



ASSOCIATION OF  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

ASSOCIATION OF  
PUBLIC AND  
LAND-GRANT  
UNIVERSITIES



## **AAU and APLU Commitment to Ensuring Global Access to Medical Advances**

The Association of American Universities (AAU) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)—whose combined memberships represent most major research universities in the United States—stand unified in our commitment to work with our member institutions and the federal government to ensure that research advances developed by universities related to public health benefit all people, including those in the developing world.

We recognize the critical role that universities—with support provided by the federal government—play in advancing knowledge that improves global public health. We also recognize the responsibility our institutions have to transmit the knowledge they produce for the public good and broader societal benefit. Universities should have at their disposal appropriate intellectual property licensing terms and conditions that help deliver advances that improve global health or food security. These terms and conditions should incorporate language that promotes the broad accessibility of such health and agricultural related advances to the global public, particularly to those in underserved and developing nations.

We concur strongly with the following statements contained in the March 2007 document *In the Public Interest: Nine Points to Consider in Licensing University Technology* which has been endorsed by over 90 university based associations, organizations, and individual universities that in licensing university technology, universities should: “Consider including provisions that address unmet needs, such as those of neglected patient populations or geographic areas, giving particular attention to improved therapeutics, diagnostics and agricultural technologies for the developing world” and “...strive to construct licensing arrangements in ways that ensure that these underprivileged populations have low- or no-cost access to adequate quantities of these medical innovations.” We commit to working with our institutions to help them to operationalize and fulfill this aspiration.

Today, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is announcing a set of terms and conditions to ensure that the intramural discoveries made by scientists working for NIH and the Food and Drug Administration are more broadly accessible to the developing world. AAU and APLU commit to review the NIH terms and other similar initiatives and to work with other organizations to develop appropriate terms and conditions that universities can consider in their own intellectual property negotiations and agreements. We are confident that such an effort will help to increase global access to new drugs, therapies, and other health related technologies and scientific advances made at our universities.