

**African Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Patents:
Is the Patent System Relevant to the Native Healers of
Southern Nigeria?**

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ABSTRACT The patent system has long been promoted as a universal verity detached from local impulses and peculiarities. This paper argues that patents originated from a European worldview and as such contains certain characteristics that make it incompatible with some other worldviews. With particular reference to native and traditional healing methods among local populations in Southern Nigeria, the patent system is an inadequate and inappropriate mechanism for the protection of the knowledge and innovations of traditional healers in Southern Nigeria.