EUFEPS

NEWS Letter

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PROGRESS REPORT

EUFEPS Brainstorm Workshop on Safety Sciences

Earlier input from skilled safety scientists is much needed to increase the efficiency of drug development. This workshop, held in Brussels, Belgium on April 2nd and 3rd 2004, was a move by the EUFEPS Committee of Industrial Relations (CIR) towards addressing this need.

Background

Despite steadily increasing investment, lots of unexplored drug targets and screening of huge chemical libraries, fewer new medicines are surviving through development to reach the market. Recently (EUFEPS Newsletter, March 2003), CIR suggested that integration of Safety Sciences into the selection of candidates for drug development would increase attrition early and reduce the numbers of expensive failures late in development. Therefore the workshop intended to;

- Define the ideal safety scientist profile
- Describe options for education and training
- Recommend actions to meet the needs in Europe

The Ideal Profile of a Safety Scientist

Safety Sciences, a renaming of the old discipline of toxicology, comprise chemical and biological safety with aspects of bio-terrorism. Looking at chemical safety, it covers all the scientific disciplines involved in the hazard and the risk assessments of chemicals. The present workshop focused on the specific needs in relation to drug development, i.e. pharmaceutical products (chemical entities and excipients) in animal species and man.

The future Safety Scientist will have to integrate knowledge accumulated from numerous safety-relevant disciplines such as primary and secondary pharmacology, ADME, physical chemistry, pathology, cytology, animal and clinical toxicology as well as functional genomics. It is a substantial challenge for an individual scientist to combine so much knowledge with skilful project teamwork, throughout Discovery and Development.

Education and Training

Higher education in Europe does not produce enough safety scientists with this ideal profile. A revival of the prestige associated with research-based safety disciplines is needed to make Safety Sciences a visible and attractive area of specialization.

It would be best to introduce Safety Sciences into undergraduate (bachelor level) courses in the biomedical sciences. Thereafter postgraduate training should lead to a Ph.D. or at least a Masters level qualification in Safety Sciences. This training should be based in revitalized Departments of Toxicology, Schools of Veterinary Science or Schools of Pharmacy, in close collaboration with industry. An important element of higher education may be a European Diploma of Safety Sciences, based on a new pan-European curriculum.

Introductory Speakers of Safety Sciences Brainstorm Workshop: Rolf Bass, Ole J Bjerrum, Jean-Roger Claude, Fergal J Donnelly, André Laurent Parodi and Helmut Sterz.

Recommended Actions

- Follow up the current initiative with surveys on needs for Safety Science. EUFEPS and EUROTOX will contact Safety Science directors in the pharmaceutical industry and regulatory authorities.
- Identification of a series of Centers of Excellence in Europe to establish better collaboration in Safety Science research, linked to educational and training responsibilities.
- A pan-European curriculum for Safety Science should be developed, expressing a more holistic view.
- Reestablishment of university-based Masters-level education in Safety Science, involving new chairs and Ph.D. studentships.
- Establish a European network of Safety Scientists and students, based on integrated technological platforms supported by industry, academia and regulatory agencies
- Publicize the safety science dilemma.

Conclusion

The complexity of Safety Science in the drug development process is too great to be covered by a single workshop. But, as the results obtained from the four sessions of this workshop suggest, an EU-supported effort by industry, academia and regulatory authorities may be the most appropriate means of setting new European standards in this important aspect of drug development.

A full report will be published on www.eufeps.org early in July 2004 and subsequently sent to the European Commission

Acknowledgements

Many thanks go to the workshop participants from academia, regulatory bodies and industry across Europe. We are grateful for the financial support of Pfizer.

Peter Williams
Editor EUFEPS Newsletter

FP6 support to EUFEPS coordinated workshop for creation of a technological platform for drug development

As a result of input through the New Safe Medicines Faster initiative, the European Commission has decided to improve the exploitation of the combined research base of academia, regulatory agencies, established pharmaceutical industry and biotech small/medium enterprises (SMEs). The improvements should allow a continuous delivery of new safe medicines to Europe's citizens and, equally important, allow the European pharma industry to compete with the rest of the world.

