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Eli Lilly keeps hold of significant drug patents in US and UK

The month of July yielded two significant wins for Eli Lilly and the pharmaceutical company's outside counsel, as a US patent for Cialis was guaranteed until September 2018 and the UK Supreme Court upheld the validity of and adjudged as infringed its vitamin regimen patent for Alimta.

Eli Lilly agreed settlements this month with a group of generics companies to secure the exclusivity of Cialis until September 2018.

Protection for the erectile dysfunction drug was under scrutiny at US District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, with five generic drug makers accused of infringing Eli Lilly's tadalafil unit dose patent.

Kirkland & Ellis helped to negotiate the settlements with Zydus, Watson Laboratories, Aurobindo Pharma, Cipla and Teva Pharmaceuticals, which mean that Eli Lilly, originally set to lose the patent on 26 April 2020, has secured Cialis exclusivity until 27 September 2018 at the earliest.

Michael Harrington, senior vice president and general counsel at Eli Lilly, said: "The unit dose patent for Cialis is valid and infringed by companies seeking to market a generic version of Cialis. This is a royalty-bearing licence agreement that provides us with more certainty regarding our US exclusivity."

"Protection of intellectual property and the assurance of market exclusivity are extremely important to Eli Lilly as we work to support the development of the next generation of innovative medicines."

Earlier in July, the UK Supreme Court upheld the validity of and adjudged as infringed Eli Lilly's vitamin regimen patent for Alimta.

With the launch of a generic version of Alimta, Teva-owned Actavis would also, in the absence of direct infringement, indirectly infringe Eli Lilly's patent for the the safe and efficacious use of a cancer drug, pemetrexed, in co-therapy with vitamin B12.

The UK Supreme Court's decision on direct infringement overturned the earlier High Court and Court of Appeal decisions, which had held that Actavis's products did not directly infringe Eli Lilly's patent.

Stephen Bennett, a Hogan Lovells partner who worked on the litigation on behalf of Eli Lilly, commented: "Although the case arose in

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the context of pharma technology, it applies across the range of patented technologies."

Bennett said: "This is good news for patent owners who want to catch infringers that make small changes to their products to try to avoid infringement."

In updating the test for equivalent infringement, the UK Supreme Court reformulated the 1990 Improver Corporation v Remington Consumer questions to make it clear that the informed/skilled person knows that the variant works (to the extent that it actually does work) when they are considering whether it would be obvious that the variant achieves the same result in the same way, according to Hogan Lovells.

The questions that courts will now consider when looking at variants are:

- Does the variant achieve substantially the same result in substantially the same way as the invention, ie, the inventive concept revealed by the patent?
- Would it be obvious to an informed reader, knowing that the variant achieves substantially the same result as the invention, that it does so in substantially the same way as the invention?
- Would such a reader of the patent have concluded that the patent owner nonetheless intended that strict compliance with the literal meaning of the relevant claim(s) of the patent was an essential requirement of the invention?

Dan Brook of Hogan Lovells said: "Importantly, the decision makes it clear that assessing the scope of protection of a patent is a two stage process: first work out what the patent claim means; and then consider whether any variant infringes by equivalence."

CIPU partners with Tusher

The Center for Intellectual Property Understanding (CIPU) has partnered with the Tusher Center for the Management of Intellectual Capital to further promote public IP awareness.

CIPU and Tusher will work together to conduct research and spread information about the impact of IP rights and intellectual capital on innovation, economic growth and jobs. The partnership will also involve the creation of conferences and speaking engagements dedicated to IP awareness.

David Teece, chair in global business and director of the Tusher Center at the Haas School of Business, said intellectual property is "at a crossroads".

"Maintaining strong intellectual property rights is of great importance to the innovation ecosystems. It will become of even greater importance domestic and global in the future as business model innovation separates research and development activities yet further from production."

He added: "There is a deficiency in our understanding of the importance and value of patents, trade secrets, trademarks, brands and copyrighted content. Left unchecked, this can have a damaging economic impact."

Marshall Phelps, CIPU vice chairman and former head of IP business and strategy at Microsoft and IBM, said: "Misunderstanding about what IP rights achieve, and for whom, costs the US and other economies billions of dollars annually and threatens American competitiveness."

"Many people, including the general public and in government, need to better understand just what patents and other IP rights achieve and for whom. The incentive for taking IP seriously is currently at an all-time low."

