

BERTHOLLET'S PRESS REVIEW

Insulin Production

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Open Insulin Foundation Blog

Patents, Open Source, and Open Insulin

The Open Insulin Foundation seeks to make insulin available for everyone by sharing the knowledge of the production of insulin, rather than relying on the 3 main companies that sell insulin and own the patent, namely Eli Lilly, Novonordisk, and Sanofi. While these companies own the patent of production, they cannot prevent small non-profit organizations from producing their own insulin, even if it is the same insulin they sell. This is the hope that carry the Open Insulin Foundation into figuring out an affordable and easy to implement process for the production of insulin, so that people that need it the most can use it at will without having to answer the dilemma between preserving their health and going bankrupt.

<https://openinsulin.org/patents-open-source-and-open-insulin/>

December 2018

National library of medicine

The Open Insulin Project: A Case Study for 'Biohacked' Medicines

A study on the volunteer-based group Open Insulin Project sheds light on the relation between open source projects and patent laws. The group aims to produce insulin affordable for all, and create a method that would allow citizens to produce their own insulin. Although 3 companies hold the monopoly on insulin production, and prevent any new company from selling and producing insulin, there are no regulations or restrictions imposed on the spreading of online protocols for creating and using drugs at home. It is worth considering the risks associated with self-experimentation and unregulated treatments, especially given the rise in citizen scientist and self-described biohacker projects.

[https://www.cell.com/trends/biotechnology/fulltext/S0167-7799\(18\)30200-2?_returnURL=https%3A%2F%2Flinkinghub.elsevier.com%2Fretrieve%2Fpii%2FS0167779918302002%3Fshowall%3Dtrue](https://www.cell.com/trends/biotechnology/fulltext/S0167-7799(18)30200-2?_returnURL=https%3A%2F%2Flinkinghub.elsevier.com%2Fretrieve%2Fpii%2FS0167779918302002%3Fshowall%3Dtrue)

July 15 2015

NPR news

Biohackers Aim To Make Homebrew Insulin, But Don't Try It Yet

The article explores the concept of individuals with diabetes brewing their own insulin at home, similar to the DIY approach in brewing beer. This idea comes from the bio-hacking movement, where enthusiasts experiment with biology in low-cost, independent labs that have recently emerged around the US. However, Dr. Marcus Hompesch, CEO of the Profil Institute for Clinical Research in San Diego, opposes the idea, citing the complexity and risks associated with manufacturing insulin. Hompesch warns of potential dangers, including immune responses that could affect patients' diabetes control. Despite concerns, biohackers believe they can address these safety challenges.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2015/07/15/422935288/biohackers-aim-to-make-homebrew-insulin-but-dont-try-it-yet>