A "Workshop on creation of bio-pharmaceutical development platform with involvement of biotech SMEs" was announced as a specific support action in the second call under the 6th Framework Programme (FP6).

The consortium

EUFEPS took the initiative to establish a consortium by invitation of a broad range of stakeholders. The following 6 organizations responded:

1 EUFEPS - European Federation for Pharmaceutical Sciences (Ole J. Bjerrum)
2) EBE/EFPIA - Emerging Biopharmaceutical Enterprises/European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associates (Wills Hughes-Wilson)
3) ECRIN - European Clinical Research Infrastructures Networks (Jacques Demotes)
4) EUROTOX (Jürg P. Seiler)
5) EFMC - European Federation of Medicinal Chemistry (Ferran Sanz)
6) University of Cyprus (Andriani Odysseos)

The evaluation

The application was sent to the European Commission on November 10th, 2003 and was positively evaluated (with a total score of 22 out of 25 points) in May 2004.

Objectives for the project

The objectives for the workshop will be:

- To emphasize the complete development process of biopharmaceuticals, from idea to established pharmacotherapy.
- To gather stakeholders of various disciplines of the drug development process together with the users of new medicines, with the purpose of establishing cooperation, coordination and collaboration.
- To identify those needs, which are crucial for biotech SMEs, in downstream drug development, know-how and technological skills.
- To conceive a platform for pharmaceutical and medical expertise, based on a professional technological view. This must embrace industrial companies, academia, learned societies, governmental agencies, regulatory authorities, ethics committees, patient organisations, funding bodies and investors.
- To explore how such a European technological platform on drug development could be developed, financed and managed in a viable way to obtain new safe medicines faster.

The objectives of the post-workshop period will be:

- To actively disseminate workshop conclusions and recommendations to potential platform participants.
- To encourage further participation.
- To collect feedback for further review and assessment.

We have set ambitious goals for our endeavour but the rewards, for the prosperity of the pharmaceutical sciences in Europe, are correspondingly high. On basis of a grant of € 225,000 from the Commission, it should be possible to move the process forward.

When and where the workshop will take place depends on specific contract negotiations with the Commission which are ongoing. Interested parties may contact the EUFEPS Secretariat (secretariat@eufeps.org).

Prof. Ole J. Bjerrum
Workshop organizer

Nov. 16th 2004; Deadline for Third Call to FP6

In the last issue of the EUFEPS Newsletter, we published topics included in the third call to Framework Programme 6 of the European Commission, under the title "Time to Harvest the Fruits of New Safe Medicines Faster". Now we know that the deadline for groups and consortia to respond has been set on November 16th 2004. Please go to the website for further details: http://www.cordis.lu/lifescihealth/applications/home.htm

EXECUTIVE REPORT

June 2004

Present, past and future issues

We are preparing for the Council meeting and 2004 Congress ("Towards Mechanistic Prediction – Building European Science Networks and Opportunities") on Sunday – Wednesday, October 17-20, 2004, in Brussels. On the Thursday and Friday, prior to the Council and Congress, there is the EUFEPS 2nd Optimising Biotech Medicines Conference ("Rational Development of Therapeutic Proteins"), as well as the Executive and other Committee meetings. The Brussels Marriott Hotel was selected for the Conference and Council, and the Brussels Expo for the Congress.

At Council, there will be reports on the financial outcome for 2003, which was not the best in the history of EUFEPS. The net deficit for the year turned out to be in the range of 50,000 Euros, due to lower than projected income from conferences, workshops and courses. Obviously, EUFEPS was not able to replace the long-standing – and substantially reduced – special contribution from the Swedish Pharmaceutical Society/Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences with other income, as had been the case in 2002 and earlier years.

At Council, there will be elections to the Executive Committee. Members of the Committee have completed their terms or will step down due to other commitments. New members should continue to shape the future of pharmaceutical sciences in Europe.

