Message From The Chair

by Susanne Hantos, PIUG Chair 2012-2014

One of the most valuable benefits of joining the PIUG is the opportunity to meet others in our profession and share information about best practices and the new developments impacting on patent information. Judging from the positive responses received about this year's annual conference, the event proved to be an enriching forum of information. Delegates from industry, patent offices and patent information aggregators presented valuable information about the steady progress being made to improve access to patent data as well as the different approaches taken in working with patent information. We also learned from the insightful presentations and workshops on the recent monumental changes to US patent law, the implementation of the new CPC patent classification system and even a workshop on Personal Branding for PIUG members to help them with their professional development. All of these workshops were very well received.

The conference was also highly memorable as it marked the 25th anniversary of the PIUG. As part of the festivities for celebrating this important milestone, I had the privilege of presenting Ms Carol Bachmann of 3M the inaugural Stu Kaback Business Impact Award. The PIUG Board established this prestigious international award in January 2013 in order to recognize the important contribution and impact that patent information professionals make on their respective organizations. Carol was selected as this year's recipient for her immense skill and passion in creating a robust current awareness patent tool and database that is used by 3M personnel worldwide to aid in strategic decision making. Congratulations Carol on creating such a legacy! Further information about the Stu Kaback Business Impact Award, including the criteria for nomination, can be found at http://wiki.piug.org/x/HwDkAQ.

We also honoured the remarkable career and achievements of Dr Sandra Unger who is this year's IPI Award recipient. As a former PIUG Chair, it was Sandra's exceptional vision and leadership that enabled the international recognition that PIUG enjoys today. Her steadfast dedication to improving the professional development of patent information professionals is evident in the thousands of hours she whole-heartedly gave and the personal risk she took on in helping to create the international community that is the PIUG today. It is only befitting that her international peers recognize Sandra's amazing achievements with this prestigious award. Congratulations Sandra!

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