthly visits to the campuses by patent associates employed by Research Corporation, and a report of results at the program's conclusion.

Other participating institutions hosting teams from Research Corporation are the Polytechnic Institute of New York, Princeton University, the University of Michigan, the University of Washington, the University of Georgia, Case Western Reserve University, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

The program aims at an earlier and more widespread identification of inventive concepts, which will guard against the possibility that important discoveries will be lost to the public, shorten the time between early observations and practical embodiments of innovative concepts, and increase the practical productivity of federal funds devoted to research. Currently over two billion dollars a year in federal funds are going into support of the university research endeavor. The academicians' increased awareness of proper patenting procedures might result in profits of more immediate social consequence from such an enormous investment.

A patent is a grant by a government to an inventor giving him the right to exclude others from making, using or selling his invention for a definite time period. In the United States, the grant is given in exchange for a full disclosure of a new, useful, and nonobvious invention.

A misconception prevalent in academic circles is that patenting precludes publishing and vice versa. This notion is not true; patenting and publishing need not be mutually exclusive if the proper time sequence is followed. If the patent application is filed before the submission of a manuscript for publication, the inventor derives full benefits from both actions.

Publishing without simultaneous patenting means that the right to patent is lost in a short time, six months for West German and Japanese patents and one year for patents in the United States. At this point, the invention, through publication, becomes part of the public domain, and the absence of a preferred market position may deter a commercial firm from risking capital when development costs are high.

Dr. Robert M. Williams of Research Corporation points out that in many cases, there is an extremely high risk and high cost in taking a product idea and "getting it to market." There is often serious conflict between innovation and public safety, and the inventor often has insufficient funds to carry through necessary testing and experimentation to ensure acceptability for public use. "The function of the patent," says Williams, "is to equilibrate the conflict between public safety and innovation . . . to reward the innovator."

Patenting provides incentives to industry to develop; gives the public new products and processes not otherwise available; may provide financial return to the inventor; allows for the retention of control by the patentee to prevent abuse; disseminates knowledge; and stimulates and supports further research by others.

In mid-March, four patent associates from Research Corporation spent two weeks at the University giving seminars to groups of faculty and students in areas of research which have high invention potential. Dr. Abraham Bavley, Mr. Robert Goldsmith, Mr. Bernard Kosloski, and Dr. Williams will return to the campuses periodically to follow through on the third phase of the program.

Unfortunately, the attendance at seminars at the University of Maryland was not as great as had been originally hoped for, despite considerable advance notice given in various campus publications. In several instances, only two or three department members were present for the departmental seminar presentations. Fairly heavy turnouts were recorded at seminars for the Departments of Chemical Engineering (12), Electrical Engineering (17) and Physics and Astronomy (17) at College Park. At Baltimore, twenty-five faculty members and students attended the seminar for the School of Pharmacy; Dr. Bavley notes that this was "a mag-

GUESTS AND/OR PARTICIPANTS

SUPA ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 26, 1979

Nels Ackerson
Chief Counsel & Administrative Director
Sub-Committee on the Constitution
U.S. Senate
102-B Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Donald W. Banner
Commissioner
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
Crystal Plaza
2021 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 20231

Bruce Dahlbo
Senior Associate
Dr. Dvorkovitz & Associates
P.O. Box 1748
Ormond Beach, FL 32074

Isaac Fleischmann
Information Services Officer
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
Crystal Plaza 3
2021 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 20231

O. William Moody
President
Control Data Technotec
P.O. Box 0
Minneapolis, MN 55440

Harriet Oler
Senior Attorney
Office of General Counsel
1921 Jefferson Davis Highway
Crystal Mall, Bldg. 2
Arlington, VA 20559

Ulrich Shatz
Director
International Affairs/Press &
Public Relations
European Patent Office
Rosenheimer Str. 30
Motorama Haus D 8000
Munchen 80
West Germany

David S. Williamson
Director, Atlanta District Office
U.S. Department of Commerce
Industry & Trade Administration
Suite 600
1365 Peachtree St. N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30309

COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Eleven Dupont Circle, Suite 480 Washington, D.C. 20036 202-861-2595

REGISTRATION LIST FOR THE OCTOBER 1982 COGR MEETING

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN BIRMINGHAM
Ray Arrington
Lester H. Buryn (Board)
Betty Campbell

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
Robert Wells

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
Stanley Matelski

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
Gary Chaffins

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
James T. Wheeler

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
Don S. Ousterhout (Board)

AUBURN UNIVERSITY
David F. Pifer

BOSTON COLLEGE
Paul Haran
Charles Tardivo

BOSTON UNIVERSITY
Barry Bergman
Raymond A. Parker
George Pendergast

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
Joel M. Cohen
Laurence J. Higgins

BROWN UNIVERSITY
Thomas Wunderlich

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Robert T. Baker

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGES
Donald Queen

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Roger G. Ditzel (Board)
Alexis Jackson

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SAN DIEGO
V. Wayne Kennedy (Board)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SAN FRANCISCO
Stanley Bateman
Thomas W. Gwyn

CARNEGIE-MELLON UNIVERSITY
Thomas Eagan
Richard L. Van Horn (Board)

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
Donald S. SigaL

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
Raymond D. Renner
Frank R. Tepe, Jr.

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
Max A. Binkley
Judson M. Harper

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
Jerry Cocklin

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
James P. Lewis
Richard Ruttenberg
Philip Sharkey
Carl Sparano

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
Marc Fowler
David E. Herman
Kenneth R. Landorf
Stuart F. Wilson

CORNELL UNIVERSITY
Don K. Enichen
John McKeown

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
Foster W. Blough
John C. Fini
John F. Kavanagh

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON
George B. Noland
Gerald Vonderbrink

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
Howard Grider

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
James E. Lesch
Chandler W. Matthews

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
A. R. Potami

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
Ronald J. Brownlee

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
Bob Jenkins

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
J. Jerrold Jackson

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY
Jane A. Youngers

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
Doyle Kimbrough

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
Ricardo Alvarado
Richard B. Gilroy
Ann H. Greenberg (Board)
Joel Steele
Richard Wagner

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
Alys F. Jacobs
Winifred R. Widmer

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY
Daryl W. Bierly

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
William J. Clement
W. W. Fulk
George R. Holcomb
Daniel A. Textoris

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA
Susan Hoffman

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
Martin Rachmeler

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
Francis Kobayashi

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
Raymond S. Bugno
Kenneth W. Sloan (Board)

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
Taylor C. Anthony
Charles W. Goff

OREGON STAE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Erlinda Y. Gayamat

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
Donn E. Frazier
George L. Lane
William D. Moir

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Alfred F. Beers
E. Daniel Kelley
Robert J. McCann
Anthony Merritt (Board)

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Paul Solyan
John H. Thompson

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
Raymond J. Clark (Board)
Richard Rossi
Allen J. Sinisgalli

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Gene A. Frick (Board)
Max Kerlin

RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
Michael Barone
Joseph M. LoGiudice
William J. McGarry
Stephen A. Scullen

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
John B. Richey
Dominic Viscardi

ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY
Barbara Schuld

RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY
David Rumbo

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
Ralph Earhart
Ceasar Gonzmart
Howard G. Lundy, Jr.

YALE UNIVERSITY
Linda Downey
Joseph S. Warner
Joel A. Wasserman

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY
Paul Cardin
Bernard Pittinsky
Marvin Resnick