PatSnap partners with GreyB

Intellectual property analytics company PatSnap has entered into a strategic alliance with technology consulting and research firm GreyB.

The agreement will allow customers of both PatSnap and GreyB to access comprehensive information, expertise and services to aid their innovation strategies.

Deepak Syal, co-founder and director of GreyB, commented: "PatSnap has brought the insights of global IP data to research teams across the world, and at GreyB we are delighted to announce our alliance with PatSnap, which will enable access to intelligent patent data and strengthen our commitment to customers—improving data driven decision for R&D and patents."

Ray Chohan, vice president of corporate strategy at PatSnap, said: "Research and development has been experiencing huge productivity challenges over the last 30 years. With GreyB's outstanding reputation in the field of intellectual property research, we are thrilled to share the common goal of streamlining the process of idea conception to commercialisation, and bringing a 360 degree oversight into the innovation landscape to our customers."

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PatSnap recently staked a claim across the Atlantic with its first US office in Los Angeles, California.

The new office offers dedicated support to US PatSnap customers, which make up 60 percent of the company's user base.

Amir Achourie, who is leading PatSnap in the US as head of sales for the Americas, said: "The truth is our amazing customer success team, and our UK sales operations have done such a brilliant job of establishing PatSnap in the US that until now it wasn't necessary."

"The question probably shouldn't be 'why are we opening the US office?' but 'why has it taken so long?'"

Renesas wins semiconductor challenge

Renesas Electronics has won a four-year patent infringement lawsuit brought by licensing company Zond.

The US District Court for the District of Massachusetts entered its final judgement in favour of Renesas on 14 July.

Renesas was accused of infringing eight Zond patents covering semiconductor production.

Zond later withdrew one of these patents, and the other seven were ruled invalid by the US Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB).

Zond took its appeal to the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, but in January 2017, the court upheld the PTAB's rulings and remanded the case back to the district court.

In a statement, Renesas said it will maintain its "basic stance of respect for intellectual property rights, will resolutely defend itself against improper claims of patent infringement or infringement of intellectual property rights".

Google and Amazon form patent alliance

Eight technology companies, including Google and Amazon, have formed the High Tech Inventors Alliance (HTIA) to support balanced US patent policy.

The alliance wants to improve patent quality through lobbying the US government to enforce stronger clarity requirements at the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). It also asks for strong reforms to the examination procedures at the USPTO.

Its eight members, Adobe, Amazon, Cisco, Dell, Google, Intel, Oracle and Salesforce, own more than 115,000 US patents.

John Thorne, general counsel for the HTIA, said: "Innovation means creating new and better products and services."

"It is fundamental to the success of the high-tech industry and its ability to drive economic growth and create American jobs. Collectively our members spent $62.9 billion on research and development last year and they have over 447,000 employees here in the US."

He added: "When the patent system does not function well, it undermines rather than supports innovation, to the detriment of all Americans—inventors, employees, investors in productive businesses and ultimately, consumers."

German Federal Court of Justice backs issuance of compulsory licence

A German court was right to grant a compulsory licence to a patent for a HIV drug, the country's Federal Court of Justice has ruled.

Germany's Federal Court of Justice upheld a Federal Patent Court decision to grant an injunction ordering the issuance of a compulsory licence to the European patent protecting the underlying compound in Isentress, an anti-viral that treats HIV.

Japanese pharmaceutical company Shionogi owns a family of patents to the raltegravir compound in Isentress.

Merck manufactures and sells Isentress in Europe, but has been unable to agree a worldwide licence with Shionogi for its raltegravir patents, prompting the litigation.

The Federal Court of Justice backed the Federal Patent Court's decision to force through a compulsory licence, as Merck had made sufficient attempts to negotiate a licence.

There was also significant public interest in keeping access to Isentress open in Germany, where it is the only anti-viral containing raltegravir available and is required to meet the needs of certain patients, including infants, pregnant women, and people who have already been prescribed with Isentress.

Compulsory licences are not granted often, in Europe or globally.

Rwanda and Thailand have issued compulsory licences in the past.

In 2012, the Indian government granted a compulsory licence to Natco Pharma to manufacture and distribute Nexavar for 3 percent of the cost of the original drug patented by Bayer, although the licence was eventually revoked.

Google invalidates IV patent

Google has successfully invalidated an Intellectual Ventures patent covering touch screen technology, following a US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit decision.

