



# PATENT INFORMATION USERS GROUP, INC.

The International Society for Patent Information

## PIUG NEWSLETTER

April/May 2011

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### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

*Anthony Trippe*

Sometimes I think the name of our organization should be the Patent Innovation Users Group. As a group we are working very hard to continue to grow and improve our organization and its standing in the patent information community. The newsletter you are reading (I was inclined to use the term "holding in your hands," but that's exactly my point) is a prime example. Most of you are likely reading it on a computer screen as opposed to printing it out and reading a physical copy. The Board decided to take this innovative step after conducting a survey of the membership and observing that all of our peer organizations had gone electronic for the delivery of their newsletters. There are details of this survey later in this issue, but the mandate for moving to an electronic only distribution method was clear.

Going electronic only is not the only change in the newsletter. You will notice that we have a new Editor for the publication. The Board was very excited to hear that Martha Yates was interested in taking on these new responsibilities (while still remaining Chair of the Workshops Committee for the Annual Conference) and her time as Editor begins with this issue. We need to thank Mark Hutcherson for his capable stewardship of the newsletter for the many years that he was Editor. Mark instituted many changes and improved the newsletter in several ways during his time as Editor and the Board would like to thank him for his service to our group.

As a group we continue to innovate in other ways as well. Also in this issue you will find a report on the PIUG 2011 Biotechnology Meeting held in San Francisco. We owe Ruben Diaz and Genentech our thanks for hosting the meeting, Doreen Alberts and her volunteers for organizing, and the sponsors (BizInt, STN International, Genome Quest, Dolcera, Search Technology, Quosa and Dialog) for making it possible for PIUG to hold the meeting. The innovation in this case came from the extensive use the planning committee made of our wiki. Once again we have Tom Wolff to thank for the access we have to this tool and the Biotech Meeting Planning Committee used it to do everything from putting the program together, keeping track of important deadlines, to cataloging lessons learned to make the process run even smoother next year. We are using the example they set to help organize the Annual Conference as well. The Biotechnology Meeting was a big success and the Board would also like to thank everyone involved for all of their hard work and dedication.

Turning our attention to the Annual Conference, we see the impact of innovation there as well. We have heard from previous meeting feedback that our members enjoy hearing talks on how the work they do impacts the bottom line at the organizations we work for. All of us are being asked to focus more on the goals and

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