

FREEDOM TO OPERATE FOR LIFE SCIENCES AND PHARMA

Draft Agenda

DAY 1

1.00-1.15pm	Introduction
1.15-2.45pm	Intellectual Property Rights in Life Sciences and Pharma
2.45-3.15pm	How to Read a Patent and Interpret Claims
3.15-3.50pm	Patent Database Searching
3.50-4pm	Questions and Discussion

DAY 2

10.00-10.45am	Infringement and Enforcement of IP Rights
10.45-11.15am	Ownership of IP Rights
11.15-12.00pm	Freedom to Operate
12.00-12.30pm	CRISPR Case Study
12.30- 12.50pm	Group Exercises
12.50-1.00pm	Questions and Review of Course
1.00pm	Course Ends

www.assimilateip.com

tel: +44 777 616 0259

email: mail@assimilateip.onmicrosoft.com

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Although the course focuses on FTO with regards to patents in the life sciences and pharmaceutical sectors, the principles it teaches are broadly applicable to other IP rights and other technology areas. While the course is based on European and UK IP laws, some key examples of differences between US and European patent law are given.

The introductory "IP Rights in Life Sciences and Pharma" session gives an overview of the important IP rights (e.g. designs, trade marks and trade secrets), patentability criteria and the patenting process (e.g. UK, national, PCT routes). Examples of Life Sciences and Pharma patents are discussed.

"How to Read a Patent and Interpret Claims" explains the basic structure of a patent and how to read it, particularly how to interpret the claims. Examples of different claim types and scope are given.

"Infringement and Enforcement of IPRs" focuses on UK court proceedings, primarily patent cases, in terms of what constitutes infringement, how the courts interpret claims, and common defences against infringement.

Methods for conducting novelty, FTO and validity searches are described in "Patent Searching" using freely available data bases (e.g. Espacenet). Other sources and methods for identifying prior art, determining examination and patent status are also covered.

"Freedom to Operate" discusses the value, timing and use of an FTO analysis, how to conduct and review the FTO search, and how to develop a strategy to cope with troublesome third party patents or applications that you might uncover.

Finally, there are Group Exercises, including a CRISPR case study, to run through a number of FTO examples.

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