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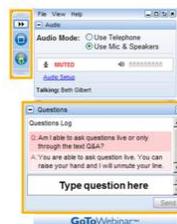
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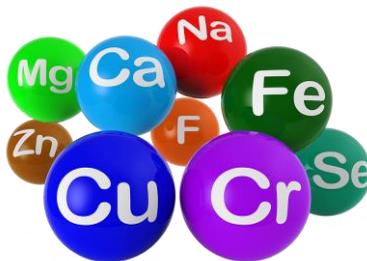
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“Science Communication Today: Chemistry by Design”

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“Choices and Trends in Solid Dosage Form Section: Salt, Cocrystal, Prodrug or Amorphous?”

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**“Hot Topics in Patent Law:
Non-Obviousness of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Patents”**



Justin Hasford
ACS Fellow and Partner,
Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow,
Garrett & Dunner



David Harwell
Asst. Director of Industry
Member Programs, ACS

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**“Hot Topics in Patent Law:
Non-Obviousness of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Patents”**



ACS Webinars
Justin J. Hasford, Esq.
August 6, 2015

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Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner LLP

35 U.S.C. § 103

- Pre-AIA: “A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described [in the prior art] if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.”
- Post-AIA: Shifts the relevant time to “before the effective filing date of the claimed invention” but otherwise is substantively similar to pre-AIA statute.



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35 U.S.C. § 103

- Requires that the invention and prior art be considered from the perspective of a hypothetical **person of ordinary skill in the art**
 - Objective standard that focuses on perceptions of ordinary scientists, not experts, inventors, laymen, lawyers or judges
- Mandates an obviousness determination **at the time the invention was made**
 - Requires decision-makers to cast back objectively before the invention was known, not assess subjectively in the present
- Obviousness of **claimed subject matter as a whole**, not just pieces of it and not just points of difference from the prior art, must be determined



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35 U.S.C. § 103

- Statute requires consideration of “the” prior art, not just part of it
 - Prior art suggesting a path different from that followed by the inventor supports non-obviousness
- Statute specifically states that patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made
 - Inventor’s own work, insight, expectations and approaches are not evidence of non-obviousness
- Statute imposes no requirement of “importance,” “superiority” or “commercial value” as a condition of patentability
 - “Patents are not Nobel or Pulitzer Prizes.” (Rich, Giles S.)



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Pfizer v. Teva, 2012-1576, 1601-07 (Feb. 6, 2014)

- ANDA case involving Lyrica[®], used for treating seizures and certain types of pain
 - Active ingredient is pregabalin, the S-enantiomer of 3-isobutylGABA (4-amino-3-(2-methylpropyl) butanoic acid)
- Claim 2: 4-amino-3-(2-methylpropyl) butanoic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof
 - Claim not limited to the S-enantiomer



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Pfizer v. Teva, 2012-1576, 1601-07 (Feb. 6, 2014)

- District Court (D. Del.; Sleet, J.) found that Defendants, which relied on three prior art references, failed to prove obviousness by clear and convincing evidence
- Prior art did not direct a skilled artisan to select 3-isobutylGABA for its anticonvulsant activity
 - No teaching to substitute alkyl groups at 3-position of gamma aminobutyric acid (GABA)



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Pfizer v. Teva, 2012-1576, 1601-07 (Feb. 6, 2014)

- Defendants' arguments:
 - The three prior art references taught that 3-isopropylGABA and other homologous compounds may have anticonvulsant activity
 - One of skill would have expected 3-isobutylGABA to have anticonvulsant activity due to its structural similarities to 3-isopropylGABA
 - Gabapentin, a 3-alkylGABA compound in the prior art with demonstrated anticonvulsant efficacy, provided a motivation for one of skill to try other alkyl substituents at GABA's 3-position



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Pfizer v. Teva, 2012-1576, 1601-07 (Feb. 6, 2014)

- Federal Circuit (Prost, Rader and Moore) affirmed
- Scant evidence that either gabapentin or 3-isopropylGABA would have been selected as a lead compound for further development
 - “Mere structural similarity between a prior art compound and the claimed compound does not inform the lead compound selection.”
 - “A patent challenger . . . must demonstrate the selection of a lead compound based on its ‘promising useful properties,’ not a hindsight-driven search for structurally similar compounds.”



