

# Intellectual Property in the COVID-19 Era: Opportunities, Challenges, and Lessons for the Future

The world is facing an unprecedented pandemic, causing a surge in innovation supported by public funding. Biopharmaceutical firms have developed vaccines in record time, offering hope in this challenging environment. However, difficult questions about ownership and access have arisen alongside the development and deployment of these vaccines, especially because many believe they should be widely available across the globe to those affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

Intellectual property rights on vaccines are perceived as a key constraint on wide and rapid dissemination of these critical resources and raise fundamental questions for the international community. Some countries have proposed an international IP waiver with the objective of increasing access to vaccines. And because the virus has the potential to spread throughout all communities without discrimination, there is movement towards combining and coordinating global efforts.

Presently, no consensus exists in the international community about how to resolve these issues. Some argue for using or expanding existing flexibilities within the international IP architecture to promote wide access to patented vaccines, such as through compulsory licenses. Others claim that the urgency of the pandemic calls for more drastic measures, such as a temporary IP waiver. Still others claim that IP rights should be enforced forcefully to promote investment in future innovation. The landscape is further complicated by significant public funding for privately-patented technologies and the difficulty of transferring technical knowledge regardless of whether or not patents are enforced.

The workshop brings together policy/law makers, scholars, lawyers and government officials to address the complex issues surrounding access to vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic and to highlight lessons to be applied in the future.

## Speakers



**Professor Peter Lee**  
University of California, Davis,  
School of Law



**Professor Thana de Campos-Rudinsky**, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, School of Government



**Honorable Giorgio Jackson**  
Congressman, Member of the Chilean Cámara de Diputados' Commission on Sciences and Technology



**Dr. Pilar Parada**  
Leader in Scientific & Technological Innovation Scientist, Inventor, Lecturer at Universidad de Chile, Faculties of Chemistry and Sciences

## Presenter



**Beth Greenwood**  
Direct of the California International Law Center (CILC) and Associate Dean of International Programs, UC Davis School of Law

## Moderator



**Dr. Jorge Rojas**  
University of California, Davis, School of Law, Visiting Fellow, California International Law Center; Visiting Professor, Universidad de Chile, Facultad de Derecho

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12 pm - 1:30 pm PST | Chile 17 to 18:30 hrs.**



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