

People

Norton Peet named CEO of Aurigene

Norton Peet has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of Aurigene Discovery Technologies (<http://www.aurigene.com>), a post-genomic drug discovery company. He arrives from Arqule where, as Vice President of Discovery Alliances, he managed external alliances and built an internal drug discovery organisation. Before this he served as Head of Medicinal Chemistry and Distinguished Scientist at Aventis (<http://www.aventis.com>).

'Having led drug discovery in both large pharmaceuticals as well as focused drug discovery organisations, [Norton Peet] brings an important breadth of perspective that will be vital to the success of Aurigene as a partner organisation to other pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies,' said G.V. Prasad, Executive Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Dr Reddy's Laboratories (<http://www.drreddys.ru>), owners of Aurigene.

The initial focus of Aurigene will be to establish alliances with pharmaceutical companies for chemistry and protein services and other related drug discovery activities.

Georg Casari joins Cellzome from Lion Bioscience

Cellzome (<http://www.cellzome.com>) has appointed Georg Casari as Vice President of Informatics. His appointment will increase the company's ability to transform generated data into information it can use in its biology-based approach to drug discovery and development. Before joining Cellzome, Casari was Senior Vice President, Head of Life Science at Lion Bioscience AG (<http://www.lion-bioscience.com>), which he also co-founded. There he led the development and expansion of their information technology capabilities. Before this he served as a staff scientist at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL; <http://www.embl-heidelberg.de>) and the European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI; <http://www.ebi.ac.uk>) working in the area of high-throughput sequence analysis.

'We have generated a significant amount of novel experimental data around new and existing drug targets that need to be analysed,' said Charles Cohen, President and Chief Executive Officer of Cellzome.

'Dr Casari's strong background and expertise in bioinformatics will accelerate Cellzome's progress,' he said.

Screenotec appoints Gerard Dijkstra as CEO

Screenotec BV (<http://kiadis.com>), a spin-off company from the Leiden/Amsterdam Center of Drug Research (<http://www.pharm.leidenuniv.nl>), has announced the appointment of Gerard Dijkstra as Chief Executive Officer. Dijkstra, a former head of Biotechnology at Solvay Pharmaceuticals (<http://www.solvay.com>), brings with him more than 12 years experience in target discovery and selection, bioinformatics, computer-aided molecular design, combinatorial chemistry and HTS assay development.

'The company has developed an excellent technology platform, known as High Resolution Screening, which...has been optimised to rapidly identify new and 'patentable' drug leads against variable and orphan drug targets from complex mixtures of molecules,' said Dijkstra of Screenotec.

BioForce Nanosciences appoints new President and CEO

BioForce Nanosciences (<http://www.bioforcenano.com>), a developer of nanoarray molecular systems, has appointed Gary A. Alianell as President and Chief Executive Officer. Alianell, who was Chief Operating Position at EraGen (<http://www.era.com>), has twenty years of management and executive experience having worked with start-up companies such as Oxford Glycosciences (<http://www.ogs.com>) and Transgenomic (<http://www.transgenomic.com>), and was CEO at NucleoTech Corporation (<http://www.nucleotech.com>).

Ernest Mario appointed Chairman and CEO as IntraBiotics acquires Apothogen

Ernest Mario, founder of Apothogen, and other senior staff have joined their owner IntraBiotics (<http://www.intrabiotics.com>) as the company is purchased for 450,000 shares of common stock. Mario, who is appointed Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, has in turn purchased US\$5 million of IntraBiotics common stock in a private

placement transaction. 'IntraBiotics provides an excellent platform from which to build a multi-faceted commercial-stage biopharmaceutical company,' said Mario.

Before founding Apothogen last year Mario was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Alza Corporation (<http://www.alza.com>). He joined Alza in 1993 and transformed it from a developer and licensor of drug delivery technologies valued at approximately US\$1 billion into a full-fledged speciality pharmaceutical company that was sold to Johnson & Johnson (<http://www.jnj.com>) for US\$12 billion last year.

AstraZeneca President named 'Man of the Year'

David Brennan, President and Chief Executive Officer of AstraZeneca US (<http://www.astrazeneca-us.com>), has been named 'Man of the Year' by The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA; <http://www.cffa.org>). The award, presented at the 2002 Renaissance Ball fundraising event, was given in recognition of Brennan's dedication and commitment to the community and his demonstrated interest in, and concern, for those who suffer from Crohn's disease. Brennan is also credited with the successful launch of Entocort EC (budesonide), a treatment for people affected with mild-to-moderate active Crohn's disease involving the ileum and/or ascending colon.

Berkley applauds appointment of Feachem to Global AIDS fund

Seth F. Berkley, President and Chief Executive Officer of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (<http://www.iavi.org>), has applauded the appointment of Richard Feachem as Executive Director of the new Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (<http://www.globalfundatm.org>). In a statement released by Berkley, Feachem – a member of the IAVI's Board of Directors – is described as a 'wise and fair man whose vast experience will serve the Global Fund well as it navigates uncharted water', and who has 'proven himself a tireless advocate on behalf of combating HIV and AIDS, and other infectious diseases as well as helping those most disproportionately afflicted by them.'

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