Google instituted inter-partes review at the US Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) over Intellectual Ventures's patent, asserting its obviousness in light of another patent owned by Apple, but the board issued a mixed final determination, upholding some of the patent's claims, while invalidating others.

In its 10 July ruling, the Federal Circuit reversed the PTAB's decision to uphold claims 1-3, 5, 7-10 and 12-14, arguing that the PTAB had "failed to adequately explain its contrary finding".

"In several recent decisions, we have explained what the [PTAB] must do to permit meaningful judicial review of its final written decisions. In particular, the [PTAB] 'must make the necessary findings and have an adequate evidentiary basis for its findings' and 'must examine the relevant data and articulate a satisfactory explanation for its action including a rational connection between the facts found and the choice made."

"In the anticipation findings and obviousness determinations relevant here, the [PTAB] failed to comport with these principles."

The Federal Circuit, however, upheld the PTAB's anticipation and obviousness determinations on claims 19-22 and 24-30, describing Intellectual Ventures's appeal arguments as "unpersuasive".

LatAM countries launch PPH pilot

Several Latin American countries have launched a patent prosecution highway programme, encompassing Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

The agreement will allow for expedited patent analysis through connections between the patent offices of the nine participants. All participants are part of PROSUR, a group founded two years ago and directed at fostering IP systems in Latin America and reinforcing the work done by the founder national patent offices.

Brazil is already a part of several international PPHs, including with Japan and the US.

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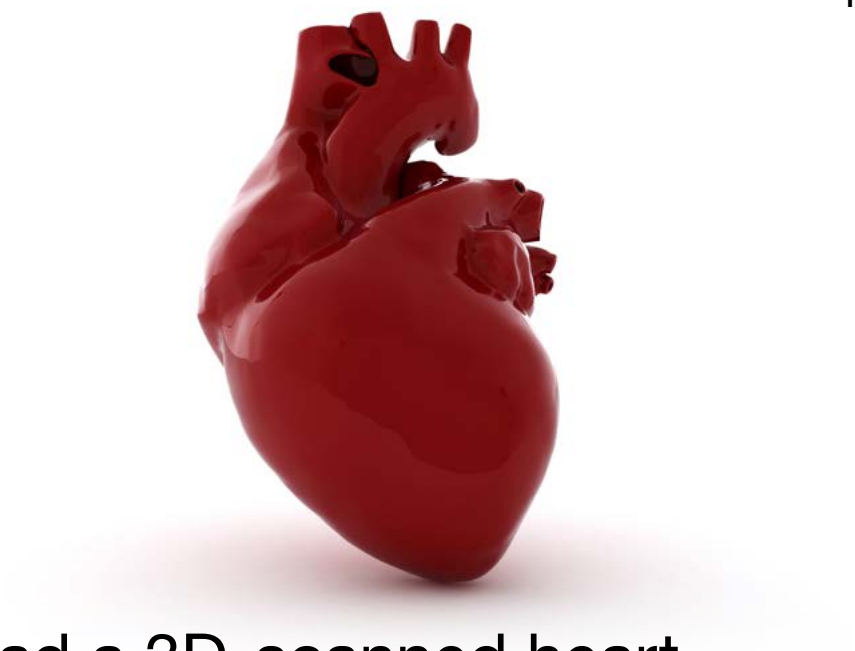

If I only had a 3D-scanned heart

National Yang-Ming University unveils a way to detect structural abnormalities in the heart, iPhone users could soon be able to contact the emergency services without dialing a number, and Ford takes up cycling

Apple has developed a new technology that will allow iPhone users to call the emergency services without dialing a number.

According to the US patent (9710092), the invention allows users to input touch and fingerprint commands to call for emergency services, without ever taking their phone out of their pocket.

Apple's patent describes a touch processing module that determines the manner in which the input was entered and indicates a particular command. It could also include timing data, so the timing of the input could affect the entered command, such as three short taps.

Users may also input separate fingerprint inputs, for example, placing a ring and a pinky finger on the touch screen at the same time could indicate a particular command.

The invention will help in situations where someone is watching the user's actions and forcibly stopping them from contacting the emergency services.

Ford has been granted a patent for a built-in hidden bicycle rack.

The US patent (0190299) describes a bike rack that is mounted to the car from the rear bumper, controllable by the user's car key and equipped with proximity sensors to avoid damage. The rack can deploy from the back of the car and has enough space for two bikes.

