



## PUBLIC LECTURE

### Gene Patents: Why you should care who controls your genes

*Luigi Palombi*

Regulatory Institutions Network, ANU



Luigi Palombi read law between 1977 and 1981 and economics between 1982 and 1985 at the University of Adelaide. He practiced law in Australia between 1982 and 1997, specialising in patent law and biotechnology. He led the Australian litigation team that challenged the validity of a patent which claimed isolated hepatitis C virus nucleotides and polypeptides as inventions. Having led several international patent litigation teams involving litigation in the United States as well as in the UK and Europe (including the European Patent Office), between 1997 and 2001 he advised various organisations around the world with regard to human health, biotechnology and gene related patents. Between 2001 and 2004 he undertook his PhD candidature (*The Patenting of Biological Materials in the Context of TRIPS*) at the University of New South Wales. After he was awarded his doctorate in 2005, he consulted to Minter Ellison, Australia's largest law firm, in biotechnology patents. Since 2006 he has headed the Genetic Sequence Right Project at the Australian National University and 2007 he and Prof Peter Drahos, his colleague at the Regulatory Institutions Network at the ANU, were awarded a three year Australian Research Council Discovery Project Grant entitled *The Sustainable Use of Australia's Biodiversity: Transfer of Traditional Knowledge and Intellectual Property*. He has delivered invited papers and lectures in patent law at international legal conferences and meetings. His has written on various aspects of patent law and gene patents and Edward Elgar (London, New York) and Scribe (Melbourne) have recently published his first book, *Gene Cartels: Biotech Patents in the Age of Free Trade*, simultaneously in hardback and paperback. In 2009 he spearheaded a campaign against gene patents leading to an Australian Senate Inquiry into gene patents. The Inquiry is continuing and is due to report in September 2010. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Sydney.

**Tuesday 14 September, 12.30pm**  
**Lecture Theatre 3**  
**Old Government Buildings**

