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Editor

Peter Williams

Lay-out

Camilla Boquist/Ládan & Co

Professor Pierre Potier (left) receiving the European Pharmaceutical Scientist Award from Professor Dominique Duchêne (right), PharmSciFair Chair, and Dr. Didier de Chaffoy (centre) Johnson&Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development, Lead Sponsor of the Award and of PharmSciFair



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The First PharmSciFair – a highly successful event

More than 1200 participants were attracted to the PharmSciFair, which took place between June 12 and 17 2005, in wonderful weather in Nice in France. Indeed, they were not disappointed.

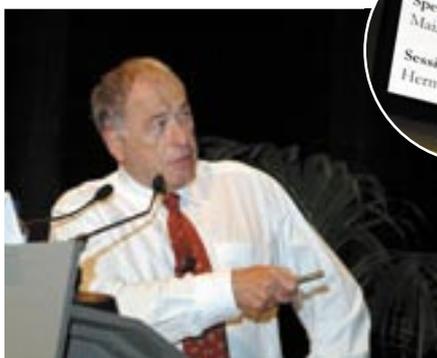
The PharmSciFair has given us a new platform, which allows the best and newest European pharmaceutical achievements to be presented, in an excellent spirit of collaboration.

The 26 partners of the PharmSciFair, according to their individual strengths, collected a series of very interesting sessions, which encompassed the modern areas of the pharmaceutical sciences (see EUFEPS NewsLetter 2005/2 for conditions of becoming an active PharmSciFair Partner).

This new combination of the diverse learned societies associated with the pharmaceutical sciences in Europe into one assembly shows the combined strength of European pharmaceutical sciences in a way, which will gain recognition globally.

The scientific session of the PharmSciFair opening programme was highlighted by the presentation of Nobel Laureate, Prof. Kurt Wüthrich, who had taken time from his busy schedule as professor of Biophysics at the Eidgenössische Technische

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Nobel Laureate lecturer at PharmSciFair



Delighted exhibitor at PharmSciFair



European Commission DG Research representative at PharmSciFair

Poster studies at PharmSciFair



Hochschule (ETH) in Zurich, Switzerland, and Ida M. Green Professor of Structural Biology at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, CA USA.

The spirit of EUFEPS infused PharmSciFair

The PharmSciFair had a great diversity of attendees, including scientists from industry (e.g. big pharma and biotech), academia (professors and students), non-profit/government institutions, authorities and the vendor community. Attendees from these diverse groups came with unique perspectives, experiences, insights, and questions.

We truly believe the strength and uniqueness of PharmSciFair stems from the diversity of its providing Partners, EUFEPS being the assembling organisation. The advantage of diversity is realised when experiences are shared — when, for example, congruent, but also differing or opposing opinions/perspectives lead to new European platforms as the Pharmaceutical Sciences Fair & Exhibition. Clearly, to optimise the PharmSciFair experience for the future, we need to maximise the opportunities for interaction.

Opportunities

The following were some of the tremendous opportunities for interaction on the new PharmSciFair platform.

One opportunity for interaction occurred at the oral sessions, particularly during the question-and-answer period, which was a great way to share ideas with a large group. The oral sessions covered a broad spectrum of pharmaceutical and related disciplines, and were much appreciated by the attendees. Monday covered;

- Drug metabolism and disposition: from molecule to man
- Pharma BioTec
- Compound profiling in drug discovery
- Clinical pharmacy
- Natural products
- Clinical development and optimal use of macro-molecular drugs
- Regulatory procedures and organisation

The parallel sessions on Tuesday contained, in addition to the first three above, presentations on Functional proteomics, Systems biology and Pharmacoeconomics.

Wednesday continued with drug metabolism and disposition, which was one of the most extensive topics and started another on Pharmaceutical technology and Drug delivery, which also continued the next day with several simultaneous sessions. Additionally

New trends in bioanalysis were described on two days.

Thursday added “Key role for quality within the regulatory system” to the PharmSciFair topics.

The last day was devoted to;

- Quality, safety and regulatory facets in the excipients universe
- Anticancer agents
- Biomarkers in drug development: research into practice
- Gene and cell therapy: current regulation
- Bioequivalence and biologic activity of biopharmaceuticals.

