CEPIUG 17th Anniversary Conference

Speaker Abstracts and Bios(QR)

John Zabilski, QPIP
Chair of the PIUG Education Committee, PIUG
"What's In Force? Finding Patent Expiration and Extension Information"
A crucial step in Freedom-to-Operate (FTO) searches is determining if granted patents are still in-force. This involves identifying expirations, abandonment, withdrawals, patent term adjustments, and regulatory extensions, especially for pharmaceuticals. The presentation will guide users on leveraging public resources like the USPTO Patent Center, Global Dossier, EPO Espacenet, and WIPO PATENTSCOPE to find legal status indicators. It will also cover commercial resources and strategies for focusing on specific legal events to confirm a patent's in-force status, enabling informed IP decisions.

John Zabilski, QPIP
Chair of the QPIP Accreditation Committee, ISBQPIP
"Discover the Necessary Skills and Available Training to Assist in Passing the QPIP Exam"
This session focuses on the essential skills and available training for passing the Qualified Patent Information Professional (QPIP) Exam, which certifies competence in patent search and analysis. To prepare, candidates should review the QPIP Schedule I & II Skills & Competencies Suggested Reading List to understand expected knowledge. Additionally, exploring the Accreditation Courses listed on QPIP.org is highly beneficial, as they offer targeted training for exam success. This session will specifically review the skills covered by QPIP Accreditation Committee-approved training and offer strategies for addressing any knowledge gaps identified within the QPIP Skills & Competencies list.

İzlem Şahinkaya, RTTP
Head of IP, Sabanci University
" PotentialAI & Human: Synergy in Patent Intelligence Workflows"
This talk highlights the crucial synergy between AI and human expertise in patent analysis. While AI offers unmatched speed and data processing for tasks like prior art search and patent landscaping, human experts provide vital context, strategic foresight, and ethical reasoning for critical IP decisions. The presentation will explore practical use cases, best practices for

integrating AI into workflows, and ethical considerations, drawing on experiences from academia. It will ultimately offer a roadmap for building balanced, human-centered AI systems in IP management, fostering innovation and robust institutional decision-making without diminishing human insight.

Viktor Rudolf
Chief Product Officer, IamIP
"From Insight to Innovation: Empowering R&D Through Patent Intelligence and Human-AI Synergy"
As innovation cycles become faster and more complex, the ability to extract strategic value from patent information is critical for R&D-driven organizations. This talk explores how robust patent intelligence, when combined with artificial intelligence and human expertise, becomes a catalyst for innovation. We'll examine how AI can help navigate vast volumes of patent data, uncover technology trends, and support informed decision-making—while emphasizing the irreplaceable role of human judgment in interpreting nuanced insights. By aligning patent information with R&D goals, organizations can enhance their innovation pipelines, identify white spaces, and reduce development risks. Real-world use cases will highlight how the synergy between machine efficiency and expert analysis enables a more agile, strategic approach to innovation management.

Onur Yolay, RTTP
IPR Manager, Bogazici University HTTM
"Solutions to Post-Commercialization Patent Disputes"
This study analyzes real-world post-commercialization disputes in Turkey's innovation ecosystem, involving patented technologies. It identifies ambiguous contracts, misaligned profit-sharing, and unclear rights over future developments as key conflict sources between applicants, inventors, and licensing companies. The research proposes proactive contractual strategies, mediation, and institutional support to mitigate these issues. It emphasizes the critical role of Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs), law firms, and industry unions in fostering clear communication and effective dispute resolution, aiming to enhance the sustainability of innovation collaborations and ensure fair intellectual property commercialization.

Gualtiero Fantoni
Co-founder, Erre Quadro srl
"Visual-Language Model for Patent Analysis"
This presentation introduces a Visual-Language Model (VLM) approach for automatic patent analysis, supporting the entire patenting process. VLMs integrate image processing with Large Language Models (LLMs) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) to extract and synthesize information from patent texts and images. The developed tools fall into three categories: Technical Information Extraction (identifying key concepts like functions and problems from text, and components from images), Image–Text Information Alignment (matching textual descriptions with image data for a richer understanding), and Patent Synthesis (simplifying complex documents through summarization and visual representation). These VLM tools aim to streamline patent reading and writing, assisting stakeholders like examiners and analysts in tasks such as prior art mapping and making complex inventions more accessible.

