The Patent Process and Approximate Timeline

**Disclosure is Evaluated by UTRF**

0-9 mo.

**Provisional Patent Application Filed**
A provisional application is filed if and when data supports a filing. Provisionals must be filed within one year of a public disclosure. Establishes priority date.

**US Only**

- **Non-provisional Patent Application Filed**
  A non-provisional US patent application is filed within 1 year of the provisional application. This application will be examined by the USPTO.

- **Patent Application Published**
  6 mo.

- **First Office Action Received**
  The patent examiner provides notification of which claims in the application have been rejected or accepted along with reasoning.

- **Respond to Office Action**
  Patent attorney issues response to USPTO in 3 months (extensions possible, but costly)

- **Additional Office Actions Received**
  3-12 mo.

- **Patent Issued**

**International**

- **PCT Patent Application Filed**
  PCT patent application filed within 1 year of provisional if seeking international protection. Public disclosures eliminate the possibility of foreign protection.

- **International Search Report Received**
  The International Searching Authority issues a report detailing their prior art search and preliminary opinion on patentability.

- **Patent Application Published**
  6 mo.

- **National Stage Entered**
  Countries in which patent protection is desired are selected and separate patent applications are filed for each. Due to cost, foreign patent protection requires a partner/licensee.

- **National Examinations**
  Patent is examined independently by examiners from the patent office in each selected country.

- **Patent Issued**

**Total Time (yrs)**

- **US Only**
  1

- **International**
  0-9 mo.