
IP strategy for life science in pharma and biotech

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Training camp description

IP strategy for life science in pharma and biotech helps founders understand how intellectual property supports company value, market position and long-term growth. The workshop introduces the essentials of patents, trademarks, designs, trade secrets and ownership, and shows how IP strategy should be integrated with R&D, financing and go-to-market planning. It also highlights the importance of timing, especially in relation to publication, clinical development and future market entry.

Key takeaways from the workshop

Understand IP as a business tool - IP is not only legal protection; it is a strategic asset that can strengthen valuation, attract investors, support partnerships and create competitive advantage. Startups should think beyond patents alone and consider the full mix of intellectual assets, including know-how, data, brands and trade secrets.

Protect before you disclose - In life science, public disclosure can quickly destroy novelty and limit future patent opportunities. Founders should understand what can be patented, what should remain confidential and why publications, posters, clinical protocols and online communication must be timed carefully.

Secure ownership and market access early - A strong IP position depends on clear ownership of inventions, robust contracts and assignment chains from all contributors. At the same time, companies need to understand the surrounding IP landscape and freedom to operate, so they can reduce risk and make better commercial decisions as they move towards the market.

Best practices

Build an IP routine early - Create a simple internal process for identifying inventions, reviewing planned publications and deciding what should be filed, kept secret or shared. Revisit this regularly as the product, evidence package and commercial priorities evolve.

Get agreements in place before problems arise - Make sure employment contracts, founder agreements, consultancy contracts and collaboration agreements clearly regulate ownership of results, inventions, data and know-how. This is especially important when working across companies, hospitals and universities.

Link IP decisions to business milestones - Review your IP strategy when raising capital, starting clinical studies, entering partnerships or preparing for new markets. Use patent and legal advisors when needed, but ensure the leadership team understands the business consequences, costs and timing of each IP choice.