

People

Two key promotions and one departure at Millennium

Millennium Pharmaceuticals has announced two key promotions to strengthen their management team: Robert Tepper will become Chief Scientific Officer (CSO) and Executive Vice-President of Discovery, while Kevin Starr will become Executive Vice-President of Business Operations and Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Meanwhile, the company's Chief Business Officer (CBO), Steven Holtzmann, will be leaving the company this summer.

In his role, Tepper will assume overall responsibility for research, drug discovery and preclinical development activities. Prior to joining the company in 1994, he was Director of the Laboratory of Tumor Biology at Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center where he received a Lucille P. Markey Biomedical Scholar Award. He is also a founder and former member of the Scientific Advisory Board of Cell Genesys.

Starr will assume responsibility for all business and commercial operations. He has held the role of CFO at the company since 1999, before which he was Vice-President of Finance at Millennium BioTherapeutics, a former subsidiary of Millennium.

Meanwhile, Holtzmann has spent the past seven years as CBO at Millennium and is now leaving his role to pursue areas of interest in the biotech field as well as not-for-profit life science research, bioethics and public policy. Mark Levin, CEO of Millennium said: 'Steve has made enormous contributions over the years in helping to create Millennium's vision and long-term business strategy, in addition to providing leadership in the area of bioethics. We are grateful to Steve for his dedication to the company and we are sorry to see him leave.'

Daniel Masys appointed to the Institute of Medicine policy board

Daniel Masys, Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine and Director of Biomedical Informatics at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD; San Diego, CA, USA), has been appointed to the National Board on Health Sciences Policy for the Institute of Medicine. Masys has previously been

Chief of the International Cancer Research Data Bank of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Cancer Institute and has served as an advisor to the President's Office of Science and Technology Policy on advanced computing and National Information Structure.

All change at ActivX

Paul Schimmel, Ernest and Jean Hahn Professor of Molecular Biology and Chemistry at the Skaggs Institute of Chemical Biology at Scripps Research Institute, has been appointed as Chairman of the Board of Directors at ActivX Biosciences (La Jolla, CA, USA). John W. Kozarich, the former President and CSO of ActivX, has moved to the position of President and CEO. Meanwhile, Robert Hillman, who was the former CEO, has assumed the role of Chief Operating Officer (COO).

Schimmel is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the cofounder of three publicly traded biotech companies: Alkermes, Cubist and Repligen. He has previously been awarded the Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship and the American Chemical Society's Pfizer Award in Enzyme Chemistry, and was Chairman of the Division of Biological Chemistry of the American Chemical Society.

Kozarich praised Schimmel's past record: 'During his spectacular scientific career, he has served as a valued mentor and friend to a generation of leaders in academia and industry. Paul has been a pioneer in the industry and has a track record of success that very few approach.'

Brendan Larder joins Visible Genetics

Brendan Larder, one of the pioneers of pharmacogenomics, has taken up the appointment of CSO at Visible Genetics (Toronto, Ontario, Canada). Larder is also known for his pioneering work on HIV drug resistance and the genetic mechanisms underlying it. He was previously CSO at Virco, where he pioneered the development of phenotyping and genotyping assay technologies. Before this, he worked at Wellcome Research Laboratories where he

initiated research into HIV, focussing on the mode of action of AZT. He is thought to have been the first to identify HIV drug resistance in 1989 and has since worked extensively on researching resistance to many HIV drugs, including AZT, ddI, d4T, 3TC and abacavir.

Interim President and CEO for The National Center for Genome Resources

The National Center for Genome Resources (NCGR; Santa Fe, NM, USA) has appointed Migel Rios Jr as their interim President and CEO. Rios will take over from Stephen C. Joseph who was President and CEO at the centre since March 1999. Rios has been a member of the Board of Directors of the centre since 1995. He also founded Orion International Technologies in 1985 and is the company's CEO. He was named National Minority Male Entrepreneur of the Year in 1999 by the Office of Minority Business Development Agency of the US Department of Commerce.

New CEO at Genzyme Transgenics

Genzyme Transgenics Corporation has announced the appointment of Geoffrey F. Cox to the position of Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO. Cox was already a member of the company's Board and takes over the position from James A. Geraghty. Cox was previously Chairman and CEO of Aronex Pharmaceuticals. Prior to this, he was at Genzyme Corporation where he became Senior Vice-President of Operations in the US and, subsequently, Executive Vice-President of operations, pharmaceuticals, diagnostics and genetics.

People was written by
Rebecca N. Lawrence

Correction: In the *People* section of the 1st August 2001 issue of *Drug Discovery Today* on page 763, we stated that Pascal Brandys will continue as Professor Emeritus. However, we intended to say that he will continue as President Emeritus. We would like to apologise for this error and for any confusion this might have caused.