

# People

## New President and Chairman of Schering-Plough Research Institute

Schering-Plough Corporation (Kenilworth, NJ, USA) has appointed Cecil B. Pickett as President of Schering-Plough Research Institute (SPRI) and Jonathan R. Spicehandler as Chairman of the Institute.

Pickett joined SPRI in 1993 and was most recently Executive Vice-President, Discovery Research. Prior to SPRI, Pickett was Senior Vice-President, Basic Research at Merck Research Laboratories. He is a member of the Food and Drug Administration Science Board, the Advisory Committee to the Director of the National Institutes of Health and The National Cancer Policy Board of the Institute of Medicine. He was also elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

Meanwhile, Spicehandler joined Schering-Plough in 1982 as Senior Director, Immunology and Anti-infective Clinical Research. He later became Vice-President, Clinical Research; Vice-President, Biological Research; Vice-President, Operations; and finally President of the SPRI in 1993. In Spicehandler's new position, he becomes a member of the Schering-Plough Operating Committee and serves as Chief Scientific Adviser to senior management. Spicehandler also serves as President Emeritus, Board of Managers of the New Jersey division of Cancer Care and is a member of the boards of trustees of the Kessler Research Foundation, Montclair State University, and Liberty Science Center, and is a member of the Board of Associates of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research.

## Brian Cunningham heads up Bay Area Bioscience Center

The Bay Area Bioscience Center (BayBio; San Francisco, CA, USA) has appointed Brian Cunningham, President and Chief Operating Officer of Rigel Pharmaceuticals, as Chairman for a one-year term. BayBio is a non-profit organization of bioscience companies and research institutions based in San Francisco. Prior to joining Rigel Pharmaceuticals, Cunningham was partner in Cooley Godward LLP, where he was head of the Life Sciences Group and the

Health Care Group. He has also served as Vice-President, Secretary and General Counsel of Genentech and an Associate Corporate Counsel of Monsanto.

Cunningham commented that: 'I hope to communicate the extraordinary accomplishments and future potential of the region's biotech industry to attract more investment, talent and research to the Bay Area community. If our past successes are any indication, the future holds considerable promise.'

## Dennis Fenton joins BIO Board

Dennis M. Fenton, Executive Vice-President of Amgen, has been unanimously voted onto the Board of Directors of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO). Prior to his 20-year tenure at Amgen, Fenton worked at Pfizer Central Research in new product development. He serves on the Board of Directors of the National Health Foundation and is a member of the American Society of Microbiology, the Society for Industrial Microbiology, the American Chemical Society and the Parenteral Drug Association. Carl Feldbaum, President of BIO said: 'During critical negotiations for reauthorization of the Prescription Drug User Fee Act, it is especially timely for our 47-member board to have the experienced voice of one of the industry's largest and best-known companies.'

## Marc Gurwith joins VaxGen

VaxGen (Brisbane, CA, USA) has appointed Marc Gurwith to the position of Senior Vice-President, Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer. Gurwith will initially be responsible for managing the clinical development of the company's AIDS vaccine, AIDSVAX.

Gurwith joins the company from Genelabs Technologies, where he was Vice-President, Drug Development and Chief Medical Officer. He was previously Vice-President, Clinical Research at Sequus Pharmaceuticals and, prior to this, was Senior Director, Clinical Research for Wyeth-Ayerst. He is a Fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the American College of Physicians.

Lance K. Gordon, CEO of VaxGen said: 'With his success managing Phase III clinical trials and his experience in new drug applications, Marc is an excellent addition to VaxGen's executive group.'

## Ivan D. Trifunovich joins Third Wave Technologies

Third Wave Technologies (Madison, WI, USA) has appointed Ivan D. Trifunovich as Senior Vice-President and General Manager of its genomics business unit. He joins the company from Pharmacia Corp, where he has held several positions including Vice-President of e-Business and Vice-President of Research Strategy and Operations. Prior to this, he was Director of New Product Marketing at Johnson & Johnson. Lance Fors, Chairman and CEO of Third Wave, said: 'Ivan has an impressive record of success at identifying and maximizing high-value market opportunities. Ivan's board experience in the pharmaceutical industry will be critical to Third Wave as we focus our genomics business on large-scale disease association studies and drug response marker profiling for adverse reactions and other applications for new and existing drugs.'

## New President and CEO at EmerGen

Richard L. Jackson has been appointed President and CEO of EmerGen (Salt Lake City, UT, USA) where his expertise in women's health research and drug development will help shape the company's future. Previously, Jackson was Senior Vice-President of Discovery Research at Wyeth-Ayerst, during which time the Women's Health Research Institute was established. Jackson has also worked as Senior Vice-President of R&D at Atrix Laboratories and Vice-President of Research Sciences at Marion Merrell Dow (now Aventis).

Kenneth Ward, founder and Chief Scientific Officer, commented that: 'Dr Jackson's experience in drug development and in establishing major partnerships with key pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies will be a critical asset for EmerGen as we move forward.'

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