



American
Clinical Laboratory
Association

ACLA'S **LABLINE**

KEEPING YOU CURRENT

Gene Based Patents for Clinical Laboratory Tests; Why You Should Care

GET THE MOST TIMELY AND UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON THIS EMERGING TOPIC

When:

Thursday, June 21, 2007

2:00 - 3:30 pm Eastern Time

Format:

90-minute audio conference

The Speakers:

Moderator and Overview:

Alan Mertz, President - ACLA

Presenters:

Debra Leonard, MD, PhD

Vice Chair of Laboratory Medicine
at Weill Cornell Medical College

Claire Driscoll

Director of the National Human Genome
Research Institute Technology Transfer
Office at the National Institutes of Health

Program Overview:

Currently over three million genome-related patent applications have been filed at the U.S. patent office. In general, raw products of nature – such as one's genetic material – are not patentable. However, DNA products are patentable when they have been isolated, purified, or modified to produce a unique form or function not found in nature.

As more disease genes are found, complementary gene tests are developed to screen for the gene in individuals who may be at risk for developing the disease. Many genes used for clinical laboratory tests are patented and licensed. Royalties are due to the patent holder each time the test is performed, and only licensed laboratories can conduct the test. This has led some to argue that patents can impede the development of diagnostic tests by laboratories because of royalty costs or prevention of testing by exclusive licensing practices. On the other hand, others argue that the investment of resources needed for research and discovery is encouraged by the financial incentives and protections of the patent system, and encourages the sharing of medically important discoveries.

This ACLA LABline will present an overview of the patent laws as they apply to genetic material, present both the pros and cons for gene patenting and provide the opportunity to ask questions of leading authorities.

This program is applicable to all clinical laboratories that perform gene based testing, will be of interest to gene test manufacturers, law firms and others. This audio conference will serve as a primer on the topic of gene patents as government advisory groups, Congress and the media show significant renewed interest.

Attend this Audio Conference and Learn:

- > **What are gene patents and how do they work?**
- > **Who are the top holders of DNA patents?**
- > **What are some of the arguments in favor of and against gene patenting?**
- > **What current proposals are being considered as possible remedies?**

How It Works:

It's easy. Sign-up using the following registration form. The registration fee entitles each site to one phone line with as many participants at the site as interested. So please, share this information packed program with your colleagues.

Prior to the audio conference, we will provide you with instructions on how to sign-in and participate. Program materials will be made available in advance of the program.

5 Ways to Register:

- > **CALL**
202-637-9466
- > **FAX** this form to:
202-637-2050
- > **MAIL** this form to:
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WASHINGTON, DC 20005
- > **EMAIL**
chawk@clinical-labs.org
- > **ONLINE**
www.clinical-labs.org

Audio Conference Registration

- Please sign me up for the ACLA LABline Audio Conference:
Gene Based Patents for Clinical Laboratory Tests; Why You Should Care

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