I. Purpose
The Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) allocates invention royalties to the SMPH departments and inventors. The WARF agreements at different times specified the royalties would either go to the faculty inventor’s specific lab or to the department. This policy outlines how the department share of royalties is allocated between the department and the inventor. This policy does not impact the royalties that WARF pays directly to the inventor.

II. Definitions for the Purposes of This Policy

Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF): Invests in the university by partnering with UW–Madison to steward the cycle of research, discovery, commercialization and investment. Founded in 1925 by visionary alumni, WARF is among the oldest and most successful technology transfer offices in the nation. As the designated patent and licensing organization for UW–Madison, WARF advances transformative discoveries to the marketplace to benefit humankind across Wisconsin and the world. [www.warf.org](http://www.warf.org)

Faculty Member: Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors on the Tenure, Clinical Health Sciences (CHS) and Clinician-Teacher (CT) tracks. This definition also includes Instructors (CHS) and Clinical Instructors in permanent, temporary (non-training), or fellowship positions.

III. Policy

In its management of royalty income from licenses for UW faculty inventions, WARF distributes a share of the income to the home department(s) of the faculty inventor. For departments in the School of Medicine and Public Health, a minimum of one-half of such distributions or of distributions from endowments derived from inventions will be allocated to the inventor as discretionary funds in support of the faculty inventor’s research activities and development of new intellectual property. The department...
share of royalties for other staff and students that were also named inventors on the patent will all go to the faculty inventor.

Some exceptions to this policy are:

- If the department share distributions are less than $500 for an inventor, the department will retain the full department share.
- If there is a lab share distribution to the inventor and to the department during the same fiscal year, the department will retain the full department share.
- If the faculty inventor leaves, it does not affect the department’s share of the royalties.

Allocation of a greater fraction of the WARF distribution to the faculty inventor may be done at the discretion of the department chair.

Links to Related Procedures

Links to Related Guidelines

- The SMPH Fiscal Affairs Office will work with WARF and the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education (VCRGE) office (currently during December) to allocate the department shares for the previous fiscal year to inventors.
- One lab share project will be set up per faculty member with royalty revenue.

References

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<th>Responsible Unit and Contact title</th>
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