



UK Life Sciences and Healthcare Newsletter

February 2021

Legal Updates: Hot Topics



Harnessing Big Data – Draft EU Data Governance Regulation Aims to Increase Innovators’ Access to Data

Paul Kavanagh and Dylan Balbirnie share an update in relation to a recent draft EU Regulation that aims to encourage the sharing and re-use of data.

[Read more »](#)



Synthetic Warranties and W&I Insurance

Alasdair Austin shares an update on the latest development in the warranty and indemnity (W&I) insurance market: synthetic warranty coverage, and its possible application in the transaction process.

[Read more »](#)



Committed Capital | A Strong Recovery? PE Life Sciences and Healthcare Investment Opportunities in 2021

In this episode, Robert Darwin from Dechert and senior PE leaders with experience at Blue Ox Healthcare, Mid Europa Partners, TPG and GHO Capital discuss key themes and opportunities affecting private equity investment in life sciences and healthcare and how the market is shaping up in the U.S. and Europe, in 2021 and beyond.

[Click here to listen »](#)

Guest Contributor

This month's guest contributor is David Miles. David Miles is the CEO of AKL Research and Development, a UK-based, privately held drug development company with a focus on inflammatory diseases. David has spent 30 years in a number of senior leadership positions in both pharma, established and start-up biotechs leading the development and introduction of several first in class biologicals.



Are We Nearly There Yet? The Search for a Disease Modifying Drug for Osteoarthritis

David Miles discusses the progress made by the scientific and clinical communities in the ongoing search for adequate treatment for osteoarthritis.

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Notable Dechert-led Transactions:

Notwithstanding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dechert has recently been involved in advising on a number of significant life sciences transactions, including:

- **Royalty Pharma plc**, on IP-related matters in its agreement to acquire the royalty interest in Seltorexant from Minerva Neurosciences, Inc.

- **Judges Scientific plc** on the acquisition of part of Bordeaux Acquisition Limited.
- One of the founders of **Base Genomics** in relation to its sale to Exact Sciences for US\$400 million.

Team News:

- Dechert LLP recently announced that Andrew Wilkins, Ph.D., has joined the firm as a partner, and Sean Coughlin has joined the firm as counsel. Both are based in Boston and join Dechert's leading Intellectual Property group. This follows the addition of IP partners Howard Levine and Jennifer Swan in January, and further expands Dechert's global life sciences capabilities. [Click here for details.](#)

Events:

- **Pharma & Biotech Patent Litigation in Europe, 23 – 25 February:** The 13th Annual Forum where the "Who's Who" of the European Life Sciences Patent Bar gather each year to shape patent litigation policies and procedures.
- **BioCapital Europe, 11 March:** BioCapital Europe 2021, organised by LSP (Life Sciences Partners) is delighted to announce its 18th consecutive event, using a best-in-class digital platform.

Regulatory Updates:

- **The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence public consultation**
The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence ("NICE") has commenced a public consultation on its technology evaluation process when assessing new and emerging health technologies. NICE will be conducting a consultation event on 25 February 2021. The deadline for responding to these proposals is 15 April 2021. NICE's proposed changes include:
 - alignment of the current guidance development processes;
 - opportunities for new process improvements and ways of working;
 - commercial and managed access processes; and
 - highly specialised technologies.
- **Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry amended**
On 12 January 2021, following a public consultation, the Prescription Medicines Code of Practice Authority published an amended version of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry. The amended Code of Practice will continue to be updated until it comes into operation on 1 July 2021.

Market News:

Other recent notable industry transactions:

- Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. completed the acquisition of Henogen SA, Novasep's viral vector manufacturing business in Belgium for approximately €725 million in cash.
- Haemonetics Corporation, a global medical technology company, announced its agreement to acquire Cardiva Medical, Inc., a manufacturer of vascular closure systems, for an upfront cash payment of US\$475 million at with additional contingent consideration based on sales growth.
- Boston Scientific entered into an agreement to acquire Preventice Solutions, Inc., company which offering mobile cardiac health solutions and services, for upfront cash payment of US\$925 million, and up to US\$300 million in a potential milestone payment. Boston Scientific was already an investor in Preventice.
- Sanofi and Novartis have agreed to support the manufacturing and supply of BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine (co-developed with Pfizer).
- A new partnership between the UK government and CureVac (a vaccine manufacturer) has been agreed, in order to quickly develop new vaccines in response to new COVID-19 variants, if they are needed.

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