



ASIP News



The Arab Society for Intellectual Property (ASIP)

The Arab Society for Intellectual Property (ASIP) headed by Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh is a non-profit organization that was established on February 23, 1987 in Munich Germany, by some of the top practitioners in the many fields of intellectual property (IP) in the Arab region. Its mission is to bring together the IP professionals and practitioners in the Arab region and to help build awareness and understanding of intellectual property issues and their dynamics.

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The Arab Society for Intellectual Property Organizes Training Course

AMMAN - The Arab Society for Intellectual Property (ASIP) organized a training course entitled “The Role of Intellectual Property in Economic Development” on March 25-28, 2017 at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University (TAGI-UNI) – Amman. The 14 training hours of this course covered different topics, namely:

- Intellectual property and international trade
- The role of intellectual property in economic development
- The role of WIPO in economic development
- National surveys for economic development
- The contribution of creative and innovative industries in the global economy
- Challenges and opportunities: technology and economic growth
- Counterfeiting and IP piracy: the antithesis of development



ASIP Holds Introductory Workshop on Intellectual Property

AMMAN - ASIP held an Introductory Workshop on Intellectual Property” for 200 students from the 6th to 9th grades at the National Orthodox School (NOS) – Shmeisani. The workshop which lasted for two days discussed a number of topics to introduce students to concept of intellectual property namely:

- Trademarks
- Patents
- Copyright



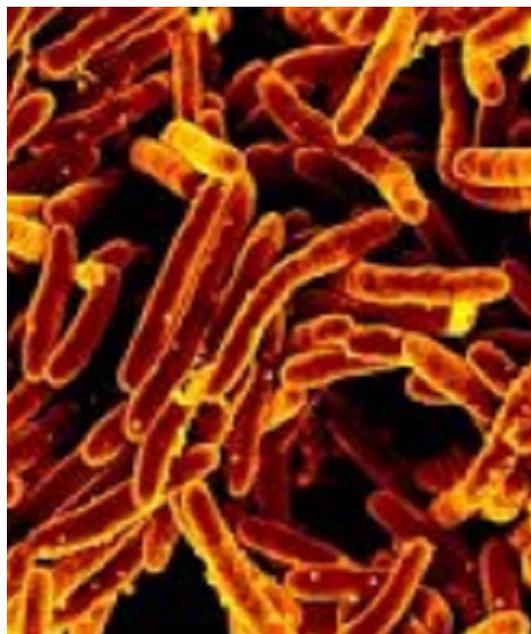
The administration of the Orthodox School expressed its pleasure to cooperate with ASIP considering the benefit that both students and community achieve of holding such workshops by the Society at the School.



Medicines Patent Pool TB Deal Praised But Raises Concerns of Affordability

The Medicines Patent Pool announced that it has signed a license agreement with Johns Hopkins University for a candidate tuberculosis treatment. Although seen as a major step forward by public health groups, they said the agreement does not include guarantees that the treatment that could be brought to the market would be affordable for all.

The Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) was founded by UNITAID and remains fully funded by the United Nations organization. The MPP facilitates the access to HIV, viral hepatitis C and tuberculosis treatments in low-and middle-income countries through licensing agreements with those medicines manufacturers. The medicines can then be manufactured by generic pharmaceutical companies at a lower price.



This agreement comes in an effort to fight multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, according to a Medicines Patent Pool press release. The treatment (sutezolid) is an antibiotic of the same class as the commercially available drug (linezolid) but which showed in early-stage testing more potentiality and less toxicity, MPP said.

The drug is currently in clinical development, and despite positive early study results published in 2014, no further development of the treatment has been undertaken, they said.

MPP's Executive Director Greg Perry said in the release that "Faster acting, better therapies to treat TB are a particularly urgent global public health priority. With the exception of two new drugs that have come to market recently, the dearth of new alternatives to decades-old TB drugs contributes to our limited response to the epidemic."

According to the press release, "Johns Hopkins University is granting the MPP an exclusive, royalty-free license covering all countries that currently have patents issued or pending for a combination therapy comprising sutezolid and two additional compounds used to treat TB such as pretomanid, delamanid, bedaquiline, rifampicin and moxifloxacin."

"The patent for the base compound sutezolid expired in August 2014, but the patent for the use of sutezolid in combination therapy for TB—held jointly by Pfizer Inc. and Johns Hopkins University—is valid until August 2029 in the countries in which it was filed," it said.



Public Health Groups See Major Step but Concerns on Safeguards

A number of public health groups including Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF, Doctors Without Borders) Access Campaign, Public Citizen, and the Global TB Community Advisory Board (TB CAB) in a press release said it was a major step, but voiced concerns about what they see as a lack of safeguards.

The agreement between the MPP and Johns Hopkins University marks the first open license for a TB drug held by a US university, and the first open license for a TB drug through the MPP, they underlined in the release.

UAEM Executive Director Merith Basey commended Johns Hopkins “for shifting its stance to prioritize a public health-driven path for the development of this lifesaving drug, and we call on similar leading universities to leverage their significant role in ensuring future access and affordability of medicines such as this one for people worldwide.”

While underlining that the agreement is a “major step forward,” the groups voiced concerns that the “deal contains no strong safeguards to ensure that any treatments developed will be made affordable for all the people who need them.”

“This agreement has the potential to greatly improve current treatment options, but it can only be truly effective if the treatments created are made accessible to people living with TB everywhere,” said Judit Rius Sanjuan, US manager & legal policy adviser at MSF’s Access Campaign, according to the release.

“Public health groups are advocating for a single affordable global price for any treatment brought to market through this deal,” they said.

Source: <http://www.ip-watch.org/2017/01/25/medicines-patent-pool-tb-deal-praised-but-raises-concerns-of-affordability>