

7th Global Summit on Cancer Therapy

October 05-07, 2015 Dubai, UAE



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How to successfully patent therapeutic antibodies

Therapeutic antibodies have become an established class of drugs for the treatment of a variety of diseases, especially cancer and autoimmune/inflammatory disorders and a sufficient patent protection is a pre-requisite for their successful commercialization. As monoclonal antibodies and their therapeutic potential have been well known since decades, the mere production of yet another therapeutic antibody is in many jurisdictions not considered as a patentable invention. In contrast, antibodies with novel structural features and or improved properties may be patentable. When drafting the claims, care should be taken to obtain a broad patent scope which protects both the antibody of interest and related antibody. Furthermore, the application should contain experimental evidence showing the improved properties of the claimed antibody. After the filing of a priority patent application, patent protection should be initiated at least in countries which are of particular commercial importance. Subsequent inventions relating to novel uses, formulations, dosage regimens and combinations with other treatment modalities should be protected by further patent applications in order to extend patent term.

Biography

Fritz Lahrtz represents his clients in all fields of Intellectual Property with an emphasis on Patent Prosecution and Opposition, Nullity and Infringement Proceedings. Furthermore, he has gained strong experience in Opinion Work, especially with respect to Patent Validity and Infringement. After having been trained as a German and European Patent Attorney in a renowned Hamburg based Patent Attorney Law Firm, he then worked as an Associate in a well-known Munich based patent attorney law firm. He has been a partner at Isenbruck Bosl Horschler LLP since the foundation of the firm in 2003.

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