Collaborative Research & Standards and Practices for Health and Environmental Research

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Overview

- Background for government-industry collaboration
- Recommendation: Standards and Practices for Health and Environmental Research
- Future Issues for Strengthening Public Sector Science
Legislative Background for Collaborative Research Approaches

- Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980
- Bayh-Dole Act of 1980
- Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986
How Does US Legislation Define Federal Technology Transfer?

- Existing knowledge, facilities, or capabilities developed under federal R&D funding are utilized to fulfill public and private needs;
- Taking federal R&D and transferring it to private or public parties for further development or commercialization;
- Also includes collaborative research between federal and non-federal scientists
However, Science is …

- .....a social enterprise...which tends to be accepted by the community when it has been confirmed...
- ....experimental and theoretical results must be reproduced by others within the scientific community and the validity of the work established by replication, and
- ...what constitutes replication in a given case may be disputable.
Proposed Standards & Practices for Health & Environmental Research

- Transparent research standards and practices need to be established for health and environmental research:
  - Ownership of data by scientist, not sponsor,
  - Release of results without prior sponsor approval, and
  - Publication of results without prior sponsor approval
  - Elimination of inappropriate sponsor interference
  - Require access to data for industry-sponsored research
  - Disclosure of funding sources
  - Establish conflict of interest and bias policies

*Henry & Conrad, 2008*
“Try this—I just bought a hundred shares.”
COI, Bias Standards Applied

- Depends on the topic and items being reviewed;
- Some groups tend to identify COI with industry scientists or scientists who conduct research for industry;
- Association with industry does not by itself mean a conflict of interest;
- Association with an environmental group or working for academia does not inoculate a scientist against conflict of interest;
- Indeed there are circumstances in which an industry scientist might have a conflict and this is true of academia and environmental groups as well.
FIGURE 2.2 SOURCE: Drawing by Richter; ©1988 The New Yorker Magazine, Inc.
Future Issues for Strengthening Public Sector Science at EPA

- Budget for EPA’s Office of Research & Development
- Credibility of decision-making in scientific research agencies
- Evaluation of performance and results of publicly funded programs to ensure wise use of taxpayers’ money
  - OMB’s Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART)
  - Challenge of evaluation of Research & Development Programs