

Campus Notice

Submit invention disclosures directly to Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties Inc.

Effective immediately, send your invention disclosures directly to Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties Inc. (VTIP). The form can be downloaded from [www.vtip.org \(http://www.vtip.org\)](http://www.vtip.org). Send the completed form to VTIP, campus mail code 0459 or hand deliver to the VTIP offices in the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center, 2200 Kraft Drive, Suite 1050.

VTIP President Mark Coburn explains that most academic patent applications are driven by one of two events: Submission of a grant, with the idea for an invention; or, Preparation of a manuscript for publication, containing the results that demonstrate the invention. It's a good general rule to contact us earlier rather than later. If an invention appears in print before a patent application is filed, the ability to obtain worldwide rights is lost.

A summary of the suitability of the different timing options follows:

- Timing of Disclosure Submission
- Premature - Innovation: what to do
- Best - Conception: how to do it
- Very Good - Reduction to Practice: make it work
- Good - Preparation of a Paper: describe it
- Poor - Submission of a Paper or Abstract
- Poor - Immediately Prior to Public Disclosure
- Very Poor - Post-Publication or Public Disclosure (foreign patent rights lost)

A signed disclosure is important to making the decision of whether to seek a patent, Coburn said. In short, we need to work together to try and optimize timing.

For more information, call (540) 951-9378 or e-mail [vtippatents@vtip.org \(mailto:vtippatents@vtip.org\)](mailto:vtippatents@vtip.org).