

it was deemed unprofitable. In a separate arrangement, Bristol-Myers Squibb has agreed to cover the cost of bulk-materials for 60,000 vials (approximately a one-year supply) of efloornithine.

The donations, which also include funding of £17 million from Aventis for the WHO's treatment and research programmes into the disease, follows recent poor publicity for large

pharmaceutical companies regarding their sale of AIDS drugs to the South African Government. 'This agreement is excellent news for patients and a major step in the struggle to control sleeping sickness', said Bernard Pecoul, Director of Medecins Sans Frontieres (Brussels, Belgium). He then asked for an additional £25 million per year from international donors to support the project. In 2000, Aventis offered the license

to produce the drug to the WHO but the organization was unable to find a manufacturer.

News in Brief was written by
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People

Gordon Gill named UCSD Interim Dean for Scientific Affairs

Gordon Gill has been named the UCSD Interim Dean for Scientific Affairs after the Nobel Laureate George Palade retired from the position. However, Palade will remain Professor Emeritus with the School.

The position was created by Palade in 1990 after transferring from Yale University where he received the Nobel prize in 1974 for his contributions to the understanding of cell structure, chemistry and function.

Gill comes to the job from being Professor of Medicine, Chair of the Faculty of Basic Biomedical Sciences and a UCSD physician and scientist for 32 years. He has previously been Associate Chair for Scientific Affairs in the Department of Medicine and before this was Chief of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism in the Department of Medicine.

Gill is hoping to expand the School, not only in personnel numbers but also in facility space: 'We have been constrained in our ability to recruit new faculty by lack of research space. The development plans are there, but we need to build from a science/research standpoint. Then, we will be able to make the right recruitments, bringing in the creative young investigators that are our future.'

Currently, UCSD is developing a School of Pharmacy and a new Institute for Molecular Medicine, together with new facilities for each.

George Wellman joins Ricerca Scientific Advisory Board

George Robert Wellman is joining the Scientific Advisory Board of Ricerca LLC

(Concord, OH, USA) to provide knowledge from his extensive background in developing commercial processes for new drugs. Wellman recently retired (in January 2001) from SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals (SKB) where he was Vice-President, Chemical Development Worldwide. He also held several other senior positions at SKB before this including: Vice-President, Chemical Development; Group Director of Development Chemistry; and Director of Synthetic Chemistry.

Arachnova appoints new Director of New Project Opportunities



Arachnova (Cambridge, UK) has appointed Hazel Bardsley to the position of Director of New Project Opportunities. Bardsley joins the company from eight years

at Celltech Chiroscience. This new role will involve identifying new therapeutic switch projects based around new uses for partly or fully developed compounds. The company is a virtual pharmaceutical company that specializes in therapeutic switching.

Peter Read joins Synaptica

Peter Read has been appointed as Non-Executive Director of the neuroscience company, Synaptica Ltd (Oxford, UK).

Read was formerly Chairman of Hoechst UK and has previously been President of the ABPI. Read's experience of the industry is hoped to help the company in its expansion programme, which includes refurbishing new laboratories at the Harwell International Business Centre, which will be used to concentrate research on novel therapeutics and diagnostics for neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.

Obituary

John Dorst dies at 74

John Phillips Dorst, Director of Pediatric Radiology at Johns Hopkins Medical Institute has died of brain tumour complications at the age of 74. Not only was he an eminent clinician and a key figure in bringing X-rays to maturity as a diagnostic tool, but he was also an expert on mucopolysaccharidosis and mucopolipidosis, and helped to identify some of the underlying biochemical defects in inherited bone disorders. He also authored many papers on subjects ranging from lung cancer diagnosis to heart disease, Down's syndrome and inherited bone malformations.

Dorst was also an avid lover of classical music and visual art and enjoyed canoeing, sailing, hiking and cross-country skiing.

People was written by
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