

People

Appointments

CombinatoRx appoints Chief Medical Officer

Jan Lessem has been appointed Chief Medical Officer and Executive Vice President of Clinical Research by CombinatoRx (<http://www.combinatorx.com>). Lessem most recently served as Vice President of Clinical Research and Chief Medical Officer at OraPharma.

Commenting on his appointment, Lessem said, 'I am excited to join CombinatoRx at this juncture in its rapid evolution as a pharmaceutical company. There is a rather substantial portfolio of drug candidates in development and the clear potential for truly first-in-class new medicines'.

Prior to OraPharma, Lessem was VP of Drug Discovery at Takeda America Research and Development Center; his previous appointments include positions at Merck, Bristol-Myers, SmithKline Beecham and Syntex.

CombinatoRx is creating new combination medicines that attack disease on multiple fronts. The company has an impressive clinical and preclinical pipeline of novel agents, including treatments in development for cancer and rheumatoid arthritis.

Yoichi Nishinakamura joins Otsuka Maryland Research Institute as Chairman and CEO

Otsuka Maryland Research Institute (OMRI; <http://www.otsuka.com>) has announced the appointment of Yoichi Nishinakamura as Chairman and CEO of the US clinical research and development subsidiary of Otsuka America, a US holding company established by Otsuka Pharmaceutical (OPC).

Nishinakamura brings extensive experience in clinical research and development, pharmacovigilance and pharmaceutical product marketing, gained over the course of more than 30 years of employment with OPC in Japan.

Tatsuo Higuchi, President of OPC commented: 'We are very pleased that Mr. Nishinakamura has accepted the position of Chairman, CEO, President and COO of OMRI. Because of his background, experience and long-time career with Otsuka, I am confident

that he will prove to be highly effective in this important leadership role.'

OMRI is involved in conducting all phases of clinical research and development of innovative healthcare products to address unmet medical needs.

Ingenium appoints Klaus Dembowsky to Vice President Drug Discovery

Klaus Dembowsky, has joined Ingenium Pharmaceuticals AG (<http://www.ingenium-pharmaceuticals.com>) as Vice President Drug Discovery and will lead R&D activities, focusing on advancing Ingenium's internal drug discovery portfolio toward clinical testing.

Dembowsky has over 20 years experience in pharmaceutical R&D and academic research. Most recently, Dembowsky was Project Manager and Team Leader for the Bayer-Millennium target discovery collaboration at Millennium's facilities in Cambridge, MA, USA.

'Klaus brings to us the right mix of pharmaceutical development expertise, hands-on discovery and collaboration experience and valuable research focus in both the drug classes and therapeutic areas of primary importance,' commented Michael C. Nehls, CEO of Ingenium.

Ingenium Pharmaceuticals bases its business on generating the biological information critical to the discovery, validation and development of therapeutics. It has a portfolio of novel biological discoveries in the areas of inflammatory bowel disease, diabetes, obesity and neurobiology.

MedCath announces top level management changes

MedCath Corporation (<http://www.medcath.com>) has announced that John T. Casey has been named President and CEO of the Company and Charles R. Slaton has been named Executive Vice President and COO.

'John and Charlie make an outstanding addition to our management team,' said Stephen R. Puckett, Chairman of MedCath's Board of Directors. 'John understands MedCath and embraces the Company's mission having served on our board for the past three years. Moreover, he has demonstrated outstanding leadership, and

business and operational skills throughout his 30-year career in healthcare services.'

'Charlie also brings an outstanding record of accomplishment in the hospital industry, and he has worked closely with John in the past,' Puckett continued. 'Our board is very excited to have these two experienced healthcare professionals assuming key leadership roles.'

MedCath Corporation owns and operates hospitals in partnership with physicians, most of whom are cardiologists and cardiovascular surgeons. It provides cardiovascular care services in diagnostic and therapeutic facilities through mobile cardiac catheterization laboratories.

Awards

2003 Minkowski Prize awarded to Michael Stumvoll

Michael Stumvoll of Medizinische Universitätsklinik in Tübingen, Germany (<http://www.kliniken.de>), has been awarded the Minkowski Prize 2003 for his achievements in diabetes research. The prize is sponsored by Aventis (<http://www.aventis.com>) and was presented to Stumvoll in a ceremony at the 18th Congress of the International Diabetes Federation in Paris, France. The prize is awarded to a young European researcher in recognition of his or her contributions to the advancement of knowledge concerning diabetes.

Stumvoll has enhanced the knowledge and treatment of diabetes with several significant contributions in the past ten years. He has created techniques to assess the function and failure of beta cells in the pancreas of diabetics. The 'Stumvoll Indices' reveal the extent of insulin resistance and insulin release as determined by an oral glucose tolerance test. Other achievements include the discovery of gene polymorphisms that influence differentiation between lipid cells and beta cell insulin secretion, and hence the risk of type 2 diabetes.

Frank Douglas, Executive Vice President of Drug Innovation and Approval and a member of the Management Board of Aventis, said: 'Every day talented European investigators like Michael Stumvoll are uncovering new evidence that continues to expand our understanding of diabetes mellitus.'

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