

# People

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### New managers join Biopharmaceutical Company

DOV Pharmaceutical (<http://www.dovpharm.com/>), has announced two appointments: Laurence R. Meyerson as Senior Vice President, Drug Development and Robert Horton as Vice President and General Counsel. Both bring over 20 years' experience to the company, which specializes in drugs for disorders of the cardiovascular, urological and central nervous systems.

Meyerson joins DOV from Elan Corporation, where he was Vice President of Corporate Technology. He has worked in regulatory affairs, clinical research and business management and overseen the registration of drugs for infectious and inflammatory diseases.

Horton is a specialist in corporate and security issues, having worked in the New York offices of the law firms Goodwin Procter LLP and Friedman Siegelbaum.

'We believe both gentlemen bring the expertise and experience necessary to further enhance DOV's focus on the discovery, acquisition, development and commercialization of novel drug candidates,' said Chief Executive Officer, Arnold Lipka.

### HIV expert among top 50 women scientists

Viral researcher Flossie Wong-Staal has been named as one of the top 50 women scientists for her pioneering contributions to the fight against HIV and AIDS. The list of researchers, recognized for achievements across all disciplines of science, was published in the November 2002 issue of Discover Magazine (<http://www.discover.com/>).

Wong-Staal, who joined US biopharmaceutical company Immusol (<http://www.immusol.com/>) last year as Chief Scientific Officer and Vice President of Genomics, was the first to define the genetic structure of HIV and her early work helped pave the way for the

development of molecular diagnostics and therapies for the virus.

She said she was honoured to be selected among such an extraordinary group of women, adding: 'we would not be where we are today in terms of technological and medical advances without the exceptional scientific contributions of these and other women scientists.'

'Flossie is a real asset to the scientific community and to our organization,' said Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Tsvi Goldenberg. 'It is exciting to know that she continues to win acclaim for her achievements, not only by the scientific community, but by the public at large.'

### Palmer switches from GSK to R&D at BMS

James Palmer stepped down as Senior Vice President of GlaxoSmithKline (<http://www.gsk.com>) and joined Bristol-Myers Squibb (<http://www.bms.com/>) as Chief Scientific Officer last month, replacing Peter S. Ringrose, who plans to return to the UK.

Palmer was sad to leave GSK, where he had worked since 1985 and had been involved in the development and approval of several drugs, but was excited about his new position.

'I am proud of the achievements my team and I have enjoyed over the years, but the opportunity to run a major R&D organization doesn't come along every day, and I could not let [this] pass me by,' he said. In his new role, Palmer will take responsibility for the company's worldwide R&D operations.

Tachi Yamada, Chairman of R&D at GSK, said: 'James is an accomplished head of development...We know that in his new position as head of R&D, James will again demonstrate his wide range of talents.'

## Awards

### Side-effect research leads to Innovation Award for Kevin Park

Researchers of the future might be able to predict potential side effects in the early

stages of drug development thanks to the work of Kevin Park, winner of the 2002 Pfizer Innovation Award.

Problems can crop up anywhere in the average 10–15 year period needed to develop an idea into a safe and effective drug, explained Keith James, Vice President, Medicinal Discovery at the Pfizer Laboratories in Sandwich, UK. 'The later the failures occur in the process, the more costly [they are],' he added. By studying the chemical structure of medicines being developed and identifying the patients most susceptible to adverse side effects, Park's techniques will allow the earlier detection of problems and saving of costs.

Park, who has held a Wellcome Principal Research Fellowship since 1989, is Professor of Pharmacology and Head of Pharmacology and Therapeutics at the University of Liverpool (<http://www.liv.ac.uk/>).

### Yellow fever expert picks up Walter Reed tropical medicine prize

The Walter Reed Medal for distinguished accomplishment in the field of tropical medicine went to arthropod-borne virus expert Thomas Monath at the 51st annual meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (10–14 November 2002; Denver, CO, USA).

In a distinguished career, Monath, Chief Scientific Officer of vaccine manufacturer Acambis (<http://www.acambis.com/>), has traveled all over the world and made huge contributions to the current understanding of yellow fever. He was once Colonel and Chief of the Virology Division of the US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Disease. He also determined the reservoir and transmission cycle of the Lassa fever virus. Since joining Acambis in 1992, he has headed programmes developing vaccines against diseases including smallpox, dengue fever, Japanese encephalitis and typhoid.

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