Just to mention some, highly informative lectures were given on;

- Idiosyncrasy and reactive intermediates
- Biopharmaceutics and *in silico* technology
- *In-silico* ADME-tox prediction
- ADMET in drug and nutraceuticals development
- Cyclodextrins and bioadhesion
- Modified release delivery systems
- Micelles, vesicles, emulsions, nano and microparticles
- Protein, vaccine and nucleic acid delivery
- Clinical development and optimal use of macromolecular drugs
- Modern procedures in protein analytics and characterisation; Proteomics/ Metabonomics/Metabolomics/Drug metabolism
- Process analytical technologies (PAT): opportunities and barriers to implementation;
- Risk management and excipients: a challenging benefit or a concern to industry?
- Safety considerations on excipients: are all impurities equal?

Another place for interaction was at the poster sessions. With around 400 posters, and very many oral contributions there was a lot to absorb, and interaction benefits both to the presenter and attendee. This was a great means to meet other people involved in pharmaceutical problems, learn about new science (targets, technologies/tools, approaches, etc.), and receive direct critique and feedback on your work. The one-on-one poster conversations are often cited as the most rewarding segments of meetings.

PharmSciFair was fortunate to have a very knowledgeable and supportive vendor community. The vendor participants are valuable assets to the meeting, providing novel tools to assist scientists in pharmaceutical research. Vendors interact closely with scientists often on a technical level, working to

understand the needs and future directions of their research. It is truly a symbiotic relationship, since we need each other to succeed.

Stands — a special section of the exhibit/poster floor — were created in support of the PharmSciFair mission to foster communication among the academic/non-profit institutions, authorities, scientific societies and industrial communities.

The PharmSciFair offered several networking events, including the opening reception and the gala dinner, several gatherings organised by scientific societies, as well as vendor-sponsored activities. While these events can be great fun, they are also wonderful opportunities to meet new people and exchange ideas.

European Pharmaceutical Scientist Award

It had been decided to create a prestigious award in recognition of excellence in the research of a European Pharmaceutical Scientist for the PharmSciFair. It should recognise the significant input of a researcher in any domain of the pharmaceutical sciences such as: drug modelling, medicinal chemistry, gene therapy, pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, metabolism, toxicology, pharmaceutical formulation, drug delivery, pharmaceutical physico-chemistry, new *in-vitro/in-vivo* models, etc. It should not, however, recognise a life devoted to science, but rather a discovery, which could be

considered as a decisive breakthrough in drug discovery and development. The most prestigious European research centres were invited to nominate one or more candidate(s) for the European Pharmaceutical Scientist Award.

In the Opening Session, this new Award, sponsored by Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research & Development, was presented to Prof. Pierre Potier, Emeritus Director of Research CNRS and President of Maison de la Chimie, Paris, France.

In conclusion

The congress centre Nice-Acropolis provided excellent surroundings with high quality meeting and exhibition facilities (www.nice-acropolis.com), located in the centre of Nice, France, within walking distance for most of the participants. Nice is also a pan-European city with great restaurants, coffee bars, beaches, hotels, and shopping. Public parks, the old city and the harbor gave the city a relaxed ambience. Nice is in addition a cultural and artistic city with several art museums and painters collections. Whatever your interests, Nice had something to offer, besides the main attraction of PharmSciFair

*Ole J. Bjerrum
Dominique Duchêne
Pia Vuorela
Peter Williams*



Scientific conversation at PharmSciFair



Session leadership at PharmSciFair



Sunny reception attendees at PharmSciFair



Partner Stand at PharmSciFair

Current EUFEPS Faces

Elections of Individual Membership Representatives to Council for a term of two years, among the Individual Membership, and elections to the Executive Committee, also for a two years term, at the recent Council resulted in a number of new names and faces. Below are the current ones, i.e. five Individual Membership Representatives and ten Executive Committee Members.

