



The RSC Patent Debate: does chemistry benefit from the patent system?

Wednesday, 28th October 2015

The Chemistry Centre, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London

Chairman: Christopher Rennie-Smith, European patent consultant and former Chairman of the Boards of Appeal at the European Patent Office

Organiser: Jennifer Harris, Partner, Kilburn & Strode LLP

Synopsis

Patents are often justified on the basis they provides inventors with an incentive to invest in research and development of new products, and to disclose valuable technical information to the public which would otherwise have remained secret. Innovative products might be costly to create, but once made available to the public can often be readily copied. Many believe that without intellectual property protection there would be an under protection of intellectual products. Patents are published and freely available to the public also constituting a substantive and valuable database of technical and scientific information.

However, arguments have been put forward that not only are many restricted in benefitting from a patent's contribution to science but also that due to the sheer number of patents innovation has been stifled. Criticism also arises from the ability to set monopoly prices for products which are needed by many. A recent high profile case saw the 2010 Physics Nobel Prize winners refrain from patent protection for graphene, now the subject of thousands of patents and patent applications by other parties not directly involved in their research.

The question remains therefore, does Chemistry benefit from the patent system?

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Chairman, Speakers and Programme

Please join us for what promises to be one of the most fascinating chemistry events of the year. We are delighted to host a panel debate with numerous excellent speakers who will be able to provide us with a whole spectrum of views on this subject. Registration is open.

Professor Chas Bountra (Oxford University, Structural Genomics Consortium Chief Scientist and former Vice-president, GlaxoSmithKline)

Sir Simon Campbell CBE (President of the Royal Society of Chemistry 2004 – 2006 and former Senior Vice-president, Pfizer)

Dr Mohga Kamal-Yanni MBE (Senior Health & HIV Policy Adviser of Oxfam)

Chairman: Christopher Rennie-Smith (European patent consultant and former Chairman of the Boards of Appeal at the European Patent Office)

Professor Sir Nicholas Wald (Founding Director of the Wolfson Institute)

Location and Time

The debate will take place from 4 to 6 pm, and a drinks reception will follow from 6 to 7 pm.

3:30-4:00 Registration
4:00-6:00 Debate
6:00-7:00 Drinks reception

- Each speaker will introduce himself and deliver a brief statement of his view on whether the patent system is good for chemistry.
- A number of questions will be put to each speaker in turn by the chairman (same questions to each speaker).
- Speakers will then take questions from the floor.
- The programme will conclude with a summary of the proceedings and each speaker in turn will deliver his final opinions.

Registration

To allow the RSC Law Group to hold this event, we have to charge for tickets to attend the debate. Tickets cost £15, all of which will go directly to cover the room hire and refreshments. Our speakers have kindly donated their time for free. We have a limited number of tickets for this event, so we advise that you book as early as possible.

All tickets cost £15, and may be purchased in one of two ways:

- to pay by card, visit www.maggichurchosevents.co.uk/RSC-Law
- to pay by cheque or bank transfer, please download a registration form from the website and receive an invoice.

Charge: £15 for all registrations, with registration required in advance.

Information and Registration: www.maggichurchosevents.co.uk/RSC-Law
or contact Maggi Churchouse Events on +44 (0)1359 221004 (telephone/fax) or
maggi@maggichurchosevents.co.uk

www.rsc.org/law

Biographies

Chas Bountra

Chas Bountra is Head of the Structural Genomics Consortium (SGC), and Professor of Translational Medicine at the University of Oxford.

Prior to coming back to Oxford, Chas was Head of Biology for Neurology and Gastro-intestinal diseases, at GSK. His group generated >40 clinical candidates, facilitated >20 clinical POC studies, and progressed 5 assets into more advanced clinical development. Chas built the biological rationale leading to the launch of Alosetron, and was the first to show that neurokinin NK1 receptor antagonists are anti-emetic.

He has therapeutic expertise in neuro-psychiatry, gastro-intestinal, inflammation and cancer, and “know-how” of all stages of the drug discovery and development process. He has given over 300 invited lectures. In 2012 he was voted one of the “top innovators in the industry” and in 2014 was a recipient of the Rita and John Conforth Award from the Royal Society of Chemistry.

His current research is aimed at determining the 3D X ray structures of novel human proteins, generating novel inhibitors, and using these to identify new targets for drug discovery. The SGC publishes all findings immediately, works closely with >300 academic labs across the world and 8 pharmaceutical companies, and shares all reagents and expertise freely. The group is now focussing its efforts on high priority genes, building novel human cell/ tissue based screening platforms, forging links with patient groups, building a new dementia institute, and facilitating exploitation of SGC outputs by local student and academic entrepreneurs. Chas is an advocate for pre-competitive science, up to and including Phase IIa clinical studies.

