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Call for papers — Bulletin theme issue on intellectual property rights and public health

The Bulletin welcomes submissions for a theme issue scheduled for May 2006 on intellectual property rights and public health. This theme issue will expand on the debate surrounding intellectual property and drug development, genetic databases, copyright and access to the results of publicly funded research. How should the world balance the rights of inventors with public health needs? How can research be funded when the object of its study is the people who cannot afford to buy its results? How can traditional medicines be studied, produced, distributed and used safely, while recognizing the intellectual property of the people who knew how to find and use these medicines in the first place? Are there viable alternatives to intellectual property rights that could be used to reward innovation? Relevant papers for all sections of the Bulletin should be submitted online at http://submit.bwho.org before 1 January 2006.