Sakari Arvela
Co-founder, IPRally
"Machine Patent Examiner - State of automated patent search technology"
This presentation explores the current state of fully automated patent searching and review, proposing a formalistic approach in engineering. It combines AI-based patent search with Generative AI-based review, mimicking human examination step-by-step. A study with real-world samples discusses the technology's readiness level and implications. Results include a comparative analysis of various Large Language Models (LLMs) against human examination, highlighting progress while acknowledging ongoing challenges in achieving complete automation that fully replicates human nuance and legal interpretation.

Andrew Samm
Director of Business Development, Patently
"How AI-driven patent drafting will reshape patent searching — whether we like it or not"
The rapid development of generative AI tools for patent drafting is set to fundamentally reshape patent searching. As patent attorneys increasingly adopt AI-assisted drafting for improved efficiency and consistency, expect significant shifts in claim language, structure, and abstraction levels, directly impacting patent search professionals. This session will explore how AI-generated applications will challenge established search strategies, analyze emerging patterns from current drafting tools, and equip searchers to stay ahead. It will also consider the long-term implications of an evolving feedback loop: increased AI-drafting will generate more training data, potentially accelerating convergence in patent expression. The presentation will include practical examples and analysis based on real use cases and early observations.

Dr. Monika Bruckmann
Head of Information Intelligence at Evonik Industries AG, PDG
"From Data to Dialogue: How Information Experts Shape Company Dynamics"
This talk highlights the crucial role of Patent Information Professionals in driving innovation and strategic decision-making within companies, showcasing their expansive advisory capacity today. The presentation will trace their journey from collaborating with researchers to articulate needs, to demonstrating how patent information enriches decision-making beyond technical fields, engaging even senior management and board members. By analyzing and aggregating data into compelling, data-driven narratives, these IP professionals provide fundamental value to strategic initiatives and informed corporate choices. They effectively transform raw data into actionable insights, influencing company dynamics at all levels.

Thorsten Zank
Head of Bioscience Information at BASF & Chair at PDG, PDG
"The Changing Face of IP Intelligence in a World of AI"
In his presentation Thorsten Zank will focus on the changing role of IP analysts in the age of artificial intelligence (AI) and highlight the transformation from delivering documents to delivering actionable insights, emphasizing the integration of AI in the workflow of IP analysts. The presentation outlines the future of IP intelligence, where AI methods such as similarity searching, ontologies. machine learning, and large language models (LLMs) are employed for tasks like document categorization, data extraction, but also data interpretation. It is also emphasizes the changing role of IP analysts and the increasing need for IP analysts to possess domain knowledge, prompt engineering skills, and the ability to interpret and communicate insights effectively. Finally, it will be shown how the Patent Documentation Group's (PDG) as an industry association supports the patent information departments of its member companies in this transition.

Alexander Weir
Consultant, SimIP
"Delivering Competitive Advantage through xAI-Powered IP and Business Intelligence"
This presentation showcases how SimIP's analysis of IP and business data, leveraging Orbis and Orbis IP datasets, provides clarity and strategic insight. SimIP's AI tools identify high-growth entities, enable company and sector benchmarking, offer explainable AI patent valuation, and uncover white space opportunities by integrating patent landscapes with market data. The approach emphasizes data quality and translating insights into actionable strategies for continuous monitoring, competitive advantage, and informed decision-making. By combining HGE identification, performance benchmarking, IP valuation, and white space analysis, SimIP helps companies, investors, and policymakers gain a holistic, dynamic understanding of the competitive business environment and innovation opportunities.

Alexander Giesen
Representative, Patseer
"Searching is Just the Beginning – AI Data Refinement Wins the Game"
AI is redefining the way patent professionals conduct searches by moving beyond traditional keyword-based approaches. Leveraging models trained specifically on patent literature, users can input free-form text or patent numbers to uncover contextually relevant results with greater accuracy and depth. Visual-based search further enhances this process by allowing relevant prior art to be found through images, offering new avenues for discovery in design and component-focused innovations. The ability to combine AI-driven semantic understanding with Boolean logic ensures that searches remain both broad in insight and precise in execution. Beyond search, AI is transforming patent review workflows by simplifying complex technical content into clear, human-readable insights. Detailed summaries of key embodiments, claim interpretations, and contextual breakdowns help professionals grasp core innovations quickly. Users can also extract targeted information through natural language queries and compare invention features against prior art to generate structured, explanation-rich reports. This integration of human expertise with AI-powered tools results in faster, more informed, and more transparent decision-making throughout the patent lifecycle.

