Slaughter and May has a wide-ranging pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and healthcare practice which provides the full range of legal advice to companies in this sector. Our clients range from large and medium sized companies to universities and emergent biotechnology ventures. We also advise research institutions and investors in the field. This blend of activity provides us with an unparalleled perspective of the sector.

Our experience derives from providing a wide variety of advice. Slaughter and May has extensive experience in advising on mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and flotations in the sector. We also provide specialist advice in areas such as tax and environment and have experience in dealing with competition issues in the sector arising out of transactions from licences to mergers. Our intellectual property lawyers play a key role in such transactions.

Our pharmaceutical and biotechnology practice deals with a wide range of commercial agreements including licensing, collaboration, research and development agreements and provides strategic advice in managing and commercialising patent and trade mark portfolios. We have considerable experience in advising clients on the exploitation, defence and enforcement of their IPR rights including patents, confidential information, rights in databases and software and brands and regulatory issues.

We look for early opportunities to resolve disputes through negotiation, mediation or other ADR. The firm deals with disputes in a wide range of fora including the High Court, Court of Appeal, EPO and other registries and arbitration. We have particular expertise in advising on cross-border litigation and international strategies.

Our group includes lawyers with medical or scientific backgrounds.

We take an active interest in the issues that affect the sector. For example, members of the firm sit on the IP Advisory Committee of the BioIndustry Association (“BIA”), the industry association for biotechnology companies and the editorial board of the Bio-Science Law Review.
Overview of Slaughter and May

Slaughter and May is a leading international law firm recognised throughout the business community for its commercial awareness and commitment to clients. We have a diverse and extensive international practice advising on the full range of commercial, financing and other matters. We have a commitment to delivering top quality legal advice, combined with commercial awareness and a “can do” approach.

Central to our culture is the priority we place on the individual needs of our clients. We are organised to be client focused rather than product focused. We develop strong working and personal relationships with our clients and take a proactive approach.

We add value by:

- creating innovative solutions to problems
- giving leading edge structural advice and risk analysis
- understanding what may, or may not, be acceptable in the market
- providing first class case management assistance
- ensuring delivery against realistic timetables and milestones.

A genuinely global service

Many of the cases and transactions on which we advise in the sector have a significant cross-border or multi-national aspect. We act as lead counsel on international transactions and we frequently advise pharmaceutical clients on multijurisdictional patent issues working with specialists in other jurisdictions to develop a global strategy.

We provide cross-jurisdictional legal advice that genuinely reflects what ‘global’ means for our clients. We develop extensive and meaningful relationships with market leading firms from around the world, working with them as a single united team.

We work with like-minded experts in their own jurisdictions who have a depth of understanding that cannot be replicated, but can be shared. The level of communication and understanding between firms and with clients runs deep. Between firms we have made long-term investments to help foster connections at all levels, including investing in joint training, know-how and secondment programmes.

Together, we believe that we can offer the most incisive advice available, no matter how complicated the cross-border issue, whilst always providing value for money.
Sector Experience

The following list is intended to give a brief indication of our experience in advising clients in this sector.