Mid-term assessment of the Strategic Plan 2002-2006 is an additional crucial item on this year's agenda for the Council. How far did we succeed in implementing the Plan? Is there, possibly, a rationale for deviating from what was unanimously agreed two years ago? These and other issues were, of course, also addressed at several Executive Committee meetings, most recently on April 17-18, 2004, in Copenhagen. The issues will return at the next Committee meeting, coming up on July 3-4, in Milan.

New science platforms

The organisation of the Pharmaceutical Sciences Fair & Exhibition (PharmSciFair) – to be held on June 12-17, 2005, in Nice, France – is making good progress. To date, 25 scientific societies and associations decided to invest upfront and set up their programmes on this new platform. A few more may join, so there will be 60+ attractive half-day sessions available to you. Nearly 40,000 copies of the First Announcement of the event were printed for circulation. If you did not receive a personal copy, request one from your society/association, or consult the PharmSciFair Online at: www.pharmscifair.org

Last fall, EUFEPS applied for European Commission support of a new workshop, which aims at recommendations on how to establish a European platform on drug development (see article on page 2). In the evaluation of the applications, high scores were received, and negotiating the project contract with the Commission is in progress. Participation in the workshop will be by invitation only. However, should you want to engage in this, or to provide names to consider, please contact me.

Emerging networks

The PharmSciFair Partners, including EUFEPS, its Member Societies and other proactive scientific associations, constitute a nice network for a specific event. There are indications that this event will be a success, although we will not know for sure until later. In any case, the network is established and the networking in progress.

PAT (Process Analytical Technology) is the topic of one of the streams of the EUFEPS 2004 Congress (see above). Obviously, this is also reflected in the "Innovations and Network Sessions" of the Congress, which may be a kick-off for establishing a "PAT Science Network", for the benefit of academia, industry and the regulatory bodies and – ultimately – for yourself and myself as citizens of Europe.

One year ago, a Position Paper on Safety Sciences needs, initiated by the Committee on Industrial Relations (CIR), was published in this Newsletter. As you can see on pages 1 and 2 of this issue, the suggested workshop to address such needs was successfully held in Brussels on April 2-3, this year. One outcome was that those present at the workshop agreed to establish a "Network on Safety Sciences", to continue to focus safety sciences needs, follow up on the outcome of the workshop and to help to the implement recommendations, particularly for training and education of safety scientists. At the EUFEPS 2004 congress, there will also be sessions on safety issues, and the theme of the (12th) EUFEPS Conference on Optimising Drug Development (on December 6-8, 2004, in Basel, Switzerland) is: 'Predicting and balancing safety and effectiveness, from discovery to clinical practice'. If safety issues are your concern, directly or indirectly, you should attend this year's EUFEPS Basel Conference.

Additional attractive events

For future EUFEPS Conferences etc., may I suggest that you consult EUFEPS Online (and back-page of this issue of the EUFEPS Newsletter). We try to keep it updated, and we'd be open for feedback, especially any suggestions on themes and topics to address in future EUFEPS events.

Hans H. Lindén
Executive Director, EUFEPS
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EUFEPS Conference on Optimising Drug Development

Drug Safety: Predicting and Balancing Safety and Effectiveness from Discovery to Clinical Practice

Basel Convention Center • December 6-8 • 2004

Scope and Aim

Since all therapeutic agents can cause harm, safety is a relative concept, requiring acceptable risk-benefit balance to be satisfactory. The need to characterise, quantitate, and predict safety arises in the discovery phase of drug development and remains a priority task throughout non-clinical and clinical development and testing. Moreover, recent drugs safety cases (some of them with significant regulatory consequences) have provided ample evidence that risk factors in the drug use environment should be more integrated in the drug development process. The present conference aims to present key concepts and advances by internationally recognised experts in each of these areas.

More Information

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Pharmacy Education – Professional training versus Science education

The Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Academic Pharmacy Group held a successful one-day symposium on this theme during November 2003 in the UK. This meeting reviewed the context of pharmacy education, explored innovative approaches to the integration of science with practice and looked at external drivers for change, including the recent Government White Paper on 'The future of higher education'.

