

US Pharma: Intitate dialogue to resolve IP issues

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Corporate executives attending the day-long "US-India BioPharma and Healthcare Summit" organised by the US-India Chamber of Commerce said that they should not be considered adversaries by New Delhi.

The executives stated that both India and global pharma companies shared the same goal of providing best healthcare services to patients.

They further added that they are willing to work with India to come up with a solution, which would be acceptable to the both the parties.

"We can sit around a table and have a dialogue. We need to go from considering the diligence as untrustworthy, to working together to help patients. The only way we can do it is by collaboration and really having a dialogue," said Ms Bahija Jallal, executive vice-president of MedImmune, a prominent bio-tech company.

Dr Robert Langer, professor at the David J Koch Institute, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), argued that not caring about intellectual property would destroy innovation in the long term. He said that patent logic is vital for enhancing many aspects of innovation.

Outstanding universities, a strong and enforceable patent regime and an entrepreneurial environment are key to building an innovation ecosystem in any country, Mr Langer said.

American pharma companies want to be active in India. They want to help bring innovative medicines to the citizens of the country, informed Mr William Chin, executive VP of PhRMA, a top trade group representing the pharmaceutical research and

biopharmaceutical companies in the US.

He further said that they also know that India must weigh its patients and additional needs against resources. "I do hope that there can be a conversation about appropriate repayment and risks," He added.