update people

People

Vincent Gotz to join ProSanos

Vincent Gotz has been appointed as Senior Vice President, Business Solutions at ProSanos, the privately held biomedical informatics company (http://www.prosanos.com). Following an Associate Professorship and position as Associate Chairman in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Florida, Gotz made a move into the pharmaceutical industry. He held positions at Dura Pharmaceuticals and Merrell Dow, before joining Epicyte Pharmaceuticals as Vice President of Business Development. Most recently, he served as Chief Business Officer for GeneFormatics.

Jonathan Morris, President and CEO of ProSanos, commented that: 'Vince's extensive background gives him a profound understanding of the challenges faced by our clients in today's difficult markets. His expertise and talent are a valuable addition to our capabilities.'

New VP of Drug Discovery at Odyssey

Odyssey Thera (formerly Odyssey Pharmaceuticals: http://www. odysseythera.com) has announced the appointment of John Westwick as Vice President of Drug Discovery. Westwick will oversee the company's cancer drug discovery program. Before joining Odvssev, Westwick was Associate Director of Cell Signalling and Target Discovery at Celgene Corp. and Project Team Leader of new targets in its signal research division, while also holding an Adjunct Professorship at San Diego State University. He previously served as Group Leader and Project Team Leader at Signal Pharmaceuticals. Marnie MacDonald, President and CEO of Odyssey Thera, said: 'John's combined experience in cell biology and cancer drug discovery will help us achieve our goal of improving cancer drug discovery and, ultimately, developing new cancer therapies.'

Cellular Genomics announce new VP

Mark Velleca has been promoted to Vice President, Research and Preclinical Development at Cellular Genomics (CGI: http://www.cellulargenomics.com). Velleca is a clinical pathologist with more than 15 years of experience in biomedical research and clinical medicine. He was one of CGI's founding scientists, and has since played a leading role in the design and implementation of the company's scientific strategy for drug discovery and development. Before joining CGI, he was on the faculty of Yale Medical School, where he conducted postdoctoral research in cell biology and immunobiology. Velleca was an attending physician at Yale New Haven Hospital until 2002, and maintains an adjunct appointment at Yale University as Clinical Assistant Professor of Laboratory Medicine.

Louis Matis, President and CEO of CGI said: 'This highly merited promotion...reflects the expanded leadership role Mark will now assume as we advance our drug discovery initiatives into clinical development.'

New President and CEO for Kereos

Robert A. Beardsley is the new President and CEO for Kereos (http://www.kereos.com), a biotechnology company that develops targeted therapeutics and molecular imaging agents. He will also join the Board of Directors. Beardsley has a diverse background in life-sciences-related finance, management and technology. Before joining Kereos, he was acting CEO of MetaPhore Pharmaceuticals and has held several positions in biotechnology and life-science related firms, including bioStrategies Group, Vector Securities and Enzyme Organics. He was also a co-founder and is a managing member of Simile Investors and serves on the Board of Directors of BioSeek. Beardsley commented that: 'I am delighted to have the opportunity to lead the commercial development of this technology and move the company's initial products into the clinic.'

Mehmood Khan joins Takeda

Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America (TPNA; http://www.takedapharm.com),

a wholly owned subsidiary of Takeda Chemical Industries, has appointed Mehmood Khan as Vice President, Medical and Scientific Affairs. In this role he will be responsible for leading all aspects of TPNA's Medical and Scientific Affairs for existing and future products developed and marketed by the company.

Before joining TPNA, Khan served as Consultant Physician in Endocrinology at the Mayo Clinic and Director of the Diabetes, Endocrine and Nutrition Clinical Trials Unit in Mayo's division of Endocrinology. He has also served on numerous state and national committees of the American Diabetes Association, the Minneapolis Medical Research Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. Mark Booth, TPNA's President said: 'With more than 20 years of experience, Dr Khan brings a tremendous amount of both academic and clinical perspective to TPNA as well as a commitment to patient care. He will be a significant addition to our executive management team and provide great leadership for our Medical and Scientific Affairs department.

Gregory Phelps joins Ardais AS CEO

Ardais Corp., a clinical genomics company (http://www.ardais.com), has appointed Gregory D. Phelps as CEO. Phelps has more than 25 years of biotechnology and healthcare industry experience and 'a successful track record in building advanced biotechnology companies into large, successful businesses that have a significant impact on the industry and healthcare overall', according to Jeffrey Otten, Chairman of the Ardais Board of Directors. Before joining Ardais, Phelps most recently served as Vice Chairman of Dyax Corp., where he successfully executed more than 70 patent and technology licenses and where he remains a Director.

Previously, Phelps has held the positions of Executive Vice President of Genzyme Corporation, and prior to this, CEO at Zymogenetics and previously, Viagene. Phelps commented that: 'I believe that Ardais is poised for very rapid growth and I am delighted to be joining what is clearly a very accomplished executive team.'

People was written by Joanna Owens