Weill Cornell Medical College
Guidance Regarding Faculty Individual Consulting and Conflicts of Commitment

This document is intended to provide guidance with interpretation of the consulting policies found in the Guide to Rules & Regulations Concerning the Conduct of Research at Weill Cornell Medical Sciences of Cornell University, 5th Edition, 1998. It is intended to clarify the role a WCMC faculty member when engaged as individual providing “private” consulting services. Before beginning private consulting make sure you understand the information below and then speak to your chairperson.

For individual faculty consulting:

- Consulting must not interfere with the faculty member’s duties and cannot provide services that are otherwise provided by Weill Cornell or the faculty member in the course of her/his usual duties.
- The faculty member must limit their consulting to no more than “equivalent of one day a week”.
- Agreements are between the faculty member and the entity employing them if the faculty member requests assistance, the RASP office, and/or the Office of University Counsel when necessary, will review consulting agreements to determine if they are consistent with applicable University policies, but cannot act as the faculty member’s legal advisor.
- No reference to WCMC or Cornell University will appear in the contract or any other communication between the agency and the faculty member other than the faculty member’s title.
- It must be made clear to the entity by the faculty member that the faculty member does not represent the University or WCMC.
- Remuneration is paid by the entity to the faculty member and not to WCMC.
- WCMC’s liability insurance, including medical malpractice, will not cover the faculty member in the course of providing consulting services.
- Faculty member must disclose any conflicts of interest with WCMC’s Conflicts Office The consulting work must be reported to the Conflicts Office when the faculty member enters into the consulting agreement or starts providing services (whichever is earlier), and annually thereafter.
- Faculty member may not use WCMC employees or students to promote or advance private consulting. Use of WCMC’s equipment or space is at the discretion of the department chairperson incurring the cost and is subject to a service charge.
- WCMC owns the title to all potentially patentable inventions conceived, or first reduced to practice, in whole or in part, by faculty in the course of WCMC responsibilities, or with more than incidental use of WCMC or resources, and must be assigned to WCMC. Faculty members do not have the authority to assign or otherwise transfer rights in any of the WCMC’s inventions.