

Heading to a conference? Choose the right pathway for the IP

Conferences provide a valuable opportunity for peer interaction, networking and sharing of knowledge and research outcomes. Before presenting your research at a conference, consider the most appropriate pathway to translation and impact and whether presenting at a conference might impact the possibility of patent protection and future translation and commercialisation opportunities for your research.

Before you present it is important to consider the pathways and develop a plan for achieving impact from your research as well as any IP obligations from funding or IP agreements. In some cases, open public release of information may be the best path towards translation and impact for your research. In other cases translation and impact may be best achieved through a safeguarded route such as through a patent filing. Often, it is not necessary to choose between these options, but simply have the correct timing so you achieve both. If you think the best pathway to impact may be via a safeguarded route, speak with your <u>Faculty's Business</u>. <u>Development Manager</u> (BDM) and request an assessment of the IP for suitability of patent protection before presenting the information publicly.

Once your new IP information is publicly available, the 'novelty' required for patent protection is damaged and the potential pathways to impact and commercial value may be diminished. Your IP has been made public if you have shared enough information for a skilled person to be able to reproduce it without further creative input. Publicly available information includes, but isn't limited to, presentations, abstracts, publications, non-confidential discussions with potential partners, or interactions with AI platforms (such as ChatGPT or QuillBot).

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

- Remember that published session abstracts, posters and conference proceedings are publicly available.
- If you are thinking about a safeguarded route to achieving impact for your research, speak with your BDM about translation pathways and IP protection. Allow plenty of time for a patentability assessment before you present.
- Review any IP, funding or collaboration agreements as well as the <u>University Statute</u> to ensure the correct IP pathway is chosen for your presentation.
- If you are presenting your research to a conference audience, prepare notes and check them rigorously to decide how much detail you will provide.
- Discuss the impact of your work rather than the details of how it works.
- If your research work will benefit from a detailed sharing of information, consider a follow-up meeting with a Confidential Disclosure Agreement (CDA) in place.
- Lodge an <u>IP Disclosure Form</u> to the Knowledge & Technology Transfer team to see whether a provisional patent application should be filed before the conference.



Case Study

Tatyana and Alex are research fellows heading to conferences in December where they are presenting their work.

Tatyana has generated an antibody capable of sorting diseased cells from normal cells. Alex has made a new chemical compound that can improve the luminescence of paint.

Tatyana's poster includes details of the antibody sequence and the improved levels of disease diagnosis that have been achieved in human samples. She lodges an early IP disclosure and a provisional patent is filed before the conference. Alex gives a presentation including the advanced luminescent features of the paint as well as details of the novel chemistry involved.

Both Tatyana and Alex receive valuable peer recognition, collaboration offers and industry interest. Tatyana's diagnostic test is commercialised by a company who license the patent. Alex's novel paint chemistry is freely available for anyone to use.

NEED HELP?

Support is available from your Faculty's <u>Business</u> <u>Development Manager</u> or contact a member of the <u>Knowledge & Technology Transfer</u> team in RIC.