**Guide to Material Transfer Agreements (MTA)**

# **Purpose of a Material Transfer Agreement:**

1. To limit any potential liability on the part of the University or its faculty.
2. To limit whether or to whom the material is forwarded or shared by the recipient.
3. To review any publications by the recipient relating to the use of the material prior to publication.
4. To limit how the material will be used by the recipient.
5. To protect the ownership or potential patentability of the material or any derivatives of the material.

# **Necessity for a Material Transfer Agreement:**

An MTA is typically required prior to shipment when the material represents one or more of the following conditions.

* The materials are tissues, fluids, or other samples of human origin.
* The material contains pathogens or other harmful biological or chemical agents subject to special guidelines and/or procedures.
* The material is described in a WSU Invention Disclosure, WSU patent application or issued patent.
* Represents intellectual property licensed by WSU to another party.
* Was received from another party (Exception: Materials being transferred under an existing agreement that specifically provides for such transfer (such as a Collaborative Agreement or Non-Disclosure Agreement) do not require an additional MTA.

Please contact [MTAinfo@wayne.edu](mailto:MTAinfo@wayne.edu) if you have any questions regarding required MTAs or the applicability of other agreements covering the transfer of materials. Note that MTAs with other academic or non-profit research institutions can often be accomplished quickly utilizing widely accepted standard academic agreement templates.

# **When MTA is Not Required:**

Fee-for-service activities (e.g., analytical services provided by a commercial party) do not require MTAs when the contracted lab simply performs the service and provides the data to the investigator. The investigator does not transfer any rights or ownership to the material or the results to the contracted lab.

\*Materials include, but are not limited to, biologics and biological samples, reagents, cell lines, plasmids, vectors, and chemical compounds.