

- 10 Paul-Clark, M.J. *et al.* (2002) Potent antiarthritic properties of a glucocorticoid derivative, NCX-1015, in an experimental model of arthritis. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* 99, 1677–1682

An immunological plus for GH therapy

Growth hormone (GH) therapy in elderly patients might increase the production of cells involved in fighting disease, suggest researchers from the University of Illinois (IL, USA) [11]. GH therapy is already known to reduce body fat and increase lean body mass in elderly patients, and some patients are now prescribed GH to counteract the effects of somatopause.

Somatopause is the aging-associated reduction in levels of plasma insulin-like growth hormone 1 (IGF-1), often to levels associated with GH-deficient children.

IGF-1 is released from the liver and local tissues following stimulation by GH, and is thought to be a key regulator of body growth, including muscle synthesis. The researchers either implanted synthetic GH-secreting pituitary epithelial cells or injected GH into aging rats and found that both approaches resulted in the stimulation of production of immunity-promoting haematopoietic cells in bone marrow, adrenal glands, liver and spleen. Production was accompanied by a complete reversal of fat-cell accumulation in the bone marrow, which usually fills the gaps left by the declining number of haematopoietic cells. The levels of production of these cells were threefold higher than those of similarly aged untreated rats, and 80% of those in the fitter, younger rats in the control group.

The results suggest that IGF-1 might be the crucial molecule that acts directly on

progenitor cells to promote haematopoiesis. Keith W. Kelley, lead investigator and Professor of Animal Science at the University of Illinois Laboratory of Immunophysiology also commented that: 'These results establish that a classic hormone, GH, is a potent stimulator of the production of blood cells', which is usually reduced dramatically in the elderly.

- 11 French, R.A. *et al.* (2002) Age-associated loss of bone marrow hematopoietic cells is reversed by GH and accompanies thymic reconstitution. *Endocrinology* 143, 690–699

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People

Two key appointments at Johnson & Johnson

William C. Weldon has been appointed as the new Chairman and CEO of Johnson & Johnson, while James T. Lenehan will be President of the company, in addition to his responsibilities as Vice-Chairman. They take over these roles from Ralph S. Larsen, who is currently Chairman and CEO, and Robert N. Wilson, who is currently Senior Vice-Chairman of the Board and Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee. These appointments are effective from 25 April 2002, the date of the next annual shareholders' meeting.

Both Weldon and Lenehan currently serve as Vice-Chairmen of the Board. Weldon leads the Pharmaceuticals Group and the Consumer Pharmaceuticals & Nutritionals Group, while Lenehan leads the Medical Devices & Diagnostics Group and the Consumer & Personal Care Group.

Weldon joined the company in 1971 as a sales representative at McNeil Pharmaceutical. He eventually became Executive Vice-President and Managing Director of McNeil, and then Managing Director of Ortho-Cilag Pharmaceutical. He then took up the post of Vice-President, Sales & Marketing for Janssen

Pharmaceutica and later became President of Ethicon Endo-Surgery where he then served as their Group Chairman and Worldwide Franchise Chairman. After this, he moved to being Executive Committee Member and Worldwide Chairman of the Pharmaceuticals Group and joined the company's Board of Directors in February 2001.

Lenehan joined the company in 1976 as Assistant Product Director in marketing at McNeil Consumer Healthcare Co. In 1990, he became President of McNeil and then was named Company Group Chairman and Worldwide Franchise Chairman for Consumer Pharmaceuticals and a member of the Consumer Group Operating Committee. He was later promoted to Executive Committee Member and Worldwide Chairman, Consumer Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Group and, in 1999, was named Worldwide Chairman, Medical Devices & Diagnostics Group. He joined the company's Board of Directors in February 2001.

Larsen will not be standing for re-election onto the Company's Board in April and will retire on 1 July 2002. Meanwhile, Wilson will stand for re-election in April 2001 but plans to retire from the company and its Board of Directors in April 2003.

John Pople chairs the Scientific Advisory Board of eXegenics

John A. Pople, 1998 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, has accepted the position of Chairman of eXegenics' (Dallas, TX, USA) Scientific Advisory Board. Pople is Trustee Professor of Chemistry at Northwestern University and was awarded the Nobel Prize for his pioneering work in the development and application of computational methods in quantum chemistry. This work is the foundation of eXegenics' proprietary drug creation methodology.

Prior to joining Northwestern University, Pople was a Professor of Chemical Physics at Carnegie-Mellon University. He has received several awards including the Pauling Award, the Wolf Prize, the Marlow Medal from the Faraday Society, the Davy Medal (from the Royal Society, UK) and the Award for Computers in Chemistry (from the American Chemical Society). He is a Fellow of the Royal Society and a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Science.

Tracy Tsuetaki leaves Kaiser Permanente for Quintiles Transnational

Quintiles Transnational Corporation (Research Triangle Park, NC, USA) has announced the appointment of Tracy K.

