**Summary Report on AIPPI-US Division Annual Meeting**

On Friday, October 25, the AIPPI-US Division held its annual business meeting and educational session during the AIPLA Annual Meeting.  Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our members and speakers, it proved a successful and very informative meeting.  Gratitude was extended to each of the Division’s outgoing Officers and Steering Committee members.  Special thanks went to Drew Meunier for his many years of service as Secretary of AIPPI-US and Bill Ellis, who has ably served as Treasurer. Thanks were also extended to outgoing Steering Committee members Alan Kasper, Andrew Simpson, Damian Wasserbauer, and Sam Helfgott. Following their election, Division Chair David Hill welcomed and thanked the elected Officers and Steering Committee members who have agreed to serve during the upcoming year as follows:

**Officers**

Wayne P. Sobon – President

Sharon Israel – President-Elect

David W. Hill – Chair

Philip C. Swain – Vice Chair

Kevin Tottis – Secretary

Maria Scungio – Treasurer

**Steering Committee - Two-Year Terms**

Monica Barone  
John Carson  
Andrea Kamage  
Kelly Hyndman  
Marc Richards  
Peter C. Schecter  
Joerg-Uwe Szipl 

**Steering Committee - One-Year Terms**  
Kenneth R. Adamo  
Richard P. Beem  
Q Todd Dickinson  
R. Mark Halligan  
Ethan Horwitz

Josh Goldberg  
Dale Nelson

John Osha (Mr. Osha automatically serves on the Steering Committee by virtue of his position as Deputy Reporter General, a member of the AIPPI Bureau)

The Division extends thanks those who spoke and moderated our educational session.  The session, entitled “Global IP Checklist,”  addressed two topics of importance to our members: Peter Schechter addressed AIPPI’s recent resolution on an international grace period for patents; Ms. Young Kim and Dr. Jürgen Meier spoke on the patentability of genetic material in light of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Association for Molecular Pathology et al. v.* *Myriad Genetics, Inc., et al.* 133 S.Ct. 2107 (U.S. June 13, 2013); and Rob Wells moderated the session.

Mr. Schechter discussed the implications of a recent AIPPI Resolution on the question of patent grace periods.  Standardized grace periods are key to realizing international harmonization of patent laws.  But such standardization has long been considered impossible.  In light of recent changes to national laws, however—including the U.S. passage of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA)—the AIPPI Congress in Helsinki, Finland, adopted a Resolution calling for an internationally harmonized 12-month “safety net type” grace period for patents, measured from the earliest relevant priority date anywhere, without any declaration requirement.  Quite remarkably, the Resolution was approved by more than 92% of the voting delegates representing over 100 countries!  The next step, however is uncertain—virtually every country, including the U.S., would have to change its national laws to completely adopt the proposed system.

Ms. Young Kim and Dr. Jürgen Meier addressed the patentability of human genetic material in Asia and Europe, respectively.  Providing an empirical review of the substantive law in Korea, China, and Japan, Ms. Kim explained that human genes are patentable in Asia as long as they have utility—they qualify as an invention and have some industrial applicability.  Dr. Meier explained that human genetic material is patentable in European countries as well.  However, the problem a claim purports to solve must be at least made plausible by the specification.  Further, claims that require medical treatment of the human body or other human intervention, are not patentable.

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