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Pfizer v. Teva, 2012-1576, 1601-07 (Feb. 6, 2014)

- Defendants also failed to identify prior art teachings to make specific molecular modifications so that the claimed compound may be made with a reasonable expectation of success
 - Prior art disclosed trillions of compounds without singling out isobutyl groups specifically
 - “[A] vague suggestion in the prior art pointing to a broad class of compounds, without any teaching particularly identifying isobutyl among the millions of potential compounds, is not a teaching of ‘specific molecular modifications’ required by our precedent.”



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Cadence v. Exela, No. 2014-1184 (Mar. 23, 2015)

- ANDA case involving Ofirmev® injectable acetaminophen product for treatment of pain
 - In aqueous solution, acetaminophen decomposes into potentially toxic products
 - Acetaminophen degrades primarily by hydrolysis
 - Cadence’s ’218 patent discloses and claims methods for obtaining stable acetaminophen formulations by deoxygenating solutions with an inert gas to achieve oxygen concentrations below 2 ppm
 - Superior stability results as compared to those reported in Cadence’s prior art ’222 patent



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Cadence v. Exela, No. 2014-1184 (Mar. 23, 2015)

- Exela contended ’218 patent was obvious over ’222 patent.
 - Parties agreed that only difference between ’218 patent claims and ’222 patent is that ’222 patent does not disclose decreasing oxygen content below 2 ppm
 - ’222 patent discloses that stability of acetaminophen solutions depends, inter alia, on “removal of oxygen dissolved in the carrier”
 - Prior art Palmieri article teaches that deoxygenating pyrogallol solutions to below 5 ppm increases stability



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Cadence v. Exela, No. 2014-1184 (Mar. 23, 2015)

- District Court (D. Del.; Stark, J.) rejected Exela’s obviousness arguments
 - No motivation to combine ’222 patent and Palmieri article, because pyrogallol degrades by oxidation whereas acetaminophen degrades by hydrolysis
 - Deoxygenation to levels below 2 ppm was “technically difficult.”
 - Secondary considerations of unexpected results, long-felt need, commercial success, licensing and praise in the industry supported non-obviousness



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Cadence v. Exela, No. 2014-1184 (Mar. 23, 2015)

- Federal Circuit (Linn, Reyna and Wallach) affirmed
 - Rejected Exela’s argument that acetaminophen breaks down first by oxidation, followed by hydrolysis
 - Inventor testified at trial that he performed experiments confirming that acetaminophen degraded by hydrolysis
 - Cadence’s expert testified that, consistent with prior art teaching, acetaminophen degrades primarily by hydrolysis
 - Dr. Palmieri admitted at trial that deoxygenation would not be effective to prevent hydrolytic degradation
 - Not obvious to combine ’222 patent with Palmieri article
 - Address different problems: oxidation vs. hydrolysis
 - Examiner initially rejected ’218 patent claims for essentially the same reasons, which Applicant overcame



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Cadence v. Exela, No. 2014-1184 (Mar. 23, 2015)

- Federal Circuit (Linn, Reyna and Wallach) affirmed
 - Secondary considerations supported non-obviousness
 - Nexus between Ofirmev® and claims exists even though solvent is deoxygenated prior to addition of API
 - Insubstantially different from deoxygenating after addition of API
 - Unexpected results: formulations of '218 patent were stable for 2 years, whereas formulations of '222 patent only achieved a few months' stability
 - Separate licensing of '218 patent evidences a belief that the '218 patent claims are valid

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Insite v. Sandoz, No. 2014-1065 (Apr. 9, 2015)

