USPTO’s New Guidance on AI-Assisted Inventions: The Impact on the Use of AI in the Life Sciences

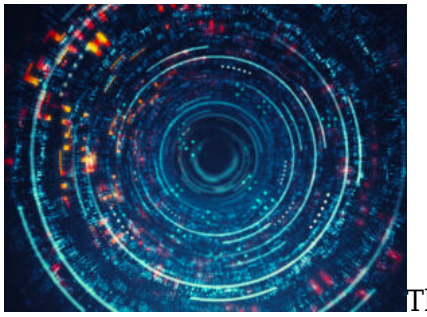
 On February 12, 2024, the US Patent Office and Trademark Office (USPTO) released the Inventorship Guidance for AI-assisted Inventions (**the Guidance**). We previously discussed the Guidance **here**.

Following up on the Guidance, the USPTO released two examples illustrating what the USPTO considers proper inventorship analyses for AI-assisted inventions. Each example sets forth different fact patterns and walks through an analysis of whether one or more human individuals qualify as inventors. Acknowledging that life sciences companies are increasingly employing AI systems to help identify molecular targets and/or design therapeutic molecules, one of the two examples focuses on the use of AI to develop therapeutic molecules: Developing a Therapeutic Compound for Treating Cancer (**Example 2**).

Life sciences companies using AI-assisted systems should carefully consider whether their current R&D efforts allow for natural persons to provide a significant contribution such that the resulting efforts may properly identify a human inventor.

Read the full alert **here**.

FDA Issues Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML)-Enabled Device Software Functions Draft Guidance

 The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently issued its **draft guidance** entitled "Marketing Submission Recommendations for a Predetermined Change Control Plan for Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML)-Enabled Device Software Functions." The draft guidance follows the passage of the Food and Drug Omnibus Reform Act of 2022 (FDORA), which explicitly authorized the Agency to approve or clear Predetermined Change Control Plans (PCCPs).

We summarize some of the key takeaways from FDA's draft guidance. Read the client alert **here**.

US Artificial Intelligence Regulations: Watch List for 2023

 Companies are developing, deploying, and interacting with artificial intelligence (AI) technologies more than ever. At Goodwin, we are keeping a close eye on any regulations that may affect companies operating in this cutting-edge space.

For companies operating in Europe, the landscape is governed by a number of in force and pending EU legislative acts, most notably the EU AI Act, which is expected to be passed later this year; it was covered in our prior client alert here: **EU Technology Regulation: Watch List for 2023 and Beyond**. The United Kingdom has recently indicated that it may take a different approach, as discussed in our client alert on the proposed framework for AI regulation in the United Kingdom here: **Overview of the UK Government's AI White Paper**.

For companies operating in the United States, the landscape of AI regulation remains less clear. To

date, there has been no serious consideration of a US analog to the EU AI Act or any sweeping federal legislation to govern the use of AI, nor is there any substantial state legislation in force (although there are state privacy laws that may extend to AI systems that process certain types of personal data).

Read the client alert **here**.