

NewDrugs

with Pharma Biotechnology



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B iotechnology in general and Pharmaceutical Biotechnology especially belong definitely to the most promising areas of the future – with regard to scientific but also commercial aspects. This is commonly highlighted by all market analysts and consultancy companies, venture capital is still investing large amounts of money in this part of the new market. Despite the major draw back at the stock exchange in the “New Market” and the problems of the “Old Market”, pharma is still performing quite well in both markets. Pharmaceutical biotechnology, nanotechnology etc. are still the key words to attract investors. This confidence is fully justified when looking at the percentage of biotech drugs being in the clinical phases I-III.

Everybody talks about pharmaceutical (pharma) biotechnology, but however: **WHAT EXACTLY IS “PHARMA BIOTECHNOLOGY”?**

It is generally understood that it is a multidisciplinary field, but depending on the discipline one gets very different answers, that means it is still a grey field needing a clear definition. In acknowledgement of this, the European Association of Pharma Biotechnology (EAPB) has released a proposal for a definition:

Pharma Biotechnology covers all sciences & technologies that are involved in the discovery, process of development, characterisation, production and registration of pharmaceutical biotech products.

The growth and success of a new scientific and commercial area as Pharma Biotechnology depends on many factors, two of the main factors are

- ◆ positive environment (political, scientific, economical)
- ◆ information flow and exchange.

To create a “positive environment” a representation on the public platform is required. Typically this is done in a kind of organisation representing the interests of the field. In Europe on the national level, organisations

can be found covering pharma biotechnology as one of their activity fields. However, no organisation existed until 2000 on the very important European level being exclusively dedicated to Pharma Biotechnology. This changed with the foundation of the European Association of Pharma Biotechnology (EAPB) in April 2000. It was founded by about 70 companies and scientists from more than 20 countries (see also EAPB Forum page 6 or in the internet at www.eapb.org). The EAPB considers itself as the political representative of Pharma Biotechnology for all groups involved in this new area, companies, scientists, research institutes with activities from education to regulatory aspects.

To ensure visibility, improve efficiency and fulfil the society tasks promoting Pharma Biotechnology for the public good (e.g. providing flow of information etc.), a widely-spread scientific journal is of very high value. This could be realised by co-operating with the Vogel Life Science Media in publishing “NewDrugs” as **the official industrial journal of EAPB**. NewDrugs will publish scientific articles of high standard and being simultaneously product / market orientated. Articles will come from companies presenting their new technologies and products and research institutes / groups having new developments with high potential for commercialisation. Both, scientific and commercial success in Pharma Biotechnology are strongly interconnected and depend on each other. The journal will contribute to network innovative, scientific research and industry. In addition, the journal is a platform for society contributions to improve scientific & political environment for Pharma Biotechnology in Europe (e.g. frame work programs, legislative) thus leading to a more competitive position of European Pharma Biotech companies. With **Pharma Biotechnology**, the **EAPB** and the journal **NewDrugs** we will go to new drugs on the market.

