

People

J. Craig Venter, Leonard Bell and Steven Shak honoured

J. Craig Venter, Leonard Bell and Steven Shak were honoured by the Biotechnology Study Center of New York University (NYU) School of Medicine (New York, NY, USA) for their outstanding contributions to the understanding of basic biology and the treatment of human diseases. Each honoree will receive a lithograph of Frank Stella's work signed by the artist, who is a Fellow of the Center.

Venter is President and CSO of Celera Genomics, the company that sequenced the human genome, and founder of The Institute of Genomic Research. Bell is President and CEO of Alexion Pharmaceuticals which is engaged in finding novel ways to cure inflammatory and heart diseases and is developing a series of complement inhibitors. After leaving a position of Senior Director and Staff Clinical Scientist at Genentech, Steven Shak co-founded Genomic Health, a new company that is dedicated to the ethical application of genomic technologies.

The Biotechnology Center was set up last year by a group of top scientists, including Gerald Weissman (Professor of Medicine, NYU School of Medicine and Director of the Division of Rheumatology) and the Nobel Laureates, Sir John Vane (founder of the William Harvey Research Institute) and Bengt Samuelsson (Karolinska Institute).

Louis Ignarro, Victor J. Dzau and John Deanfield join United Therapeutics board

United Therapeutics (Silver Spring, MD, USA) has appointed three new members to its Scientific Advisory Board: Louis Ignarro, Victor J. Dzau and John Deanfield. The addition of these members to their board, which is led by Sir John Vane (founder of the William Harvey Research Institute), is hoped to expand the company's strategic drug development insight.

Ignarro is Professor in the Department of Pharmacology, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA; Los Angeles, CA, USA) and won the Nobel Laureate in Medicine in 1998 for his work on the role of nitric oxide in vascular diseases.

Dzau is currently Chairman of the Department of Medicine at Harvard University Medical School (Cambridge, MA, USA) and Physician in Chief and Director of the Advisory Committee to the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Meanwhile, Deanfield is a professor at University College London (London, UK) and Chairman of the European Cardiology Society's Taskforce on Congenital Heart Disease.

All change at Evotec

Jörn Aldag, the current Chief Financial Officer at Evotec, has been appointed the new President and CEO of Evotec OAI (Hamburg, Germany) following the successful integration of Evotec Biosystems AG and Oxford Asymmetry International.

Aldag will take over the position from Karsten Henco (currently CEO) and Edwin Moses (currently President) who are resigning from their positions to join the Supervisory Board of Evotec OAI. Henco will remain a member of the company's Scientific Advisory Board. Timm Jessen (Chief Scientific Officer) and Mario Polywka (Chief Operating Officer) will remain in their respective positions.

Meanwhile, Sean Marrett has been appointed Commercial Director and Head of Business Development, after joining Evotec OAI from GlaxoSmithKline in April 2001. Pol Barnelis will also join the Supervisory Board in May 2001 from his position as Chief Scientific Officer and member of the Management Board at Bayer AG.

Mara Aspinall joins Genzyme Genetics as President

Mara Aspinall has been appointed to the position of President of Genzyme Genetics (Cambridge, MA, USA), although she will continue to hold her position as President of Genzyme Pharmaceuticals.

Prior to joining Genzyme in 1997 as Vice-President of Corporate Development, she was a director of the law firm Hale and Dorr and a senior consultant with Bain & Co. specializing in strategic planning, business development and marketing.

Jan van Heek, Executive Vice-President of Genzyme Corporation said: 'Mara has

done an excellent job increasing the revenue of our pharmaceuticals business, shifting to higher margin products and upgrading our manufacturing facilities. I am confident she will continue to build on the successful performance of Genzyme Genetics.'

Geyer joins Onyx as VP Technical Operations

Onyx (Richmond, CA, USA) has appointed Scott Geyer to the position of Vice-President of Technical Operations. Geyer comes from a position as Vice-President of Technical Development at Protein Design Laboratories (PDLI) and will bring expertise in manufacturing, process sciences and quality to the company.

Prior to his position at PDLI, he spent nine years at the Ares-Serono group in a variety of positions including Executive Director, Process Development.

CEO appointed at the new Ottawa Health Research Institute

Ronald G. Worton has been appointed CEO and Scientific Director of Research for The Ottawa Health Research Institute (OHRI; Ottawa, Canada) and Vice-President of Research at Ottawa Hospital (Ottawa, Canada).

This new appointment arises from the merger of the OHRI and the Loeb Health Research Institute in April 2001. Worton became Director of Research at the OHRI in 1996 with a mandate to build a new research institute. He is currently Professor in the Department of Medicine and the Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Ottawa.

Worton's research career has included research into the genetics of human disease and has included the identification of the dystrophin gene responsible for Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

Worton is a recipient of the Order of Canada, is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and has won many awards including the Gairdner Foundation International Award and the Canadian Society for Clinical Investigation Distinguished Scientist Award.

People was written by
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