

IP *and* TRADE POLICY TODAY SEMINAR

Gene-Editing Technologies:

What can they bring to patients?
How to bring them to markets?

Timothy D. Hunt

Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Editas Medicine

12 November, 11h30 – 13h00
WTO, Room F

The Topic

A range of advanced therapies are being approved by regulators and entering clinical use, including gene therapies, gene editing medicines, and cell therapies. These advanced therapies could offer ground-breaking treatments for a number of diseases, including for blindness, sickle cell disease, severe liver conditions and cancer. They bring challenges, but also huge opportunities for research, patients and industry.

This IP and Trade Policy Today Seminar will focus on gene editing technologies. By way of introduction, Mr Hunt will provide an overview of gene editing technologies that are currently being developed by private biotechnology companies active in this field and what they can potentially bring to patients.

In the second part of his presentation, the speaker will discuss a number of topical issues that are important for research into and commercialization of gene editing technologies, including how a biotechnology company focused on gene editing thinks about:

- regulation of gene editing technologies and their marketing approval, which will inevitably have to rely on highly sophisticated scientific skills and the capacity of regulators combined with a greater degree of cooperation;
- access to the technologies once they are developed, including the management of intellectual property rights; and
- ethical questions arising with respect to the development and use of these ground-breaking technologies.

About the speaker

Mr Timothy D. Hunt is Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs at Editas Medicine where, since 2016, he has overseen early-stage commercial planning and market development, global policy, government affairs, human resources, and corporate communications. Prior to joining Editas Medicine, he held senior positions in other biotechnology companies. Mr Hunt received his J.D. from the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America and his B.A. in history and philosophy from Boston College.

Target audience

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