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As 2012 comes to a close, AUTM would like to wish its members, partners and other industry professionals a safe and happy holiday season. As we reflect on the past year for the industry, we would like to provide the readers of the *AUTM Newsbrief* a look at the most accessed articles from the year. Our regular publication will resume next Thursday, Jan. 3.

The Case for Abolishing Patents (Yes, All of Them)

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From Oct. 4, 2012:

Critics have suggested plenty of reasonable patent reforms, from eliminating software patents to clamping down on "trolls" who buy up patent portfolios only so they can file lawsuits. But is a more radical solution needed? Would we be better off without any patents at all? That's the striking suggestion from a Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis working paper by Michele Boldrin and David Levine, professors at Washington University in St. Louis who argue that any patent system, no matter how well conceived, is bound to devolve into the kind of quagmire we're dealing with today. [MORE](#)

Senate Bill Would Undermine University Tech Inventions

Entrepreneur (commentary) Share [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#)

From Aug. 2, 2012:

Buried deep in Start-up Act 2.0 is a bad idea that will hinder commercialization of inventions developed at U.S. universities. Called the "free agent" provision, this clause would allow university professors to choose their own technology transfer agents rather than have them use their university's technology transfer office, an approach that has been in place since the passage of the 1980 Bayh-Dole Act. Congress can do better. Rather than undermining an

effective system in the vain hope of squeezing more commercial technology out of academic institutions, our elected leaders should focus on a proven solution: Simply provide more research funding to academic scientists and engineers. [MORE](#)



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PRODUCT SHOWCASE

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Should Patent and Commercialization Activities By Faculty Count Toward Tenure and Promotion?

Science Codex [Share](#) [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [e](#)

From March 1, 2012:

Increasingly, institutions of higher learning are including faculty member patents and commercialization activities in their calculus for offering tenure and promotion. However, a report published in Technology and Innovation, Proceedings of the National Academy of Inventors finds that 75 percent of institutions surveyed do not include patent and commercialization considerations in their tenure and promotion criteria. [MORE](#)

Subcommittee Evaluates Efforts to Accelerate University Technology Transfer

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From June 21, 2012:

Passed in 1980, the Bayh-Dole Act was designed to improve collaboration between commercial concerns and nonprofit organizations, including universities, in addition to promoting the utilization of inventions arising from federally supported research and development. "The transfer of knowledge from universities into the marketplace can have profound economic and societal impacts, so we are always looking for more ways to encourage this process," said the Subcommittee's Vice Chairman, Rep. Judy Biggert, R-IL. "The collaborative efforts encouraged under the Bayh-Dole Act have brought about the commercialization of many new technological advances that impact the lives of millions of people across the nation." [MORE](#)

Steak Discovery Aided by OSU Researchers

The Oklahoman [Share](#) [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [e](#)

From May 24, 2012:

Researchers at Oklahoma State University aided in the discovery of a new cut of beef, the now patented Vegas strip steak. The previously undervalued muscle produces a steak that is on par with or better than today's most popular steaks, said meat scientist Tony Mata, part of the three-member steak discovery team, which also includes Rick Gresh, chef at David Burke's Primehouse in Chicago and Jacob Nelson, a meat processing specialist at OSU's Robert M. Kerr Food & Agricultural Products Center. [MORE](#)



PRODUCT SHOWCASE

NAI Conference: Call for Abstracts

The 2nd Annual Conference of the [National Academy of Inventors](#) will be held Feb. 21-22, 2013, in Tampa, Florida. Theme: "Changing the Culture of Academic Innovation". [Submit abstracts](#) by Dec. 10, 2012. Keynotes by USPTO Commissioner for Patents Focarino & MIT's Robert Langer. Induction of [NAI Charter Fellows](#). [Read More](#)

University Hospitals touts new \$250 million drug development model

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From March 8, 2012:

Don't tell University Hospitals that the valley of death doesn't exist for biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies. The Cleveland-area health system has launched a new \$250 million project that it's touting as something that could become a national model for developing promising drugs and bringing them to market. The aim of the new Harrington Project for Discovery & Development is to advance drug candidates through the period that runs from late animal testing to mid-clinical development in which companies find it difficult to attract funding to keep the drug development process going. [MORE](#)

US tops list of international patent-filing universities

University World News Share [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#)

From March 15, 2012:

U.S. universities remain the most prolific international patent filers among higher education institutions worldwide, accounting for 30 of the top 50 institutions. The U.S. is followed by Japan and South Korea with seven institutions each, the UN World Intellectual Property Organization, WIPO, reported. Israel has two universities in the top 50, and Australia, China, Denmark and Singapore have one each. [MORE](#)

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The Free Agency of Ideas

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From May 10, 2012:

A professional basketball player who wakes up one morning at the end of his contract and decides to "take his talents to South Beach" is free to do so. But if you're a researcher, unless you're a faculty member at the University of Miami, the chance that you can take your federally funded "talents" — whether they take the shape of a new kind of drug, a mobile phone technology, or some other innovation — to a commercialization office in South Beach is somewhat unlikely. The free agency of ideas is limited. [MORE](#)

Whose Intellectual Property?

Inside Higher Ed Share [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#)

From June 28, 2012:

Over the last 30 years, universities have become increasingly aggressive about securing the rights to faculty intellectual property (IP) that is patentable and thus potentially profitable. The operative distinction in many current policies is between faculty IP that can be protected by copyright, versus IP that is patentable. [MORE](#)

The Good Steward — Turning Federal R&D into Economic Growth

IP Watchdog Share [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#)

From Aug. 9, 2012:

What should we say about a steward that manages billions of dollars in public research funds not aimed at finding commercial products and turns them in to hundreds of billions of dollars in economic impact while supporting millions of jobs? You would think that a sincere "thank you" was in order. But many are saying that the system producing such riches is broken. Remarkable. [MORE](#)