- ANDA case involving Azasite® topical azithromycin solution used to treat conjunctivitis
- Covered by '411 patent and three "ISV patents"
 - '411 patent is directed to methods of treating eye infections by topical administration of azithromycin to the eye
 - Azithromycin was a common oral antibiotic but was not known to be effective for topical ocular administration
 - ISV patents are directed to formulations of azithromycin in a polymeric suspending agent for topical ophthalmic use
 - Azithromycin was considered insoluble and unstable in water



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Insite v. Sandoz, No. 2014-1065 (Apr. 9, 2015)

- District Court (D.N.J.; Cooper, J.) rejected Sandoz’s obviousness arguments
 - Proper obviousness inquiry is whether it would have been obvious to develop a topical ophthalmic formulation containing azithromycin, not whether it would have been obvious to use topical azithromycin to treat conjunctivitis
 - ’411 patent is not an obvious modification of Ilotycin® topical erythromycin formulation and Zithromax® oral azithromycin formulation for treating conjunctivitis
 - ISV patents are not obvious: no motivation to use water-based polymeric solutions of prior art because azithromycin was insoluble and unstable in water, and if anything a skilled artisan would have used a colloidal system not a gelling polymer



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Insite v. Sandoz, No. 2014-1065 (Apr. 9, 2015)

- Federal Circuit (Linn, Prost and Newman) affirmed
 - District Court did not err in defining the problem broadly
 - “In considering motivation in the obviousness analysis, the problem examined is not the specific problem solved by the invention.”
 - “Defining the problem in terms of its solution reveals improper hindsight in the selection of the prior art relevant to obviousness.”
 - “[A]n overly narrow statement of the problem can represent a form of prohibited reliance on hindsight, because often the inventive contribution lies in defining the problem in a new revelatory way.”



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Insite v. Sandoz, No. 2014-1065 (Apr. 9, 2015)

- District Court did not err in defining the problem broadly
 - Azithromycin’s characteristics, including that it was known to be bacteriostatic, have limited spectrum of activity and require multiple doses per day, made it a poor choice for treating ocular infections
 - Unique balance of log P, molecular weight, solubility and charge also made azithromycin “not a good candidate”
 - Plaintiffs’ expert testified that treatment of conjunctivitis requires penetration into cornea because conjunctival infections can spread into cornea



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Insite v. Sandoz, No. 2014-1065 (Apr. 9, 2015)

- District Court did not err in finding ’411 patent non-obvious
 - There were “innumerable” options for ophthalmic treatments, including fluoroquinolones
 - Better option than azithromycin because azithromycin’s high molecular weight, charge and insolubility in water would lead to penetration problems
 - No correlation between oral and ophthalmic penetration, because oral azithromycin is delivered by phagocytosis, which is a bloodstream-dependent process
 - Defendants’ own expert was inventor on 1994 patent for ophthalmic treatments listing 24 potential antibiotics, none of which was azithromycin



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Insite v. Sandoz, No. 2014-1065 (Apr. 9, 2015)

- District Court did not err in finding ISV patents non-obvious
 - Sandoz relied on Insite's prior art Durasite® drug delivery system patent, which mentions erythromycin and polycarbophil, arguing that erythromycin could be replaced with azithromycin to yield ISV claimed subject matter
 - But Durasite® patent discloses a "laundry list of active ingredients" and researchers would focus on examples, none of which mentions erythromycin
 - Skilled artisan still would need to change erythromycin to azithromycin, which would not have been obvious given azithromycin's poor solubility and stability in water
 - Sandoz also relied on '411 patent, but Carbopol disclosed in '411 patent is significantly different from polycarbophil of ISV patents



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Insite v. Sandoz, No. 2014-1065 (Apr. 9, 2015)

- District Court did not err in evaluating secondary considerations
 - Unexpected results
 - 60-fold increase in concentration of azithromycin when dosed topically as opposed to orally
 - Sandoz argued that some increase in concentration was to be expected
 - But Sandoz failed to show that a 60-fold increase was expected
 - Long-felt need
 - Azasite® met a long-felt need for a topical treatment for eye infections, which Sandoz failed to rebut



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Questions

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