While a variety of exterior bicycle carriers are commercially available, roof-mounted and hitch-mounted carriers require significant modification to the original vehicle. This can prove to be a problem when dealing with height restricted areas in tunnels and garages.

Rear-mounted carriers are removed when the bicycle is not being transported, and Ford said this can lead to damage to the paint and bodywork of the car.

The invention solves these problems by being retractable, which means it won't affect the vehicle "styling" when not used to carry bicycles.

The National Yang-Ming University has developed a system of mapping a cardiac image of a single heart chamber.

According to the US patent (0199654), the invention can produce 3D-based cardiac images for selected heart chambers, providing visual displays for medical use. Yang-Ming University said that many heart diseases are caused by "intrinsic anatomic" and "functional" abnormalities, which require imaging to diagnose effectively.

Currently, 3D-based medical imaging can be used to take images of the heart, but they are grayscale with no obvious delineations between regions of architectural changes.

According to the patent: "A very drastic change of the heart chamber can be obviously observed or recognised in the sectional image, but it could be challenging to intuitively interpret detailed or regional morphological information or spatial information (such as gross morphology of single heart chamber, local myocardial wall thickness of single heart chamber, wall thickness heterogeneity, or comparison between morphology changes at different times) on the slice images."

It added: "Current 3D- or 4D-based image analysis results cannot meet the requirement for clinical purpose."

KRISHNA SAURASTRI

Associates LLP

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MUMBAI
New Excelsior Building, 7th Floor,
Wallace Street, A. K. Nayak Marg,
Fort, Mumbai - 400 001
Phone: +91 22 2200 6322
Fax: +91 22 2200 6326
Email: info@krishnaandsaurastri.com

DELHI
407, Global Foyer, 4th Floor,
Golf Course Road, Sector 43,
Gurgaon - 122 002
Phone : +91 124 411 4208/09
Fax : +91 124 411 4210
Email: del@krishnaandsaurastri.com

PUNE
103, Zenith Commercial Complex,
1st Floor, Near Agriculture College,
Shivaji Nagar, Pune - 411 004
Phone: +91 9520 2551 2950
Fax: +91 9520 6500 4296
Email: pune@krishnaandsaurastri.com

BENGALURU
S-2, No. 26, Red Cross Bhawan,
Esteem Arcade, Race course Road,
Bengaluru - 560 001
Tel: (+91 80) 2235 6165
Fax: (+91 80) 2235 6164
Email: blr@krishnaandsaurastri.com

AHMEDABAD
10/1013, Atma House,
Ashram Road,
Ahmedabad - 380 009
Phone: +91 79 2658 3244 / 45
Fax: +91 79 4006 9134
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Inventive times

Working in life sciences offers interesting perspectives on exciting technology. Barney Dixon sat down with Cooley's Mika Reiner Meyer to find out more

How has the past year at Cooley felt from a professional standpoint?

It has been an amazing year. I had heard from colleagues that Cooley was a collaborative and entrepreneurial environment where working together and thinking creatively was encouraged.

I had heard Cooley's working environment described as one where the teams made no distinction between partners, associates, patent agents, and staff, and Cooley had repeatedly been recognised as one of the Fortune 100 Best Places to Work. But the thought of making a move was daunting.

I left a 14-year professional relationship with Morrison & Foerster behind, and now, looking back a year a later, I can say that Cooley has exceeded all my expectations.

My colleagues are caring and collaborative, and the work is challenging and exciting. Within a few months of joining, I was fully integrated, working with partners and practice groups from all over the firm.

Are you seeing a lot of exciting technology come through the door from start-ups?

I am fortunate to work in the life sciences sector, where all the technology that comes through the door is exciting. From miniature life-saving implantable devices, to personalised diagnostics and digital health, every week we see a new start-up with a vision to help people live longer or healthier lives.

Cooley has a phenomenal emerging company life sciences practice—it is second to none. It has top-notch lawyers to advise clients across all practice areas, from corporate and licensing to patent and trademark.

The clear synergy with my practice was another motivating factor for me to join Cooley, and I have enjoyed working with my colleagues as part of a complete client team

For start-ups in particular, how are the America Invents Act's reforms proving today?

