

Thoughts on Tech Transfer, Patents, and Export Control

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Tech Transfer

● Pros

- Opportunities for research to have societal/economic impact
- Opportunities for funding, at GT, through start-ups, by licensing, and consulting
- Opportunities to build relationships that benefit students
- Opportunities to learn what really interests companies (government)
- Opportunities for help GT, create value for the community

Tech Transfer

● Cons

- Can take substantial time
- May need many seeds to get one seedling
- Can create conflict of interest issues
- Can slow down publications
- Can be a distraction from core research interests

Tech Transfer

● Considerations

- Educate yourself-GT can help
- Disclose, disclose, disclose
- Never use you lab for “just one simple experiment” without going through Tech
- IP you develop at Tech is NOT “your” IP
- You can’t negotiate anything for Georgia Tech and can’t commit to doing anything from a contractual standpoint for GT
- Clear all consulting through GT.
- Try to get protective clauses into consulting contracts.

Patents

- Why?

- To make money, pure and simple
 - ▶ Could be money for GT
 - ▶ Could encourage transfer to large company
 - ▶ Could help with start-up

- Why not?

- Expensive
- Time consuming (the gift that keeps giving)
- May not need it

Export Control

- What are they
 - Regulations to prevent dissemination of either materials *or* information that could compromise national defense or economic security
 - Need to understand but not necessarily “fear” regulations
 - ▶ Research schools (GT) have export control officer to help
 - ▶ Will seek additional legal advice
 - Don't simply ignore?
 - There is fundamental research exclusion, but this may not apply to work in or with companies necessarily