



Stanford eCorner

Patenting Genes

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/1417/Patenting-Genes>

Goldberg gives his views on whether genes should be patented along with an insight into open source biology.



Transcript

Open source biology is defined as should genes be patented. Yeah, I think it's OK that genes are patented. If we didn't have a system that allow us to patent genes, we wouldn't have been able to find the genes, finding expeditions that have gone on in the development of the tools that allow it over the last 25 years. I do think that a patent by design is a limited life monopoly. So many of the genes that were patented 17 years ago are now freely available. And I think we continue to see that. I've not been involved in a single project over the past 25 years where anybody's intellectual property rights were a cause for us not to be able to go forward on a project because there's virtually always a way to do a work around. And when you have that conversation with the patent holder, it forces the patent holder in general to be quite reasonable about licensing terms and everybody moves on.