An early concern about the America Invents Act (AIA) was that it would disadvantage small start-ups and independent inventors. The theory was that because smaller companies had fewer resources, they might not be able to file as quickly as larger ones, and thus could potentially lose rights under a first-to-file regime.

I haven't seen that concern play out in practice. In Silicon Valley, there is a widespread understanding that strong IP protection is a foundation of a company's success.

Start-ups in the Valley are also fortunate to have incredible resources, such as incubators and mentors to help them identify and pursue key IP.

The aspect of the AIA that has affected start-ups most in my practice has been the ability to fast-track a patent application through prosecution. For a small fee, patent applicants can expedite prosecution and receive a final decision on patentability from the United States Patent & Trademark Office within 12 months.

This fast-track pathway has been key to start-ups with quick commercial timelines.

Where before a company might be on the market for several years before its patents were issued, now companies can expedite prosecution to better ensure coverage when they are commercial.

Are US patents easier to get than they once were?

I think the different sectors see different cycles. Some patents are easier to get now than others. However, diagnostics and digital health patents have been particularly challenging to get, as the current legal landscape on subject matter eligibility remains somewhat uncertain.

What is the investment view like in life sciences at the moment? Is the patent landscape stable enough to attract investors?

We had a very busy year helping both our venture clients and our company-side clients with respect to financings.

At any given time, we are working on a handful of financings, and it seems like interest in digital health and traditional biotech and pharmaceuticals remains strong.

Even companies that focus on diagnostics (where the patent landscape is somewhat uncertain) often have diverse enough patent portfolios to generate investment interest. IPPro

派特恩
CHINA PAT

CHINA PAT INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE
(Beijing Head Office)
Tel: +86 10 59797750 +86 10 82621260
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Bioprinting: A life sciences and legal innovation

The patent eligibility of bioprinted products and processes has not been squarely addressed by the legislature or tested in the courts. Arlene Chow and Nitya Anand of Hogan Lovells explain what could be done in the future.

The medical industry is undergoing a radical transformation, thanks to recent advances in 3D (otherwise known as additive) printing. 3D printing creates three dimensional objects by building up layers of material. A commonly-used analogy is the building of a structure with layer upon layer of lego bricks. Bioprinting, in turn, takes the basic premise of 3D printing and applies it in the context of human cells and tissues—one of bioprinting's most dramatic applications is the layered printing of living cells to form a 3D organ structure.

The hope is that such 3D printed organs can sidestep rejection (a major concern for organ transplants) and function as well as the original organ within a human. As with many cutting edge technologies, it is unclear whether innovators in this space can adequately protect their inventions with patents and more specifically, whether certain bioprinting products and processes are even eligible for protection.

The current patent eligibility framework

Section 101 of the US Code's Title 35 defines patent-eligible subject matter as "any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof". To be eligible for a patent, an invention typically must fall under one of these four categories. Historically, courts have concluded that laws of nature, natural phenomena and abstract ideas are not patent-eligible subject matter. In the 1980 Diamond v Chakrabarty case, the Supreme Court declared that §101 covers anything "under the sun that is made by man", and that a man-made and genetically engineered living organism could nonetheless be patented. The Chakrabarty court contrasted patentable new bacterium, comprising of "markedly different characteristics from any found in nature" and a product of Chakrabarty's "handiwork", from a patent-ineligible mixed culture in the 1887 Hartranft v Wiegmann case, where the patentee's effort in combining bacteria caused no unnatural change in their species, their utility, or their effect.

Following Chakrabarty, in evaluating patent eligibility of a living organism, a court initially evaluates whether the invention is naturally occurring, and then whether the invention is a product of human ingenuity.

In two recent Supreme Court decisions, Mayo v Prometheus of 2012 and Association for Molecular Pathology v Myriad of 2013, the court shed light on circumstances under which inventions implicating a naturally occurring organism may be susceptible to a patent-eligibility challenge under §101. In Mayo, the court decided that a set of specific steps in a diagnostic method were patent ineligible because the claimed process simply reflected a law of nature. In reaching this outcome, the court declared that if "a law of nature is not patentable, then neither is a process reciting a law of nature, unless that process has additional features that provide practical assurance that the process is more than a drafting effort designed to monopolise the law of nature itself".