- Successfully acting for Speciality Fibres and Materials in High Court and Court of Appeal proceedings involving Smith & Nephew and ConvaTec concerning multiple patents and a range of other IP rights
- Advising GlaxoSmithKline in relation to the pharmaceutical sector inquiry conducted by the European Commission
- Advising GlaxoSmithKline on its agreement with Pfizer to create a new world-leading HIV company ViiV Healthcare
- Advising Sanofi-Aventis, Europe’s largest pharmaceuticals company by sales, on the recommended offer for UK-based vaccines company, Acambis
- Advising ViiV Healthcare Ltd on its agreement with Shionogi & Co Ltd, the major Japanese pharmaceutical company
- Advising GE Healthcare Life Sciences Limited, on the acquisition of Whatman plc, a global supplier of filtration technology and separation products, for approximately £363 million
- Advising Biovail Corporation, on its agreement to acquire worldwide development and commercialisation and IP rights of tetrabenazine products
- Advising GlaxoSmithKline Biologics in relation to its strategic alliance with Intercell AG relating to needle-free, patch-based vaccines
- Advising Thermo Fisher Scientific on competition law aspects of its acquisition of Dionex Corporation
- Advising GlaxoSmithKline on the divestment of non-core Healthcare OTC products in the United States and Canada, Europe and other international markets
- Advising Elekta, a company focussed on innovation in treating cancer and brain disorders, on its acquisition of Nucletron BV
- Advising Lonza, a leading supplier to the lifesciences industries on the financing of its acquisition of Arch Chemicals
- Advising Oxford Nanopore on a share placing (which is developing a proprietary technology platform for the direct electronic analysis of single molecules)
- Advising Parexel International Corporation, on its bid for the acquisition of ClinPhone plc
- Advising GlaxoSmithKline on a number of investments in developing markets including the acquisitions from UCB S.A. and Bristol Myers Squibb
- Advising GlaxoSmithKline on an agreement to extend its relationship with Aspen Pharmacare Holding (Aspen), Africa’s largest pharmaceutical manufacturer
- Advising BOC Edwards on the disposal of its pharmaceutical systems business
- Advising GlaxoSmithKline on a variety of global supply and development agreements on product licence agreements, patent and know-how licences
- Advising Getinge AG, one of the world’s leading providers of equipment and systems to the healthcare industry, on its acquisition of Huntleigh Technology plc
- Advising Alliance Boots in relation to its recommended acquisition by A&S Acquisitions Limited
- Advising Boots on its merger with Alliance Unichem and the disposal of Boots Healthcare
- Advising Shire on its proposal to establish a new Jersey incorporated Irish tax resident holding company
- Advising Sygen International on a recommended cash offer by Genus which valued Sygen at approximately £187 million
- Advising a major plc in relation to contentious legal and regulatory issues arising from the establishment of a scheme to supply prescription only drugs
- Advising Stem Cells Inc in relation to a stem cell cross licence between Stem Cells Inc and ReNeuron Limited and acquisition by Stem Cells Inc of an equity interest in ReNeuron Group plc
- Advising Cephalon on its acquisition of all the outstanding share capital of Zeneus Holdings
- Advising a leading international pharmaceutical company on a licensing dispute and renegotiation of a major technology licence
- Advising Shire on its acquisition of Transkaryotic Therapies, a US based biopharmaceutical company
Sector Experience

The following list is intended to give a brief indication of our experience in advising clients in this sector.

- Successfully acting for Speciality Fibres and Materials in a speedy trial in the High Court also involving Smith & Nephew and ConvaTec concerning a range of IP rights
- Advising GlaxoSmithKline in relation to the pharmaceutical sector inquiry conducted by the European Commission
- Advising GlaxoSmithKline on its agreement with Pfizer to create a new world-leading HIV company ViiV Healthcare
- Advising Sanofi-Aventis, Europe's largest pharmaceuticals company by sales, on the recommended offer for UK-based vaccines company, Acambis
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Key Contacts

For further information on any pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and healthcare related matter, please contact your usual Slaughter and May contact, or any of the following:

### INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
Susie Middlemiss  
T: +44 (0)20 7090 4038  
E: susie.middlemiss@slaughterandmay.com

### CORPORATE
Robert Stern  
T: +44 (0)20 7090 3121  
E: robert.stern@slaughterandmay.com

Nilufer von Bismarck  
T: +44 (0)20 7090 3186  
E: nilufer.vonbismarck@slaughterandmay.com

David Johnson  
T: +44 (0)20 7090 3385  
E: david.johnson@slaughterandmay.com

### COMPETITION
Michael Rowe  
T: +44 (0)20 7090 4610  
E: michael.rowe@slaughterandmay.com

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London  
One Bunhill Row  
London EC1Y 8YY  
United Kingdom  
T: +44 (0)20 7600 1200  
F: +44 (0)20 7090 5000

Brussels  
Square de Meeüs 40  
1000 Brussels  
Belgium  
T: +32 (0)2 737 94 00  
F: +32 (0)2 737 94 01

Hong Kong  
47th Floor, Jardine House  
One Connaught Place  
Central  
Hong Kong  
T: +852 2521 0551  
F: +852 2845 2125

Beijing  
2903/2905 China World Office 2  
No.1 Jianguomenwai Avenue  
Beijing 100004  
People’s Republic of China  
T: +86 10 5965 0600  
F: +86 10 5965 0650

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