Individual Membership Representatives to Council



Maria Alonso
University of Santiago
de Compostela, Spain



Stefaan de Smedt
University of Ghent,
Belgium



Thomas Österberg
Pfizer, Stockholm,
Sweden



Fabiana Quaglia
University of Naples,
Italy



**Amin Rostami-
Hodjegan**
University of Sheffield,
United Kingdom

Current Executive Committee and Premier Responsibilities



Christian R. Noe,
President
University of Vienna,
Austria (EUFEPS Role,
Science Affairs, General
Policy)



**Daan J.A.
Crommelin,**
President-Elect
University of Utrecht,
The Netherlands
(Conference Planning,
Training and Education,
Student Relations)



Ole J. Bjerrum,
**Immediate Past-
President**
Danish University
of Pharmaceutical
Sciences, Copenhagen,
Denmark (European
Affairs, Awards and
Prizes)



Theo Dingermann
Goethe-University,
Frankfurt, Germany
(Membership Relations,
Communications &
Publicity)



Chris Doherty
Alderley Park,
United Kingdom and
Wilmington, NC USA
(Industrial Research
Relations)



Per From
Swedish Academy
of Pharmaceutical
Sciences, Stockholm,
Sweden (Finance,
Sponsorship)



Hilda Köszegi-Szalai
National Institute of
Pharmacy, Budapest,
Hungary (Regulatory
Research Relations,
Quality Standards)



Rodolfo Paoletti
University of Milan,
Italy (Academic
Research Relations)



Pia Vuorela
Åbo Akademi
University, Turku,
Finland (Pharmaceutical
Sciences Fair,
Conference Planning)



Hans H. Lindén
EUFEPS, Stockholm,
Sweden (CEO,
Secretariat)

Executive Report

September 2005

Implementing new initiatives and starting new things have been major activities, over the last six months.

Medicines Research Strategy and Platform

The successful Workshop on How to Establish a European Technology Platform for Innovative Medicines was held, on April 21-22, 2005, in Barcelona, Spain. The outcomes have been presented in two reports. The first one, a summary outcomes report, was finalised by May 27, 2005, since the European Commission wanted quick input for the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) and 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (see progress article, in this issue of the NewsLetter). The second, full report was available by September 9, 2005, and was also circulated widely. Certainly, it's worth reading. Not only are there a vision and suggestions on how to establish a Technology Platform for Innovative Medicines but also, for example, an extensive listing of stakeholder strengths and weaknesses, as well as opportunities and threats in the field. If you have not yet got a copy of the report, download it from EUFEPS Online (www.eufeps.org) and study it to further build on strengths and utilise all opportunities.

The Workshop was held, as reported, right after the 3rd World Conference on Drug Absorption, Transport and Delivery: Clinical Implications. Congrex Sweden had been contracted to help with registration, finance and VAT management etc. of both the Conference and the Workshop. The EUFEPS Secretariat has capacity for registering up to 150-200 delegates at meetings. In this case, we had around 500 meeting delegates during the week in Barcelona.

PharmSciFair New Meetings Platform

On June 12-17, 2005, in Nice, France, the first Pharmaceutical Sciences Fair and Exhibition (PharmSciFair) was an undoubted success. More partners than ever in such an event had contributed an excellent scientific programme, including invited lectures, oral contributions, posters and discussions. Companies, organisations and partners came to present themselves and their products and programmes in the exhibition. Registration numbers were high, nearly 1300, session attendance was very good, and there were receptions and a Gala Dinner to enjoy. Sponsors helped to provide the financial

base for it all. Extraordinary scientific achievements were recognised through the European Pharmaceutical Sciences Award, presented in the Opening Session. Nice did not fail to provide nice weather conditions. Agencies and 'back room' staff all did a great job in planning and preparing the venue, announcement circulation, website, registration and accommodation reservation routines, exhibition management, breaks, speaker slides download, distribution etc.

Many asked in Nice: "When will the next PharmSciFair be held – in two years, in three years, or...?" We do not know yet. However, EUFEPS has asked FIP, whether there would be room for some PharmSciFair events at the Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress (PSWC) on April 22-25, 2007 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. If so, EUFEPS would recommend that the next full size PharmSciFair be held in June 2009, again in Nice, France. FIP have responded positively, during the summer. We will explore how this juxtaposition of PSWC and PharmSciFair in 2007 could be achieved. After this, ideas and options will be presented to the current PharmSciFair Partners, and we will take it from there.

