To All Dana-Farber Faculty—

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute has a long and successful history of working with companies to advance our mission of reducing and eventually eliminating the suffering caused by cancer. These partnerships can take many forms including sponsored research agreements or licensing deals.

Many companies are also motivated to support Dana-Farber through philanthropic contributions. These generous gifts provide a means for companies to express their social commitment in practical ways and can be particularly enabling for individual laboratories that receive them. One common and welcome example is support for a postdoctoral fellowship. However, we have recently seen examples of companies attempting to use philanthropic gifts as a means of avoiding some of the appropriate conditions we place on sponsored research agreements, such as full indirect cost rates.

Therefore, whenever a pharmaceutical or biotech company is solicited for a gift to your lab, the company must be informed of the following conditions and the following wording will appear in the gift terms generated by the Division of Development. Should the company generate its own gift terms, these conditions must be communicated via a letter from the PI, cc’ing Dana-Farber’s Chief Scientific Officer:

Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as granting a license to either party’s intellectual property rights, including without limitation inventions and know-how. The parties acknowledge and agree that this agreement shall not be construed as a sponsored research agreement, nor shall it imply access to confidential information, or affect or otherwise be considered as a modification or amendment to the terms set forth in any other agreement(s) between them. These funds will not be used to support work on the donor’s technologies nor will they be used to support the work of a postdoctoral fellow, student, or other trainee on projects for which the donor has a sponsored research agreement in place.

We hope that this policy will prevent ambiguity when negotiating with companies about the forms their support might take. If you have any questions about soliciting or receiving philanthropic support from companies, or want to discuss opportunities to seek philanthropic funds from companies, please feel free to contact Allyson Ahern in Development at 617-582-7456 or Allyson_Ahern@dfci.harvard.edu