

Case Study: LifeBridge Innovations, PBC – an innovator in the treatment of cancer

Appleyard Lees - Case Study



The Company and Technology

LifeBridge Innovations' mission is to extend and improve the quality of life of patients with advanced cancer by speeding up the availability and effectiveness of tumour-treating fields (TTF), an evolving treatment with minimal side effects. TTF treatment involves applying a tuned alternating electric field at specific frequencies and power densities to the tumours, which disrupts cell division.

However, the use of TTF has been limited to use with primary cancers. The nature of current commercially available TTF devices prevents them from being used with cancers which have metastasised to other areas of the body. LifeBridge Innovations hope to change this, with their novel adaptive TTF system which can optimise the delivery of TTF through multiple locations in the body.

LifeBridge Innovations' IP Challenge

When LifeBridge Innovations began working with Appleyard Lees in 2018 they had an established and complex US patent portfolio including several granted and pending US applications. However, they wanted to expand their patent portfolio throughout the rest of the world. Given the focus of the LifeBridge Innovations technology on methods of cancer treatment this presented a challenge, since many jurisdictions outside of the US do not allow the patenting of methods of treatment of the human or animal body.

Appleyard Lees patent attorneys Simon Bradbury and Rachel Mercer worked with the team at LifeBridge Innovations to analyse their US portfolio and determine how patent protection could best be obtained in other jurisdictions. Whilst it is not possible to patent methods of treatment of the human or animal body in Europe, or indeed many other jurisdictions outside of the US, it is still possible to obtain patent protection for inventions in this field. LifeBridge Innovations' ground breaking approach to the treatment of cancer relies on a specific medical device developed by the company. Therefore, Appleyard Lees were able to focus the applications filed outside the US on the particular innovative features of this device, rather than the treatment methods in order to obtain protection for LifeBridge Innovations' novel solution in the field of TTF.

The result

In 2022, LifeBridge Innovations has a worldwide patent portfolio with granted patents in eight jurisdictions and several pending patent families. They have been named as a Top 10 Emerging Medtech Company of 2021 by Med-Tech Outlook and hope to have an offering available to patients by 2025.