EUFEPS Own Development

As reported in the March 2005 issue of this NewsLetter, EUFEPS started considering new initiatives to further strengthen its role as facilitator and coordinator of pharmaceutical sciences. For this, a first President's Conference was held in conjunction with the above events in Barcelona, followed by a second one and an Open Forum, at the PharmSciFair in Nice. Summarising, extrapolating and reflecting on the outcomes of these meetings resulted in four priority areas or "streams" to be further contemplated and explored. Six "working parties" were established, and all of them asked to present ideas and recommendations fast, at the 2005 Council, on September 26, 2005, in Siófok, Hungary. Tasks of them included (as well as the role of EUFEPS in it):

- How to establish a European academy of pharmaceutical sciences, based on a selected number of renowned scientists;
- How to establish a European forum for societies, associations and federations, the membership of which is engaged in sciences and disciplines relevant for drug discovery, development and evaluation (cf. article on Learned Societies in this issue of the NewsLetter, as well as the Barcelona Workshop full report);
- How to establish relevant (post-graduate)

drug research training and education in Europe and a solid organisation for it (addressed by the EUFEPS Committee on Training and Education, CTE, which is also the "working party" for this, in its recent "position paper");

- How to consolidate the PharmSciFair as the premium European meetings platform to communicate progress and achievements in pharmaceutical sciences;

- How to continue with EUFEPS conferences and workshops (including outcomes reports with recommendations, preferably), for priority areas, and in proactive collaboration with EUFEPS Member Societies;

- How to identify and better utilise sources of funding for drug research and research training etc. – in advancing pharmaceutical sciences.

After the Council meeting, we can report that all "working parties" made progress, and that Council fully supports EUFEPS proceeding along these lines.

Forthcoming EUFEPS Meetings

The first BBBB Conference in Pharmaceutical Sciences was held on September 26-28, 2005, in Siófok, Hungary, attracting around 200 participants. The second one will be organised in Tallinn, Estonia, in 2007, and the third one in 2009 in Antalya or Istanbul, Turkey.

Coming up next is the Conference on Optimising Drug Delivery and Formulation, on November 20-23, 2005, in Versailles, France, which is organised together with APGI. It has an attractive programme, so join and invite others to join, as well. "Lead Optimisation" will be the overall theme for the first EUFEPS Conference in 2006, on March 2-3, 2006, in Zurich, Switzerland, building further on the very successful EUFEPS two-day programme on "compound profiling" in the PharmSciFair. On April 26-27, 2006, in Verona, Italy, "poor solubility" will be the topic, as will "drug transporters" in a EUFEPS Conference in September 2006, in Copenhagen, Denmark. As the 2004 EUFEPS Optimising Drug Development Conference (scheduled for Basel, Switzerland, in December, as most of them) was cancelled, we decided to take up the theme of it, "safety sciences", in two other events in 2005, as reported. Intentions now include that there should be a new EUFEPS "Basel Conference" towards the end of 2006.

Forthcoming training courses include Advanced Drug Delivery and Drug Targeting, on November 28-December 2, 2005,

in Groningen, The Netherlands, and High-throughput (HT) Drug Metabolism/Disposition, on April 23-28, 2006, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Also, the last module of the 2005 Course on Quality Management in Pharma and Biotech, will be held on October 26-28, 2005, in Delft, The Netherlands.

Actually, there are more attractive meeting topics in the pipeline, so watch out for announcements circulated, consult the EUFEPS Online and/or check the EUFEPS NewsLetter. Also, if you do not receive the "EUFEPS Flash" by email, send a message to: secretariat@eufeps.org and we'd be happy to include your email address in the circulation list of it.

New Student Package

We are raising funds for an additional new EUFEPS initiative, a Student Package, which would bring a substantial number of qualified students from all European countries to the Conference on Poor Solubility Issues in Verona (see above). The package would include free registration and free accommodation (3 nights). The minimum target number of participating students would equal one student per European country (42), but more would be welcome (up to 1/4 to 1/3 of the total number of delegates at the conference). Also, should EUFEPS Member Societies want to support some student(s), i.e. pay for student registration and accommodation, this would entitle the same society to an additional student for free. To qualify, students should be at PhD or Master Degree level. If more money would be raised than actually needed, this money would be saved for new initiatives, along the same lines, in a "EUFEPS Fund for Research Training and Education".

Executive Meetings and Council

The Executive Committee met last at the Council in Siófok, Hungary. The next Executive Committee will be on November 18-19, 2005, in Stockholm, Sweden. The first of these two days will bring the Committee together with board members of the Swedish Pharmaceutical Society/Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences and high-level guests, invited by the Society/Academy, in a "seminar" on innovative medicines initiatives in Europe. Executive Meetings will follow in March 2006 (Zurich) and June 2006 (Vienna). The 2006 Council will, probably, be held in conjunction with the EUFEPS Drug Transporters Conference at the end of September 2006, in Copenhagen.

