

Life Sciences: Biotechnology, Medical Sciences and Pharmaceuticals

Among European firms, Mewburn Ellis LLP has one of the largest groups of patent attorneys specialising in life sciences, especially biotechnology, and our attorneys are supported by a substantial team of technical specialists. Brief biographies follow overleaf. Because of this, we offer our clients the flexibility to ensure that their work is carried out by an appropriate number of people with suitable expertise and experience, that peaks in workloads can be managed, and that absences are fully covered, usually by an attorney familiar with the caseload concerned.

Our expertise and pro-active approach reflect the high-level work we do for a wide range of clients, from world-renowned biotechnology companies based in the US and Europe, acting either directly or via their outside counsel, to small and medium sized companies, universities, charities and funding bodies. We handle a substantial number of opposition and appeal proceedings at the European Patent Office (both defending and opposing granted patents) and have considerable expertise in drafting and prosecuting patent applications, due diligence work, infringement opinions, portfolio management and advising our clients on their patent strategy. We have been involved in UK and US litigation and US interference proceedings.

Our attorneys have worked in several fields of technology whilst training and, even after qualification, most retain a wide range of clients working in different areas within the broad fields of biotechnology and/or pharmaceuticals. Consequently, all our attorneys have experience drafting and prosecuting patent applications across a variety of biotechnological and pharmaceutical technologies. With attorneys in the firm specialising in other areas of technology, we also work with multidisciplinary technology.

Most of our attorneys have been seconded to firms in the US, Japan or China to gain experience in these countries' law and practice and to develop close working relationships with attorneys in those firms.

If you would like further information or assistance, please contact one of the partners whose biographies follow. If writing from outside the UK, please use our London address, shown on the back of this sheet. Direct e-mail addresses are of the form firstname.lastname@mewburn.com or you can use the general address mail@mewburn.com.

PLEASE TURN OVER FOR BIOGRAPHIES

Mewburn Ellis LLP is one of the UK's largest firms of Chartered Patent Attorneys, European Patent Attorneys, Registered Trade Mark Attorneys and European Trade Mark Attorneys, covering a full range of intellectual property, including patents, trade marks, designs, industrial copyright and related matters.

Biotechnology

Partners

Ian Armitage

Ian has a BSc in Chemistry from the University of Durham and joined Mewburn Ellis in 1967. Since the opening of the European Patent Office in 1978, he has been at the forefront of biotechnology patent prosecution in Europe and has developed enormous experience in EPO opposition and appeal proceedings both offensive and defensive, often involving high profile cases. Most of Ian's time is now taken up with these proceedings and advising clients on strategic matters. He has also been involved in litigation proceedings concerning patents in biotechnology.

Seán Walton

Seán has an MA in Molecular Biology from the University of Cambridge and joined Mewburn Ellis in 1990. His clients include companies and research institutions involved in immunology, antibody engineering and plant biotechnology. Seán has handled many European oppositions and appeals for his clients, has experience in strategic patent portfolio planning and analysis, and has been involved in UK and US litigation and interference proceedings.

Simon Kiddle

Simon has an MA in Chemistry from the University of Oxford and joined Mewburn Ellis in 1991. His practice covers the fields of biological chemistry, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology. He has extensive experience in assisting clients with strategic portfolio planning and due diligence work for companies and investors. Simon's practice is mainly divided between advising UK and European start-up companies and universities, prosecuting patent applications for US biotechnology companies, and handling European oppositions and appeals. His clients include companies and institutions active in the areas of glycobiology, protein engineering, sugar chemistry, microfluidic devices and microarray technology.

Adrian Brasnett

Adrian has a BSc in Genetics from University College, London and a PhD in Molecular Biology from Imperial College, London. He joined Mewburn Ellis in 1997 after working from 1987 in another firm. Adrian has handled many European oppositions and appeals and has particular experience in the field of biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics and gene-directed enzyme pro-drug technology. He has also been involved in litigation in the UK, Germany and Holland, and in US interference proceedings. Adrian's clients include major UK and US biotechnology companies, small start-up companies, universities and research institutions involved in plant biotechnology, antibody engineering and cell protein technology.

