



Leading Organization for Vitamin D Patents

The **Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF)**, affiliated with the University of Wisconsin–Madison, is widely recognized as the organization holding the most Vitamin D-related patents. WARF was established specifically to manage and commercialize the groundbreaking Vitamin D discoveries made by university researchers in the 1920s. Over the decades, WARF has become synonymous with Vitamin D patenting and licensing, and its Vitamin D portfolio has been a cornerstone of its revenue and reputation<sup>[1] [2] [3]</sup>.

Key Points

- **WARF's Vitamin D Legacy:**
  - WARF was founded to protect Harry Steenbock's Vitamin D fortification process, which led to the eradication of rickets worldwide<sup>[4] [1]</sup>.
  - The foundation's Vitamin D patents have generated significant revenue and funded further research at the university<sup>[3] [5]</sup>.
  - WARF's Vitamin D-related patents include both original discoveries and a large number of subsequent analogs, derivatives, and therapeutic applications<sup>[2] [3]</sup>.
- **Patent Volume:**
  - WARF is cited as having **over 160 Vitamin D-related patents**, making it the largest single institutional holder of such patents globally<sup>[2]</sup>.
  - These patents cover a wide range of compounds, formulations, and uses, particularly in the treatment and prevention of diseases related to Vitamin D deficiency.
- **Comparison to Other Organizations:**
  - While pharmaceutical companies and other research institutions also hold Vitamin D patents, none match the breadth and historical depth of WARF's portfolio<sup>[2]</sup>.

Table: WARF's Vitamin D Patent Leadership

| Organization                                  | Estimated Vitamin D Patents | Notable Contributions                       |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF)   | 160+                        | Food fortification, analogs, therapeutics   |
| Major Pharmaceutical Companies ("Big Pharma") | Dozens each                 | Therapeutic applications, formulations      |
| Other Universities/Institutes                 | Fewer                       | Isolated discoveries, specific applications |

*Note: Numbers are estimates based on public records and patent databases. WARF's total includes both active and expired patents, reflecting its long-standing leadership in this field<sup>[2]</sup>.*

**In summary:** The Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) holds the largest and most influential portfolio of Vitamin D patents in the world, making it the leading organization in this domain<sup>[1] [2] [3]</sup>.

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1. <https://news.wisc.edu/basic-facts-wisconsin-alumni-research-foundation/>
2. <https://vitamindwiki.com/Who+said+vitamin+D+could+not+be+patented>
3. <https://news.wisc.edu/patent-growth-strengthens-uw-future/>
4. <https://www.warf.org/about-warf/history/>
5. <https://www.warf.org/wisconsin-ingenuity/a-century-of-leadership-the-warf-boards-evolving-role-in-advancing-innovation/>