

Reconciling patent rights and disclosure of findings in science is needed

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Jessica M. Wyndham et al. wrote an article entitled “Define the human right to science” (1). The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights released three important questions (1). One of three questions is what should be the relationship between the right to benefit from science and intellectual property rights? (1). Intellectual property rights include patent rights. Therefore, we must face the research conflict in open science versus commercialization (2). We know that openness in science can play a key role for successfully driving both nonprofit and profit organizations (3). However, applying for patent protection means a profit-organization aiming to earn profit through findings in science. The larger investment, the larger profit is needed for commercialization. Reconciling patent rights and disclosure of findings in science is needed. If the reconciliation is not successful, then we must establish rules or regulations on this reconciliation. Only addressing “the human right to science” by the UN committee does not spread the benefit of science to people in the world.

References:

1. Jessica M. Wyndham et al., Define the human right to science, *Science* 30 Nov 2018: Vol. 362, Issue 6418, pp. 975
2. Timothy Caulfield et al., “Open science versus commercialization: a modern research conflict?,” *Genome Med.* 2012; 4(2): 17
3. <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/359/6376/642/tab-e-letters>