Above: Steven Denyer.

Below: Rupi Pannu.

Professor Bill Dawson (Bionet) opened the morning session with his overview of Pharmacy Education. He highlighted the importance of continuous learning from school through university, pre-registration and on to professional practice rather than short segments of learning on a need-to-know basis.

Then, Professor Stephen Denyer (University of Cardiff) offered a Head of School's perspective on Pharmacy Education. Prof Denyer emphasised how meeting the growing demand for widening access to higher education will require a future educational environment that is much more flexible. Turning his attention to research within Schools of Pharmacy, Professor Denyer stressed that, contrary to the Government proposal, research is not and cannot be detached from Pharmacy Education. Active research within Schools of Pharmacy is critical for the infrastructure of graduate learning. Looking towards the features of Pharmacy Education in the future, Prof Denyer suggested Schools of Pharmacy will be recruiting students rather than selecting them, due to the increasing number of places available to students within both medical schools and the new Schools of Pharmacy. Pharmacy Schools may also be looking to offer part-time and full-time places within institutions. We may also see pre-registration training becoming incorporated within the degree programme in the next 5 to 10 years.

Reflecting on Prof Denyer's call for better links between higher education (HE) and further education, Dr Joan Taylor (DeMontfort University) provided an insight into Foundation Degrees such as those offered by The Peoples College, an associate college of DeMontfort University. Dr Taylor described these Foundation Degrees as a way of giving people a second chance and offering an employment-related HE qualification. These degrees are qualifications in their own right and do not need to lead to anything else but generally they do, acting as a 'spring-board' into HE – especially in Pharmacy. Within the National Health Service, foundation degrees are seen to offer a 'skills escalator' by providing anyone the opportunity to move forward within their career, without their present academic background being seen as a barrier. Such opportunities help recruit and retain staff as well as fill skills gaps for individuals progressing through their careers.

Moving on to course design, Sue Jones (King's College, London) described recently implemented changes to the Pharmacy course delivered within King's College. The driving force behind the changes was concern about the application of knowledge by the students. Changes to their course included the introduction of an initial two-week orientation course for first year M.Pharm. students. This was described as 'showing the students the beginning, with the end in mind' and providing essential skills including advice on how to give a presentation and how to get the most from a lecture. Following on from this orientation course, the M.Pharm. programme was re-designed and delivered as an integrated 'molecules to man' programme. Concluding, Ms. Jones commented that student support for this new programme design had been very high.

Changing focus, the symposium then went onto gauge the views of Pharmacy employers from the community, industry and hospitals. Liam Stapleton (Boots) presented a view from across the community pharmacy sector and described the Pharmacy degree as a 'vocational qualification leading to becoming a pharmacist'. He noted that ~73% of pharmacy graduates describe themselves as working within the community pharmacy sector. Liam commented that the continually widening roles for pharmacists within the

Liam Stapleton and Sue Jones.

community are welcomed. However, he also reflected that, to many pharmacists, it feels as though everything in pharmacy is changing at once and this is very difficult to manage. Concluding his comments, Liam noted that the question of 'science versus practice' in Pharmacy Education was not constructive, as one does not work without the other, within all areas of pharmacy.

Dr Rupi Pannu (AstraZeneca), the self-proclaimed provocateur amongst the speakers of the day, questioned the skills base of many Pharmacy undergraduates commenting that the current degree programmes seem to be refocusing predominantly on community and hospital aspects of pharmacy. This leads to a problem with a decreased emphasis on science principles and methodologies. The recent experiences of industrial colleagues working with undergraduate students on summer placements support this view. Dr Pannu commented that Pharmacists need to maintain a scientific approach and be capable of appropriate scientific experimental design. It was also suggested that the pressure on academics to refocus their research into spin-out initiatives may be preventing emphasis on traditional science skills. Dr Pannu concluded that the loss of science understanding and skill will, in the long-term, do the Pharmaceutical Society a major disservice.

