Foreword by Sir Gordon Conway

From 1998 to 2004, I served as president of the Rockefeller Foundation. During that time, it's fair to say there was no universally accepted understanding of the exact relationship between intellectual property (IP) and affordable essential goods for the poor. The foundation chose to approach this issue in a variety of ways, including support for the creation of the Centre for the Management of Intellectual Property in Health Research and Development (MIHR) and the Public Intellectual Property Resource for Agriculture (PIPRA). Until now, these organizations have worked independently. But although they differ in many respects, they share a common goal: to develop and disseminate best practices for the management of IP for the public good. Now, for the first time, the organizations have joined forces to weave together the common threads of their respective fields in order to create this unique and comprehensive book titled *IP Management in Health and Agricultural Innovation: A Handbook of Best Practices.*

I would like to reflect a bit on the founding principles of these complementary organizations. Both PIPRA and MIHR were developed to promote the ethical stewardship of new technologies in their respective fields, based on the idea that publicly owned IP can be a *currency* to improve access to health and agricultural products and know-how. Yet the idea for each organization arose independently within The Rockefeller Foundation, following separate consultations with the agricultural and health communities. During the time that the foundation's rice biotechnology program was operational, food security officers were keenly aware that many proprietary technologies developed in public institutions were then locked up in large corporations, a problem that was becoming evident to experts at U.S. universities as well. The "health equity" theme encountered similar problems as the foundation was working to establish global public–private partnerships for the development of affordable drugs and vaccines.

How had this situation developed? In many cases, research institutions in developed countries simply hadn't considered the impact of their technology-licensing practices on developing countries. Public institutions in both developed and developing countries lacked sound policies that were specifically designed to maximize the benefits of global public goods resulting from their own public–private partnerships in R&D. To address these problems, local technology managers would need to become better informed and empowered to think globally, while public research institutions would need sound insti-

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tutional policies to ensure that public investment would lead to affordable essential goods for the poor.

So far, MIHR's efforts have focused on capacity building, working to build a cadre of technology management professionals in developing countries and to raise the stature of these professionals. MIHR has also worked to develop and promote a "tool kit" of best practices for technology managers in both developed and developing countries to encourage licensing practices that would benefit global health.

PIPRA, in contrast to MIHR, is a consortium made up of more than 40 major American research universities and not-for-profit research institutions in the United States and abroad. The consortium was established to enhance global access to agricultural technologies that are developed by its member institutions. PIPRA promotes research collaboration and collective management of IP among its members for public benefit.

The PIPRA consortium is creating a broad patent/license database that will make it possible to determine readily both the range of technologies available from its member institutions and the manners in which these technologies will be made available to allow for specific applications. Where freedom to operate is clear, PIPRA is developing strategies that will promote the use of technologies by scientists to address the agricultural needs of poor farmers in developing countries. PIPRA is also creating public sector tools for use of improved subsistence crops for developing countries and of specialty crops to be grown in the United States.

The PIPRA business plan envisioned future work in the building of agricultural technology–management capacity in developing countries—an effort that has been central to the mission of MIHR. At the same time, MIHR's business plan envisioned the creation of a patent-and-licensing database for health technologies, and MIHR is currently exploring the creation of a PIPRA-like consortium of university technology-management offices based in developed countries. In biotechnology, the similarities between agriculture and health range from the reagents used in the laboratory to their national regulatory and industrial policies. The potential for collaboration between PIPRA and MIHR on a wide range of issues is obvious. This publication is an exciting first step in that direction.

I believe the global community must do more to promote the ethical stewardship of new technologies arising from public funding in developed countries to benefit agriculture and health in the developing world. At the same time, we must begin to recognize that developing countries themselves are increasingly capable of contributing solutions to their own food shortages and public health challenges. This *Handbook* advances these goals. It is an important step toward both building upon and transcending the work of MIHR and PIPRA, by creating new transnational networks that involve multiple partners—donors and doers alike—who believe that the power of innovation can address the needs of the poor. ■

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