Hatice Recber
Co-founder, 2H Patent Law
"Patent Infringement: The Importance of Early Searches"
This study highlights a patent infringement case caused by neglecting preliminary patent searches during product development. It emphasizes that skipping these crucial early steps can lead to unintentional infringement, resulting in costly legal battles and product delays. The research advocates for comprehensive patent searches and analyses at the outset of product development, allowing for necessary adjustments or even discontinuation to avoid infringement. It details effective search methodologies, evaluates critical patents, and outlines the legal consequences of inadequate due diligence. Ultimately, the study concludes that integrating

systematic patent searches into R&D is vital for protecting innovation and minimizing infringement risks.

Paul Peters
Director of Customer Success Specialists, CAS/ACS Intl.
"Searching for Obviousness (Inventive Step) in Prior Art for Chemistry Applications"
This presentation focuses on strategizing prior art searches to challenge the inventive step (obviousness) of chemistry-related inventions. Starting with an existing International Search Report and Written Opinion, the presentation will illustrate how examiners identify prior art documents that, when combined, could render an invention obvious. Using examples from pharmacology, synthetic chemistry, and materials science, it will demonstrate how to construct specific search strategies to uncover such prior art. The aim is to provide insights into effectively identifying documents that could invalidate a patent claim based on obviousness in chemical applications.

Benno Jensen
Sr Manager, Clarivate
"IP and R&D Harmony: Converting R&D Inventors into Patent Enthusiasts"
Achieving IP and R&D harmony is key to transforming R&D inventors into patent enthusiasts. Regularly sharing patent information benefits inventors by keeping them informed and engaged. However, IP teams often struggle to design effective information-sharing and feedback collection processes. These hurdles can be overcome by streamlining communication, offering clear guidelines, and simplifying the process. Artificial intelligence can greatly assist IP teams by identifying relevant competitive filings, allowing them to focus on crucial intellectual property. This integration fosters a synergistic environment where R&D efforts align with patent strategies, ultimately maximizing innovation and intellectual property output.

Brad Buehler & Jonathan Skovholt
Chief Operating Officer & Head of Search Operations, Ensemble IP
"Best Practices for Search Strategies to Leverage the Power of AI Tools"
AI, the "fourth pillar" of patent searching, significantly enhances efficiency and effectiveness for analysts. However, its effective integration isn't straightforward. This presentation, using Quartet, will demonstrate best practices for weaving AI into your iterative search process. You'll learn how to introduce context to your AI search, effectively "talking" to the tool for better results. We'll explore maximizing AI's impact by deconstructing your search process to identify optimal integration points. Finally, discover how to seamlessly build AI tools into your existing strategies, combining them with traditional techniques for truly dynamic and powerful searches.

Philippe Borne
Regional Representative, INPI
"Open-access patent databases: Espacenet versus Patentscope, can we choose?"
In a business intelligence approach, patent documentation constitutes an invaluable source of information. It allows, for example, to establish technological and competitive intelligence, to determine a country's position on a technology, or to evaluate the value of a company. At least twenty patent databases, completely or partially free, are now available on the WEB. While it is difficult to establish a hierarchy between them, two products stand out from the crowd: Espacenet, produced by the European Patent Office, and Patentscope from WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization). Which product should you choose, and should you choose? This presentation concerns a comparison of the two services based on the content of the two databases, the update times, the search and analysis tools offered, the display of responses, and certain specific functions. While each of the two services presents its strengths and areas for improvement, ultimately, if the goal is to prioritize the exhaustiveness of a search, the author's choice falls on Espacenet. Espacenet offers a combination of search tools, combined with coverage and a range of statistical tools, that make it a near-professional tool; however, it lacks a certain user-friendliness. User-friendliness, on the other hand, is one of Patentscope's strengths, making it more suitable for beginners who need support in their research. Patentscope also offers

two unique features: access to non-patent literature and a search function by chemical structure. This presentation is based on an article written for the specialist journal BASES and published in April 2024.

Guido Moradei
Chair, AIDB
"What's New in Design Protection and the Impact on Information Retrieval"
As of 1 May 2025, key amendments to the new European Union Design Regulation (EUDR) have become a reality, marking the beginning of a significant overhaul of the EU design protection regime, with particular attention to the virtual and digital world. But other substantial changes in the protection of Designs are expected in a near or more distant future at a global level with the entry into force of the Design Law Treaty which will significantly contribute to harmonizing the regulations and procedures, as well as the evolution of the Locarno Classification and the WIPO standards applicable to Designs, including that for handling digital 3D models and 3D images.