At the end of the morning session, Dr Julie Sowter (Leeds University) presented the opinions of collective hospital practitioners across the range of hospital environments. Echoing the sentiments of the previous speakers, Dr Sowter commented that, over and above their science and professional training, all Pharmacy graduates need good communication skills. She described the degree programme as providing 'the basic tools of the trade' in the form of underpinning knowledge to deal with any new developments within pharmacy. The confidence to use this knowledge and skill was then developed within a pharmacy pre-registration year. Dr Sowter also suggested that Pharmacy needs to promote its 'unique selling point' so that the role of the Pharmacist within the healthcare structure can be fully appreciated and valued.

Nicola Grey.

Over lunch, the attendees had the opportunity to continue their discussions and much to Dr Pannu's relief, she was not (as she initially feared) hounded out the building for her provoking comments. Attendees also had the opportunity to view several excellent poster presentations of various issues within pharmacy education including "Advancing the Provision of Pharmacy Law and Ethics Teaching" attended by Mark Brennan; "Mathematics: What do incoming Pharmacy Students really know and what can they do?" by Hannah Batchelor and "Developing interactive formulation experiments for Pharmaceutics lectures" by Yvonne Perrie.

Two key themes within Pharmacy Education arose from the 4 afternoon workshops and the closing feedback session;

- Science education underpins professional training
- Research-informed teaching delivers tangible benefits

Hannah Batchelor and Yvonne Perrie
Aston University
Birmingham, UK

The Pharmacopoeial Column

Spring/Summer 2004

Like a good glass of champagne, Pharmacopoeial life is full of sparkling bubbles at this time, writes Prof. Henk de Jong:

• In ***Japan***, the committees work hard on the promulgation of Supplement II to the Japanese Pharmacopoeia (JP), 14th Edition, planned for December 2004, while simultaneously preparing for the 15th Edition, which is forecast to appear in March 2006.

In fact a substantial rethinking on the role of the JP has taken place and a policy document entitled "Principal way of Japanese Pharmacopoeia in the 21st Century" was written. This document is the basis for the work on the 15th Edition. Some major points are:

• The JP should be the standard of essential pharmaceutical products in public health (in Japan).

• There should be a consolidation of the complete listing of essential drugs in Japan. Essential drugs in this context means: excellent in both efficacy and safety as well as needed in the therapeutic arsenal.

• Strive for a rapid inclusion of new products in JP (2-4 years after approval for marketing in Japan).

• Have the draft monographs prepared by the industry (=applicant for first registration in Japan) with confirmation of specifications and test methods by the regulatory evaluator.

• Update the content (eliminate products withdrawn from market; modernise methodology; take "multisource ingredients" into account).

• Implement the results of international harmonisation.

• Strive for rapid publication of the English Edition.

(If you are interested in the full text of this policy paper in Japanese, with a tentative translation into English, please write to: hendrik.dejong@fr.netgrs.com to get a copy)

• In ***the USA***, USP is preparing for the next Convention (March 2005, Washington D.C.). There is a call for volunteers to participate in the different committees during the 2005-2010 period. (see: www.usp.org/volunteers/nominate for details on procedure and nomination forms). The Convention is the big quinquennial meeting where the policy and action program for the following five years are defined.

Because of the expanding activities, USP decided to build new facilities at its present campus in Rockville, Maryland. With construction beginning in January 2005, USP hopes to start using the new (total 157,000 square feet) facilities, including upgraded laboratories and a conference centre, in the autumn of 2006.

Many of us know very well the USP Open Conference format that has been successful in stimulating debates and new activities in the Pharmacopoeias. These meetings on specific topics will be replaced by one annual conference called USP Annual Scientific Meeting, covering all fields of interest to the USP-NF. The first of these meetings is planned for September 27-29th, 2004 in Iselin, New Jersey (see for details/registration: www.usp.org/conferences).

