

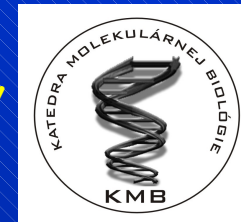
# „Current challenges in intellectual property rights and biotechnology“

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## Biotechnology Intellectual Property Managing at Comenius University



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**Introduction**

**History of IP rights protection**

**Actual status on IP right protection in biotech**

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# Status on IP rights in biotech and Life science at Comenius Univ before 1990

Comenius University is the oldest and biggest university in Slovakia (with about 30000 students in all study degrees in 2005).

Before 1990 - there was position of an expert in the structure of Rectorate which was responsible for the IP rights - mainly as a consultant and/or advisor

After 1990 this position was discharged amongst the first in the frame of CU reorganization.

The only activity in the field of IP rights was participating of Faculty of Law CU in the implementing **Author's Law and Copyright**.

# Status on IP rights in biotech and Life science at Comenius Univ after 1990

„No“ general IP right policy at Comenius Univ till now from point of view of life sciences.

Similar situation is on the other Universities in Slovakia and also Institutes of Slovak Academy of Sciences

The only exception is Slovak Medical University in Bratislava which is involved in the Regional Cooperation for Health, Science and Technology (RECOOP HST) Consortium organized by Cedars Sinai Medical Centre (Research, Innovation and Technology Transfer Strategic Alliance of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and Central and Eastern European (CEE) Academic Organizations).

# Status on IP rights in biotech and Life science at Comenius Univ after 1990

But the situation is changing:

In November 2006 Scientific council of CU approved application to establish Centre of Excellence in Biomedicine and Biotechnology at CU (CEBBUK)

Integral part of this Centre will be Technology Transfer Office - with the ambition to establish this Office as an independent institution (in the frame of CU).

In this plans are involved also capacities of Faculty of Law.

# Status on IP rights in biotech and Life science at Comenius Univ after 1990

Communications with Vice-rector for Science and Research of CU, Prof. Marta Kollárová (professorship in molecular biology).

There are plans and activities from her position to involve IP right protection into the agenda of Vice-Rector.

ESF funds at CU to support such activities: inviting speakers from WIPO, organizing seminars, etc....



# Activities on IP rights in Biotech and Life Science education

**IP Right protection course** - 1 semester in 2<sup>nd</sup> year of MSc. degree study for students of „Biotechnology“ and „Molecular Biology“ programs (from 1999)

- General information about intellectual property, patent protection of laboratory procedures, constructed new microorganisms and technologies
- The national patent law no. 435/2001
- World intellectual property organization (WIPO) – activities and services, PCT system, - Madrid agreement concerning registration of marks.
- European patent office, patent databases
- EU directive 98/44/EC - EU Biotech Directive – reasons, description and implementation of directive into national legislature
- Patent office of the USA, patent databases
- Strategies for receiving of patent protection
- EPO procedure (EPO procedure: filing, search, examination, grant, nationalization); PCT procedure
- Patent design in Europe and USA; some differences between european and USA patent law
- Writing of patent claims. Directive of ÚPV SR č. 223/2002
- Intellectual property rights as a trade tool.
- Biotechnological aspects of intellectual property rights - examples.
- Paris convention for the protection of industrial property, Budapest treaty on the International recognition of the deposit of microorganisms for the purposes of patent procedure



# Activities on IP rights in Biotech and Life Science education

In 2006 we have successfully applied (together with Prof. Turňa) for Educational grant in years 2007-2009 from Slovak Research and Development Agency (APVV): LPP-0257-06

„Intellectual Property Rights in Life Sciences and Biotechnology“

The goal of the project is to essentially increase the awareness and legal knowledge of the R&D workers in Life Sciences area about intellectual property rights protection.

Another aim is to persuade them that protection of intellectual property must be integral part of the research work strategy.

Plans in this project:

Publishing brochure „IP rights protection in biotech“

Several Courses (6-8 lectures) for the academic staff and also students

Creation of web portal

# Activities after joining Comenius Univ to WIPO University Initiative

In 2003 we have joined WIPO Univ. Initiative after consultation with the president of Industrial Property Office of SR, Ms. Darina Kyliánová - spreading awareness on IP rights in scientific community and in the frame of IP rights - course for students.

We have organized seminar where she gave lecture on IP rights matters for the academic staff of our faculty.

## **Attendance in seminars organized or co-organized by WIPO:**

- WIPO International seminar on the strategic use of intellectual property for economic and social development, July, 2006  
Bratislava, Slovakia
- Workshop on Intellectual Property Protection at the Higher Education, March 2, 2007 Bucharest, Romania

## Problems in IP rights in the biotech field in Slovakia:

- general feeling in R&D community: "Industrial Property Office SR has something common only with industry"
- the majority of academic scientist are not convinced that the results of their basic research protected by IP rights is in their interest.