• Webinar Series Overview •

Tea with ASTP

Tea, tech transfer and online learning

Tea with ASTP

Tea with ASTP is a series of bi-monthly webinars organised by ASTP members for members.

These hour-long online seminars offer ASTP members an insight into a wide range of topics related to the knowledge transfer ecosystem.

They also give innovators and specialist a platform to share their knowledge with Europe's largest KT community.

Contents

Tom Hockaday
Technology Transfer Innovation | UK

12th May 2020

University tech transfer and the COVID-19 crisis

Universities are fulfilling an extremely important role in addressing the COVID-19 crisis, and technology transfer has an important part to play in some of this.

During the webinar Tom discussed two main areas:
- Some of the practical issues facing TTOs, such as leadership; where to focus resources; what are the priorities; remote working; staff welfare.
- The role and approach of the TTO relating to university technologies that help address the crisis: university research outputs will be transferred out from the universities into other organisations (government agencies, charities and for-profit businesses); better placed to develop, design, manufacture and deliver products and services to help people address the crisis. What approach should the TTO adopt - non-exclusive royalty-free licences for everything to everyone? We know it is more complicated than that.

Malcolm Bain

id law partners/ BGMA | Spain

19th May 2020

Open-source software

How to avoid pitfalls

In this webinar Malcolm Bain, a well experienced lawyer in the field and well known to ASTP's community, talked about his experience with different cases involving Open-ource software. He referred to things to do with: different types of licenses and situations to avoid or trouble with different settings.

Alison Campbell
Knowledge Transfer Ireland | Ireland

2nd June 2020

Moving towards a unified JOA model

What happens when more than one university owns IP? Developing common principles for inter-university agreements

TTOs and legal offices seem to spend a lot of valuable time negotiating terms in joint IP ownership agreements. Not only when joint ownership is with industry but also when we have joint IP ownership between research institutions. Surely we can come up with a solution to reduce the time spent negotiating with each other? We have other things to do, right? In this session we explored the idea of developing central principles that ASTP members can chose to adhere to. Could we even develop a template? Knowledge Transfer Ireland has developed a range of templates together with the Irish TTOs and industry. Is that a direction we should try for these types of agreements? Could we learn from that experience, what does it take and how to go about developing this concept? Which general principles could we all agree on? And what can go wrong?

Massimiliano Granieri

University of Brescia | Italy

16th June 2020

Managing IP in the times of COVID-19

The pandemic prompted universities and public research organisations to re-think their IP management strategies. Various forms of open licenses have been developed, from the Open Covid Pledge to KTI COVID - 19 NERF license, granting free temporary access to IP rights to tackle the corona virus crisis. To what extent do IPRs represent a barrier to access innovation in times of health emergencies?

Massimiliano Granieri, Associate Professor of Comparative Private Law at the University of Brescia (Italy), guided us in a common reflection, at the intersection of law and ethics, on public research, IPRs, innovation and COVID -19.

Laura Spinardi

TTO Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granda
Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico | Italy

Managing and valorising clinical data

Uniquely in times of a health emergency the value of clinical research data emerges. Large healthcare datasets combined with Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning applications can change the clinical innovation landscape. However, data access and valorisation cannot leave patients' rights without of consideration; dealing with clinical data often represents a challenge for the collaboration between universities and research hospitals.

This webinar helps us frame some of the major issues arising in this complex field.

Scarlett Sett
Kiel University | Germany
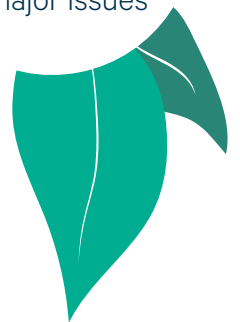
14th July 2020

The Nagoya Protocol

The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) is an international agreement aimed at the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources. Both access and benefit-sharing obligations are established and negotiated between the providing country (country of origin) of the genetic resource and the User (Researcher) of the genetic resources. As a User of a genetic resource, the researcher will be personally liable if found non-compliant with the EU ABS regulation, especially if working in a EU member state. If found non-compliant, this could mean high fines imposed to the researcher or the research institute, cancellation of research projects, embargo of genetic resources, etc.

Dr Scarlett Sett is the Nagoya Protocol (NP) Compliance Officer at Kiel University. In her presentation she went over definitions and areas that have created confusion/misconception on what type of research is within scope of the NP. She discussed how the compliance and implementation strategy was developed at the university and who is responsible for which areas, how they keep track of any NP processes and how to engage the researchers into taking an active role in the implementation of the NP into their research agendas.

