

discovery, development and commercialization of biomarkers for diagnostic and therapeutic applications in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), the fourth leading cause of death in the USA.

The combination of GenData's extensive longitudinal clinical treatment data and Battelle's signature technology in inhalation toxicology will afford the best-characterized population of COPD. In the future, it is hoped that this population can be used to elucidate the mechanisms of this disease and to identify the underlying genetic factors associated with COPD. Furthermore, the treatments that are currently available for COPD only afford temporary relief of the symptoms to the sufferer and GenData and Battelle are aiming to develop more-effective therapies for this disorder.

John Hoidal, Managing Director at GenData, commented: 'This is a great opportunity for us to leverage 20 years of clinical experience and genetic research to better understand the pathways

involved in the onset and progression of this deadly disease.'

Mark Gritz, Vice President of Battelle's Division of Health and Life Sciences, added: 'We are excited to bring Battelle's signature technologies in inhalation toxicology and bioanalytical methodology, as well as our development of experimental models of COPD, to expedite the development of new predictive diagnostic procedures and therapeutic regimes for prevention and more effective treatment of COPD.'

Announcement

Benitec settles infringement litigation against GenScript

Benitec (<http://www.benitec.com.au>) has announced the settlement of its pending patent infringement case against GenScript (<http://www.genscript.com>). The infringement dispute began when Benitec initiated suits against Nucleonics (<http://www.nucleonicsinc.com>), Ambion

(<http://www.ambion.com>) and GenScript to protect its RNAi gene silencing technologies.

As part of the settlement, GenScript has taken from Benitec a worldwide non-exclusive license to make and sell DNA-directed RNAi-based products (ddRNAi). This settlement completely resolves all claims asserted in the original dispute between Benitec and GenScript that was filed in the US District Court for the District of Delaware.

John McKinley, Chairman and CEO of Benitec, commented: 'I am pleased that we have again been able to settle an infringement dispute by the granting of non-exclusive license to GenScript. Based upon our expanding issued ddRNAi patent estate, we are committed through our licensing strategy to enable the widest use of ddRNAi in both products and research licenses to protect both Benitec and our ddRNAi licensees.'

Business was written by
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People

Appointments

Antares Pharma appoints Jack E. Stover as CEO and Director

Antares Pharma (<http://www.antareshpharma.com>), an emerging specialty pharmaceutical company, has announced the appointment of former President and Chief Operating Officer Jack E. Stover to the additional roles of CEO and Director.

Stover joined Antares from Sicor (<http://www.sicor.com>), where he was Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Prior to joining Sicor, Stover held various senior management and operating roles with proprietary and pharmaceutical and global medical device companies, and brings more than 15 years of relevant industry experience to his new appointment.

Commenting on his new responsibilities, Stover said: 'I am excited about the opportunity to utilize my skills in the generics, branded and medical device industries in leading Antares Pharma as it transitions to a market-oriented specialty pharmaceutical company.'

Jacques Gonella, Antares Pharma's Chairman, added: 'We are very confident that Mr Stover's prior experience will provide the guidance and leadership the company needs as it continues its rapid evolution as a specialty pharma business.'

John Sperzel joins Axis-Shield as President of US operations

Axis-Shield (<http://www.axis-shield.com>), the *in vitro* diagnostics company, has announced the appointment of John Sperzel as President of Axis-Shield USA. The US division of Axis-Shield is currently being established, with its key responsibility being the development of the presence of the company in the US point-of-care market. In his new appointment, Sperzel will concentrate on strengthening the company to manage and support a network of distributors to serve the physician's office laboratory market for Axis-Shield's point-of-care products.

Sperzel joins Axis-Shield from Bayer Diagnostics, where he was Vice President of World Wide Marketing and Business Development for Near Patient Testing.

Sperzel has previously worked for several major diagnostic companies in the USA and brings extensive experience in the marketing of point-of-care in the USA and internationally to his new position.

'We are very pleased to have been able to attract someone of John's caliber to this important position,' remarked Svein Lien, Axis-Shield's CEO, on Sperzel's appointment. 'We look forward to seeing our new company generate substantial growth for our pioneering AFINION point-of-care system in this key marketplace.'

Awards

Reid Coleman awarded 2004 AMDIS Award for Achievement in Applied Medical Informatics

Reid Coleman, Chief Medical Informatics Officer at Lifespan (<http://www.lifespan.org>), has been recognized by the Association of Medical Directors of Information Systems (AMDIS) for his pioneering work in implementing computerized physician order entry (CPOE) at the company. As the physician

leader at Lifespan, Coleman oversaw a wide-scale deployment of Siemens INVISION® CPOE. Today, 80% of physician orders are computerized at the system's flagship hospital in Providence (RI, USA).

'Much of our success can be contributed to strong internal collaboration between the IT department and our physician community,' remarked Coleman. 'It's incredibly important to build trust and mutual respect between the two groups for a CPOE deployment to be successful.'

Donald Rucker, Chief Medical Officer at Siemens Medical Solutions (<http://www.medical.siemens.com>), commented: 'This is a tremendous accomplishment for Dr Coleman and for the entire Lifespan organization. With less than five percent of the nation's hospitals up and running on CPOE, Lifespan is among the clinical informatics leaders in healthcare, and we certainly salute them on the success they've had with our INVISION® product.'

ADMIS is a non-profit organization with 1200 physician members from areas including healthcare systems, managed care organizations and clinics that are

dedicated to the promotion, development and sharing of information between physicians that are responsible for organizational leadership in information technology.

International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology honors Hugh H. Tilson

Hugh H. Tilson is the first recipient of the Honorary Lifetime Award of the International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology (IPSE), the highest recognition of the IPSE. Tilson, Clinical Professor of Epidemiology and Health Policy and Senior Advisor to the Dean of the University of North Carolina (<http://www.unc.edu>), was awarded the Society's Distinguished Service Award in 2002.

As well as being the author and/or editor of over 150 published articles, abstracts, book chapters and monographs, Tilson is a renowned clinician who is recognized for his academic and medical accomplishments, particularly in the fields of preventative medicine and public

health. Tilson has had a distinguished career in academia and public service, including the US military and as a consultant to Federal agencies, and has also held senior positions in the pharmaceutical industry.

Thomas Macdonald, who presented Tilson with the award, noted Tilson's 'years of leadership, service, enthusiasm and countless contributions to the Society.' Today, Tilson continues to act as a consultant in pharmacoepidemiology and pharmacoeconomics and remains a leader in numerous professional and academic societies.

IPSE is a member-driven, non-profit forum of healthcare professionals that are dedicated to the open and global exchange of scientific information. The Society is also an advocate in the fields of pharmacoepidemiology and therapeutic risk management for the development of policy among academia, government and industry.

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So – how are we doing?

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