Similarly, in Myriad, the court found that an isolated but naturally occurring DNA segment was patent ineligible. However, in that same case, the court found that cDNA—a type of manipulated DNA with certain regions removed—was patent eligible because it implicated a new, non-naturally occurring, structure. In the aftermath of these two decisions, the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) proceeded to reject substantial numbers of pending patent applications involving nature or natural phenomena pursuant to §101.

Application of current framework to bioprinting

The full ramifications of Mayo and Myriad are unclear, but those the Supreme Court decisions may have a positive impact on the patent eligibility of bioprinting innovations. In their current state, bioprinting processes and methods will likely be deemed patent eligible under the court's framework. Like the patent-eligible cDNA in Myriad, bioprinted tissues and organs are manmade and distinguishable from naturally occurring organisms. As of now, a bioprinted organ is not an exact replica of the naturally occurring organ from which it is based. As a result, the bioprinting process is creating a new product that is merely modelled on something that is naturally occurring. Similar to cDNA, which the court found to be "distinct from the DNA from which it was derived", the bioprinted organ is distinct from the organ from which it was derived.

Ironically, perfecting bioprinting could negatively affect patent eligibility under §101. In litigation focusing on cloned sheep, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit found in 2014 that the "Dolly" clone was "an exact genetic replica of another sheep and does not possess 'markedly different characteristics from any [farm animals] found in nature'". Citing Myriad, the court found there was not enough man-made genetic modification of Dolly in relation to the original sheep, so the patent for the clone failed as per §101.

Analogously, although the bioprinting process is the result of human ingenuity, a perfectly bioprinted organ could be considered a clone of the original, naturally occurring organ, since it would contain the same DNA structure without additional, synthetic alterations to that genetic information. Currently, bioprinted tissues and organs are not sophisticated enough to be considered a clone, but this anticipated development may be a future complication, patent-wise.

There is no legislative guidance on the undefined terms 'directed to' and 'human organism'. This vague wording could negatively affect the patent eligibility of bioprinting innovations

Arlene Chow, Partner, Hogan Lovells

Implications of America Invents Act

35 USC §101 is not the only statute bearing on patent eligibility of bioprinting. The recent patent reform statute, the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA), specifically addresses the patent eligibility of naturally occurring technologies. Section 33(a) recites: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no patent may issue on a claim directed to or encompassing a human organism." Notably, there is no legislative guidance on the undefined terms "directed to" and "human organism".

This vague wording could negatively affect the patent eligibility of bioprinting innovations. Indeed, the courts could deem bioprinted tissues and organs as "directed to or encompassing a human organism".

A memo issued by the USPTO provides support for carving out bioprinted tissues and organs from §33(a). Following its passage in 2011, the USPTO issued a memo from Robert Bahr, senior patent counsel and acting associate commissioner for patent examination policy, regarding claims directed to or encompassing a human organism. In that memo, the USPTO explicitly states that §33(a) does not alter current law or USPTO policy that a claim "encompassing a human being is not patentable". Given that the USPTO applied the term human "being" to explain what is meant by human "organism" as recited in §33(a), an argument can be made that the USPTO has excluded bioprinted tissues and organs from §33(a), such that bioprinting processes and products are still patent eligible.

Later in that same memo, the USPTO references how its policy is reflected in Section 2105 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP). That provision states that a patent-eligibility rejection pursuant to §101 must be made if "the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claimed invention as a whole encompasses a human organism". The meaning of human "organism" as recited in §33(a) is still subject to judicial interpretation.

To ensure that a bioprinting-related product claim passes §101 scrutiny, the claim should focus on man-made characteristics, qualities, and alterations rather than naturally occurring methods or matter. By focusing on how the product has "markedly different characteristics" from the naturally occurring organ upon which it is based, the bioprinted organ can be viewed as distinct from what occurs in nature and as a product of human ingenuity. As for bioprinting-related process claims, due to concerns stemming from §33(a) and §101, and the current case law, such process patents may be preferred to patents on a bioprinted product. Because scientists create and design bioprinting processes, such processes do not occur naturally and should not fall prey to the "law of nature" complication under Mayo and §101.

Bioprinting processes should pass the Chakrabarty two-prong test as a product of human ingenuity and a non-naturally occurring event. And the bioprinting process cannot be analogised to merely isolating or removing naturally occurring material or processes as in the failed patents in Myriad and Mayo. Although bioprinting attempts to replicate a naturally occurring and living organism, there is nothing natural in the manmade method by which a 3D printer builds layers upon layers of living cells.

