

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
CHARLOTTESVILLE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

11 August 1978

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ASSOCIATE PROVOST  
FOR RESEARCH

C The Honorable William L. Scott  
United States Senate  
2311 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Scott:

O We have learned that Senators Dole and Bayh plan to introduce a bill to establish Federal patent policy that will give universities and small businesses the opportunity to develop Inventions funded with government support. A related press release is attached.

We urge your support of Senator Dole's concept, which we endorse because:

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- the legislation will help assure that the University can contribute to making the results of our Government-funded research available to the public in a useful form and a timely manner;
  - the potential to license Government-funded Inventions helps us to develop linkages with industry which lead to support for our research as well as effect transfer of technology;
  - the University has a well-developed capacity to take responsibility for technology transfer through the University of Virginia Alumni Patents Foundation.

Y The University of Virginia Alumni Patents Foundation was established in 1977 to patent and license Inventions assigned to it by the University and to return royalty income to the University for further support of research. At this time, the Foundation has fifteen active patents for Inventions which are derived from Government-funded research; six of these patents were issued during the last year.

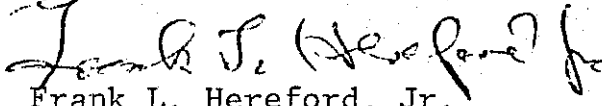
The most significant patent in terms of potential income to the University comes from Government-funded research and illustrates the importance of the University's ability to develop the Invention. One of our faculty members and his colleagues have invented a radioimmunoassay analyser which makes possible extremely sensitive,

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specific and rapid measurements of a range of antigens and has dramatic diagnostic significance for health care. Reliable market estimates indicate that some 180,000,000 tests will be made with this kind of instrumentation in the United States alone; the instrument which was invented at the University of Virginia is expected to be a major factor in this market. Hundreds of man-hours were expended over more than a year and a half in negotiation with a dozen firms before a license was successfully concluded. The instrument is now in production and income is returning to the University's research program. We believe that the interests of the public and the University have been efficiently and well served.

If the University had not had the right to negotiate a license with private companies, the University would not have been able to act as a catalyst in the commercialization of the instrumentation. This is a good reason why we share the concerns expressed by Senator Dole and support the concept of the legislation which he and Senator Bayh proposed to introduce.

Sincerely yours,

  
Frank L. Hereford, Jr.  
President

FLHjr/pah

cc: Mr. Dennis W. Barnes ✓  
Senator Birch Bayh  
Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr.  
Senator Robert J. Dole  
Mr. William A. Hobbs  
Mr. Carl Wootten