



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF
PHARMA BIOTECHNOLOGY



Newsletter April 2009

Dear EAPB member,

new activities in 2008, a new EAPB newsletter format, a managing director for EAPB and a new relaunched website! A couple of information which should be disseminated to you, our EAPB members!

Reading this letter provides some news about what we did in 2008, like the European Workshop on Particulate Systems, the Monoclonal Antibody Conference, Science to Market, and what is ahead of us like PharmSciFair in June 2009 (Nice), ECB14 in September 2009 (Barcelona) or next Science to Market in October 2009 (Hannover).

If you find this newsletter helpful, feel invited to send me your feedback and ideas how we can improve it further to provide maximal value to all EAPB members. Feel also cordially invited to send articles for the next newsletter. We appreciate your collaboration and input!

I look forward to hearing from you and hope to meet you personally in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Marion Kronabel

Managing Director EAPB

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New Managing Director

(by Marion Kronabel, Managing Director, EAPB)

Let me shortly introduce myself: my name is Marion Kronabel. Trained as a biologist I started my career as a researcher at the German Cancer Research Center.

I served in marketing and sales for Pharmaceutical Industry, then in an institution organizing conferences and seminars for Pharmaceutical and Biotech Industry and after these activities I have worked for the Heidelberg Technology Park, now as well for EAPB. Therefore my links to fundamental research and biotech industry are quite strong and I hope that I can strengthen these existing relationships with new ones all over Europe!

Together with you I want to promote pharma biotechnology as an independent multidisciplinary science in

all European countries, especially promoting the co-operation and scientific exchange between the various disciplines contributing to pharma-biotechnology.

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Nano Conference: workshop on particulate systems, May 30 - 31, 2008

(by Rainer Müller, Freie Universität Berlin)

EAPB sponsor of Berlin Nano Meeting

EAPB sponsored the European Workshop on Particulate Systems (EWPS), held at the Freie Universität in Berlin on 30/31 May 2008. EWPS is a European network of Pharmacy Institutes/Dept. of Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics active in drug delivery using particulate drug carriers, including their use in pharmaceutical biotechnology / gene delivery. Participants were research groups from Berlin, Copenhagen, Geneva, London, Paris-South and Utrecht, special guests were from Lisbon and Ljubljana. Industrial sponsors were companies, e.g. Brookwood/Birmingham in Alabama, Soliqs/Ludwigshafen and PharmaSol/Berlin. Abstracts and detailed info about the meeting can be found under <http://www.ewps.org/>

Award for Prof. P. P. Speiser / Zurich

At the EWPS meeting in Berlin Prof. Speiser received the EWPS "Lifetime Achievement Award for Pioneering Work on Nanosystems". Speiser can be considered as the father of pharmaceutical nanoparticles for drug delivery. His PhD Student Birrenbach used for the first time the word "nanocapsule" related to pharmacy in his thesis in 1973, presented to ETH Zurich. This can be seen as the beginning of pharmaceutical nanotechnology. Prof Speiser opened the meeting with an opening speech looking back to "35 years of nanoparticulate systems", but also highlighting the future perspectives, especially for targeted delivery, in pharmaceutical biotechnology but also in the generation of new intellectual property (more info: <http://www.muller-berlin.com/>, click NEWS).

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Monoclonal Antibodies: cutting-edge Science for New Medicines

(by Karoline Bechtold-Peters, Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma GmbH & Co.KG, Germany)

After the success of the first Monoclonal Antibodies Conference in Amsterdam as joint meeting of EUFEPS and EABP, we organized the second conference on this group of topics this time in Heidelberg, dated June 3 - 5. Again we succeeded in addressing current aspects of monoclonal antibodies in lectures and lively discussions. As keynote speaker we were able to win Michael Neuberger, Cambridge/UK, who talked about "Evolving Technologies of Antibody Engineering" and gave an overview starting with beginnings of antibody designs by mutagenesis up to current in-vitro and in-vivo maturing technologies. In the further proceeding of the conference SMIP, highly specific single chain polypeptide therapeutics, were introduced as well as single domain camel antibodies. In the sessions Upstream Development and Downstream Development automation possibilities for the use in antibody discovery as well as the newest progress in scale up and GMP production of therapeutic antibodies in tobacco plants were shown. Lectures on the employment of membrane adsorbers instead of columns and current points of view in investigation of virus safety rounded off the first day.

The evening was opulently spent in the Castle of Heidelberg including a visit to the German pharmacist museum. On the second day the characterisation and analytics of antibodies were the center of attention e.g. the employment of mass spectrometry or use of a generic analytical platform, as well as aspects of pharmacokinetics, immunology and safety. The TGN1412 story was reported and an insight delivered into the mechanisms behind. Finally the formation of protein aggregates was covered in a lecture, but also protein immobilization introduced as a contribution for stabilization of antibodies.

On the third day pharmaceutical aspects were discussed like influences of the formulation on the storage of bulk and high throughput formulation screening methods. Current approaches to mitigate the risks with the first use of antibodies in clinical studies were reviewed and the potential for monoclonal antibodies as biosimilars was discussed. The lecture on trends and future of monoclonal antibody therapies of Jan van de Winkel closed the three intensive days with much room for discussions between speakers and attendees.

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Science to Market

(by Inge Mühldorfer, Rentschler Biotechnologies, Germany)

Hannover, Germany, October 7-8, 2008

To bridge the gap between academic research and industrial application was the goal of the first "Science to Market" conference organized by the European Association of Pharma Biotechnology (EAPB) in cooperation with DECHEMA and Biotechnica.

The conference fell into two workshops, one focusing on innovative biopharmaceutical drug and diagnostic developments, and one on novel technologies in the field of biopharmaceutical development and production. In each workshop, several well-known scientists gave state of the art lectures on actual topics, e. g. Alzheimer's Disease, individualized medicine, novel vaccination approaches, the therapeutic concept of nanobodies, and novel up- and downstream developments. More than 40 posters were orally presented in each workshop.

Special key note lectures were held by Prof. Andreas Plückthun (University of Zurich) on "Engineering proteins for therapy using combinatorial and evolutionary technologies", Prof. Christopher Baum (Hannover Medical School) on "Gene therapy: balancing toxicity and efficiency", and Prof. Stephen Minger (King's College London) on "Future perspectives on stem cell research".

Due to the positive feedback of the participants, the EAPB considers the conference a great success. With an audience in which academia and industry were equally represented, the conference reached its goal to foster cooperations between academia and industry.

EAPB now intends to organize this type of "Science to Market" conference on a regular basis. The conference should be understood as a suitable value for everyone engaged in biopharmaceutical business development.

To get more information about the conference click [here](#).

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New Website

(by Marion Kronabel, Managing Director, EAPB)

On our new [website](#) we provide our [benefits](#) and we developed a [questionnaire](#) to address you and get information about your requests you have to our organisation. Please give us your feedback as detailed as possible to support the valuable work of our association. If we manage to strengthen this European Pharma-Biotech-Network all of us gain the profit which directly comes along as a stronger cooperation between fundamental research in institutions, universities and industry leading to a better medication or preventive activities for our health. This kind of network and collaboration is not only about commercialisation of academic research it's also about social responsibility of all of us and how scientific findings can contribute to the better for our society.

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EAPB is the representative and central network to promote and develop Pharma Biotechnology in Europe, linking academia, industries and regulatory bodies.

Members are scientists (individual membership), companies, departments of companies and organizations from academia (corporate membership), but also industry, especially pharmaceutical industry and related sciences involved in pharma biotechnology.