

# People

## Appointments

### Joseph M. Palumbo joins PharmaNet

Following positions at Sanofi-Synthelabo, Cephalon, the Cornell University School of Medicine and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Joseph M. Palumbo has taken on the role of Senior Medical Director, CNS Division, of the international drug development company PharmaNet (<http://www.pharmanet.com/>).

Jeffrey Freitag, Senior Vice President, Medical and Scientific Affairs, at PharmaNet is confident about the appointment of Palumbo, a board certified psychiatrist and addiction psychiatrist. 'Dr. Palumbo has extensive expertise in the development and implementation of psychiatric and behavioural neuroscience clinical trials,' he said. 'Clients involved in these studies benefit from his perspective as a psychiatrist and value his past experiences as a pharmaceutical industry professional.'

### New President and CEO for Chimerix

Chimerix, a biotechnology company that develops oral drugs against smallpox and multidrug resistant HIV, has appointed a new President and Chief Executive Officer. After 24 years working in pharmaceuticals, George Painter has joined Chimerix, bringing with him his expertise in the field of antiviral research.

Painter has previously held positions at Triangle Pharmaceuticals, Burroughs Wellcome Co. and Glaxo Wellcome, and is a co-inventor of over 45 patents including treatments for HIV and hepatitis B.

Chimerix is addressing current fears over bioterrorism by developing an orally administered drug to prevent or treat smallpox infection.

### Executive re-shuffle at Caliper Technologies

Three executives have been promoted to more senior roles at Caliper Technologies

(<http://www.calipertech.com/>), a leader in microfluidic lab-on-a-chip technology and producer of microchip devices for the pharmaceutical, agriculture and chemical industries.

Anne Kopf-Sill who has previously held the positions of Senior Director of Genetic Analysis Programs and Director of Microfluidics and Advanced Technology, has taken on the role of Vice President of New Products. Robert Nagle, a former Research Fellow and Director of Engineering, has been made Vice President of Product Development.

'Anne [Kopf-Sill] has long been a technology visionary, while Rob [Nagle] has continuously provided strong technical leadership,' said Chief Executive Officer, Michael Knapp. 'It has been extremely exciting participating with them in building Caliper over the last six years, and I look forward to working with them in their new roles.'

A new Vice President of Finance has also been named as Anthony Hendrickson, the former Controller and Chief Accounting Officer.

### Naked DNA Company™ management expands

In a move to expand its management team, Vical, The Naked DNA Company™ (<http://www.vical.com/>) has appointed Alain Rolland as Vice President, Product Development and Thomas Evans as Executive Director, Infectious Diseases Clinical Research.

Rolland, the holder of several American and European patents on advanced drug- and gene-delivery for medical applications, has previously worked for Valentis and GeneMedicine and has published in the field of non-viral gene delivery.

Evans, who has left his post as Professor of Medicine and Chief, Infectious Diseases Division at the University of California, Davis, has designed, conducted and chaired Phase I and Phase II infectious disease vaccine studies and has published in the area of human T-cell responses to immunization. Vical is a developer of products against serious or life-threatening diseases such as cancer.

## Awards

### Metabolic Research Award goes to insulin scientist

The 2002 Bristol-Myers Squibb Award for Distinguished Achievement in Metabolic Research went to Sir Philip Cohen of the University of Dundee (<http://www.dundee.ac.uk/>) for his discovery of how insulin inhibits the enzyme glycogen synthase kinase 3 (GSK3). He picked up the award for his achievements, which shed new light on insulin-regulated metabolism, at a celebratory dinner in New York on October 16, 2002.

Cohen, who began his research on insulin in the 1970s, is Director of Research in the School of Life Science at the University of Dundee. He is also Royal Society Research Professor, Director of the Medical Research Council (MRC) Protein Phosphorylation Unit, and Director of the Wellcome Trust Biocentre.

### Vitamin K scientist wins Nutrition Research award

John W. Suttie has won the 2002 Bristol-Myers Squibb/Mead Johnson Award for Distinguished Achievement in Nutrition Research for his work showing that the production of the blood clotting protein active prothrombin involves the vitamin K-dependent carboxylation of a precursor protein, '[Suttie's] "post-translational precursor modification" hypothesis, which ran counter to popular beliefs, accelerated the pace of research in the field and has been a landmark in nutrition research,' said Robert A. Burns, Research Fellow, Global Research and Development, Mead Johnson Nutritionals.

Suttie is Katherine Berns Van Donk Steenbock Professor in Nutrition and Professor of Biochemistry in the Department of Biochemistry and Director of the Center for Coagulation Research, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is also a member of the affiliate faculty of the University of Wisconsin Institute on Aging and Adult Life.

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