• In ***Europe***, the European Pharmacopoeia, now part of the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines (EDQM), is preparing celebrations of its 40th Anniversary. On June 15th in the morning, the First Stone for the new premises (yes, in Europe there is also an urgent need for more space to house all the expanding activities) will be placed during an official ceremony. The new building will be in Strasbourg in the area of the European Institutions, not far from where Ph.Eur. activities started. In the afternoon, there will be a seminar in the Hemicycle, the meeting room of the Council of Europe. Several political and scientific representatives (European Commission, Council of Europe, Pharmacopoeia Commission, WHO and EFPIA) will present and discuss the theme: "What Europe for medicines should we build together?"(for details and to participate see: www.pheur.org, click on 40th Anniversary and next on the registration form, it is free!).

In July, the 5th Edition of the European Pharmacopoeia will become available (books and CD-ROMs in French and English plus a bilingual CD-ROM, as well as an online version).

A little later in the year (October 4-6th, Budapest, Hungary) an Anniversary Scientific Conference on the theme: "Quality on the Move" will be held. This conference follows those in Prague and Cannes, covering all fields of activity of the European Pharmacopoeia. (see for program and registration: www.pheur.org).

From June 2004 till June 2007, the European Pharmacopoeia Commission will be chaired by Mr. Mike Morris from the Irish Medicines Board; he succeeds Professor Henning Kristensen from the Danish University of Pharmaceutical Sciences . In the November session of the Commission, renewal/refreshment of all the expert groups will take place. Individuals interested in becoming active in the workings of the European Pharmacopoeia should contact their national Pharmacopoeia Secretariat to volunteer.

The Scheele Prize, 2003

Since 1961, the Swedish Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences has commemorated the famous Swedish pharmacist and scientist, Carl Wilhelm Scheele, by inviting a highly distinguished scientist to summarize their own drug research.

At the end of 2003, this honour was conferred on Professor Jonathan A. Ellman from the University of California, Berkeley, USA, for his outstanding contributions to medicinal chemistry and to its interface with combinatorial chemistry.

Jonathan Ellman received his S.B. degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and then a Ph.D. from Harvard University. After an NSF postdoctoral fellowship with Peter G. Schultz at the University of California at Berkeley, he joined the faculty of the same university, where he is currently professor of chemistry. He holds a joint appointment at the University of California at San Francisco in the Dept. of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology.

Professor Ellman's laboratory is developing systematic tools to establish protein function through the design and synthesis of small molecule libraries, which target protein families.

Professor Ellman has received numerous awards, has authored over 125 manuscripts and has presented more than 200 seminars.

FIP Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress opens in Kyoto

2 June 2004, Kyoto, Japan -- The second Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress (PSWC) is taking place in Kyoto, Japan, from 29th May to 3rd June. A total of 2200 participants, from 46 different countries are attending this meeting, which gathers expert leaders in pharmaceutical sciences and acknowledged researchers as well as a large number of students and young scientists.

The opening ceremony was held in presence of their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino, Mr Jean Parrot, FIP President and Dr Ryoji Noyori, 2001 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry.

Dr Noyori addressed the audience on the importance of green chemistry, a central issue for the future of sustainable research, since it aims at providing efficient synthetic paths through environmentally friendly processes.

Prof. Yuichi Sugiyama, Chair of the 2nd PSWC and the FIP Board of Pharmaceutical Sciences, welcomed congress participants and highlighted the current revolution in drug development, calling upon international cooperation in the establishment of new interdisciplinary research programmes.

Focusing on The Global Translation of Science into Drug Development in Advancing Therapy, the PSWC offers participants a varied programme encompassing all areas of pharmaceutical sciences, with more than 34 symposia, 105 presentations and 1200 posters.

The PSWC, organized every three to four years, gives pharmaceutical scientists the perfect opportunity to meet, learn and exchange views, while attending educational programmes and sharing state-of-the-art scientific knowledge.

FIP is the global federation of national organisations of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists dedicated to improving the access to and value of appropriate medicine use worldwide, and contributing to changes in science, practice and health policies worldwide.

