

# People

## Philippe Pouletty elected President of the French Biotech Industry Association

Philippe Pouletty has been elected the President of France Biotech (Paris, France), the French Biotech Industry Association. Pouletty succeeds Pascal Brandys who founded France Biotech in 1997 but opted not to seek a further term. Brandys (the founder of Genset) will, however, continue as Professor Emeritus with the association.

France Biotech will be proposing new legislation to the French Government to facilitate technology transfer, and to attract entrepreneurs, European and foreign investors to position biotechnology as a leading industry in France. The association also aims to play to a key role in helping young French companies and research laboratories to grow internationally.

Pouletty is an immunologist who graduated from the Pasteur Institute (Paris, France) and then went to Stanford University before founding several biotechnology companies including DrugAbuse Sciences (for which he is Chairman), ConjuChem and SangStat.

## Ian Tomlinson becomes new CSO at Diversys

Ian Tomlinson, Group Leader at the UK Medical Research Council's Laboratory of Molecular Biology (MRC-LMB; Cambridge, UK) is to join Diversys Ltd (Cambridge, UK) as Chief Scientific Officer. Tomlinson is one of the founders of the company and is currently a Non-Executive Director. His new role will involve expanding the company's R&D efforts, which include single domain antibodies, proteomic tools and diagnostics, and managing its scientific alliances.

Tomlinson has been at the MRC-LMB for 11 years where he has worked on completing the sequencing of all human antibody genes and then on engineering antibodies and protein array screening. He also co-founded the Human Proteome Organization (HUPO) to facilitate the mapping of the human proteome.

Robert Connelly, CEO of Diversys said: 'Ian Tomlinson is recognized worldwide as an expert in protein and antibody

engineering. The combination of his scientific expertise together with his intimate knowledge of our technology portfolio and the corresponding intellectual property landscape makes him a unique fit for the company.'

## New Advisory Board for Argenta Discovery

Several prominent scientists from Imperial College (London, UK) have joined the newly formed Scientific Advisory Board at Argenta Discovery (Harlow, Essex, UK). Alan Williamson, Peter Barnes, Stephen Bloom, Charles Coombes, Gordon Dugan, Desmond Johnston and Mark McCarthy will bring extensive experience in a wide spectrum of therapeutic areas to the spinout company from Imperial College and the former Aventis UK Pharmaceutical Research Centre.

Williamson, who has held many senior roles in both academia and industry at Glaxo and Merck, will chair the board and also take up the position of Non-Executive Director on the Board of Directors.

Barnes is Professor of Thoracic Medicine at the National Heart and Lung Institute while Bloom is Director of Metabolic Medicine and Chairman of the Division of Investigative Science. Coombes is Head of the Department of Cancer Medicine, his unit being responsible for identifying and developing the breast cancer drug Letaron.

Dugan is Professor of Physiological Biochemistry and focusses his research on vaccines, drug targeting and oral delivery of compounds and serves on two World Health Organization (WHO) steering committees on vaccinology and infectious disease. Finally, Johnston (Professor of Clinical Endocrinology) and McCarthy (Professor of Genomic Medicine at the MRC Clinical Sciences Centre) both focus their research activities on type 2 diabetes.

## New Executive Director of Chemistry at Kosan Biosciences

Kosan Biosciences (Hayward, CA, USA) has announced that David Myles is to join the company as Executive Director of Chemistry, replacing Gary Ashley who will

move to the company's intellectual property department. Before joining the company, Myles was Associate Director of Organic and Medicinal Chemistry at Chiron Corporation and previously worked at the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of California, Los Angeles. As a synthetic and medicinal chemist, he has also worked on several polyketides that are of interest to Kosan, including erythromycin, epothilone and discodermolide.

## Three new Advisory Board members for KS Biomedix Holdings

Jim Carmichael, Mike James and Peter Stern are to join the Scientific Advisory Board of KS Biomedix Holdings (Guildford, UK) and bring clinical oncology and regulatory affairs expertise to the board. Carmichael is the John B. Cochrane, Cancer Research Campaign (CRC) Memorial Professor in Clinical Oncology at the University of Nottingham (Nottingham, UK). He is also Director of the CRC Academic Department of Clinical Oncology at the City Hospital in Nottingham and the UK representative to the European Society of Medical Oncology.

James is Director of Cambridge Regulatory Services (Cambridge, UK) and worked for the UK Medicines Control Agency for 11 years. Stern is Head of the CRC Immunology Group, Paterson Institute for Cancer Research at the Christie Hospital NHS Trust (Manchester, UK).

## James Noveroske joins Ricerca LLC

James Noveroske has been appointed as Vice-President of Toxicology and Pharmacology at Ricerca LLC (Concord, OH, USA). His role will involve enhancement of the company's preclinical safety assessment and pharmacology capabilities. His previous experience includes being a Senior Research Fellow at Merck Laboratories, Group Leader of Reproductive Toxicity at GD Searle, several senior positions with contract laboratories and, most recently, Director of Drug Safety at Oread.

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