People

Appointments

Clifford Kalb appointed as Vice President of Market Development for Life Sciences at Wood Mackenzie

Wood Mackenzie (http://www.woodmac.com), a leading provider of global life sciences information, advisory services and knowledge-based consulting, has announced that industry expert Clifford Kalb has joined the company as a Vice President in the Life Sciences practice. Kalb joins Wood Mackenzie with over thirty years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry, including senior positions at Merck, Marion Labs, Pfizer and Hoffmann La Roche.

Commenting on Kalb's appointment, Jim Hall, Life Sciences President, said: 'Cliff Kalb brings a wealth of expertise and experience to Wood Mackenzie's executive team. His recent role heading up Merck's strategic business analysis group, combined with his acute understanding of the issues facing the industry, will be a valuable asset'.

Integrated Pharmaceuticals appoints Hermann Opperman as Vice President, Biologics Development

Integrated Pharmaceuticals (IntePharm; http://www.intepharm.com), a development stage biotechnology company focusing on the development of efficient manufacturing programs for therapeutics for the treatment of degenerative, immunodeficiency and infectious diseases, has announced the appointment of Hermann Oppermann as its Vice President of Biologics Development. Oppermann joins IntePharm as the company plans to begin manufacturing in its newly built cGMP facility in Fitchburg, MA, USA.

Chinmay Chatterjee, Chairman and CEO of Intepharm, commented: 'Dr Oppermann is a premier scientist in the research community…we look forward to the value he will provide to our process development research team as we strive to remain at the forefront of process research, and the discovery and development of cost-effective manufacturing technologies for therapeutic compounds.'

Oppermann previously held senior scientific positions at several companies, including Stryker Biotech, Creative Biomolecules and Genentech and prior to this conducted postdoctoral research at the University of California in the laboratory of Nobel Laureates Michael Bishop and Harold Varmus.

Awards

Wyeth oncology researchers awarded Heroes of Chemistry award

Five oncology researchers who led Wyeth's (http://www.wyeth.com) development of Mylotarg® (gemtuzumab ozogamicin), the first antibody-targeted chemotherapy, have been awarded the prestigious Heroes of Chemistry Award from the American Chemical Society (ACS). The ACS presents this award annually to highlight the contributions of industrial chemists and chemical engineers whose work has led to the successful development and commercialization of a product that has improved human health and well-being.

Drs George Ellestad, Philip Hamann, Parimal Desai, Donald Miller and Janis Upeslacis were selected for their leadership for the discovery and development of Mylotarg®, a recombinant humanized antibody that was approved by the US FDA under accelerated approval for the treatment of patients with relapsed CD33-positive acute myeloid leukemia (AML). This represented a significant advance in the treatment of AML and the first drug specifically approved to treat relapsed AML patients.

Commenting on the award, Charles Casey, ACS President, said: 'The chemical advances made by all of our heroes serve as testimonials to the valuable role chemists, chemical engineers and allied scientists play in improving lives.' Robert Ruffolo, President, Wyeth Research, said ' While it is recognized that many scientists contributed to the innovation Myoltarg® represents, the efforts of these five scientists stood out and significantly impacted the successful development of Mylotarg®.'

Mylotarg® was developed by Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, and subsequently licensed to Wyeth. The drug is a recombinant humanized antibody linked with a potent anti-tumor antibiotic called calicheamicin, isolated by Wyeth researchers from a clay soil sample. The antibody portion of Mylotarg® binds specifically to the CD33 antigen, a glycoprotein commonly expressed by myeloid leukemic cells.

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