Further information can be obtained from:

FIP
International Pharmaceutical Federation
Fédération Internationale Pharmaceutique

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LHASA Limited Announces the Release of VITIC 2.0

Leeds, UK – 27th May 2004

LHASA Limited, an independent, not-for-profit organisation that develops rule-based toxicity and metabolism software, is pleased to announce the release of version 2.0 of its VITIC toxicity database.

Based on an original project from the Washington DC-based ILSI Health and Environmental Sciences Institute (HESI), this new version of the database has been substantially extended to include:

- 59,800 Genetic toxicity in vitro data records for 2130 chemicals
- 156 Hepatoxicity data records for 41 chemicals
- 2,700 Skin sensitisation data records for 830 chemicals
- 126 HERG data records for 79 chemicals

Increasing demand for a high-quality, structure-searchable toxicology database led LHASA Limited to initiate a three year research and development project in 2003. The resulting VITIC database is fully structure-searchable, with many potential uses, including data-mining to determine structure-activity relationships.

The project is sponsored by a number of pharmaceutical and chemical companies. Sponsors, who influence the content and structure of the database, now have online access to version 2.0. Subsequent versions of VITIC will be available for 'in-house' use and the associated software will enable searching of the database alongside companies' proprietary data.

Julian Hayward, LHASA Limited's Company Manager, commented: "The VITIC database addresses a pressing need within industry for a reliable source of chemical toxicity data. Key to the success of VITIC is our commitment to the quality and accuracy of the data we compile and the collaborative nature of the project, providing a mechanism for sponsors to share ideas and data to their mutual benefit."

About LHASA Limited

LHASA Limited is an independent, not-for-profit organisation with offices based in the Department of Chemistry, University of Leeds, UK. The company was founded in 1983 to provide services to its member companies and to promote public education through the development of computer-aided reasoning and information systems in chemistry and the chemistry-related sciences. Its worldwide membership includes academic users, government organisations, biotechnology, chemical, agrochemical, and pharmaceutical companies. Benefits to such organisations include reduction in the use of laboratory animals in experiments, improved toxicological testing and improved communication of information and knowledge concerning the toxicity and metabolism of chemicals.

For further information, please contact:

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CALENDAR

AAPS Workshop on Optimization of Drug-Like Properties During Lead Optimization
September 19-22, 2004, Parsippany, NJ, USA
Contact: Scott Didawick, AAPS, 2107 Wilson Blvd, Suite 700, Arlington, VA 22201, USA
Fax +1 703 243 9532 Email didawick@aaps.org
www aapspharmaceutica.com

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The British Pharmaceutical Conference
September 27-29, 2004, Manchester, UK
Contact: Judy Callanan, Room 304, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street
London SE1 7JN, UK, Fax +44 20 75722506
Email science@rpsgb.org.uk
www.rpsgb.org.uk/science

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19th European Workshop on Drug Metabolism
October 3-8, 2004, Antalya, Turkey
Contact: Armoria Congress, Turan Günes Blv. 28/3 B Blok Cankaya, TR-06550 Ankara, Turkey
Fax +90 312 441 5838
Email armoria@dmw-2004.org

33rd European Symposium on Clinical Pharmacy
October 20-23, 2004, Prague, Czech Republic
Contact: Nuria Codina, ESCP International Office, Av. Des Gaulois, 7, BE-1040 Brussels Belgium, Email nuria@associationhq.com

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Tabletting Technology for the pharmaceutical industry
November 22-24, 2004, Cambridge, UK
Contact: Judy Callanan, Room 304, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street
London SE1 7JN, UK, Fax +44 20 75722506
Email science@rpsgb.org.uk
www.rpsgb.org.uk/science

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Guide/UIPS Advanced Drug Delivery / Drug Targeting Course
November 22-26, 2004, Groningen, The Netherlands
Contact: g.molema@med.rug.nl, j.a.crommelin@pharm.uu.nl
www.rug.nl/guide/education

FIP Lifetime Achievement Award for Dr Stig Agurell

Co-founder and first Secretary-General of EUFEPS

Many Congratulations to Dr Agurell on his recognition, by the FIP Foundation for Education and Research, with a Lifetime Achievement Award in Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Stig L. Agurell (Ph.D., Pharm.D., Dr.Sci.h.c.) was born in Hogsby, Sweden in 1932.

