

initiative to the next stage of discovery... through smarter use of innovative genomics technologies.'

Aventis is dedicated to treating and preventing disease by discovering and developing innovative prescription drugs and human vaccines; Avalon uses forward chemical genomics-based methods to accelerate the discovery of novel targets and drugs.

Cenix Bioscience and Bayer Healthcare AG

Cenix Bioscience (<http://www.cenix-bioscience.com>) have announced a research collaboration with Bayer

Healthcare (<http://www.bayer.com>) to screen all known human druggable genes using RNA interference (RNAi) techniques, to identify and validate new therapeutic drug targets for several disease indications.

Using cell-based assays co-developed with Bayer research teams, Cenix will apply its proprietary genome-based HTS RNAi platform to >6000 genes in less than 9 months.

Christophe Echeverri, CEO and Chief Scientific Officer of Cenix, said: 'Having launched these HT-RNAi research offerings... after years of careful R&D, we have been particularly gratified by the overwhelming market interest, of which this agreement represents a first, important milestone.'

The project will make use of the genome-wide library of siRNA molecules designed by Cenix using its industry-leading algorithms. Cenix is a leader in genome-based HT applications of RNAi for the discovery and validation of new therapeutic drug targets. Bayer Healthcare is an innovator in the healthcare and medical products industry with products aiming to enhance quality of life by diagnosing, preventing and treating disease.

Business was written by *Joanne Clough*

People

Appointments

Adenosine Therapeutics announces two appointments

The appointment of two senior executives and officers has been announced by Adenosine Therapeutics (<http://www.adenosinetherapeutics.com>). William S. Gray joins the company as Vice President of Licensing and Secretary and Shannon Williams joins as VP of Regulatory Affairs and Clinical Development.

Robert S. Capon, CEO and co-founder of Adenosine Therapeutics, said: 'We are very pleased to add such seasoned executives to our company. Gray in his role as outside counsel and Secretary has been a major contributor to our success in negotiating favourable licensing agreements to date. Williams' significant experience in pharmaceutical product development will help us effectively and efficiently navigate the drug development and regulatory approval process.'

NaPro appoint new VP

NaPro Therapeutics (<http://www.naprobio.com/therapeutics/>) has appointed Anne Bailey as Vice President of Diagnostics and Reagents and General Manager of its Genomics Division. NaPro Therapeutics is a life science company focused on the

development of targeted therapies for the treatment of cancer and hereditary disease.

Before joining NaPro, Ms Bailey served as Vice President of Diagnostics at Variagenics and in a managerial career spanning 25 years, has also held positions at Avitech Diagnostics, Photest Diagnostics and Metpath. On her appointment, Ms Bailey said: 'I believe there is a wealth of untapped commercial value for both therapeutic and diagnostic applications for NaPro's gene editing technology. I look forward to participating in the commercialization of this unique platform technology.'

Leonard P. Shaykin, Chairman and CEO of NaPro, commented that: 'We are delighted to have a manager of Anne Bailey's strong background and experience joining us at this time in our Genomics Division.'

New CSO for Entelos

Entelos, a company that specializes in systems biology to identify and validate targets (<http://www.entelos.com>), has announced the appointment of Mikhail Gishizky as Chief Scientific Officer.

Before joining Entelos, Gishizky was Vice President of Target Discovery at SUGEN/Pharmacia, where he was responsible for establishing their human cancer genetics program. Gishizky did his

postdoctoral training at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) working on cancer biology and haematopoietic cell development, during which time he was part of the team that demonstrated the causative role of bcr-abl in chronic myeloid leukaemia.

'This is an exciting time for Entelos and the pharmaceutical industry', said Gishizky, 'I look forward to leading the outstanding team at Entelos and delivering exceptional research to our partners and internal programs.'

Georgia Cancer Coalition announce new President

William J. Todd has been approved as President of the Georgia Cancer Coalition (GCC; <http://www.georgiacancer.org/>), effective immediately. The GCC's mission is to build on Georgia's assets in cancer research, treatment and early detection and prevention to eventually eradicate the disease.

Under Todd's direction, the GCC will implement a strategic plan to further establish itself as a leader in the fight against cancer. The GCC Board of Directors also appointed several new members and representatives from medical schools in Georgia. Todd said that he was 'honoured to serve Georgia and the Georgia Cancer Coalition as President. The GCC has done so much for Georgia', he continued, 'In addition to saving lives, it has garnered national attention as a model for other state cancer efforts.'

Awards

Tripes award goes to Cancer Research UK

Cancer Research UK (<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/>) is the European winner of the Tripes Hits-to-Leads award program. The program supports the rapid identification of drug candidates by providing compounds, proprietary screening software and a customized data analysis report, and is normally awarded to emerging biotechnology companies. However, on this occasion, the winning proposal came from the charitable sector.

Cancer Research UK is the world's largest independent cancer charity and has several exciting drug discovery and development programmes. The Tripes award – of 50,000 compounds and data analysis software – will be extremely valuable as the charity embarks on an expensive and challenging area of research.

Nigel Westwood, Cancer Research UK's Compound Collection Manager, said: 'We intend to screen Tripes' diverse compounds against our novel biological targets and to make more informed research decisions with the benefit of the state-of-the-art chemoinformatics that are part of this award.' Depending on the scope of application, the awards are estimated to be worth ~US\$80,000 each.

Acambis President awarded OBE

Gordon Cameron, President and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Acambis (<http://www.acambis.com>) is to be invested as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in recognition of services to the British biotechnology industry in the USA.

Cameron joined Acambis in 1996 as CFO and in March 2001 was appointed as President, when he relocated from Cambridge, UK to Cambridge, MA, USA

to manage Acambis' expanding US operations. During this time he was instrumental in Acambis winning a major contract to manufacture and supply the US government with more than 200 million doses of smallpox vaccine. He also oversaw a successful programme to reactivate the company's own manufacturing facility in Carlton, MA, USA.

Before joining Acambis, Cameron qualified as a chartered accountant with Ernst & Young and then spent six years as an investment banker in London, during which time he advised Acambis on its listing on the London Stock Exchange in 1995. On his appointment, Cameron commented: 'I am delighted and personally very honoured to be awarded an OBE.'

People was written by *Joanna Owens*

Our new Monitor section...

Our updated **Monitor** section brings you the hottest developments in the fields of medicinal chemistry, antiviral and antitumour molecules, combinatorial chemistry and drug delivery. In addition, this section now also incorporates **News in brief** and **People**, and includes a new **Business** section, detailing new launches and collaborations.

This section now includes hot topics from recent publications in the fields of genomics and proteomics, neuroscience, gene therapy, cancer biology, new targets and mechanisms, bioinformatics, as well as business developments, new appointments and awards.

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the new look **Monitor**, please contact Steve Carney (s.carney@elsevier.com) or Joanne Clough (j.clough@elsevier.com).