Hans H. Lindén
Executive Director, EUFEPS
Email hans.linden@eufeps.org



On September 27, 2005, the complete 96 page report from the Workshop on "How to Establish a European Technology Platform for Innovative Medicines" was presented to Director Quintana Trias at the DG Research of the European Commission in Brussels by the report's Editor, Professor Ole J. Bjerrum, Workshop Chair and President of EUFEPS

Progress for Pharmaceutical Science in the 7th Framework Programme (FP7)

Under editorial leadership of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) a Strategic Research Agenda for Innovative Medicines (SRA) was published on July 27, 2005, at the website of the European Commission, which is: http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/sp6/index_en.cfm?p=1_innomed

The four themes of the SRA, namely Efficacy, Safety, Knowledge Management, and Training and Education, were brought forward during the spring 2005 in 10 workshops involving more than 150 people.

EUFEPS contribution

EUFEPS contributed significantly to this document by providing experts at the workshops (in fact EUFEPS members were present in nearly all thematic groups) as well as organising the stakeholder workshop, with more than 130 participants, on April 21-22, 2005, in Barcelona, Spain. Two reports were issued, a quick and summary and a full under the title of "How to establish a European Technology Platform for Innovative Medicines". Both the reports can be downloaded from the EUFEPS Online at: www.eufeps.org

The content of the SRA

The Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) supports the formation of a European Technolo-

gy Platform for Innovative Medicines. Other recommendations are:

For Efficacy:

- Stimulate translational medicine in an integrated fashion across industry and academia.
- Create disease-specific European Imaging Networks for establishment of standards, validation of imaging biomarkers and development of regional centres of excellence.
- Develop a partnership with regulators to devise innovative clinical trial designs and analyses, to aid acceptance of biomarkers and to promote data sharing and joint consideration of ethical issues.

For Safety

- Create a European Centre of Drug Safety to identify and co-ordinate research needs in safety sciences.
- Establish a framework to develop biomarkers, which will indicate the human relevance and regulatory utility of early laboratory findings.
- Develop in silico methods for predicting conventional and newly recognised types of toxicity.

For Knowledge Management

- Develop enhanced knowledge representation models and data exchange standards for complex systems.
- Build a core reference database of validated experimental data extracted from literature.
- Design standards for and build an expert tool to allow the federation of local databases in a secure environment.

For Training and Education

- Create a European “medicines research academy” for education and training for professionals involved in biomedical R&D, including regulatory officers over the whole lifecycle of a medicine.
- Map existing activities within Education and Training, including identification of European centres of excellence. Develop programmes and implementation plans for the critical areas relevant to the biomedical R&D process.
- Foster mobility between academia and industry.

