

C. Dirk Steer, first author on the paper, commented: 'What's exciting about TUDCA, in addition to its remarkable anti-apoptotic quality, is that it's made in our own bodies and causes virtually no side effects when given as a drug. TUDCA may even have potential for treating other chronic neurodegenerative conditions such as Parkinson's,

Alzheimer's and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).'

- 7 Keene, C.D. *et al.* (2002) Tauroursodeoxycholic acid, a bile acid, is neuroprotective in a transgenic animal model of Huntington's disease. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* 99, 10671–10676
- 8 Keene, C.D. *et al.* (2001) Human bone marrow stem cells exhibit neural

phenotypes and ameliorate neurological deficits after grafting into the ischemic brain of rats. *Exp. Neurol.* 171, 351–360

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People

Caliper Technologies announces changes to its management team

The microfluidics company Caliper Technologies (<http://www.calipertech.com>) has revealed a new organizational structure and announced several new appointments. Michael Knapp will take on the role of Chief Executive Officer, whereas James L. Knighton has been appointed as President, with Daniel L. Kisner relinquishing these roles in favour of becoming Chairman of the Board. David Milligan, currently Chairman of the Board, will become Vice-Chairman.

Knapp, a co-founder of Caliper and currently Vice-President of Corporate Development, has previously served as President and Senior Director at Molecular Tool, a genetics technology company that he co-founded in 1988. As VP of Corporate Development at Caliper, Knapp configured the company's technology access program and drove the creation of partnerships with several important pharma and biotech companies. Knapp also co-founded Amphora Discovery group, a chemical genomics company that was spun out of Caliper with independent funding and management.

Knighton leaves his position as Executive Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer, where he has been responsible for raising ~US\$200 million in capital, as well as playing a key role in the formation and funding of Amphora. Previously, Knighton was Senior Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer at Sugan and before this held several management positions at Chiron Corp. Kisner, who before joining Caliper had served in several senior positions at Isis Pharmaceuticals, Abbott Laboratories and Smithkline Beecham, said: 'The joint leadership of Mike [Knapp] and Jim [Knighton] provides the ideal

combination of talents to take Caliper to the next stage of its corporate development.'

Trevor Nicholls moves to Affymetrix

Trevor Nicholls is to join Affymetrix (<http://www.affymetrix.com>) as Chief Commercial Officer, Global Operations. Nicholls was previously CEO of Oxagen, the clinical genomics company that he founded. Before setting up Oxagen (a spin-out company from Oxford University, UK) he was Commercial Director of the Life Science business of Amersham International. In this role he was involved in the company's move into the high-throughput sequencing and drug discovery markets. Nicholls has also been a management consultant with McKinsey and Co. and has held several sales and marketing posts in the diagnostic, radiopharmaceutical and chemical industries.

Susan S. Siegel, President of Affymetrix, commented: 'Trevor is an experienced executive with significant expertise in the Life Science industry and a demonstrated record of commercial success. His strengths in international commerce, technology and operations will be tremendous assets as Affymetrix continues to grow its business.'

Key management appointments at Evotec AOI

Evotec AOI (<http://www.evotec.com>) has announced several key management appointments. John Kemp has joined the company as Chief Executive Officer of Evotec Neurosciences (ENS), a subsidiary of Evotec OAI that focuses on Alzheimer's disease. Kemp joins the company with 18 years of research experience in CNS diseases, and was previously Vice President

and Head of Preclinical CNS Research at Hoffmann-La Roche. Sean Marett, Commercial Director at Evotec, has been promoted to Chief Business Officer and Member of the Management Board. Marett joined Evotec in April 2001 and has been responsible for many of the company's new partnership or extension contracts, including those with Merck and Co., Roche, Amgen, Pharmacia, Serono and Vertex. Before joining Evotec, Marett was Director of New Product Development, US Operating Division, at GlaxoSmithKline.

New Vice President of Drug Discovery at Structural GenomiX

Ian McDonald has been appointed as Vice President of Drug Discovery at Structural GenomiX (SGX; <http://www.stromix.com>), where he will head the Chemistry team and be responsible for directing the discovery of drug candidates both for partners and internal research programs.

McDonald has more than 24 years of experience in medicinal, combinatorial and analytical chemistry, and has held senior positions in biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies over the past 11 years. He joins SGX from Structural Bioinformatics (SBI) where he was Vice President of Drug Discovery. Before this, he was Vice President of Chemistry at Merck Research Laboratories (formerly SIBIA Neurosciences). Tim Harris, President and CEO at SGX, commented: 'Ian will play a critical role in the structure-guided drug discovery process at SGX...to leverage our structure determination technology for drug discovery and build upon our strategy in the areas of new target selection, drug candidate screening and lead optimization.'

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