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.

**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.

**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.

**International**

1 year

**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**

5 yrs

**US Only**

1 year

**Patent Application Published**

A restriction requirement may be received during this time if the USPTO determines there are multiple inventions in 1 application.

**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**

5 yrs

**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.