Simon Dewulf
CEO, Profun AI
"Mining Science and Patents through Functional Language"
Profun AI approaches product innovation as a dynamic system, focusing on Product DNA defined by the interplay of properties (adjectives) and functions (verbs). This framework allows for discovering new solutions by identifying similar designs or adjusting parameters. They mine patent databases and scientific literature to map the design space, using these as structured inputs for their innovation process. Their language-and-logic framework integrates with large language models, automating research and analysis. Profun AI not only reveals existing solutions but also highlights missing ones, providing directional cues and prompts to guide users toward uncharted opportunity spaces, bridging technical feasibility with imaginative potential.

Simon Dewulf
CEO, Profun AI
"AI and the New Frontier of Patent Research"
This talk explores how AI and natural language processing are revolutionizing patent research, moving beyond traditional keyword searches. It will cover the latest AI-driven advancements in prior art search, semantic similarity detection, automated classification, and innovation mapping. Real-world examples will demonstrate how these technologies uncover insights, accelerate R&D, and improve strategic decision-making.

Marina Flamand
Researcher, University of Bordeaux
"What international strategy for Chinese applicants? An analysis of Chinese patent filings at the EPO in the field of environmental technologies"
China's innovation landscape has rapidly transformed, with Chinese patent filings at the EPO increasing tenfold since 2010, reaching nearly 21,000 in 2024. This surge, coupled with China becoming the top country for PCT applications, indicates a proactive internationalization strategy. This study analyzes over 26,000 Chinese patent filings at the EPO in environmental technologies to understand this strategy. Key areas of investigation include filing consolidation, comparison with other patent offices (e.g., USPTO), involved actors (state-owned enterprises, universities), technological focus, granting performance, and technological impact through citations. The aim is to illuminate the strategic logic behind China's IP internationalization in Europe and its position in global innovation.

Linus Wretblad
CEO, IPScreener
"The GenAI Information Professional: Bridging R&D and IP"
Traditional R&D often ignores complex patent information, leading to wasted resources reinventing known concepts and economic failure. This stems from a knowledge gap: R&D invents first, validated later by IP experts, resulting in low IP awareness and underutilized insights. Recent AI advancements democratize access to complex patent data, raising awareness and enabling easier communication. This allows earlier IP integration in R&D, streamlining work and saving resources. Consequently, the innovation process and roles will evolve, giving rise to the "GenAI Patent Information Professional." This new role blends AI expertise with IP knowledge, improving R&D-IP communication and ensuring early, efficient use of existing technological knowledge.

Anna Maria Villa
Head of the Landscaping Exam Committee, ISBQPIP
"Generative AI, QPIP Patent Landscaping Exams and More: LLMs in Drafting Answers and Reports"
AI is transforming intellectual property (IP) work, offering tools for tasks like patent landscaping. The QPIP EC Patent Landscaping Team investigated how generative AI performs on QPIP exam tasks—answering theory questions and assisting with case studies by generating reports, summaries, and strategic insights. Our tests, using past exam questions and model answers, were exploratory rather than exhaustive. The results highlight AI's potential and limitations, shaping discussions on exam preparation, training methods, and AI's evolving role in IP practice. Notably, this abstract itself was AI-generated with human input—or was it the other way around?

Fredrik Magnusson & Carolina Franciscangelis
Senior Patent Information Specialist, Uppdragshuset
"Building competence in Patent Information at Uppdragshuset"

Fredrik and Carolina will discuss the professional evolution of an information specialist from novice to expert, and how to continuously develop expertise in this field amid constantly evolving tools. The presentation will cover the path from being a researcher to a patent searcher/finder, the role of mentorship and onboarding at Uppdragshuset, and the importance of knowledge transfer among the team members.

Dr. Monique van Leijen
Qualified Patent Information Professional, Avantium Support BV
"Practicing as a Sole QPIP in a Medium-Sized Chemical Research Company"
This presentation offers an inside look at the practice of a sole QPIP working in a medium-sized chemical research company. It will highlight how the IP function is positioned and embedded within the organization, as well as how internal and external administrative processes are managed effectively with limited resources. A key focus will be on how we train colleagues in patent information, including awareness of search tools, strategies, and understanding patent documentation. I will also describe my role as an information searcher—covering the types of searches I conduct, the tools I use, and how I support various departments with timely and relevant patent insights. In addition, I will share how I stay connected to the broader professional community through active participation in Dutch peer groups such as WON and SIG-CI, which provide ongoing learning and collaboration opportunities. Finally, I'll touch on the additional tasks that fall under my role, such as handling trademark matters and monitoring business and competitor news, reflecting the diverse responsibilities of a sole patent information specialist in a dynamic research environment.

