

People

Two new appointments at GenStruct

GenStruct (Cambridge, MA, USA) has made two new appointments to its senior management. Jeffrey D. Thomas has been made Chief Scientific Officer and Navin Chandra has been appointed as Chief Technology Officer. The pair will team up with Eric Neumann, Scientific Founder and Chief Bioinformatic Consultant, to lead the scientific and technology development and deployment of the company's knowledge assembly and discovery connections approach. Thomas joins GenStruct from Parke-Davis/Warner-Lambert and Pfizer, where he was Director of Genomics and Bioinformatics. He brings 17 years of experience in life sciences and pharmaceutical research to the role. Chandra has moved from his own start-up company, NovaSpike, bringing 17 years of experience as a technologist and entrepreneur. Mike Masterson, GenStruct's CEO, commented: 'We are excited about Jeffrey and Navin joining us as CSO and CTO. Their experience in balancing business, science and technology issues is remarkable and unique.'

New President and CEO at Neurogenetics

Neil Kurtz has been appointed as President and CEO of Neurogenetics (San Diego, CA, USA). He joins Neurogenetics from Ingenix Pharmaceutical Services, where he served as President and a member of the Executive Board. He has also held senior positions at Merck, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Bayer and Knoll, and was co-founder of Worldwide Clinical Trials in 1995. William T. Comer, Chairman of Neurogenetics, welcomed Kurtz to the company: 'We are delighted that Neil joins Neurogenetics at this time when the company is poised to make rapid strides in Alzheimer's disease drug discovery research.'

New informatics appointment at Morphochem US

Brian R. Bullard has been appointed Vice President for Informatics at Morphochem US (Monmouth Junction, New Jersey, USA). He will report to the company's

President, Eric M. Eastman. Bullard has 18 years of industry experience, having previously held executive positions with PE Informatics, Gene Logic, Science and Technology Corporation and, most recently, AxCell Biosciences. 'Brian Bullard is an outstanding executive with extensive experience and a rare perspective on how to integrate informatics and computational biology into the drug discovery process,' commented Eastman. 'He is a strong addition to our management team as we continue to develop our chemical genomics platform and integrate our bioinformatics and cheminformatics capabilities', he enthused.

Vertex creates new post for N. Anthony Coles

Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc. (Cambridge, MA, USA) has announced the appointment of N. Anthony Coles to the newly created position of Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations – Pharmaceutical Products. He will lead marketing and commercialization activities for Vertex's portfolio of drug candidates. Before joining Vertex, Coles was Senior Vice President of Strategy and Policy at Bristol-Myers Squibb. 'This represents an important asset to Vertex at this stage in the company's development', said Vicki Sato, Vertex's President. 'In particular, Tony's experience in driving the global launch of major products such as Plavix® will provide strong direction for the commercialization of Vertex's product pipeline.'

Joseph Miletich joins Amgen

Joseph P. Miletich has joined Amgen (Thousand Oaks, CA, USA) as Senior Vice President, Research and Preclinical Development. He will direct the company's drug discovery efforts in basic research, as well as preclinical development activities for clinical trials and regulatory filings worldwide. Miletich will report to Roger Perlmutter, Executive Vice President, R&D. 'Dr Miletich is an internationally recognized biochemist with a keen grasp of the complexity of drug discovery,' said Perlmutter. 'In appointing Joe, we are bringing formidable scientific leadership to the Amgen discovery and development group,' he concluded. Miletich joins

Amgen from a similar role at Merck Research Laboratories and has also held positions at the Washington University School of Medicine and the Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St Louis.

Neose Technologies names C. Boyd Clarke as President and CEO

Neose Technologies (Horsham, PA, USA), developers of technologies for the synthesis of complex carbohydrates, has announced the appointment of C. Boyd Clarke as President, CEO and Director. Clarke's last role was as Chairman and CEO of Aviron, which was recently acquired by Medimmune. Before that, he served in several roles for Merck & Co. and US Bioscience. 'It rapidly became clear that we needed a CEO with significant management and operations experience in companies of our size and larger,' commented Neose founder, Stephen Roth, 'Boyd is unquestionably that person.' Neose will remain as the company's Non-Executive Chairman of the Board, and will serve as a scientific advisor to Clarke.

Bristol-Myers Squibb award for cancer researchers

Two scientists who have profoundly influenced ovarian cancer treatment and research worldwide have received the 25th Bristol-Myers Squibb Award for Distinguished Achievement in Cancer Research. Robert C. Young and Robert F. Ozols shared a US\$50,000 cash prize, awarded at a dinner in their honour on 18 April 2002 in New York City. The pair were selected for the award by an independent committee of cancer researchers chaired by Nobel laureate Leland H. Hartwell, President of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center.

Young, President of Fox Chase Cancer Center, and Ozols, Senior Vice President, Medical Science at the same institution, established their successful collaboration while working at the National Cancer Institute. They were the first to demonstrate the efficacy of combination therapy for ovarian cancer, and were among the first to recognize the importance of platinum compounds in treatment of the disease. Subsequently, they developed a chemotherapy regimen now considered the standard for advanced ovarian cancer.

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