Simon Kremer

Simon has a BSc and a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Bristol and joined Mewburn Ellis in 1997 after working for a UK Government intellectual property rights department from 1992. He has particular experience in physical biochemistry such as enzymology, but his practice spans molecular biology and other biotechnology-related fields such as diagnostics. Simon's clients include universities, large European and US companies, UK government departments and research institutions. He also sits on the Biotechnology Committee of the Chartered Institute of Patent Agents.

Joanna Cripps

Jo has a BSc in Biochemistry and Zoology from Cardiff University and a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Cambridge. She joined Mewburn Ellis in 1993. Jo has particular experience in recombinant nucleic acid technology and genetic engineering. Her clients include large UK and US companies, small start-up companies, research institutions and universities involved in technologies such as virology, bacteriology, cancer diagnosis, diagnostic arrays, biomedical research tools and microarray technology. Jo is also a regular visitor to S.E. Asia and carries out drafting and prosecution work for companies and universities in Singapore.

Christopher Denison

Chris has an MA in Neuroscience from the University of Cambridge and joined Mewburn Ellis in 1996. His clients include major US biotechnology companies, universities and research institutions in the UK, US and Japan, and Japanese biotechnology companies, with interests in protein, nucleic acid and antibody-based therapeutics and diagnostics, genomics, gene manipulation and microbiology. Chris has particular experience of strategic planning for large families of highly interrelated patent applications. He is a regular visitor to Japan.

Nicholas Sutcliffe

Nick has a BSc in Biochemistry from the University of Bristol and a PhD in Molecular Biology from the University of Leicester. He has also worked in industry as a research scientist, involved in gene cloning and the identification of specific micro-organisms using DNA technology. Nick joined Mewburn Ellis in 1997.

Graham Forrest

Graham has an MA in Biochemistry from the University of Oxford and a PhD in Molecular Biology from Imperial College, London. He joined Mewburn Ellis in 1999. His major clients are UK universities, and biotechnology companies in Europe and the US with particular interests in protein engineering, peptide therapeutics and immunology. As well as drafting and prosecution, Graham's practice involves advising on portfolio management, freedom-to-operate analysis, and both offensive and defensive European opposition work.

Richard Clegg

Richard has an MA in Biochemistry from the University of Cambridge and is a Chartered Biologist. He joined Mewburn Ellis in 2003 having worked in another firm from 1999. His practice covers the fields of molecular biology, biochemistry, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals. He has an active involvement with start-up companies and technology transfer institutions in Europe, the US and South East Asia. In addition to prosecution of European patent applications and European opposition/appeal work Richard often has a strategic involvement with his clients' intellectual property. Richard has particular experience in therapeutics and diagnostics including the fields of nucleic acid ligands (aptamers and SELEX™), virology, inhalation therapeutics, polyketides and cardiac diagnostics. Richard is a regular visitor to China and Singapore.

Rebecca Tollervey

Rebecca has a BA in Biological Sciences from the University of Oxford and has conducted research into the regulation of expression of transport proteins. She joined Mewburn Ellis in 2000.

Lindsey Woolley

Lindsey has an MA in Plant Sciences from the University of Cambridge. She also has a PhD in Molecular Biology and Chemistry, obtained while working at Horticulture Research International. Her research there, and subsequent Post-Doctoral research in the Agriculture Sciences department at the University of Bristol, focused on the improvement of plants by genetic modification. She joined Mewburn Ellis in 2002.

Hilary King

Hilary has an MBiochem in Biochemistry from the University of Oxford. She has worked in the Microbiology Unit of the University of Oxford, in the Immunology department of the Institute of Molecular Medicine in Oxford and at the Max Planck Institute for Terrestrial Microbiology in Marburg, Germany. She joined Mewburn Ellis in 2001.