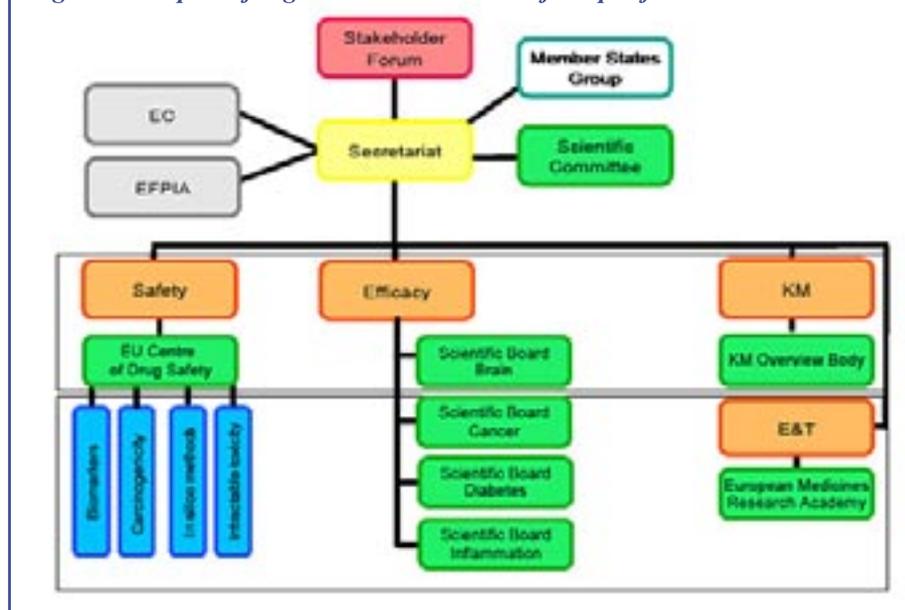
Governance structure

The organisation of the Platform is built around a secretariat established equally by the European Commission (EC) and EFPIA. The secretariat receives input from a scientific committee, a stakeholders’ forum and a member state group. The secretariat houses offices for Safety, Efficacy, Knowledge Management, and Training and Education. The European “medicines research academy” and an EU Centre of Drug Safety are foreseen as separate entities.

Finance

Implementation of the Strategic Research Agenda requires funding equivalent to approximately 3 billion € over 7 years. It is foreseen that the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI), described in the Strategic Research Agenda, will be based on a separate legal structure and equally funded by both the European Commission and the pharmaceutical industry. Thus the total cost will be € 440 million per year, divided as:

Figure 1. Proposal for governance structure of the platform.



Safety	Mio. € 165.4
Efficacy	Mio. € 247.7
Knowledge Management	Mio. € 13.1
Education and Training	Mio. € 8.2
Implementation structure	Mio. € 6.0

Looking at these figures, it is important to remember that they represent gross expenditures.

The burning question is how much of this money will come from the Commission. However, there is no doubt that public-private collaboration will be part of the investment, as it concerns pre-competitive research.

Input requested

The SRA report has been out for hearing (to October 15, 2005). EUFEPS will follow up and report on progress of the development of this Platform and further activities in relation to FP7. As to FP7, comments are still welcome. Access the website of the European Commission, identify the proposal document, read the about the theme “Health”, particularly, and send comments.

Ole J. Bjerrum
EUFEPS Past-President

Do not forget

to register to and/or encourage others to join these significant EUFEPS Conferences!
Certainly, this also applies to poster providers, exhibitors and sponsors.

**Optimising Drug Delivery and Formulation:
Evaluation of Drug Delivery Systems - Issues and Perspectives**
November 20-23, 2005, Versailles, France

**Optimisation of Drug-Like Properties of Leads in Discovery:
Fine-Tuning the Physchem-Biopharmaceutical-ADME-Tox Profile**
March 2-3, 2006, Zürich, Switzerland

**When Poor Solubility Becomes an Issue:
From Early Stage to Proof of Principles**
April 26-27, 2006, Verona, Italy

**Drug Transporters:
Impact on Drug Discovery, Development and Usage**
September 25-27 (preliminary), 2006, Copenhagen, Denmark

For more information, consult the EUFEPS Online at: www.eufeps.org
or contact the EUFEPS Secretariat, P.O. Box 1136, SE-111 81 Stockholm, Sweden.
Email secretariat@eufeps.org, www.eufeps.org

The Role of Learned Societies in Forming a European Technology Platform for Innovative Medicines

At the EUFEPS-initiated workshop on How to Establish a European Technology Platform for Innovative Medicines, held in Barcelona 21-22 April 2005, six lectures were given by delegates from European organisations representing academia, clinical sector, biotech SME's, regulatory, learned societies and patients. We feel that the views of learned societies, put into a EUFEPS perspective, have a general interest for our readers.

The scene

The present 'European crisis' in drug R&D is characterised by following trends: the pharmaceutical industry is moving out of Europe and financial support of the existing health system is becoming increasingly difficult. Each national pharmaceutical sector is too fragmented to be seen as one 'community' and one 'market'. In addition, the financing of academic research is disastrous in many countries, and the universities are going through fundamental reforms, which have unclear outcomes. Hence there are challenges for strategic planning in drug research, as well as for implementation and financial implications.

Complexity of the task

The 'Tower of Babel' problem arises because different disciplines have different scientific cultures and languages, and the 'players' involved in the various phases and fields of drug research do not recognise, understand and respect each other sufficiently. Thus there is much need for interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary components in drug R&D.

