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Pierce Law Participates in Pandemic Influenza Vaccine IP Management Meeting

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PIERCE LAW PARTICIPATES IN PANDEMIC INFLUENZA VACCINE IP MANAGEMENT MEETING

BY STANLEY KOWALSKI (JD '05)

ON APRIL 18, 2006 several members of the greater PierceLaw community participated in an important meeting held at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva, Switzerland. Organized by The Centre for the Management of Intellectual Property in Health Research and Development (MIHR <www.mihhr.org>), the meeting “Intellectual Property Management Strategies to Facilitate Early Access and Global Health Benefits: Case Studies in Pandemic Influenza and Malaria” had the objective of exploring and discussing IP issues which impact the distribution of vaccines to developing countries, a topic of heightened worldwide importance given the potential threat of a global influenza pandemic. In an intensive one-day session, the diverse panel of world experts worked together to formulate a list of realistic, creative and dynamic IP management options for providing the poor of the developing world with access to critically essential vaccines.

The participation of the PierceLaw community in this meeting is consonant with the mission of the Germeshausen Center (GC) as the umbrella organization for IP policy analysis, both in principle and in practice; that is, it underscores the GC’s enduring commitment to tackling challenging issues in international IP. By examining the broader international context, and also engaging in discussions relating to innovative IP management strategies for technology transfer to and utilization in developing countries, the GC seeks to make comprehensive and substantive contributions to such ongoing collaborative endeavors, from policy to strategy to implementation.

PierceLaw participation is also consistent with the establishment of the International Development Intellectual Property Clinical Program (ID/IP Clinic). Linkages forged between the ID/IP Clinic and international initiatives such as MIHR will synergistically

advance IP awareness and capacity building in developing countries, for the express purpose of improving public health and nutrition. Facilitating the availability of a pandemic influenza vaccine is just one (very important) example of how formulating innovative IP management strategies (and licensing options) can serve the greater global public interest. ■

Stanley Kowalski (JD '05) BS in Biology, University of Pittsburgh, Ph.D. in Plant Breeding, Cornell University will be supervisor of the Pierce Law ID/IP Clinic.



PICTURED (LEFT TO RIGHT): DR. KONRAD BECKER OF SWITZERLAND; STANLEY KOWALSKI '05; RICHARD WILDER '84 OF WASHINGTON, DC; PROFESSOR KARL JORDA; DR. ANATOLE KRATTIGER, DIRECTOR AT THE CENTER FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND HEALTH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (MIHR); AND ROBERT EISS, CEO OF MIHR.

