

## Life Sciences Overview

**The challenges faced by this sector are greater than ever. This fiercely competitive arena means companies need to move fast to take products from promising ideas to market.**

**Our combined Life Sciences and Chemistry team work collaboratively to help our clients maximise the impact of their IP.**



### Our Expertise

Our Life Sciences and Chemistry team is one of the leading UK and European practices in this sector, including agrochemicals, biologics, biotechnology, ionic liquids, laminates, petrochemicals and pharmaceuticals. We also work with our colleagues in other fields in relation to cross-disciplinary matters such as medical devices. Our primary aim is to create and deliver innovative, high quality, client-focussed services that provide real value for money.

Our clients demand the highest standards and expect us to add value through our particular expertise. They are not disappointed.

Our team has expertise in all areas of IP counselling, including patent drafting and prosecution (for UK, EP, PCT, and overseas); freedom to operate and due diligence searches; portfolio management; opposition and appeal proceedings; SPCs/extensions; Plant Variety Rights and regulatory issues (including orphan drug legislation and data protection).

## Mathys & Squire LLP



### Our Clients

The work ethic and drive of the Life Sciences and Chemistry team are particularly suited to working with US clients and this is borne out by the fact that the majority of work in this sector is US-originating. Many US companies instruct us directly.

Current major clients include Abbott Laboratories, AbbVie, Biogen Idec, Bristol-Myers Squibb, BP, Immunogen, Isis Innovation (Oxford University), MedImmune, Merck & Co., New England Biolabs, Petronas, Public Health England, Procter & Gamble, Sanofi Pasteur, Syntaxin and Takeda.



### Drafting

We work closely with our clients to identify valuable IP at an early stage. We use the information provided to prepare a carefully drafted patent specification suitable for multiple jurisdictions. We will provide guidance on further experimental work/data that may be useful to support robust patent protection worldwide.

At any stage of the drafting process, further telecoms or face-to-face meetings can be scheduled with our attorneys, depending on the needs of the project.



### Prosecution

We are often asked to assist with managing prosecution of global portfolios, co-ordinating responses to various patent offices in conjunction with local attorneys.

Throughout prosecution, we report all official actions promptly, but are happy to substitute telephone discussions or meetings for complex or sensitive matters.

Our careful analysis and knowledge of the law allow us to identify a number of possible approaches, always with the understanding that our clients' patent applications are business assets, rather than academic exercises. We therefore bring a commercial focus to our work.

At the EPO, this focus is backed up by our ability to resolve matters by telephone discussions with the Examiners.



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### EPO Opposition and Appeal

Our Life Sciences and Chemistry team regularly handles EPO opposition and appeal cases (split roughly equally between offensive and defensive oppositions). We have achieved notable successful outcomes for our clients and have often been selected for high-stakes cases relating to blockbuster pharmaceutical and biotechnological products.

Our extensive experience in these proceedings and our awareness of how to manage and take advantage of the procedural and substantive aspects of the law, coupled with our desire to fully understand and meet our clients' commercial goals, allows us to devise and present a case in the clients' best commercial interests.

For this reason, the attorneys in our team are regularly retained by large corporations to take on difficult, commercially important opposition cases at first instance and appeal level.



### Our Team

To disseminate best practice throughout the group, our Life Sciences and Chemistry team holds monthly case law review meetings in which the partners, associates and assistants discuss recently issued Board of Appeal decisions and their impact on day-to-day practice. This ensures that all of our team members are fully up-to-date with the latest case law developments.

Occasionally, we retain the services of ex-members of the Boards of Appeal to provide valuable "behind the scenes" knowledge of the internal procedures of the European Patent Office.

To find out more about the Mathys & Squire team, visit [mathys-squire.com](https://mathys-squire.com)