Chris Harrison
IP Analytics Manager, WIPO
"From data to action: Shaping the future of IP analytics"
In a world increasingly shaped by data, turning IP insights into strategic action has never been more vital. This talk explores how WIPO's IP Analytics team supports this global shift – from developing high-impact resources like WIPO Technology Trends and Patent Landscape Reports, to capacity building initiatives like the Patent Quest serious game and tailored training for the

growing network of Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) worldwide. Drawing from real-world examples, this talk will demonstrate the tangible impact that access to and use of patent data can have on innovation ecosystems, especially in developing countries. The presentation will also highlight the importance of community building through WIPO's new IP Analytics Community of Practice, designed to connect, upskill and empower IP analysts from IP offices around the world. Finally, as the IP analytics landscape evolves, so too does the role of the analyst. From data storyteller to policy influencer, today's IP professionals must adapt to a world where AI is transforming how we interpret and act on IP data. This talk will also explore the synergies between human insight and machine learning, and posing a timely question: how do we ensure that AI becomes a trusted partner – rather than a black box – in the IP analytics journey?

Güler Ayyıldız Dalma
Director of IP Department, Beko Global
"Future of IP Management in an Unstable World"
In today's volatile world, effective IP management has become a strategic necessity rather than a legal formality. For companies in the household appliances sector, intellectual property offers resilience within global instabile environment, safeguarding innovation, enabling market adaptability, and supporting long-term growth. As technology advances and products become smarter and more sustainable, IP strategies must evolve from reactive protection to proactive business alignment. This includes integrating IP early in the innovation process, leveraging data-driven insights, and protecting digital assets like software and AI. Sustainability is also reshaping IP, with green technologies offering both competitive and regulatory advantages. To succeed, companies must foster a culture of IP awareness across all functions, making IP a shared responsibility. In an uncertain world, forward-thinking IP management is not just about defending assets—it's about enabling innovation, forming strategic partnerships, and shaping a more agile, competitive future.

David Wanetick
CEO, Certified Patent Valuation Analyst, Incremental Advantage
"Assessing Patent Valuation with the Patent Valuation Gauntlet"
Patents generate a wealth of data: prosecution history data, classification data, backward citation data, prior art data, claims data, specifications data, forward citation data, patent family data, data related to patent examiners, data related to the quality of the lawyers who draft and prosecute patents, and data related to drawings. Such data is interesting and can be sliced and diced. However, data alone is insufficient to assess patent value; the context of this data must be understood and articulated. Listen to David Wanetick discuss the implications of patent statistics on patent valuation. Unique metrics will be shared in connection with patent claims, forward citations, prior art, examiner allowance rates, classifications, reissuance, and technology cogency.

Samuel Davis, Founder, Amplified
“Using AI to Fix the Patent Paradox”
Patent work has long been defined by a paradox. Intellectual property teams are often seen as cost centers, burdened with complex systems, tight deadlines, and mountains of paperwork. Yet, patents themselves are among a company’s most valuable assets—key drivers of innovation and competitive advantage. The irony? Strategically managing these assets is so resource-intensive that it’s inaccessible for many, and even the most sophisticated teams are limited in what they can do. In this talk, we’ll explore how past technologies shaped the way IP work is done, and how today’s advances in AI offer a chance to rethink and reinvent the way we approach it.

Riccardo Apreda, Technology Head, Erre Quador srl
“Hybrid Intelligence for IP: Combining AI Power with Human Expertise”
In today’s highly competitive and data-intensive landscape, technical documents—especially patents—represent a strategic resource that is still largely underexploited. While recent advancements in Generative AI and LLMs have raised expectations across many sectors, their application in technical domains is still hindered by high implementation costs, unclear ROI, persistent hallucination issues and lack of control on the accuracy of the results. Studies report errors particularly in tasks requiring deep semantic and structural understanding—such as novelty

evaluation or FTO analysis—where precision and recall are essential. LLMs, by design, tend to generate fluent but potentially misleading outputs, often failing to signal uncertainty when confronted with complex or unfamiliar content.

The talk will discuss the potential limitations of AI models and propose the combination of Artificial and Human intelligence as a possible strategy to enable reliable, scalable, and context-aware interpretation of complex technical content.