2017 AIPPI World Congress – Sydney

Pharma 3: Medical devices and patents – a shot in the arm for pharma?

Medical devices play an increasing role in the provision of healthcare. Recent developments in technology, in particular in the areas of advanced materials, miniaturization, robotics and computing have enabled faster and more effective treatment for a range of conditions. Alongside this, healthcare companies have been looking to enhance their IP protection for medical devices, including where there is overlap with pharmaceutical products. The regulatory environment surrounding pharmaceutical products can be tied to particular treatment plans which can be controlled with dedicated types of medical device, for example, drug delivery apparatus such as injection devices, stents and inhalers.

In Europe, the regulatory regime around medical devices is changing in 2017 with the adoption of new EU Medical Device Regulations and a new EU In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Device Regulations. Alongside this, the ability to extend patent term and obtain supplementary patent protection for regulated medicinal products in certain circumstances is leading to a proliferation of extension mechanisms for pharmaceuticals and related products.

This session will examine the developments in medical device technology and look at the role of the current and future IP and regulatory regimes in relation to their protection, and for related healthcare products.