Qualified staff

Kathryn Nicholls

Kathryn has an MA and PhD in Chemistry from the University of Cambridge and joined Mewburn Ellis in 1984. Her practice spans the fields of chemistry, pharmaceuticals and biochemistry, with particular emphasis on small molecule therapeutics. Kathryn has particular expertise in procuring and advising on Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPCs) for pharmaceuticals and plant protection products. Her clients include large and small Japanese and US pharmaceutical companies.

Susan Harrison

Susie has a BSc in Biochemistry from the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Prior to joining Mewburn Ellis in 2001, Susie worked in private practice and in an industrial patent department in the pharmaceutical industry. She has particular experience in the fields of pharmaceuticals and biotechnology.

Christopher Casley

Chris has an MA in Pharmacology from the University of Cambridge and a PhD in Neurochemistry from University College London. He has worked as a research scientist at the genomics company Oxagen, in candidate gene analysis, and as a post-doctoral scientist at the pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly, investigating the role of glial inflammation in Alzheimer's Disease. He joined Mewburn Ellis in 2004.

Catherine Sampson

Cathy has a BSc in Biology and German from the University of Sussex and a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Cambridge. She has worked as a research scientist at the Biomedical Research Centre of the University of Dundee. She joined Mewburn Ellis in 2001.

Karen Bufton

Karen has a Masters Degree in Biochemistry and MPhil in Biotechnology from the University of Cambridge. Project focussed on the genetic basis for the microbial degradation of cocaine. Patent work in biochemistry and biotechnology fields with particular experience in molecular diagnostics and therapeutics, genomics and enzymology. She joined Mewburn Ellis in 2005.

Technical specialists

Nadja Muncke

Nadja has a degree (Staatsex.) in Biology and Chemistry from the University of Heidelberg, Germany. She has a PhD in Human Genetics from the University of Heidelberg, working in the field of cardiovascular diseases. Prior to joining Mewburn Ellis in 2004 she worked as a post-doctoral research fellow at Cancer Research UK in London, where her research focused on gene control and tissue organisation.

Emily Hayes

Emily has a degree (MSci) in Natural Sciences and a PhD in Biochemistry in the field of cancer research from the University of Cambridge. Her research was focused on the development of gene therapy to target tumour angiogenesis. Her areas of particular knowledge are tumour biology and gene therapy. She joined Mewburn Ellis LLP in 2005.

Katherine Green

Kath has an MA and a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Cambridge. She completed her doctorate at the MRC Human Nutrition Unit in Cambridge, where she worked as an MRC Predoctoral Fellow investigating the role of mitochondria in type 2 diabetes. Katherine joined Mewburn Ellis LLP in 2006.

Tanis Keirstead

Tanis has a degree in Microbiology and Virology from the University of Warwick and a PhD in Molecular Biology from the University of Oxford. She joined Mewburn Ellis LLP in 2005.

Robert Andrews

Rob has an MBiochem in Biochemistry from the University of Oxford and an MA in Developmental Biology and a PhD in Cell Biology from the University of Cambridge. He conducted his thesis research in the Gurdon Institute in Cambridge, where his work focussed on the mechanisms governing embryonic axis formation. He has also worked in the Genetics and Pharmacology Departments in the University of Oxford. He joined Mewburn Ellis LLP in 2006.

Pharmaceuticals

Partners

Hugh Paget

Hugh has a degree in Chemistry from Oxford University and joined Mewburn Ellis in 1969. His work in chemistry includes drafting for UK spin-out companies in the pharmaceutical field and representing large and small Japanese chemical companies at the European Patent Office. He has handled many oppositions and appeals at the EPO. He is a regular visitor to Japan and works directly with several Japanese chemical companies.

