

# IP *and* TRADE POLICY TODAY SEMINAR

**Follow-on innovation relating to  
blockbuster drugs: current research  
into the evidence from patent filings**

**Professor Andrew Christie**

Chair of Intellectual Property, Melbourne Law School

**22 October, 13h00 - 14h30**  
**WTO, Room S2**

## The topic

Follow-on innovation relating to blockbuster drugs: current research into the evidence from patent filings. This seminar will discuss recent empirical research into follow-on innovation such as new formulations or methods of treatment concerning the active pharmaceutical ingredient (“API”) of high-cost ‘blockbuster’ medicines. The research is based on an analysis of all secondary patents associated with 13 top-selling drugs in Australia. It finds that follow-on innovation by both the originator and competitor companies occurs throughout a drug’s life cycle, both before and after expiration of the patent on its API. However, there are differences in timing according to the identity of the innovator, with competitors’ activity disproportionately likely to occur after market approval, suggesting that an originator’s patents (both primary and secondary) over a blockbuster drug do not preclude competitors from undertaking related follow-on innovations, but that competitors tend to wait until it is clear there is a market for the drug. Follow-on innovations of highest private value are those undertaken by the drug’s originator and concern a delivery mechanism or an alternative formulation for the API.

## About the speaker

Andrew Christie is the foundation Professor of Intellectual Property. Admitted to legal practice in both Australia and the UK, he worked for many years in the IP departments of law firms in Melbourne and London.

Andrew Christie was appointed as the first Davies Collison Cave Professor of Intellectual Property in 2002. From March 2002 to June 2008 he was the founding Director of the Intellectual Property Research Institute of Australia (IPRIA), a national centre for multi-disciplinary research on the law, economics and management of intellectual property. IPRIA is based at the University of Melbourne, and is a joint enterprise of the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Economics and Commerce, and the Melbourne Business School.

## Target audience

The event is organized for TRIPS Council delegates, as well as interested staff from the WHO, WIPO and the WTO.

For any inquiries, please contact [ipd@wto.org](mailto:ipd@wto.org)