

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION NEWS

University Patent Issues *

Fostering an environment that supports faculty publications and also ensuring that the university's intellectual property rights are properly maintained represents a challenge for staff working in DU's ORSP and Office of Intellectual Property & Technology Transfer. Research administrators and technology transfer professionals are challenged to coordinate the interests of the university's researchers and administrators

Researchers focus on publishing in scholarly, professional, or industry journals, which can bolster a university researcher's efforts toward receiving tenure or elevating their standing in their field of study. Because of the importance of producing significant research results and the push by university researchers to quickly disseminate relevant findings to interested colleagues in the scientific community, a researcher's first concern may not be about protecting the underlying intellectual property stemming from the research result.

The university supports a variety of research proposals, including those that make inventions available under conditions that will promote their effective development and utilization in the public interest. The Office of Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer (IP/TT) has been established to ensure protection of intellectual property and advancement of the university and individual investigators' research goals.

The Intellectual Property & Events Division at the University of Denver serves to identify, nurture, cultivate and protect the intellectual property rights of the University of Denver. The spectrum of interest ranges from trademarks and insignia, to patents, copyrights, trade secrets, and the name, image and reputation of the University and its participants. Although there is a legal mission involved in this process, the Division also performs the business tasks of managing sponsorships, television and radio production, and certain entrepreneurial ventures where the intangible right to be associated with the University is involved.

The objectives of the University of Denver's Intellectual Property Policy are (1) To provide the necessary protections and incentives to encourage both the discovery and development of new knowledge and creative works, and their exploitation for the public benefit, and to guide the generation of revenue for the University and the Creator(s). (2) To fulfill the terms of sponsored agreements and other contracts relating to the development of the intellectual property. (3) To create a reasonable and workable policy that enables an efficient administration of the intellectual property issues, and that accounts for the constant advance of science and technology.

In addition to university policies, the IP/TT Office recommends a helpful Web site containing a

great deal of information on copyright in higher education. This Web site was developed at the University of Texas, so some of the material on the site is specific to that university. However, most of the information is very applicable to all faculty and staff, and the "Crash Course in Copyright" is easy to read and to use: <http://www.utsystem.edu/OGC/intellectualproperty/cprtindx.htm>

Finally, all new DU Faculty who plan to submit research proposals at the University of Denver should sign an employee patent agreement, which can be found at: <http://www.du.edu/intellectualproperty/patentAgreement.html>

As always, if you have questions about intellectual property or patent issues, please contact your project administrator in ORSP.

*Excerpts from: University of Denver Office of Technology Transfer, <http://www.du.edu/techtransfer/> and NCURA's Research Management Review Online, Volume 15, no. 2 <http://www.ncura.edu/content/news/rmr/>

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Grant Opportunities

- ◆ September 16, 2008 -US
Bureau of Reclamation: Opportunity No. "8-FC-81-1453 : Water Reuse Foundation: Support for Reclamation Agenda Multiple Projects
- ◆ October 8, 2008-National
Science Foundation: Opportunity No. 08-581: Astronomy and Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellowships
- ◆ November 4, 2008—
National Endowment for the Humanities: Opportunity No. 2008-1104HW: CFDA 45-169, Promotion of the Humanities, Digital Humanities Initiative
- ◆ December 2, 2008—
National Science Foundation: Opportunity No. 08-600: Federal Cyber Service, Scholarship for Service (SFS)

Spotlight on DU Research

"Scientist predicts stellar catastrophe" - article from DU Today by Chase Squires, August 7, 2008



ORSP Website!

<http://www.du.edu/orsp>

Well, it won't be doomsday for those of us on earth, but DU Astronomy Professor Robert Stencel says new findings he presented at a June conference show that a far-distant star may be headed for big trouble within a few decades. The star, called Epsilon Aurigae, is destined for a cataclysmic event, essentially finding itself cut in half by another, hidden celestial body. It is a bright star in the autumn/winter constellation Auriga, the Charioteer. After presenting the discovery, *National Geographic News*, *Sky & Telescope* and many online scientific news services started reporting Stencel's research. At the center of the effort is a study of a super-giant star with about 12 to 15 times the mass of the sun that is being eclipsed by another massive object, possibly some sort of giant disc — 930 million miles across — that is strangely invisible.

Variations in the short-term light and in the very long-term eclipse patterns have been noticed. As the frequency of these changes increase, Stencel sees a chance for "stellar fireworks" by the middle of this century if, for example, a protoplanet forming in the disk were about to be swallowed by the central mass of the disk itself. "Similar objects, called 'Hot Jupiters,' are now known to be widespread among exoplanetary systems discovered during the past 20 years," Stencel says. Stencel says that he and collaborators used modern computer data analysis to compare historical reports of the regular eclipses and spotted a pattern of unexpected variance. "These changes offer a chance to examine the dynamics of rapidly changing stellar disks on a human timescale and an opportunity for the public to see that stars change," Stencel says. But people of earth need not worry about the fallout from such a massive blast. The star is some 2,000 light-years away. A light-year is the distance something moving at the speed of light can travel in a year. "It won't be affecting us physically, except by light," Stencel says. "It would take millions of years for materials in a blast, if there were to be any kind of blast, to reach us."

DU ORSP —Proposal Preparation TIPS # 6-11

6. Begin budget preparation

- ORSP can provide you with a budget template. Be aware of some possible differences, eg., some faculty have 12 month appointments. Adapt the template to your particular situation and need. Or is there a special budget format the sponsor requires?
- Does the sponsor stipulate an indirect rate? If not, see indirect rate information posted on the ORSP website.
- Are there restrictions in the guidelines to which you must adhere—for example, is there a given bottom line?
- If it is a multiyear proposal, include an annual inflation factor for salary and non-salary line

items, and it is recommended to increase the estimates by 3% for salary and 5% for tuition each year.

- Begin to prepare the budget justification—this includes mention of each person listed and his/her role or contribution to the project, the inflation rate you are using, assumptions about travel costs, publication costs, etc.

7. Pay attention to all formatting requirements as noted in the request for proposal.

- Be sure to note which pages require institutional signature (i.e., ORSP). Begin to prepare Proposal Review & Approval Form (PRA).

8. ORSP's website contains infor-

mation that might prove useful if you have application forms to fill out.

9. Make sure Principal Investigator privileges and Conflict of Interest assurance are in place.

10. For the future, make templates for yourself for frequently needed formats or information—budget, current & pending support, memos, etc.

11. Most important : be sure people have the necessary information. Contact ORSP with any questions as soon as you encounter them. Don't let communication breakdown be an obstacles in your proposal preparation.

"Research is what I'm doing when I don't know what I'm doing." - Werner von Braun