Cécile Cavalade
Université libre de Bruxelles | Belgium

Christoph Haunold
University of Luxembourg | Luxembourg

30th September 2020

KT metrics

New trends and EC experts recommendations

In the summer of 2020, an expert group convened by the EC Joint Research Centre (JRC), published the "Knowledge Transfer (KT) Metrics' Report" on knowledge transfer metrics. The study was part of the MoU between ASTP and the EC-JRC and for this webinar, we invited two of the experts: ASTP Board member Christophe Haunold and ASTP's president Cécile Cavalade to unpack the report and outline future plans.
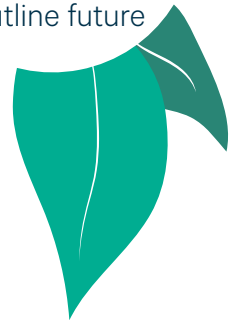
Frugal Innovation

Frugal Innovation is the art of developing solutions by "doing more with less" creating more aggregate value for a client while reducing energy, waste, complexity, time and capital of a product. The frugal innovation framework has three main goals: (1) develop affordable solutions; (2) reduce the complexity of the solution; (3) leverage local resources.

By targeting these goals, a frugal Innovation approach provides a mindset that allows the design of solutions based on the transfer of knowledge from "the bottom up." It focuses on understanding the ecosystem and needs of the people located in the base of the pyramid of wealth in order to develop appropriate solutions that truly address the needs.

Universities' third mission is primarily associated with the transfer of knowledge from universities to the business sector to promote innovation and economic growth but it is also associated with the wider contribution of universities to the social development of their regions and with their capacity to contribute to addressing societal problems such as poverty, health or environmental sustainability.

Researchers may lack incentives to engage in frugal innovation, since they are normally rewarded for more measurable outputs, such as publications, patents, or research project, which are not easy to achieve when focusing on frugal innovation. But intermediary organisations such as TTOs and incubators can play a role in this respect, for example by promoting frugal innovation through entrepreneurship projects, also involving students.

In this webinar The Frugal Innovation Hub (FIH) was presented, as a program of the School of Engineering at Santa Clara University liaising between engineering students, faculty members, companies, NGOs to solve together humanitarian problems. FIH bridges the gap between the technology developed in the Silicon Valley and emerging markets worldwide.

Allan Báez Morales
University of Santa Clara | USA

Claudio Truzzi
Université libre de Bruxelles | Belgium

Knowledge transfer for a data economy

The ever-increasing digital transformation of our society and economy is generating a wealth of data with high value-add potential through the extraction of useful insights. At universities and research institutes, an increasing number of R&D projects are following the same trend; KTOs are being confronted with the need to integrate new data valorisation paths into their typical valorisation toolboxes.

In this talk, we were present with a real-world implementation of an IoT-based data generation and valorisation platform, called SmartCampus, developed by the KTO at Université libre de Bruxelles in Brussels to boost research, innovation and impact inside and outside the academic community through the valorisation of data insights. Eighteen months after the inception of SmartCampus, they have created a diversified ecosystem of tens of research labs, infrastructure facilities, logistics services, campus communities and public institutions, each consuming a customised mix of microservices, from access to the network, to data flow fusion and management, to training and consulting. We hear the different procedures, methods and KPIs put in place in order to manage this new data-driven, mostly non-license based, valorisation flow.

Technology marketing

Due to increasing globalisation, universities and research organisations are faced with the necessity of making their knowledge and technologies available to society and play a leading role in global innovation. One of the major challenges faced by research organisations is that they work on technologies for which the market does not yet exist or needs to be developed. This requires research organisations to analyse the environment, its framework conditions and identify any possible barriers very early in the innovation process.

Sometimes universities and research organisations fail to turn research results into marketable products or services, not because of lack of scientific excellence or technical innovativeness but, because of non-technological barriers such as economic, environmental, social, regulatory, or legal obstacles.

While technical barriers might be worked out by scientists, non-technical barriers are much more difficult for them to solve and might require support from knowledge transfer professionals. With the project Deep Market Insight, funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the German Aerospace Center (DLR) is developing a method and service that, among other things, is intended to identify precisely these innovation barriers and show ways to overcome them.

In this webinar, examples were given which make such a tool necessary and first approaches to the solution will be presented. The aim is also to exchange views and discuss the relevance of this topic with the knowledge transfer community.

Alexander Born
German Aerospace Center (DLR) | Germany

Anja Zimmermann
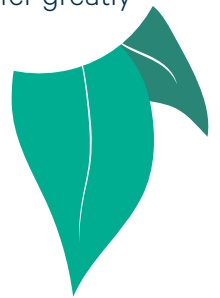Ascenion GmbH | Germany

10th November 2020

Negotiating licensing terms

Still one of the main areas of KT offices are heavily involved in, is licensing. Not only does licensing facilitate KT, it also can generate income and not to forget reputation for the research institution your KTO is working for. But how to make sure, that the terms you agree on actually reflect the value your IP.

In this talk, we touched briefly on the subject of how to get a price tag for a licensable IP, we then discuss various deal structures and licensing fee models and also negotiation tactics. Finally we spend some time regarding the do's and don'ts in licensing.

N.B Ascenion works in the field of Life Sciences and Anja shares her experience in this field alone. Licensing terms in other areas, e.g. engineering or IT might differ greatly from those in Life Sciences.

