

Testbiotech e. V. | Frohschammerstraße 14 | 80807 München

Deutsche Bank AG
Karin Capitain, CSR department - NGO relations
Stephan Moeller, CSR & Public Affairs
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open letter

München 27 April 2015

Dear Ms Capitain, dear Mr Moeller

Invitation to a conference in Berlin on patents on life, genetic engineering and animal welfare

First of all, please let me introduce our organisation. Testbiotech was founded to monitor trends and assess risks in modern biotechnology. We promote diverse, critical and informed discussions on genetic engineering and biotechnology. The expertise we provide is independent of industry and is aimed at promoting informed public discussion and choice. (For more information please see www.testbiotech.org).

On 17 June 2015, we are holding a conference on “The Patented Ape: New methods in genetic engineering, patents on life and the protection of humans and animals“, in Berlin, Germany. As ethical investment policies are on the agenda, we would very much like to invite you to attend this conference. For details please see the programme attached.

One of our main topics at the conference will be patents on animals used in experimental research. We are concerned that the European Patent Office in Munich has already granted around 1500 patents on animals used in biotechnology. Some of them even claim chimpanzees:

- EP1409646 held by Altor BioScience, USA, claims chimpanzees with a genetically engineered immune system;
- EP1364025 held by Bionomics, Australia, claims chimpanzees with a manipulated genome making them more likely to suffer from cancer, and EP 1852505 also held by Bionomics, Australia claims chimpanzees genetically engineered to suffer from epilepsy;

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Institut für unabhängige
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VR 202119
Als gemeinnützig
anerkannt

- EP 1456346 and EP 1572862 held by Intrexon, USA, both claim chimpanzees genetically engineered with synthetic DNA originating from insects.

Other companies heavily engaging in filing patents on genetically engineered animals include Novartis, Hoffmann La Roche and Pfizer. As you can see from our programme, we will be presenting a report on the investors active in this field, including your own banking institute. Our research has shown that the Deutsche Bank is amongst those financial institutions that have to carry a share of the responsibility for what happens in this field. According to our research Deutsche Bank is a major shareholder in three of the largest pharmaceutical companies, which hold many patents on animals. The bank also offers its financial services and loans to these companies. For more details please see below.

We strongly believe that animals are our fellow creatures and, as such, they should be treated with the respect they deserve. Allowing patents on animals means that incentives are provided to conduct animal experiments for commercial reasons. Nobody should be investing to make a profit from animal suffering. And, more generally, animals should not be treated as if they were technical inventions. For this reason patents on animals, especially those claiming mammals or even great apes, should neither be filed by companies nor granted by patent offices.

Since you are one of the investors in this field we would very much welcome your participation at our conference. We are convinced that your bank is ready to play a constructive role in this dialog, helping to find constructive answers to the problems as outlined. Since we are very much aware of the rapid innovation and new applications in this field, we feel that it is vital to maintain and uphold high ethical standards in this field of investment. Please give us your point of view and take part in our discussions. We would also very much appreciate your comments on the findings from our research. If possible, please let us know your comments and notification of attendance at the conference till 1 June 2015.

We look forward to your response.

With kind regards



Dr. Christoph Then, Executive Director, Testbiotech

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Annex:

Overview of affiliations between Deutsche Bank and some relevant pharmaceutical companies

- Novartis

DB is a key shareholder owning shares worth USD 814.6 million (0,32%) in 2014. DB Securities was part of the 2012 syndicate that issued Novartis bonds worth USD 2 billion, DB Securities underwriting USD 80 million. In February 2014, DB underwrote USD 320 million in bonds, and in October 2014, a further USD 501 million.

- Pfizer

DB is a key investor in Pfizer, holding shares worth USD 1,4 billion (0,75%) in 2014. DB is also part of a 20-bank consortium for a USD 7 billion credit facility (loan) to Pfizer, committing the amount of USD 591 million. DB Securities also underwrote USD 96 million of Pfizer bonds (2013), and a further USD 753,8 million worth of bonds in 2014.

- La Roche

DB is a key shareholder of La Roche, owning shares worth USD 723,51 million (0,31%) in 2015. DB Securities underwrote USD 1,4 billion in bonds in May 2014 (out of a total of USD 5,7 billion).

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