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Health, Safety & Environment

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Symposium on the Human Genome Project

Thomas G. Field, Jr., *Maximizing the Return from Genome Research*
Professor Field introduces and explains the origins of the symposium.

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Robert M. Cook-Deegan, *Origins of the Human Genome Project*

Dr. Cook-Deegan recounts some of the scientific and political history leading to controversy about the proper mix of private and public roles in pursuing genome research and bringing its fruits to bear, e.g., in preventing and curing disease.

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Kate H. Murashige, *Overview of Potential Intellectual Property Protection for Biotechnology*

Dr. Murashige compares the function and value of copyright, patent and trade secret laws in recovering investments in developing genome-related biotechnology.

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Lawrence Rudolph, *Overview of Federal Technology Transfer*

Mr. Rudolph reviews approximately thirteen years of legal and political developments that have contributed to laws governing the extent to which private firms may secure rights in technology at least partly developed with federal funds.

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Harvey Drucker, *Technology Transfer: A View from the Trenches*

Dr. Drucker, who has lab-wide responsibility for technology transfer at Argonne National Laboratory, argues that transferring rights in discoveries made through tax-supported research to private entities can contribute to public welfare in many ways.

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Christopher J. Harnett, *The Human Genome Project and the Downside of Federal Technology Transfer*

Mr. Harnett argues that emphasizing technology transfer at institutions such as the National Institutes of Health will interfere with what should be regarded as their primary mission, basic research.

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Rebecca S. Eisenberg, *Technology Transfer and the Genome Project: Problems with Patenting Research Tools*

Professor Eisenberg argues against a system providing for federally-sponsored inventions to be patented if any associated person so desires. She believes that the system does not adequately weigh the possibility that the greatest social return from genome research will require some discoveries to be in the public domain.

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Timothy P. Linkkila & Timothy E. Tracy, *Biotechnology Process Patents: Is Special Legislation Needed?*

The authors review administrative and court decisions prompting proposed changes to the patent law. After reviewing pros and cons, they argue that, on balance, pending bills can easily cause more problems than they solve.

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