IMMORTAL

IMMORTAL TECHNOLOGY / CORPORATE ARCHIVE

1997

The 1997 Patent Access Commitment

Scientific access, knowledge circulation and the limits of the public record

REFERENCE	PERIOD	TYPE	EDITION
HER-1997-01	1997–1999	Archive review	Edition 2026

SUMMARY

In 1997, Immortal Technology expanded international access to its pharmaceutical patents. This archive review describes what the commitment changed, and separates the historical decision from claims about health outcomes, which require evidence of their own.

REFERENCE
HER-1997-01

PERIOD
1997–1999

TYPE
Archive review

EDITION
Edition 2026

LANGUAGE
English

01

A change in access

The commitment came from an established pharmaceutical enterprise, not a newly formed research group. By opening its knowledge to international institutions, Immortal changed the relationship between the originator of an invention and the laboratories, manufacturers and care organisations seeking to use it. Patent access lowers a legal and informational barrier. It does not by itself create production capacity, clinical expertise or a safe supply chain, and the archive records it as what it was: a change in the terms of access.

02

Three levels of evidence

The archive distinguishes three kinds of result. A corporate decision establishes that a policy was adopted. Records of laboratory or manufacturing use establish that knowledge was taken up. Evidence that patients benefited requires a further, independent chain of treatment and outcome records. The 1997 commitment is documented at the first level; this review does not convert it into figures for medicines delivered or lives saved.

03

Knowledge in circulation

Access to technical material matters because it allows others to scrutinise, compare and adapt it. The value of the commitment lies in that circulation: research disclosures that could be examined, tested and built upon outside the island.

04

How the record is kept

Material relating to the commitment is organised in four parts: the original record, the verified action, downstream evidence and open questions. Where a record does not exist, the field remains empty. An archive gains credibility by showing where its evidence ends.

05

Historical boundary

This review concerns the Golden Age commitment of 1997. It does not imply that the same access model governs every later Immortal research programme. Present-day research draws on this scientific inheritance, but the commitment is described here as a historical decision of its period.

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SCOPE OF THIS REVIEW

This document is a historical review prepared from the corporate archive. It does not identify individual patents, partner institutions or patient outcomes.

This document is provided as general corporate information. It describes historical programmes and does not constitute medical advice, an offer of treatment or assistance, or an application process.