Open hardware

While open-source software dominates the field of software development, open hardware has taken longer to evolve. Open hardware is hardware for which the designs are available for anyone to copy, use, improve and commercialise. Open hardware products vary from electronics (including chip designs), through to ventilators, cars, drones, lab equipment, even beer and cola. The European Commission takes open hardware seriously: it is currently undertaking a study on competitiveness, innovation and independence in the field of open hardware. Investors are also getting involved in open hardware, with SiFive, a company which develops chip designs based on open hardware, securing well over $100m in funding.

Andrew Katz explored the dynamics of open technologies, and considers whether open hardware has the potential to be as successful as open-source software. Why do companies invest in open hardware ? Why does opening up technologies make sense for business, investors, the environment and society in general? Where can open hardware learn from open-source software: in what ways should it emulate open source, and in what ways should it seek a different route?

Andrew Katz
Moorcrofts LLP | UK
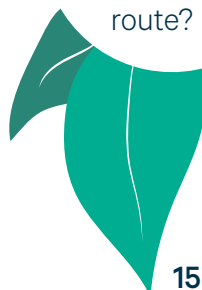
Benjamin Soffer

King's College London | UK

Corporate partnerships

Ben Soffer, Head of Corporate Partnerships at King's College London, wpresented an exciting initiative and partnership between King's College, Guy's and St Thomas' and King's College Hospitals. The MedTech Accelerator will be acting as a vehicle for the commercialisation of MedTech innovations. The Accelerator will be set up as a limited company based on a shareholder agreement and, in parallel, the parties are looking to facilitate the creation of a venture fund. The Accelerator has the ambition to position itself as the best place in the UK for MedTech Innovation to flourish successfully.
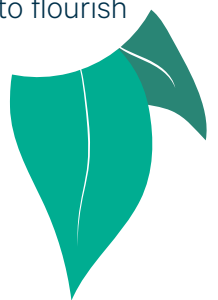
Policies for spin-outs

Licensing, equity and assignment

Most KTOs work with the spin-out route as a way of commercialising inventions from our research institutions: there are different models and policies in place at different KTOs.

ETH Zurich and Imperial College London are both renowned institutions, also when it comes to KTO activities. These two KTOs operate quite different, and efficient, models for spin-outs.

Marjan Kraak (Head of Spin-Off Group, ETH Transfer at ETH Zurich) took us through their respective models and processes.

Following the presentation, a lively discussion about the pros and cons of the different models and a discussion about daily challenges and how to solve them. You will have ample opportunities to ask questions and exchange thoughts and best practices on spin-out policies.

Marjan Kraak
ETH Transfer | Switzerland
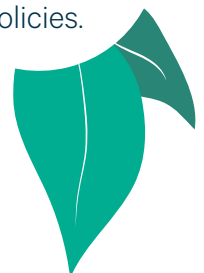
George Summerfield
K & L Gates | USA

Thorsten Vormann
K & L Gates | Germany

Comparing and contrasting US and Europe patent litigation

One of your university's patents is being infringed, and the infringer is unwilling to license the technology voluntarily. Learn what to expect if the university chooses litigation as a means to address the infringement. The talk will address similarities and differences between patent litigation in the United States and Europe.

Antonino Rotolo
University of Bologna | Italy

Paul van Dun
KU Leuven R&D | Belgium

9th March 2021

Research integrity and technology transfer

While ethics are becoming more and more an integral part of research, and ethical compliance is seen as pivotal to achieve research excellence, ethical issues related to technology transfer are often still an unchartered territory. Acknowledgement of moral rights, conflict of interest, informed consent and treatment of personal data in biotechnological inventions, dual use of technologies are just some of the issues that may impact the whole process from conducting research to commercialising research results. Also, which are the most suitable organizational models for universities to deal with research integrity and ethical issues in technology transfer? In this webinar Paul Van Dun (KULeuven) and Antonino Rotolo (University of Bologna) discussed these issues both with a practitioner's approach and from the point of view of a University's Vice Rector.

Andrea Ravaioli
University of Bologna | Italy

Bettina Riedel
University of Bologna | Italy

23rd March 2021

Dealing with new plant varieties

The development of new and improved varieties of plants benefits the economy by increasing the marketability of crops and improving rural income and overall economic development.

Managing IP in universities is not only about patents and software; interesting opportunities can also arise from the protection of new plant varieties resulting from breeding programmes developed by researchers. In fact, the development of new and improved varieties of plants benefits the economy by increasing the marketability of crops and improving rural income and overall economic development.

The University of Bologna has a long standing tradition in developing new varieties of fruit trees (cherries, kiwifruit, apple, pear, plums). All varieties are protected by plant breeders' rights and most of them are successfully outlicensed to growers at global level. In this webinar, Andrea Ravaioli and Bettina Riedel, Plant Variety Managers at the Unibo Knowledge Transfer Office, shared their experience in creating value out of new fruit varieties.
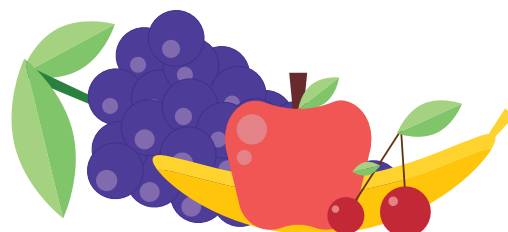
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