WIIPS™: Whitehead Institute Intellectual Property System (A Relational Database for IP Management and Technology Transfer)

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We are pleased to announce that the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A., has kindly allowed MIHR and PIPRA to distribute the Institute's proprietary *WIIPS*™ Database. This database offers tangible benefits to improve the function and efficiency of any technology transfer office (TTO). In accordance with the non-profit missions of MIHR, PIPRA, and the Whitehead Institute, the sharing of *WIIPS*™ will be free of charge and is primarily aimed at assisting developing country TTOs.

WIIPS™ is a relational database designed to automate essential intellectual property management and technology transfer functions. It simplifies recordkeeping and generates useful reports for technology disclosures, patent applications, joint invention agreements, licenses, and material transfer agreements. In addition, the system stores essential information on every inventor, owner, and licensee who has interacted with a given TTO. Thus, the system effectively automates all recordkeeping, and offers immediate and accurate information on the status of every case, including documentation, patenting and licensing information. Not only will it allow TTOs to better manage volumes of IP data, it will also increase productivity and accuracy, since *WIIPS*™ allows for easy communication among staff members. The system is easy to learn and use and comes with detailed system documentation. In addition, *WIIPS*™ provides complete financial control, with financial audit trails and automation to meet the compliance requirements that are often required of TTOs. *WIIPS*™ can be used to manage all the financial aspects of the TTO, allowing better control of patent-filing costs. The system permits effective monitoring of expenses and legal bills, thus helping to ensure timely expense reimbursement and accounts receivable management, and it facilitates faster royalty calculation and distribution.

In order to better adapt *WIIPS*™to the needs of TTOs, users will be authorized to copy and modify the software, and/or to re-write the accompanying user guide, as long as any modified products mention that the product is based on *WIIPS*™ and has been modified by the user. Users may also make and use as many copies of *WIIPS*™ as are required.

The relational database and the user guide can be downloaded for free, subject to the terms of a license, from the online version of the *Handbook* at www.ipHandbook.org as of August 2007. The database requires that users are running Microsoft® Access® on a Windows XP or higher system.

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As a non-profit, research and educational organization with focus on research in the biomedical field, the Whitehead Institute is pleased to further MIHR and PIPRA's missions of disseminating information and tools of best practices in technology transfer and intellectual property management, and we are keen to contribute to these commendable efforts. ■

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