

European Patent Attorney

Wavre, Belgium

The Opportunity:

You will join a growing international team of experienced patent attorneys operating in a highly enriched field of science. You join a company which is the global leader within vaccines research, development and production and with a heritage spanning over 100 years. You will be located at the global headquarters for Vaccines based in Wavre, to the south of Brussels, Belgium and you will have an international role which encapsulates the entire spectrum of patent matters.

Being located at the Vaccines headquarters, you will have visibility to all relevant internal stakeholders and your involvement in support of the many projects being initiated is pivotal to the ongoing achievement of the company's objectives. This role does not just ask of you to manage a portfolio of substantive patent cases. You will be given the opportunity to work in other high value IP issues including oppositions, attending and leading oral proceedings, and supporting the many and varied contract negotiations. GSK's patent department operates a flat hierarchy which allows for a flexible and dynamic working group to be at the interface of science, law and business.

The Role:

- Reporting to the Assistant General Counsel, Global Patents Leader for Siena, Italy and Wavre, Belgium.
- Working with patent attorneys within the team in Wavre, in the UK, in Italy and the USA.
- Managing relationships with the local internal stakeholders including R&D, Business Development, Project Management, Legal, and Production & Manufacturing.
- Maintaining and developing an appropriate network inside GSK Vaccines – 'walking the corridors' and availing yourself to the needs of R&D.
- Undertaking the full spectrum of patent matters from substantive through to contentious and transactional.

To succeed in this position, you must have the willingness to learn and have a curious attitude; to never accept the status-quo but to challenge, question and deliver.

Professional Qualities:

- Ideally you will be educated in biology or a related degree. Equally, a chemistry background could also be an asset to the department, but an understanding of biotechnology would be helpful;
- Coming with in-house experience will be of benefit as you will quickly understand the daily challenges impacting the position. Conversely, the role would also suit someone who has worked for private practice.
- Whichever background you come from, what cannot be assuaged is your knowledge of the full patent life cycle from drafting through to post-grant matters as well as supporting due diligence. You may have a developed stronger foundation in some components of the patent process with support to be provided in other areas.