



Eidgenössisches Institut für Geistiges Eigentum  
Institut Fédéral de la Propriété Intellectuelle  
Istituto Federale della Proprietà Intellettuale  
Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property

sc | nat 

Science and Policy  
Platform of the Swiss Academy of Sciences  
Forum for Genetic Research

## Patenting in Life Sciences: a hands on workshop

**June 11 and June 12, 2012, Centre Loewenberg, Murten**

The seventh edition of this course was jointly organized by the Forum for Genetic Research of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) and the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property. The workshop was further supported by the Life Science Zurich Graduate School, the Conférence universitaire de Suisse occidentale (CUSO), the Biozentrum of the University of Basel, the Graduate School for Cellular and Biomedical Sciences (GCB) of the University of Bern and the Interuniversity Doctoral Program in Organismal Biology of the University of Neuchâtel.

Over the last decades the field of life sciences has raised to a productive source of technological innovation. Its output is at the origin of a growing amount of commercial products and potential markets. Along with this economic development, issues in intellectual property have become important to researchers in biosciences. During their career they are more and more confronted to questions related to patenting and are, by the majority, rather unprepared to handle the situation professionally. This appraisal was the incentive for the Forum for Genetic Research of the Swiss Academy of Sciences to organize a PhD-course dedicated to patents and their implementation in the field of life sciences.

The goal of the course was to provide the students with basic information and hands on experience in the management of patenting issues. The lectures gathered inputs related to the following topics: Basic knowledge on intellectual property and patenting, patent law, challenges related to intellectual property in a spin-off company and ethical considerations in patenting. In addition, the participants were offered to discover new job opportunities in the field of intellectual property management. Subsequently the attendees participated in workshops, where they gained hands on experience in one of the three topics Patents, Rights or Commercialization. At the end of the course, the students have acquired basic knowledge in patenting and answers to the following questions: How does patenting in life sciences affect – my career? – academic research? – the society?



Mitglied der  
Akademien der Wissenschaften Schweiz

Forum for Genetic Research  
SCNAT | Schwarztörstrasse 9 | 3007 Bern | Switzerland  
T +41 31 310 40 28 | F +41 31 310 40 29  
[geneticresearch@scnat.ch](mailto:geneticresearch@scnat.ch) | [www.geneticresearch.ch](http://www.geneticresearch.ch)



Course participants and lecturers at the Centre Löwenberg, Murten.