How to Partner with NIH

We have a variety of agreements that allow companies, universities, and government agencies to leverage our unique and wide-ranging resources.

- Your specific goals will determine the most appropriate agreement, whether a **transactional agreement**, a **co-development agreement**, or a research-use or commercialization **license**.
- A **Confidential Disclosure Agreement (CDA)** allows you to discuss confidential or proprietary information with NIH employees, it limits the public release of the exchanged information, and either one-way or two-way agreements are possible.
- If you are with a **for-profit company**:
  - A **Biological Materials License** is required for transfer of materials from NIH to a for-profit organization;
  - A **Collaboration Agreement** is the simplest research collaboration agreement;
  - A **Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA)** allows you to more broadly negotiate terms and conditions and provide resources;
  - A **Clinical Trial Agreement (CTA)** defines: who will perform a clinical trial; who is responsible for providing the drug(s) or other materials; and who has responsibility for complying with Federal regulations on protecting human subjects;
  - Exclusive and non-exclusive **licenses** are available for commercialization of an NIH invention.
- **The NCI SBIR-Tech Transfer Program**
  - If you are with a **non-profit or university**, a **Material Transfer Agreement (MTA)** will be required for exchanging research materials with an NIH scientist in order to memorialize the transfer. This is critical if the materials are human-derived.

**Deciding which type of agreement to use can be a challenge. Therefore, the TTC highly recommends that you discuss your interests with TTC staff. If you do not have a TTC staff contact, please reach out to our Invention Development and Marketing Unit.**

**Updated**
Wednesday, March 3, 2021

**Source URL:** https://techtransfer.cancer.gov/partnering