A superficial view of the drug R&D process makes it appear linear from target discovery → lead discovery → lead optimisation → drug development → marketed drugs. It is well known, however, that this is by no means the case. As pointed out in, for example, the New Safe Medicines Faster concept, innovative strategies that combine discovery and development are needed to cultivate drug discovery. Furthermore, the complexity of pharmaceutical science processes or systems is ever increasing (Figure 2). Obviously, pharmaceutical science is the core discipline, along with biology and economics.

The mission and task of the European Technology Platform

As we see it, the mission of the European Technology Platform for Innovative Medicines should be:

- To work out novel strategies to prevent and treat diseases efficiently
- To speed up the process of drug discovery and development while focusing on efficacy and safety

- To utilise the fruits of 25 years of (molecular) biology-driven life sciences research: e.g. personalised medicines to prevent and treat common as well as rare (orphan) diseases

Thus, the European task would include:

- How to create a spirit and enthusiasm for European drug research
- How to generate a 'European Community of Drug Researchers' by reducing fragmentation, be it political, national, organisational or scientific
- How to build up a unified European pharmaceutical sector by bringing together all stakeholders involved in drug R&D
- How to generate one European market for medicines by harmonising activities

The role of learned societies

The involvement of learned societies in drug R&D may well represent a straightforward tool for fast development of a European Technology Platform for Innovative Medicines. It would facilitate implementation if relevant societies, as stakeholders, would organise themselves into e.g. a 'European Pharmaceutical Sciences Forum', where the complex matrix and network of societies will be harmonised and utilised at the European level.

It is also noteworthy that learned societies, with their independent scientific and social commitment, represent a 'third force' not yet exploited and willing to act. Thus learned societies should be involved in the development of the European Technology Platform, not least because universities at present are poorly organised in terms of drug development and sometimes hesitate to leave their 'ivory towers'. On the other hand, the pharmaceutical industry is driven by economic requirements, acts globally and cannot be made responsible for sustainable development in a specific area. Learned societies represent science as a whole, as well as fields or subfields of scientific disciplines. The membership structures differ; they can have elected membership, require qualification in specific career sectors or be open to

Figure 2. Complexity of disciplines in the drug R&D process

Pharmaceutical Science: a scientific core discipline

It covers: Finance; Molecular Biology; Genetics; Transgenic Animal Pharmacology; Cell Biology; Biochemistry; Bioinformatics; Computational Biology; Structural Biology; Pharmacoinformatics; Medicinal Chemistry; Molecular Pharmacology; Molecular Modelling; Physical Chemistry; Analytical Chemistry; Biotechnology; Pharmaceutical Biology; Pharmacognosy; Functional Pharmacology; Law (Intellectual Properties); Regulatory Science; Toxicology; Pharmacokinetics; Statistics; Galenics; Pharmaceutical Technology; Nanotechnology; Pharmaceutical Analysis; Quality Assurance; Physiology; Radiopharmacy; Biopharmaceutical Sciences; ADME-Research; Animal Pharmacology; Clinical Chemistry; Clinical Pharmacy; Pharmaceutical Medicine; Clinical Pharmacology; Nuclear Medicine; Medical Clinical Sciences; Process Engineering; Plant Engineering; Project Management; Marketing; Public Relations; Human Resources Management; Ethics; Logistics, etc.

all. Geographical organisation can be local, regional, national, international and even global.

The European learned societies exist for most disciplines of drug R&D. They organise researchers in terms of disciplines, house academic, industry and regulatory body scientists, and they provide an effective infrastructure for their membership. They take rapid initiatives and move quickly. Money allocated to them would increase their output immediately.

Contributions of learned societies to the European Technology Platform

Learned societies could spearhead the European Technology Platform for Innovative Medicines. They could help harmonise research in different phases and fields of drug discovery and development, and identify emerging topics and new techniques for drug discovery, development and evaluation early on. Provided they organise themselves into a drug discovery and development functional network (Pharmaceutical Sciences Forum), they can play a pivotal role in organising training and education

as they house every required expertise.

Learned societies could also help transfer promising science-related activities from the local to the regional/European level, and promote the common scientific and educational programmes of European universities. They would be able to support intra-European mobility and the exchange of researchers and professionals by building a European post-doc market. Vertical (local to European) and horizontal (different disciplines) integration would emerge.

