IceMiller

Weihong Hsing, Ph.D.

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Weihong Hsing, Ph.D., is a partner in the Intellectual Property Group of Ice Miller. She counsels clients, ranging from Fortune 50 to start-up companies, on domestic and worldwide patent portfolio development and management, providing strategic advice on IP protection throughout the product lifecycle in areas such as biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and diagnostics. She also has extensive experience in IP due diligence, conducting IP portfolio evaluations and freedom to operate analysis in connection with mergers & acquisitions and investments. Her practice further includes opinion work on patent validity and infringement, post-issuance proceedings and licensing, as well as technical support for patent litigation.

With a Ph.D. in microbiology, postdoctoral training in molecular biology and genetics and years of research experience in academic and industrial settings, Weihong enjoys learning about the latest ideas from her practice and remaining close to the research world. She is able to assist clients with their patent needs in many technical fields, encompassing immunotherapies, CAR-T, gene therapies, vaccines, dermatology, small molecule therapeutics, antibody-drug conjugates, biomarkers, diagnostics, herbicides, improved formulations, transgenic plants and animals, recombinant cells, CRISPR, novel platforms and assays, etc.

Weihong started her patent career as a patent manager at Johnson & Johnson, where she drafted and prosecuted patent applications, undertook clearance search and analysis and assisted with strategic counseling and patent portfolio development and management. Prior to joining Ice Miller, Weihong was a partner at an IP boutique, heading the life sciences practice of that firm.

Prior to her legal career, Weihong was a research scientist at Princeton University and a senior scientist at a biotech start-up company. She is an inventor of several biotech inventions and an author of publications in leading scientific journals such as *Science* and *Nature*.

Education

- University of Science and Technology of China (B.S., 1989)
  - Biology
- University of Massachusetts - Amherst (Ph.D, 1993)

Services & Industries

- Asia-Pacific Practice
- Distressed Investments
- Intellectual Property
- International Legal Services
- IP Litigation
- Licensing
- Life Sciences & Biotechnology
- Litigation
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Patents

  - Microbiology
- Princeton University (1997)
  - Postdoctoral Training in Molecular Biology and Genetics
- Temple University, James E. Beasley School of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 2006)

Admissions

- Pennsylvania
- United States Patent and Trademark Office

Professional Affiliations

- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- BayHelix

Awards & Honors

- Damon-Runyon Cancer Research Postdoctoral Fellowship
- Giles S. Rich Intellectual Property Moot Court Team – second place in briefs at the Northeast regional competition
- John J. Mackiewicz Memorial Scholarship in Intellectual Property
- Pennsylvania *Super Lawyers* “Rising Star”, 2012-2016
- Pennsylvania *Super Lawyers,* 2018-2021
- Philadelphia *Super Lawyers*, 2021
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Patent Law, 2013-2026
- *Chambers USA* America's Leading Lawyers for Intellectual Property, 2023-2026
- Legal 500 U.S. City Elite Rankings in Philadelphia for Intellectual Property, 2025

Community Involvement

- Executive Council Member, Sino-American Pharmaceutical Professionals Association (Greater Philadelphia Area), 2009-2019
- Adjunct professor at Temple University Beasley School of Law, taught the IP licensing course, fall semesters, 2013-2015
- General Counsel for the University of Science and Technology of China Alumni Association in Greater New York, 2016-2018
- Organizing committee of the Joint Patent Practice Continuing Legal Education (JPPCLE), 2015-present, Board Member, 2023

Languages

- Chinese

Success Stories

Ice Miller Counsels MEDiC Life Sciences on Acquisition of Clinical-Stage Oncology Program
Ice Miller represented MEDiC Life Sciences, a biotechnology company pioneering next-generation functional genomics in 3D cancer models, in its acquisition of a clinical-stage oncology program. The asset, which has completed Phase Ib trials in more than 70 patients, marks a significant step in MEDiC’s strategy to build a robust therapeutic pipeline.

Through its proprietary SLS™ (Synthetic-Lethal-Gene Signature) biomarker platform, MEDiC identified biomarkers that enhance the program's efficacy by more than 100-fold in preclinical cancer models. With these biomarkers being highly prevalent in cancer patients, the company sees both strong therapeutic potential and a compelling market opportunity.

