

People

Three senior appointments at Exelixis

Exelixis (South San Francisco, CA, USA) has made three management appointments. Annie Fong will join the company as Director of Development, Kimberly J. Manhard will join as Vice-President of Regulatory Affairs, and Harold Keer will join the company as Director of Clinical R&D.

Fong joins the company from Reitman Corp, where she was Executive Director. She also has more than 15 years of experience of the pharma industry in R&D, particularly in inflammation, immunomodulation, oncology and cardiovascular indications through her work at Sugen, Progenitor, Syntex Discovery Research, Collagen Corp. and DNAX Research Institute of Molecular Biology and Immunology. Manhard was responsible for global regulatory affairs at Agouron Pharmaceuticals and has also worked at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Bristol-Myers Squibb and Eli Lilly & Co. Finally, Keer joins Exelixis from Titan Pharmaceuticals, where he was Associate Director of Clinical Development and is a Board-certified oncologist.

Jeffrey Latts, Senior Vice-President and Chief Medical Officer of Exelixis commented: 'The addition of Kimberly, Harold and Annie to Exelixis' development group brings a strong infusion of knowledgeable and seasoned drug development experts with deep and diverse real-world experience.' He continued, 'In the months ahead, we will continue adding professional staff to manage areas such as the production of investigational material, quality assurance, safety assessment, data collection and analysis.'

Thomas Chung and Samuel Riccitelli join Genoptix

Thomas D.Y. ('T.C.') Chung has been appointed to the position of Chief Scientific Officer at Genoptix (San Diego, CA, USA), while Samuel D. Riccitelli has been appointed as Senior Vice-President of Operations at the company.

Chung was previously Senior Director of Leads Discovery Operations at DuPont

Pharmaceuticals where he built up the HTS department infrastructure and technology development groups. Prior to this, Chung was a Research Fellow at Pharmacopeia and has held various positions in virology with Merck Sharp & Dohme and Bristol-Myers Squibb. Chung is also President of the Society of Biomolecular Screening.

Riccitelli joins Genoptix from Becton Dickinson and Co., where he was Vice-President & General Manager and served as a board member of BD Ventures LLC, the company's venture capital fund. He was also previously General Manager at Puritan-Bennett Corp.

Tina S. Nova, CEO, President and founder of Genoptix said: 'Over his 23-year career, T.C. has gained valuable knowledge in HTS and in developing technology in a start-up company.' She continued, 'Sam's strong leadership skills and achievements in general management, new product development and business development will guide Genoptix' growth and strengthen our position.'

Terry L. Bowlin joins Microbiotix as Chief Scientific Officer

Microbiotix (Worcester, MA, USA) has appointed Terry L. Bowlin as Chief Scientific Officer and will take over the position from A. Kirk Field, who will become Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board. Bowlin joins the company from CADx Medical Systems (a subsidiary of Shire Pharmaceuticals), where he was Chief Scientist, Drug and Vaccine Discovery. Previously, he was Vice-President of Research at BioChem Pharma (now Shire BioChem). Bowlin was also head of the Steering Committee overseeing the antibiotic research collaboration between Microbiotix and BioChem Pharma and has held several senior positions with Marion Merrell Dow Research (now Aventis).

On the announcement, Field commented: 'Terry's strong background in anti-infective drug discovery and development fits perfectly with Microbiotix's mission. I am certain Terry's experience in leading research at BioChem Pharma will greatly assist Microbiotix in advancing our small molecular drug candidates and expanding our drug discovery programs.'

New Senior VP of R&D at Memory Pharmaceuticals

Memory Pharmaceuticals (Montvale, NJ, USA) has appointed James E. Barrett as Senior Vice-President, R&D. Barrett joins the company from Wyeth-Ayerst, where he was Vice-President of Neuroscience Discovery Research and was responsible for overseeing the CNS research program, as well as being in charge of the Neuroscience Therapeutic Area, from early exploratory research through to clinical trials and commercialization. Previously, Barrett was Director of CNS Research at Lederle Laboratories.

'Jim has a proven track record in both building and leading research and drug development efforts in diverse areas of neuropsychiatric, neurological and neurodegenerative diseases,' commented Axel Unterbeck, President and Chief Scientific Officer of Memory Pharmaceuticals. 'In addition, his background in managing alliances and licensing agreements with biotechnology and academic organizations, combined with his vast knowledge in R&D surrounding neurological diseases, will be instrumental in assisting the company's collaboration efforts.'

Nancy Wetherbee joins Essential Therapeutics

Nancy Wetherbee has been appointed to the position of Vice-President, Business Development at Essential Therapeutics (Waltham, MA, USA). She leaves the same position at Phytera, where she was responsible for the development of licensing and strategic alliance opportunities in cancer and anti-infectives. Prior to this, Wetherbee was Vice-President, Business Development and Strategic Planning at Oncomed, and was previously Director of Marketing at Athena Diagnostics Corp.

'Nancy brings... over 20 years' industry experience with an extensive background in marketing, sales, business development and strategic planning,' said Marl Skaletsky, Chairman and CEO of Essential Therapeutics.

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