

Business

Collaborations

Beyond Genomics and AstraZeneca: systems biology and predictive toxic

Beyond Genomics (BG; <http://www.beyondgenomics.com>) has entered into a pilot agreement with AstraZeneca (AZ; <http://www.astrazeneca.com>) to apply its systems biology expertise to the area of predictive toxicity.

Beyond Genomics will use its proprietary Systems Biology platforms and Biosystematics™ informatics tools to analyze and integrate transcript, protein and metabolite data in a study designed to discover biomarkers of drug-inducing toxicity.

Muz Mansuri, Executive Chairman of Beyond Genomics, explained: 'By partnering with AstraZeneca... in the important area of toxicology, we can demonstrate that BG's Systems Biology approach delivers critical knowledge that can be applied to reduce development costs and advance drugs with improved safety profiles.'

Beyond Genomics is an emerging biotechnology company that applies its proprietary systems biology platforms to develop novel therapeutics and biomarkers.

Boehringer Ingelheim in multi-target drug discovery collaboration with Morphochem

Morphochem (<http://www.morphochem>) has entered into a collaboration with Boehringer Ingelheim (<http://www.boehringer-ingelheim.com>), where Morphochem will apply its drug discovery engine MOREsystem™ to the discovery and optimization of novel structures with activity against several undisclosed novel human targets.

Peter Seuffer-Wasserthal, Vice President, Business Development, at Morphochem, commented: 'We are very pleased to collaborate with Boehringer Ingelheim and to contribute towards their drug discovery and development programs. This collaboration endorses the value of our novel approach. Compounds can be checked for fit with a target and then further refined using evolutionary algorithms so that potential drug candidates can be pre-optimized for biological activity and drug potential before synthesis is started.'

Opening

First German modelling and simulation centre opens

The first German centre for modelling and simulation in the life sciences (BIOMS) has opened in Heidelberg. At this new centre, complex biological processes will be studied *in vivo*, *in vitro* and *in silico*.

This joint project involves: the German Cancer research Center, EML Research (the research institute of the Klaus Tschira Foundation), EMBL, the Max Planck Institute of Molecular research and the University of Heidelberg.

The Klaus Tschira Foundation provides 2.5 million Euros to finance one-third of the Centre; another third comes from the state of Baden-Württemberg, while the rest is contributed by the university and the participating research institutes. Funding is assured for 5 years.

Business was written by
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People

Appointments

Iceland Genomics appoints new President and CEO

Iceland Genomics Corporation (IGC; <http://www.uvs.is>) has appointed Dana B. Hosseini as President and Chief Executive Officer. Hosseini has also been designated a member of their Board of Directors. IGC is a biopharmaceutical company dedicated to using the unique advantages of the Icelandic population in the search for new weapons against cancer.

Prior to his appointments at IGC, Hosseini served as Vice President, Business Development for Cynthelect, and Director,

Business Development at Sequenom. On his appointment, Hosseini commented: '...IGC is the only company that I know of that can use a true population approach to understanding the genetic causes of cancer as they relate to clinical outcomes. We are well positioned to discovery.'

Robert Wessman, Chairman of IGC, said: 'Dana Hosseini is an outstanding executive who has gained a wealth of experience helping small biotechnology companies manage the change from a R&D organization to a commercial, revenue-generating organization through collaborations and partnerships. We believe Dana will be instrumental in accelerating Iceland Genomic's

growth and developing a sustainable profitable business.'

Elma S. Hawkins appointed President and CEO of ADVR

Advanced Viral Research Corporation (ADVR; <http://www.adviral.com>) has appointed Elma S. Hawkins as President and CEO. She will also continue to serve on the Board of Directors, a position she has held since December 2003.

Hawkins was most recently Vice Chairman of Antigenics, before which she served in several senior positions in corporate development, strategic planning, and regulatory and clinical affairs at

Genzyme and Genzyme Tissue Repair. She has over 20 years of business, management, regulatory and scientific expertise in the pharma and biotech industries.

Eli Wilner, Chairman of ADVR, commented: '... with her valuable combination of scientific, drug development and business expertise, Dr Hawkins is the ideal candidate to lead ADVR.'

ADVR researches, develops and brings to market new and effective therapies for viral and other diseases.

Vincent Gullo joins Cetek as VP, Drug Discovery

Cetek Corporation (<http://www.cetek.com>) has announced the appointment of Vincent Gullo as VP, Drug Discovery. Gullo joins Cetek from Schering-Plough Research Institute where, as Senior Director, he led the search for new lead compounds in oncology, infectious

diseases, allergy, immunology, cardiovascular and CNS areas.

'I am very pleased to be joining the Cetek team, said Gullo. 'The combination of Cetek's proprietary CE Assay™ technology with an industrialized natural product platform presents a great opportunity to discover preclinical compounds in important therapeutic areas.'

Cetek is a drug discovery company with expertise in finding novel, patentable compounds with drug-like properties from natural extracts. Dallas Hughes, Senior VP, Technology, at Cetek, said: 'Vince brings a tremendous wealth of industry knowledge and drug discovery experience related to natural products at Cetek.'

Alexion Pharmaceuticals appoints VP and CFO

Carsten Boess has been appointed to Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, a newly

created position, at Alexion Pharmaceuticals (<http://www.alexionpharm.com>). Boess joins Alexion from Novo Nordisk International Operations, where he most recently held the position of VP of Finance.

David Keiser, Alexion's President and CEO, said: 'Carten's extensive experience... in all areas of accounting and finance within the pharmaceutical industry will be a tremendous asset to our organization as we move into the next phases of Alexion's development and prepare for operating in a product revenue generating environment.'

Alexion is engaged in the discovery and development of therapeutic products aimed at treating patients with a wide array of disease states, including cardiovascular and autoimmune disorders, inflammation and cancer.

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Contributions to *Drug Discovery Today*

Drug Discovery Today publishes topical information on all aspects of drug discovery – molecular targets, lead identification, lead optimization and associated technologies, drug delivery, gene therapy, vaccine development and clinical trials – together with overviews of the current status of compound classes and approaches in specific therapeutic areas or disease states. Areas of pharmaceutical development that relate to the potential and viability of drug candidates are also included, as are those relating to the strategic, organizational and logistic issues underlying pharmaceutical R&D.

Authors should aim for topicality rather than comprehensive coverage. Ultimately, articles should improve the reader's understanding of the field addressed and should therefore assist in the increasingly important decision-making processes for which drug discovery and development scientists are responsible.

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