Challenges to learned societies

One challenge is that lectures, symposia and training courses are becoming increasingly commercialised, frequently competing with the traditional activities of learned societies. This is because learned societies are dependent on a money flow between industry, academia, journals and courses. Dominating private vendors would drain this money flow.

While using new media (Internet, data bases) helps learned societies, it can result in information 'overload', if not handled correctly.

However, the greatest threat to learned

societies is that they will become marginalised, not being professional enough due to lack of investments in building a modern infrastructure (office, secretarial assistance and communication). Furthermore, if their main driving force is only the desire to get significant EU money for their own organisation, the European Technology Platform for Innovative Medicines will be biased and not sufficiently strong in global competition. Thus a unique chance to move towards a globally competitive European drug research community would be lost.

Conclusion

It is our fervent hope that the professional, social and ethical commitment of scientists and decision-makers involved in the discussion of the new platform will initiate a process that will convince everyone to join forces to create a powerful European Technology Platform for Innovative Medicines.

*Christian R. Noe,
EUFEPS President*

*Ole J. Bjerrum,
EUFEPS Past-President*

CALENDAR

2nd Conference on Optimising Drug Delivery and Formulation: Evaluation of Drug Delivery Systems – Issues and Perspectives

November 20-23, 2005, Versailles, France

Contact: EUFEPS Secretariat

P.O. Box 1136, SE-111 81 Stockholm, Sweden
Email secretariat@eufeps.org, www.eufeps.org

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Optimisation of Drug-Like Properties of Leads in Discovery: Fine-Tuning the Physchem-Biopharmaceutical-ADME-Tox Profile

March 2-3, 2006, Zürich, Switzerland

Contact: EUFEPS Secretariat

P.O. Box 1136, SE-111 81 Stockholm, Sweden
Email secretariat@eufeps.org, www.eufeps.org

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7th Winters Research Conference on Free Radicals in Biology

March 19-24, 2006, Les Houches, Haute-Savoie, France

Contact: Prof. A. Favier, Hôpital La Tronche
DBI-Pavillon B, BP 217, FR-38043 Grenoble
Cedex 9, France Email imichel@chu-grenoble.fr

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Pharmaceuticals – from Research to Market: Quality and GMP

March 13-15 and March 20-21, 2006, Zurich, Switzerland

Contact: R. Furegati Hafner, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Wolfgang-Pauli-Strasse 10, CH-8093 Zürich, Switzerland
Email ndk@pharma.ethz.ch
www.chab.ethz.ch/lehre/pw_wb/pharma_research_market

Sheiner/Rowland Advanced Course in PK/PD

April 2-7, 2006, Sils Maria, Switzerland

Contact: Irene Sung at PK Workshops

Email irene.sung@pkworkshops.com
www.pkworkshops.com

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Training Course on High-throughput (HT) Drug Metabolism/Disposition

April 23-28, 2006, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Contact: EUFEPS Secretariat

P.O. Box 1136, SE-111 81 Stockholm, Sweden
Email secretariat@eufeps.org, www.eufeps.org

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When Poor Solubility Becomes an Issue: From Early Stage to Proof of Principles

April 26-27, 2006, Verona, Italy

Contact: EUFEPS Secretariat

P.O. Box 1136, SE-111 81 Stockholm, Sweden
Email secretariat@eufeps.org, www.eufeps.org

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Drug Analysis

May 16-19, 2006, Namur, Belgium

Contact: Agnieszka Golinowska, LD Organisation, BE-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve
Belgium, Fax +32 10 459719

Email secretariat@LDOrganisation.com
www.LDOrganisation.com

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Workshop in Basic Pharmacokinetics

July 9-14, 2006, Arosa, Switzerland

Contact: Irene Sung at PK Workshops

Email irene.sung@pkworkshops.com
www.pkworkshops.com

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8th Eilat Conference on New Antiepileptic Drugs (Eilat VIII)

September 10-14, 2006, Sitges, Spain

Contact: The Secretariat, Eilat VIII

PO Box 29041, Tel Aviv 61290, Israel
Email eilatviii@targetconf.com
www.eilat-aeds.com

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Drug Transporters: Impact on Drug Discovery, Development and Usage

September 25-27 (preliminary), 2006, Copenhagen, Denmark

Contact: EUFEPS Secretariat

P.O. Box 1136, SE-111 81 Stockholm, Sweden
Email secretariat@eufeps.org, www.eufeps.org

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