Vaccines, Intellectual Property, and Global Equity

Thursday, June 10, 2021
1:00 – 2:30PM (ET)

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The roll out of effective COVID-19 vaccines is happening at a historically unprecedented pace.

Manufacturing and delivering vaccines to some 7.8 billion people worldwide, however, has reignited tensions about the role of intellectual property in medicine.

How risky is vaccine development? What is protected by vaccine patents? What role do US and EU patents play for international vaccine distribution?

Join the Smithsonian’s Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation and George Mason University’s Center for the Protection of Intellectual Property as we explore the legal and policy debate regarding patents on vaccines.

The program will begin with a brief overview of vaccine history and a virtual tour of relevant objects from the Smithsonian’s collections. A panel discussion concerning the ethical, commercial, and global health implications of vaccine patents will follow the virtual tour and include an audience Q&A.

For more information about this program, please visit invention.si.edu/Events.