Wilhelmus Wytenburg

Willum has a BSc in Chemistry from Queen's University (Canada) and a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Cambridge. After a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Stanford University (USA) he worked in private practice in the US from 1992, and as a US Patent Agent from 1994 to 1999. Willum joined Mewburn Ellis in 1999. His primary areas of practice are chemistry, pharmaceuticals, antiviral and anticancer agents, and small molecule modulators.

Patrick Stoner

Patrick joined Mewburn Ellis in 1984 and has a BA in Chemistry from Cambridge University. His work extends across a wide area of chemistry, including polymers, and in the medical sciences area includes small-molecule chemistry and biochemistry in pharmaceuticals and nutrition. Patrick also deals with a range of mechanical and devices work in the medical area. His clients include US and Japanese companies as well as small UK companies and universities. He has extensive experience of opposition proceedings at the EPO and is a regular visitor to Japan.

Rachel Oxley

Rachel has a BSc and PhD in chemistry from the University of Durham and joined Mewburn Ellis in 1998. She practices in the mechanical and chemical fields, including pharmaceuticals. Her clients include large UK and overseas companies, UK universities and the NHS. She has experience of preparing validity/infringement opinions on pharmaceutical patents. Rachel has nearly two year's practical experience of the Australian patent system, in particular in the prosecution of applications and opposition of patents relating to veterinary pharmaceuticals.

Robert Watson

Robert has an MA in Chemistry from the University of Oxford and joined Mewburn Ellis in 1995. He practises in the fields of chemistry and pharmaceuticals. He has extensive experience with clients in the Higher Education sector, spin outs and SME companies, particular in the area of drug discovery. His focus is on UK clients, including drafting applications, managing extensive global portfolios and providing strategic advice on invention capture. Robert is a regular visitor to the US and Canada, and has spoken at a number of conferences and seminars there.

Jeremy Webster

Jeremy has a BSc and PhD in Chemistry from the University of Nottingham and joined Mewburn Ellis in 2001. He practices in the fields of chemistry, materials and pharmaceuticals. His practice also includes medical devices. He works for a wide range of clients in the chemical and pharmaceutical sector, including SMEs and multinationals. His clients are based in UK, US, Singapore and Japan. Jeremy recently spent several months in Japan working with a Japanese patent attorney firm and is a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Qualified staff

Ian Stuart

Ian has an MA and D.Phil in Chemistry from the University of Oxford. He joined Mewburn Ellis in 1976. His work covers a wide range, centred on chemistry but extending into the mechanical and biotech fields.

June Lyons

June has a BSc in Chemistry from King's College, London University, and joined Mewburn Ellis in 1991. Her practice spans the fields of chemistry and pharmaceuticals. June's clients include large Japanese pharmaceutical companies.

Sam Bailey

Sam has an MChem and a DPhil from the University of Oxford. His DPhil thesis describes his work modifying carbon nanotubes to attach a variety of chemical functional groups to their outer surfaces. Sam joined Mewburn Ellis in 2002 and works mainly in the fields of chemistry and materials science with some work in the pharmaceuticals area.

Jonathan Wills

Jonathan has a degree (MChem) in Chemistry from the University of Edinburgh and a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Cambridge. His research was focused on solid-phase organic synthesis and the preparation of novel G-quadruplex binders. Jonathan has also worked as a research scientist at GlaxoSmithKline and is a Member of the Royal Society of Chemistry. He joined Mewburn Ellis in 2004.

Julie Carlisle

Julie has an MSci in Natural Sciences and a PhD in Organic Chemistry from the University of Cambridge. During her degree, Julie gained experience of the pharmaceutical industry on summer placements in medicinal chemistry departments. Her PhD thesis focussed on methodology for the synthesis of heterocycles, using organosulfur chemistry. After her PhD, Julie worked at the Université catholique de Louvain, in Belgium, doing research into uses of multilamellar phospholipid vesicles, and then at King's College, London, where her research centred on synthetic methodology and approaches to natural products. Julie joined Mewburn Ellis LLP in 2005.

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