

Sharon Crane at Life Sciences Masters 2022

Speaking Engagement
Ashburn, VA
10.26.22

Partner Sharon Crane will participate in a panel titled "Antibodies: The Challenges Facing Patent Applicants" at IPWatchdog's Life Sciences Masters taking place October 25-26, 2022, in Ashburn, Virginia. Sharon's panel will take place on October 26.

Antibodies are complex proteins generated by the body that bind to and optimally neutralize foreign antigens, namely, proteins that are foreign to the individual. Antibodies are increasingly being developed as therapeutics—biologics and biosimilars—to fight various diseases.

The structure of antibodies has been extensively studied and their two- and three-dimensional structures have been elucidated. Antibodies contain two heavy protein chains and two light protein chains that are associated in two dimensions in a Y-shaped structure. At the ends of the Y-shape are variable regions which are specialized to bind specifically to an antigen. These variable regions contain complementarity-determining regions (CDRs) that allow the antibodies to bind specifically to an antigen. Each light and heavy chain contains three such CDR regions.

While in the past, claims to antibodies which bind new antigens (i.e., the function of binding to a specific antigen) were found allowable, the application of recent case law [e.g., *Abbvie* and *Amgen*] has led to the granting of extremely narrow claims. Antibody claims may now be limited to the specific sequences encoding the CDRs of the disclosed antibodies, without inclusion of breadth associated with percent identity with such sequences, or additional functional language, such as affinity to which they bind their antigen, ability to block function of the antigen, etc. This limitation in scope is extremely important given the biosimilars that are currently being developed.

This panel will discuss the short-term and long-term implications of the application of *Abbvie*, *Amgen*, and similar cases for biopharma companies engaging in the development of therapeutics. The panel will also discuss the current state of the enablement and written

Key Contact

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Related Areas of Practice

Patent Prosecution

Technologies

Biologics & Biosimilars

description requirements; namely, what needs to go into a specification in order to lead to the broadest possible claim coverage.

The First Annual Life Sciences Masters™ program, presented by IPWatchdog®, will explore the law, politics, and business of life sciences. The two-day program will focus on the intersection of intellectual property law and the biopharmaceutical industry.

Please visit the event website for more information and to register.