Bioprinting has dramatically changed the life sciences landscape with the potential to revolutionise patient care. But the patent eligibility of bioprinted products and processes has not been squarely addressed by the legislature or tested in the courts. Until then, innovators in this space should capture their inventions with a wide variety of patent claims, framed to emphasise the manmade and non-naturally occurring aspects of this cutting edge technology. IPPro

Innovators should capture their inventions with a wide variety of patent claims, framed to emphasise the manmade and non-naturally occurring aspects of this cutting edge technology

Nitya Anand, Associate, Hogan Lovells

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Phone: +1(844) MY IIPLA | +1(844)-694-4752

Email: mail@iipla.org | Website: www.iipla.org

Munck Wilson Mandala has hired seven new intellectual property attorneys, including the two partners of IP boutique Howison & Arnott.

Gregory Howison and John Arnott have joined the firm, along with Brian Walker, Andrew Graham, Edward Jorgenson, Steven Greenfield and Keith Harden.

Howison and Arnott join as partners in the firm's Dallas office, focusing on patents and trademarks. They both previously worked together at Howison & Arnott.

William Munck, managing partner of Munck Wilson Mandala, said: "Gregory Howison and I have been friends for nearly 25 years. We connected through the legal community in the early 1990s."

"Howison's firm has been a significant force in intellectual property law and both he and I saw a great opportunity to combine two strong and complementary IP practices."

Howison said: "Munck Wilson Mandala is well-known among technology clients and the legal community as a reputable and cost effective law firm. We are excited to join forces with [William Munck] and his team and help make a powerful IP team even more powerful."

Walker has joined as partner in the Dallas office, focusing on patent prosecution and trademark prosecution in telecommunications, electrical and software-related industries.

Graham joins Munck Wilson Mandala's Austin office as partner. He works in patent acquisition, preparation, filing and prosecution.

Senior counsel Jorgenson and Greenfield focus on patents and trademarks in a range of industries. Jorgenson works with chemical and computer-related inventions, while Greenfield works in telecommunications and internet-connected technologies.

Harden arrives as an associate, bringing three years of experience in patent and trademark preparation.

BakerHostetler has boosted its IP practice with the additions of patent experts Inge Larish and Beverly Lyman.

Larish has joined the firm as partner in the Seattle office. She previously worked at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman in San Diego, where she was counsel.

New partner Lyman will work in the firm's Cincinnati and Atlanta offices, advising clients on patent procurement, licensing, evaluation and enforcement.

Larish has more than 20 years of patent litigation experience in the telecommunications, semiconductor, computer engineering and architecture industries, and has represented clients across the US courts and at the US International Trade Commission.

Larish said: "BakerHostetler is an impressive firm with a long history of IP litigation and a deep bench in the patent arts."

"It has a perfect combination of service-oriented attorneys with significant skill sets that makes it an ideal fit for me and my clients, and a great place to develop business. I look forward to helping strengthen the patent litigation practice in Seattle."

Mark Tidman, chair of BakerHostetler's IP group, said: "Inge Larish's strength is in her ability to communicate to a judge and jury the science behind the technology."

Lyman was previously a partner at Thompson Hine for more than 10 years and has more than 20 years of experience in the life sciences.

Tidman said: "Beverly Lyman is a valuable asset to our national practice. Her skills, knowledge of advanced sciences and pragmatic approach to offering creative strategies will benefit corporate clients and open doors for academic researchers."

Commenting on the move, Lyman said: "Joining BakerHostetler provides a larger platform for my practice."

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W: www.ippropatents.com

T: @IPProPatents

Group Editor
Mark Dugdale
editor@ipprotheinternet.com
+44 (0)203 750 6017

Deputy Editor
Stephanie Palmer
stephaniepalmer@blackknightmedialtd.com
+44 (0)203 750 6019

Reporter
Barney Dixon
barneydixon@blackknightmedialtd.com
+44 (0)203 750 6026

Contributors
Drew Nicol • Becky Butcher
Katherine Brown • Theo Andrew

Designer
James Hickman
jameshickman@blackknightmedialtd.com
+44 (0)203 750 6021

Publisher
Justin Lawson
justinlawson@blackknightmedialtd.com
+44 (0)203 750 6028

Associate Publisher
Carlos Northon
carlosnorthon@ipprotheinternet.com
+44 (0)203 750 6023

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