He received a pharmacist degree from the Royal Pharmaceutical Institute in Stockholm in 1957. He then studied at the School of Pharmacy, Purdue University, USA, receiving his Ph.D. in 1962. After his Swedish Ph.D. (1966), he became head of research, later head, of the Central Military Pharmacy at the Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm.

In 1974, Dr Agurell joined Astra Research in Södertälje, Sweden, as head of research and then became president 1984 – 88. His extensive contributions there included CNS research, antibiotics, local anesthetics, drug metabolism, kinetics and bioanalysis. Until his retirement in 1997, he was a part-time consultant to Astra.

Stig Agurell served as adjunct professor at the Department of Pharmacology, Karolinska Institute from 1976-1991. He conducted original research on cannabis, which led to the first analytical method for tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) blood levels after marihuana smoking. Further studies elucidated the concentration–effect relationships of THC in animals and man and the human metabolism of THC, leading to some 90 publications and eight Ph.D. theses. A further one hundred papers covered research on alkaloid chemistry and biochemistry, drug metabolism and pharmacokinetics, labeled compounds, biological assay methods and clinical pharmacology.

He was chairman of the Swedish Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences from 1989 to 1994. Together with Ernst Mutschler and Douwe Breimer, he founded the European Federation for Pharmaceutical Sciences (EUFEPS) and was its first Secretary General, 1990-1994. His special interest there, apart from establishing EUFEPS, was to develop high-level European training in the pharmaceutical sciences and to facilitate pan-European and broader collaboration. Stig L. Agurell was also one of the organizers of the FIP congresses in Stockholm in 1973 and 1994 and a delegate to council meetings. His interest in higher education and research was also utilized on the board of the Society for Parliamentarians and Researchers in Stockholm. He is a distinguished alumnus of the School of Pharmacy of Purdue University and has received the Millennial Pharmaceutical Scientist Award, the EUFEPS Medal and a US Dr. Sci. h.c.

EUFEPS Events

Conference on Optimising Biotech Medicines: Rational Development of Therapeutic Proteins
October 14-15, 2004, Brussels, Belgium

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EUFEPS 2004. New Safe Medicines: Towards Mechanistic Prediction – Building European Science Networks and Opportunities
October 17-20, 2004, Brussels, Belgium

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Training Course on Quality Management in Pharma and Biotech, Module 4
October 27-29, 2004, Delft, The Netherlands

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Training Course on Advanced Drug Delivery and Drug Targeting
November 22-26, 2004, Groningen University Medical Centre, The Netherlands

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EUFEPS Conference on Optimising Drug Development: Drug Safety – predicting and balancing safety and effectiveness from discovery to clinical practice
December 6-8, 2004, Basel, Switzerland

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When poor solubility becomes an issue: From early stages to proof of principle
March 7-8 (preliminary), 2005, Verona, Italy

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World Conference on Drug Absorption, Transport and Delivery: Clinical Significance and Regulatory Impact
April 17-20, 2005, Barcelona, Spain

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The Pharmaceutical Sciences Fair
June 12-17, 2005, Nice, France

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Contact: EUFEPS Secretariat
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Email secretariat@eufeps.org , www.eufeps.org

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EUFEPS Career Forum

A EUFEPS Career Forum for job oportunities will be set up at EUFEPS 2004. Companies and organisations, having delegates participating in, sponsoring or exhibiting at this Congress are offered a time slot to present job openings for, primarily, PhD students and post-doctoral research fellows. Their interest will be registered, and room will be provided for first interviews.

To book a time slot or report a job interest, contact Vencke Yaman at: eufeps 2004exhibition@congrex.se or Annika Nyman at: conferences@eufeps.org