



## 2021 Opposition/Validity/Novelty Search – Biotech/Life Sciences

### INSTRUCTIONS

Prepare and conduct a search. Try as much as possible to describe the steps you take to acquaint yourself with the topic of such a search. Describe how you find and use the necessary information in devising the search query. Your reasons for NOT including certain aspects may also be of importance. Keep a record (history) of the search you conduct in the database of your choice. Explain any factors other than the technical topic that will have an effect on the search. Be as detailed as possible in describing your approach to the search including devising the search strategy, the choices you make in devising the strategy, the database syntax you use and what it means, the results you pick.

The majority of the marks will be awarded for the explanation you provide about devising and finalising your search strategy. Do not stop if you find a seemingly perfect hit, as by finishing early you might not earn enough marks to pass. There is no perfect set of results.

You can upload multiple files, but please be aware that you cannot upload more than a maximum of 10 Megabytes for all uploaded files in total. Should the total size of all your files exceed this limit, try to compress the files so that the total of all of the files to be uploaded is under 10 MB (please note zip files cannot be uploaded). Please make sure that your file is compatible with Word / Excel 2007 up to and including Office 365. For example, using Open (Libre-)Office there are options to save such a file as e.g. "Word 2007 – 365 (docx)". There are similar options in other text processing / spreadsheet programmes. In the event that you experience difficulty in uploading your files, but only then, you may send them by email to exam@qipip.org with an explanation of the problem **WITHIN the allotted time**.

### CASE STUDY

Consider that the date is January 2018, you work for a search agency and have received the following request from one of your regular clients.

Please conduct a validity search against a granted EP patent claiming:

1. A detection procedure to diagnose rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in a protein-containing synovial fluid comprising
  - (a) deposition of a sample onto a wellplate, glass slide or nitrocellulose platform,
  - (b) contacting the deposited sample with an antibody against CD93,
  - (c) further contacting the deposited sample with a secondary antibody conjugate marker and a solution comprising a chromogenic solution, and
  - (d) comparing of the chromogenic signal for the sample with a control to determine if CD93 expression level is higher than that of the control.
2. The procedure according to claim 1, wherein the chromogenic substrate solution is OPD (o-phenylenediamine).
3. The procedure according to claims 1 or 2, where the secondary antibody marker is gold or horseradish peroxidase.

The client informs you that use of gold as a marker is of particular interest.

The front page of the granted EP claims priority dates of 20.01.2009 and 25.10.2009