Dear Joe,

Your inquiry below was forwarded on to me. Prior to 1994, Caltech shared 15% of patent licensing revenues with inventors, with the remaining 85% going to university's general budget; in July 1994, that was changed so that 25% went to inventors, 75% to the university. (Patent costs would be recouped by the university either before or after inventor share; currently it is before inventor share, but may have been different in the past.) Inventors also have the option of having their share applied to research support in any Caltech lab (presumably most likely their own) with that amount being matched by the university from its share. I'm not sure how often this option has been exercised.

However, a confounding factor that you might see with Caltech data is that our office was only established in 1995, and prior to that, patenting and licensing was done in a fairly ad hoc manner. So the change in royalty sharing may not be the key variable here.

Hope that helps, and will be interested in reading your results!

Regards,

Hannah

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Hannah Dvorak-Carbone PhD | Associate Director
Caltech | Technology Transfer and Corporate Partnerships
1200 E California Blvd | MC 6-32 | Pasadena CA 91125
626-395-2381 | hannah@caltech.edu | innovation.caltech.edu