

People

Penelope Manasco leaves GSK for First Genetic Trust

First Genetic Trust (Chicago, IL, USA) has announced the appointment of Penelope Manasco to the position of Chief Medical Officer and Executive Vice-President of the company. Her role will include directing the company's clinical and scientific affairs, and contributing to the development and implementation of scientific partnerships with pharma companies and medical research centres. Manasco joins the company from being Vice-President of Clinical Genetics at GlaxoSmithKline R&D, where she was responsible for developing a clinical genetics program to identify genetic markers of efficacy and safety for medicines in development, to identify susceptibility genes to improve target selection, and to initiate and implement communication, education and public policy initiatives. Before joining Glaxo Wellcome in 1993, Manasco worked at the National Institutes of Health researching neuroendocrine research.

Arthur Holden, Chairman and CEO of First Genetic Trust said: 'Penny helped build the largest clinical genetics effort in the pharmaceutical industry, developing and executing pharmacogenetic research strategies and processes, and spearheaded industry-wide efforts to explore educational and ethical implications of pharmacogenetic research, including the role of regulatory agencies.'

New VP, Genetics at Genaissance Pharmaceuticals

J. Claiborne Stephens has been promoted to the position of Vice-President, Genetics at Genaissance Pharmaceuticals (New Haven, CT, USA) from being Executive Director, Population Genomics at the company. Prior to joining Genaissance in 1999, Stephens was Head of the Bioinformatics Group at the National Cancer Institute's Laboratory of Genomic Diversity. He has also been a Senior Research Associate at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the Human Gene Mapping Library and has researched population genetics and molecular evolution at the Center for Demographic and Population Genetics, University of Texas Health Science Center.

Gualberto Ruano, CEO at Genaissance, welcomed Stephens to the senior management team saying: 'His leadership in the genomics field has helped to establish haplotypes as "gold standard" DNA markers for the study of human diversity and the development of personalized medicines.'

New Director of Discoveries at Molecular Mining Corporation

Molecular Mining Corporation (Raleigh, NC, USA) has appointed Mary Jane Cunningham as Director of Discoveries. Cunningham was previously Director of Pharmacogenomics at Genometrix, where she coordinated commercial development of an expression database for preclinical assessment and the examination of efficacy and toxicity issues using high-throughput gene- and protein-expression microarrays. Roland Somogyi, Chief Scientific Officer and Molecular Mining Corporation said: 'Her scientific training coupled with expertise in expression experimental design while at Incyte Genomics will prove invaluable in our discoveries business.'

Reinhard Schneider to head up knowledge management at Lion Bioscience

Reinhard Schneider, a co-founder of Lion Bioscience (Heidelberg, Germany), has taken up the position of Chief Information Officer at the company and will be responsible for the development and advancement of the company's knowledge management and IT-solutions. Schneider joined the company in 1997 as Vice-President, Bioinformatics and then became CEO of Lion Bioscience Research (Cambridge, MA, USA) in 1999. Previously, Schneider developed and headed the implementation of the IT-based knowledge management system for Bayer's worldwide gene-based R&D activities. He has also worked at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) researching protein structure prediction and sequence alignment, as well as the development of large-scale automated sequence analysis and the use of massive parallel computers.

New CEO at Stemron

Arthur M. Mandell has left Human Genome Sciences (HGS) to join Stemron Corporation (Rockville, MD, USA) as President and CEO. Mandell was at HGS for four years where he held the position of Senior Vice-President and Chief Business Officer and was responsible for constructing and implementing all business development collaborations, technology licenses, product licensing and academic relationships. Mandell also established the marketing infrastructure of HGS and the planning and commercialization of HGS' portfolio.

Mandell was also Principal of ZS Associates, an international management consulting firm, and founder and General Manager of their office in California. Prior to this, Mandell worked at Syntex Corporation in a number of senior management positions in strategic planning, business development, new product planning, product marketing and financial management.

New VP, Business Development at Vical

Vical (San Diego, CA, USA) has appointed David J. Pyrcce to the position of Vice-President, Business Development. Pyrcce has previously held a variety of positions including Vice-President, Corporate Communications and Investor Relations at Imagyn Medical Technologies, Director of Business Development at SmithKline Beecham and Vice-President, Diagnostic Products for Glyko Biomedical. He was a partner in both research and portfolio management capacities at Bear Creek Capital Management. Pyrcce is also a member of the Biotechnology Industry Organization, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Association for Investment Management and Research.

Vijay B. Samant, President and CEO at Vical said: 'His broad experience and proven expertise in both the business and investing aspects of healthcare management will be enormously valuable in helping us leverage those opportunities afforded by our gene delivery technologies.'

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