

People

Appointments

PediaMed Pharmaceuticals appoints new VP

PediaMed Pharmaceuticals (<http://www.pediamedpharma.com>), a pharmaceutical company specializing in the health and wellbeing of children, has announced the appointment of Jon Bruss as Vice President, Clinical, Medical, Regulatory Affairs and Chief Medical Officer. Bruss will be responsible for overseeing clinical, medical and regulatory affairs for the company.

Bruss was formerly President and Founder of Alarus Development International, a consulting firm specializing in infectious disease and paediatric drug development. Before founding Alarus, Bruss was Clinical Program Director of Infectious Disease Clinical Research at Pfizer/Pharmacia.

Cameron Durrant, President of PediaMed, said: 'Dr Bruss has a proven track record of bringing drugs through development, including paediatrics. In his new role, Jon will be able to apply this expertise to PediaMed, helping us further develop our pipeline.'

PediaMed is devoted exclusively to the health of children and identifies, develops and markets prescription pharmaceutical medicines that improve the health and wellbeing of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.

New appointments at Chroma Therapeutics

Chroma Therapeutics has announced the appointments of Ian Nicholson as Chief Executive and Raj Parekh as Chairman.

Raj Parekh joins Chroma from Abingworth Management (<http://www.abingworth.com>), which is the lead venture capital provider to Chroma. Prior to joining Abingworth in 2003, Parekh was Founder and Chief Scientific Officer of Oxford Glycosciences, where he was responsible for the company's scientific and business development activities.

Parekh remarked: 'Chromatin biology is emerging as one of the most incisive and innovative areas of cancer drug discovery. Chroma is at the forefront of this field with a strong first mover advantage...'

Ian Nicholson, who joins Chroma from Celltech Group (<http://www.celltechgroup>),

where he is currently Director of Business Development, added: '...With its world-renowned scientific founders, experienced R&D management and exceptional Board of Directors, Chroma represents an outstanding opportunity. I am delighted to accept the position of CEO, and look forward to leading Chroma to clinical and commercial success.'

David Fiegat to join NDA Partners

NDA Partners (<http://www.ndapartners.com>), who provide strategic advisory services for mid-stage biopharmaceutical and medical device companies, has announced that David Fiegat is to join the company to develop and lead its medical devices and biologics practice areas.

Carl Peck, Chairman of NDA Partners, stated: 'Dr Fiegat is a very skilled, knowledgeable regulatory scientist with 12 years of executive experience in three FDA product centres. He will provide invaluable insight and guidance to our clients, who otherwise would be unable to afford or attract expertise of this calibre.'

Fiegat, who has a medical degree and a masters degree in public health, was previously on an extended tenure with the US FDA, where he served in senior leadership positions in all three of the FDA's medical product areas – medical devices, biologics and pharmaceuticals.

On his appointment, Fiegat said: 'There is great potential to develop therapeutics for diseases that are not common enough to create blockbuster drug markets. I have always been interested in making product development more efficient and predictable, and am looking forward to the opportunity to assist small and medium-sized pharmaceutical and device companies...'

Peter Buckel appointed CEO of Atugen AG

Atugen AG (<http://www.atugen.com>) has announced the appointment of Peter Buckel as Chief Executive Officer. Buckel brings extensive experience in both the pharma industry and the biotechnology sector. Previously, Buckel was co-founder and CEO of Xantos Biomedicine AG, before which he was Senior VP, Molecular Medicine, of Roche Diagnostics after spending approximately 20 years at Boehringer Mannheim.

Commenting on his new position, Buckel said: 'I look forward to working with Atugen at this exciting stage in its growth. The siRNA therapeutics programme is set to make strong progress based on the company's know-how and experience...'

The therapeutic siRNA programs of Atugen – the RNAi Therapeutics Company – are focused on *in vivo* studies in oncology and liver diseases, and exploit its proprietary oligonucleotide delivery technologies and chemically stabilized siRNA structures.

Awards

EMBL Director is honoured

Fotis C. Kafatos, the Director-General of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL; <http://www.embl-heidelberg.de>), has been awarded the prestigious German civil medal of honour, the Bundesverdienstkreuz 1. Klasse.

Kafatos has been presented this award in recognition of his significant contributions to the encouragement and stimulation of high-quality scientific research in the life sciences, in both Germany and Europe, during his time as Director-General of EMBL, a position to which he was appointed in 1993.

On receiving this honour, Kafatos said: 'It's a humbling experience to receive this award from the German government... This support is all the more important now, when EMBL must invest in a timely manner in order to address immense new challenges: to elucidate complex biological systems and to orient this understanding to the benefit of society.'

Kafatos also runs an active research laboratory and his scientific achievements make him a world-renowned expert in the area of malaria research. Kafatos was instrumental in establishing the international consortium that elucidated the mosquito genome sequence and developed novel approaches that resulted in the characterization of the genetic basis of the interaction between the malaria parasite and its carrier mosquito.

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