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**Topic: Importance of intellectual property rights in academic and research**

Expert 1 : Dr. Balwinder Singh Sooch, Professor and Head Department of Biotechnology & Food Technology, Punjabi University, Patiala

Intellectual property rights (IPR) are crucial in academia and research for protecting innovations and creations. They ensure that researchers receive recognition and rewards for their work. Without IPR, ideas could be easily stolen or copied, discouraging innovation. Copyrights, patents, and trademarks safeguard academic findings, inventions, and creative works. This protection fosters a culture of innovation by giving researchers confidence to share their discoveries without fear of exploitation. Moreover, IPR encourage collaboration and investment in research by providing legal frameworks for ownership and commercialization. Ultimately, they are vital for promoting progress and ensuring fair recognition and compensation in academic and research communities.

**Topic : Prior Art Searches and Patent specification drafting**

Expert 2: Dr. Preeti Khetarpal, Assistant Professor, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda

Drafting patent specifications involves describing an invention in detail so it can be legally protected. It's like creating a manual for your invention. The process includes explaining how it works, its unique features, and how it's different from existing solutions. These specifications are crucial for patent searches, where experts check if similar inventions already exist. Clear and precise drafting helps in obtaining strong patents, preventing others from copying your idea. Patent drafting requires technical accuracy and clarity to ensure legal protection and successful patent approval, safeguarding inventors' rights and encouraging innovation.

