



University of Wisconsin Vitamin D Patents

The University of Wisconsin, through the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF), has a long and pioneering history in Vitamin D research and patenting. The foundation was established in part to manage and commercialize the groundbreaking Vitamin D discoveries by UW researchers, beginning with Harry Steenbock’s process for enriching foods with Vitamin D in the 1920s^{[1] [2] [3]}.

Number of Vitamin D Patents

- **At least 9 distinct U.S. patents** specifically related to Vitamin D compounds and their uses are publicly documented as being held or managed by WARF^{[2] [4]}.
- These patents cover a range of Vitamin D analogs, processes, and therapeutic applications, reflecting decades of ongoing research and innovation in this field.

Examples of Vitamin D Patents Held by WARF

Patent Code	Title/Description (where available)
P02091US	(20S)-1Alpha-Hydroxy-2-Methylene-19-Nor-Vitamin D3 and its Uses
P02112US	(20S)-1Alpha-Hydroxy-2Alpha-Methyl and 2Beta-Methyl-19-Nor-Vitamin D3 and Their Uses
P96198US	18-substituted-19-nor-Vitamin D Compounds
P01381US	1Alpha-Hydroxy-2-Methylene-19-Nor-Homopregnacalciferol and Its Potential Therapeutic Uses
P02178US	1Alpha-Hydroxy-2-Methylene-19-Nor-Pregnacalciferol
P97010US	2-Alkyl-19-Nor-Vitamin D Compounds
P99011US	2-Alkyl-19-Nor-Vitamin D Compounds
P97011US	2-Alkylidene-19-Nor-Vitamin D Compounds
P00352US	2-Ethyl and 2-Ethylidene-19-Nor-Vitamin D Compounds

This list is not exhaustive, as WARF has held additional Vitamin D-related patents since the 1920s, some of which have expired or been dedicated to the public^{[5] [6]}.

Historical Context

- The original Vitamin D patents, such as those granted to Harry Steenbock in the 1920s and 1930s, played a critical role in eliminating rickets and advancing public health^{[5] [3]}.
- WARF’s Vitamin D portfolio has been a major source of revenue and remains a significant part of the university’s patent holdings^{[7] [2]}.

Summary

The University of Wisconsin holds at least nine documented U.S. patents related to Vitamin D, with a broader historical portfolio that includes additional patents now expired or publicly dedicated. Vitamin D innovations remain a cornerstone of the university's legacy in scientific research and technology transfer. ^[2] ^[4] ^[5]

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1. <https://www.warf.org/about-warf/history/>
2. <https://vitamindwiki.com/Vitamin+D+patents+and+the+Wisconsin+Alumni+Research+Foundation>
3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wisconsin_Alumni_Research_Foundation
4. <https://vitamindwiki.com/Vitamin+D+patents+and+the+Washington+Alumni+Research+Foundation>
5. <https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/appellate-courts/F2/146/941/1549400/>
6. <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdf/10.1086/281415>
7. <https://news.wisc.edu/innovation-marks-uw-madison-contribution-to-vitamins-drugs-medical-supplies/>