

Welcome to the news

Welcome to the new and expanded *Update* section of *Drug Discovery Today*. As part of our committed and continued drive to keep the discovery and development community fully aware of the current global picture of R&D, we have expanded the overall coverage of *Update*.

The new format of *Update* includes expanded *News* and *News in Brief* sections that will provide a supplementary focus on cutting-edge drug targeting and delivery, gene therapy, vaccine development, clinical trial progress and tissue engineering. A *People* section will also be introduced, enabling you to keep abreast of the movements, whereabouts and achievements of the names in the industry. Moreover, we have launched two new core sections, *Features* and *Discussion Forum*.

Features will include interviews with key people either directly involved or associated with the industry; we have kicked off this section by interviewing

two men currently in the R&D limelight, Craig Venter (Celera Genomics) and David Bentley (Sanger Centre). This section will be supplemented by our new, regular columnist, Raymond Rowe (AstraZeneca). His 'Private prescription' column will bring a lighter element to the journal and will brighten your day by giving unusual, thought-provoking perspectives on aspects of the industry, occasionally with a humorous touch.

The *Discussion Forum* is where you, the readers, can 'chew the fat' with others about industry-related matters. Here, you can discuss issues that get you hot under the collar, practical problems at the bench, recently published literature, or just something bizarre or humorous that you wish to share. The section is designed for rolling discussions and reply letters will be published for as long as the discussion continues. When submitting your letter, please provide your full details; however, if you wish, you may

remain anonymous or even assume a pseudonym. Publication of letters in this section is however subject to editorial discretion and company-promotional letters will be rejected immediately. Furthermore, the views you provide are intended to be those of your own and are not necessarily intended to represent those of the company you work for. Moreover, the views published here do not reflect the views of Elsevier, *Drug Discovery Today* or its editorial team.

If you have any suggestions or would like to submit topics for the *News* section or letters for the *Discussion Forum*, please get in touch with me at Rebecca. Lawrence@current-trends.com (tel: +44 7611 4143, fax: +44 7611 4485). I look forward to reading your contributions and hope you enjoy reading the revitalized section.

Rebecca Lawrence
News & Features Editor

Mouse model for Burkitt's lymphoma will aid understanding and therapy

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Scientists have developed a mouse model for Burkitt's lymphoma (BL), a solid tumour of B lymphocytes. The genetically engineered mouse is the first to develop lymphomas with striking similarities to human BL. The new mouse model is hoped to aid understanding of the molecular and genetic components of this cancer and other lymphomas, as well as permitting the testing of new treatments.



Burkitt's lymphoma

Two variants of BL have been characterized. The African (endemic BL) variant is associated with the Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) in 95% of cases and accounts for over half of all childhood cancers in Africa (approximately 1 in 50,000 children per year). The non-African form (sporadic BL) is rarely associated with EBV and has a tenfold lower frequency