MEDiC plans to advance the program through investigator-sponsored trials, aiming to validate this biomarker-driven strategy in humans. If successful, the initiative would not only deliver a valuable oncology therapy but also demonstrate the broader power of MEDiC's platform approach.

The Ice Miller team advising MEDiC was led by partner TaeSoo Sean Kim, with support from partners Dann Bruno, Daniel Corsaro, Louis DeLucia, and Weihong Hsing from firm's Business, Bankruptcy & Restructuring, Intellectual Property, and Tax practice groups. Paralegal Michal Shomron also provided valuable support. Ice Miller has served as a trusted advisor to MEDiC across multiple stages of its growth, providing legal and strategic counsel in support of its mission to accelerate the development of next-generation cancer treatments.

Ice Miller Supports Client on "Colossal" Biosciences Advancement

A recent scientific breakthrough by an Ice Miller client has garnered headlines and captured the public's imagination. Colossal Biosciences (Colossal), the world's first de-extinction company, based in Texas, has pushed science a giant step forward through their success in creating a global-first iPSC (induced pluripotent stem cells) from Asian elephant, the closest living cousin of the now extinct wooly mammoth. These iPSC cells can be edited to give mammoth-like traits and allow for the creation of eggs, sperm, and embryos that could then be implanted into an artificial womb to generate an animal. This iPSC advancement could also ultimately help scientists understand Asian elephant's resistance to cancer and could provide deeper insight into the biology of the pachyderm—with a goal of one day creating a species resembling the wooly mammoth.

Founded in 2021, Colossal is primarily focused on conservation efforts and de-extinction, a process of gene engineering technology that rebuilds and reintroduces the DNA of extinct animals once inhabiting the earth. Through this work, Colossal is heavily involved in environmental research and sustainability, driven toward reintroducing and reinvigorating a lost ancestry and climate into our biosphere.

Ice Miller's equally dedicated team has supported Colossal with its patent prosecution and counseling work since 2022, including filing patent applications for technologies leading to the iPSC breakthrough.

Ice Miller Partner TaeSoo Sean Kim spearheads the Life Sciences Patent Prosecution and IP Licensing team that represents Colossal, with Partner Fabian Koenigbauer and Senior Patent Agent Andrew Baraniak serving as co-leads on the efforts. The client team is further supported by Weihong Hsing, Safet Metjahic, Jacqueline Lesser, and Michael Graham.

Published In

- Hsing, W., 2012, "Guaranteeing IP protection when working with overseas partners," *Chimica Oggi-Chemistry Today*, CROs/CMOs & Related Services, 30(4): 31-34.
- Hsing, W., 2012, "Patent Protection on Personalized Medicine In view of *Mayo v. Prometheus*," *SAPA-GP 10th Anniversary Issue*, p38-40.
- Mihalcescu I., W. Hsing, S. Leibler, 2004, "Resilient circadian oscillator revealed in individual cyanobacteria," *Nature*, 430: 81-85.
- Guet C., M. Elowitz, W. Hsing, S. Leibler, 2002, "Combinatorial synthesis of genetic networks," *Science*, 296:1466-1470.
- Menzel, R., W Hsing and Taggart P, US 6265174, 2001, Methods and Compositions for identifying and modulating ctionprotein-interactions
- Hsing, W., F. D. Russo, K. K. Bernd, and T. J. Silhavy, 1998, "Mutations that alter the kinase and phosphatase activities of the two-component sensor, EnvZ," *J. Bacteriol*. 180: 4538-4546.

- Hsing, W., and T. J. Silhavy, 1997, “The function of the conserved His-243 for the phosphatase activity of EnvZ, the sensor for porin osmoregulation in *Escherichia coli*,” *J. Bacteriol.* 179: 3729-3735.
- Hsing, W., and E. Canale-Parola, 1996, “A methyl-accepting chemotaxis protein involved in multiple-sugar chemotaxis by *Cellulomonas gelida*,” *J. Bacteriol*. 178:5153-5158.
- Pratt, L. A., W. Hsing, K. E. Gibson and T. J. Silhavy, 1996, “From acids to osmZ: multiple factors influence synthesis of OmpF and OmpC porins in *Escherichia coli*,” *Molecular Microbiology* 20(5):911-917.
- Hsing, W., and E. Canale-Parola, 1992, “Cellobiose chemotaxis by the cellulolytic bacterium *Cellulomonas gelida*,” *J. Bacteriol.* 174:7996-8002.

Thought Leadership

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