Simon Campbell

Simon Campbell is a synthetic organic chemist who received his PhD from the University of Birmingham in 1965 followed by postdoctoral appointments in Chile and Stanford. From 1969 to 1972, he was Visiting Professor at the Universidade do Sao Paulo in Brazil, and then returned to the UK to join Pfizer Central Research in Sandwich. Sir Simon retired from Pfizer in 1998 as Senior Vice President for Worldwide Discovery and Medicinals R&D Europe. He has co-authored over 120 publications and patents, and was a key member of the research teams that discovered CarduraTM, NorvascTM, and ViagraTM.

Dr Campbell's scientific contributions have been recognised by the RSC Award for Medicinal Chemistry (1989), the Herschberg Award from the American Chemical Society (1997), the Industrial Research Institute (US) Achievement Award (1997), the CIA Individual Achievement Award (2006), Galen Medal (2007) and the Sir James Black Award for Drug Discovery (2012). He was elected FRS (1999), FMedSci (2002) and was appointed CBE in 2006 for “Services to Science” followed by a knighthood in 2015 for “Services to Chemistry”. Sir Simon was named at number 31 in the Times Eureka list of 100 top UK scientists for 2010, and was included in the Science Council list of the UK's 100 practising scientists in 2014.

Currently, Dr Campbell is a member of the SABs of Astex (Cambridge), Bionomics (Adelaide) Calibr (San Diego) CTx (Melbourne) Ensemble (Boston), H3-D (Cape Town), MRCT (London)

and the TB Alliance (Seattle). He acts as consultant to Abingworth Management, Apposite Capital, CRUK, DNDi, MMV, Novo Seeds Sofinnova and the Wellcome Trust, and has worked with CNPq/FAPESP in Brazil. He is a past President of the RSC and has served on the RS Council, and was the first chair of the Expert Scientific Advisory Committee for the Medicines for Malaria Venture.

Mohga Kamal-Yanni

Dr Mohga Kamal-Yanni is a senior health policy advisor in Oxfam. She has extensive experience of health policy and programming in developing countries. She has written policy papers, published articles, and made presentations on health issues including access to medicines, HIV/AIDS, financing and delivery of health care, non-communicable diseases and gender in health.

Currently Mohga is a key advisor to the NGOs delegation to UNITAID board –having served for 4 years as NGOs representative on the board. She was a member of the Worldbank civil society consultation group and also represented NGOs on the Global Fund medicine committees and was the alternate board member for the Developed Countries NGOs delegation to the Global Fund.

After graduation as a medical doctor in Egypt, she has worked in a number of developing countries as a medical doctor, programme manager, and health policy advisor. Mohga holds an MPhil in Primary Health Care and has been awarded an MBE in 2009.

Christopher Rennie-Smith

Christopher studied law at Cambridge University and comparative law at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, and then lectured in law at Sheffield University. He qualified as an English lawyer (solicitor) in 1978. He then practised in London for over twenty years, specialising in intellectual property litigation.

In 1999 Christopher was appointed a legally qualified member of the Boards of Appeal at the EPO, becoming a member of the Enlarged Board in 2005 and chairman of a biotechnology technical board in 2010. He was chairman or member in hundreds of EPO appeal cases and, since 2007, many petitions for review. He was also one of the draftsmen of the current Rules of Procedure of the Boards of Appeal.

Christopher has lectured regularly in patent law since 2001, and from 2007 onwards was also involved in judicial training for both new members of the Boards of Appeal and judges from European national courts.

Having retired from the Boards of Appeal in April 2014, Christopher now advises as a consultant on all aspects of EPO proceedings and procedure, acts as an arbitrator in IP disputes, and continues to be actively involved in teaching and training in patent law and procedure. He is an Associate Member of CIPA and “of counsel” to Collyer Bristow LLP, the law firm at which he was a partner before he went to Munich. As well as English, he speaks fluent French and German and passable Swedish.

Nicholas Wald

Sir Nicholas Wald is Professor of Preventive Medicine at the Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine (which he directed from 1997 to 2013), Barts and The London School of Medicine

and Dentistry. He is known internationally for his research in epidemiology and preventive medicine.

He pioneered the field of antenatal screening for congenital malformation and made discoveries that form the basis of screening for neural tube defects and Down's syndrome in early pregnancy.

He showed, in a large randomised trial, that a lack of folic acid is a cause of neural tube defects, and that an adequate intake of the vitamin immediately before pregnancy can prevent most cases.

He demonstrated that passive smoking is a cause of lung cancer. Recent research includes showing the value of screening and treatment of hypothyroidism in adults but not in pregnancy as a way of preventing intellectual disability in young children. He is the innovator of the "Polypill", a new approach for the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease, and with his son David conducted a trial demonstrating the expected effect of a polypill.

Current research includes screening and treatment of *Helicobacter pylori* infection and subsequent stomach cancer. He gave the Royal Society of Medicine Jephcott Lecture on Nutrition in prevention in 2010. His book, *Antenatal and Neonatal Screening*, won first prize in the BMA Medical Book Competition (2001) in the public health category and his book, *The Epidemiological Approach*, was highly commended in 2004.

He is the founding Editor of the *Journal of Medical Screening*.