Tsuetaki to the newly created position of Senior Vice-President, Global Business Development. Tsuetaki was previously Senior Vice-President, Strategic Planning and Consulting at Kaiser Permanente's California Division. He has also been a senior manager in Ernst & Young's Life Science Consulting Practice, Director of Business Development at Corning Pharmaceutical Services (now Covance), and Executive Director of Project Management for Ciba-Geigy's Vision Care Group (now Novartis). Pam Kirby, CEO of Quintiles Transnational commented that: 'Tracy has a rare combination of leadership skill, customer knowledge and strategic planning expertise – all of which are necessary to lead our global business development efforts.'

New VP, R&D at Diversys

Kevin Moulder has been appointed as Vice-President of R&D at Diversys (Cambridge, MA, USA). Moulder spent the past seven years working for Biogen, most recently as Senior Director of Medical Research, where he was responsible for managing predictive medicine, clinical biochemistry, bioanalytical sciences and bioinformatics. He was also responsible for managing the company's collaborations in pharmacogenomics and proteomics. Prior to Biogen, Moulder worked at SmithKline Beecham (now GlaxoSmithKline) and Ares Advanced Technology, where he was responsible for the identification of new therapeutic targets and drug discovery. Robert Connelly, CEO of Diversys, commented: 'Kevin brings to Diversys a long track record of building and managing large scientific organizations, as well as success developing new technologies and new drug candidates. He will be responsible for both activities within Diversys.'

Teicher leads antiangiogenesis program at Genzyme Molecular Oncology

Genzyme Molecular Oncology (Framingham, MA, USA) has appointed Beverly A. Teicher to lead their antiangiogenesis program, and to direct the company's research efforts within its partnership with Kirin Brewery Co. Teicher will also have a key role in developing additional partnerships in antiangiogenesis. Teicher joins the company from tenures as a cancer researcher at Lilly Research

Laboratories, the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Gail Maderis, President of Genzyme Molecular Oncology, said: 'With our recently formed Kirin partnership around the development and commercialization of antibodies,...Beverly's extensive expertise in preclinical cancer research will be very beneficial in taking this program to a new, exciting level.'

New VP Business Development at Memory Pharmaceuticals

Memory Pharmaceuticals (Montvale, NJ, USA) has appointed Gardiner F.H. Smith to the position of Vice-President, Business Development. Gardiner joins the company from being Executive Director, Business Development at Human Genome Sciences. Prior to this, he held several positions at GlaxoWellcome, including Director of International Licensing and Patent Attorney. 'Gardiner brings an impressive track record of building successful strategic alliances, as well as in-depth knowledge of the biopharmaceutical industry, to Memory Pharmaceuticals,' said Tony Scullion, CEO of Memory Pharmaceuticals.

Nicholas G. Bacopoulos joins Aton Pharma

Nicholas G. Bacopoulos has joined Aton Pharma (Tarrytown, NY, USA) as CEO and President. He was previously President and Head of R&D at OSI Pharmaceuticals and has also served as President and CEO of Anaderm Research Corporation, which is majority-owned by Pfizer. Prior to this, he held several senior posts at Pfizer Central Research and Corporate Strategic Planning. 'His extensive experience with academic and industrial collaborations and his commitment to the introduction of targeted cancer therapies will be especially valuable,' commented Paul A. Marks, Vice-Chairman of Aton and Professor Emeritus of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Ann F. Hanham becomes Managing Director of Burrill & Co.

Burrill & Company (San Francisco, CA, USA) has promoted Ann F. Hanham to the position of Managing Director. Prior to joining Burrill, she was Vice-President and co-founder of InterMune Pharmaceuticals. She was also previously Senior Director for

Oncology Product Development at Otsuka Pharmaceuticals, and Medical Director for Celtrix Pharmaceuticals. Hanham joins G. Steven Burrill, John Kim and Roger Wyse as senior investment professionals who will oversee and manage Burrill's various life science/biotech venture funds.

Ralph Kauten becomes Chairman and CEO of Quintessence Biosciences

Ralph Kauten has been appointed as Chairman and CEO of Quintessence Biosciences (Madison, WI, USA). He was previously Chairman and President of PanVera, which was acquired by Aurora. He has also previously been Vice-President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer at Promega Corp. Ron Raines, founder and interim-CEO of Quintessence Biosciences said: 'Ralph's extensive background in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, his broad experience in building and financing companies, and leading them to commercial development of products, will be instrumental in guiding the future of Quintessence Biosciences.'

Three management appointments at Scion Pharmaceuticals

Scion Pharmaceuticals (Medford, MA, USA) has appointed Rovert E. Zelle as Vice-President of Chemistry, Phillip M. Friden as Vice-President of Biology, and Aninda Katragadda as Vice-President of Finance and Administration. Zelle joins the company from Acusphere where he was Senior Director of Product Development and Regulatory Affairs. He is a medicinal chemist who previously also worked for Abbott Laboratories and Vertex Pharmaceuticals. He has discovered several preclinical and clinical candidates for the treatment of cancer, CNS, cardiovascular, anti-inflammatory and neurodegenerative disorders. Friden was previously Vice-President of R&D at Demegen, and has held management and scientific positions at Alkermes, where he was the founding scientist and principal researcher. Finally, Katragadda is a certified Public Accountant and has previously held positions with PriceWaterhouseCoopers and Vertex Pharmaceuticals.

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