stakeholders. Under the agreement, IMS will provide the EGA with European generic drug sales information from its MIDAS database, which tracks 90% of prescription drugs in more than 80 countries. In addition, IMS will support the work of the EGA with expert opinion and consultative insights. IMS will be given access to EGA's generic industry information and expertise, supporting and validating the company's development of new offerings for the generic sector. The EGA is the official representative body of the European generic pharmaceuticals industry, which is at the forefront of providing high-quality affordable medicines to millions of Europeans.

'This new collaboration will help IMS better serve our generic clients in Europe with innovative offerings, and give the EGA access to third-party, independent data and advice needed to support its critical consultative role in European healthcare policy-making,' said Gilles Pajot, President, IMS European Region. 'The result will be greater access to accurate, standardized and timely generics information, which will strengthen working relationships among all generic stakeholders.'

'This agreement with IMS will enhance our ability to play an effective part in the European healthcare policy decision-making process and underline the great importance of generic medicines,' said Greg Perry, Director General of the EGA. 'We continue to work closely with European national governments and EU institutions to develop affordable solutions for pharmaceutical care, and IMS's insights and data will help us strengthen Europe's competitive position within the global pharmaceutical medicines market.'

Anniversaries

EMBO, EMBC and EMBL celebrate their anniversaries

Three leading European lifescience organisations based in Heidelberg, Germany have celebrated important anniversaries in November at a joint event. The European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO; http://www.embo.org) was established 40 years ago, the European Molecular Biology Conference (EMBC; http://www.embo.org/embc) is 35 years old, and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL; http://www.embl-heidelberg.de) turns 30.

To mark these anniversaries, the organisations and their staff have invited prominent scientists, policy-makers and political authorities to participate in a reflection on the future of life sciences in Europe. Celebrations took place at Mannheim's Rosengarten, where guests were treated to a banquet dinner with musical interludes.

The joint event symbolizes the close cooperative relationship and the common history of the organisations. In the 1960s, scientists from across Europe expressed a great interest in establishing an international laboratory for molecular biology; at the same time they recognized an urgent need for more international training and scientific exchanges. In 1964, EMBO was created to answer these needs and strengthen molecular biology research throughout Europe. EMBO's initial activities included providing fellowships for European scientists and laying the groundwork for a European laboratory. The EMBC was founded five years later as an inter-governmental organisation to bring together European governments to provide stable funding for EMBO's fellowship and training programmes. In 1974, their joint efforts culminated in the signing of an inter-governmental treaty to establish the laboratory (EMBL).

Since its foundation, EMBO has become recognized as one of the foremost life sciences organisations in Europe. Today, with the support of EMBC's 24 member states, EMBO offers a highly respected programme of activities throughout Europe and beyond promoting research, training, career development, mobility, publication standards, communication and networking.

EMBL is one of the leading research institutes in the world, with over 1300 staff members working at five campuses in four countries. 'This landmark occasion is as much about the present and the future as it is about the past,' comments Frank Gannon, Executive Director of EMBO and Secretary General of EMBC. 'It not only marks the combined role of EMBO, EMBC and EMBL in the transformation of the life sciences in Europe but also looks ahead to the continued impact of all three organisations on the current European research environment and the advancement of quality-driven research in Europe.'

Business was written by
Matthew Thorne

People

Appointments

NHGRI names new chief of Cancer Genetics

The National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI; http://www.genome.gov/) has named Elaine A. Ostrander as the new chief of its Cancer Genetics Branch, one of the seven research branches in the Division of Intramural Research. In its short, 10-year history, the NHGRI Intramural Program has emerged as one of the premier research enterprises working to unravel the genetic basis of human disease.

'Dr Ostrander brings a combination of expertise and vision in multiple areas of genetics, genomics and cancer biology to the Institute. Under her energetic leadership, the Cancer Genetics Branch will have unprecedented opportunities for elucidating the molecular underpinnings of cancer, and for developing new diagnostic and therapeutic approaches for the care of cancer patients,' said NHGRI Scientific Director Eric D. Green.

Ostrander comes to NHGRI from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (FHCRC; http://www.fhcrc.org) in Seattle, where for more than a decade her laboratory has been a leader in mapping genes responsible for cancer susceptibility in dogs and humans. Cancer is the No. 1 killer of dogs, and the clinical presentation, histology and biology of many canine cancers closely parallel those of human malignancies. Consequently, comparative genetic studies of canine and human cancers should yield significant clinical benefits for both species.

'Because human families are small, it's difficult to use them to discover the many genes involved in cancer. However, dog families, with their larger size, give us the advantage of being able to find many more of the genetic contributors to disease, particularly cancer,' Ostrander said. 'By using dogs as an animal model and comparing what we learn in them to

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what we know about human cancer, we are slowly but surely putting together the basic vocabulary of cancer susceptibility.'

Karl Schlagenhauf appointed as new Chairman of supervisory board at JPK Instruments AG

JPK Instruments AG (http://www.jpk.com), a Berlin-based specialist for nano-biotechnological microscopy, has appointed Karl Schlagenhauf (56) as the new Chairman of Supervisory Board. He replaces Andreas Eckert. Karl Schlagenhauf can look back onto more than 25 years of international experience as an entrepreneur in the field of new technologies. He has founded more than 20 high-tech companies in Europe and the USA, and is on the supervisory boards of several innovation and technology holdings, among which are CAS Software AG and WEB.DE AG. Since 2003 Schlagenhauf has coached young scientists, researchers and entrepreneurs as a business-angel mainly in the fields of the life sciences, bioinformatics and nano-technology.

The innovative Berlin-based company JPK Instruments, which was founded in 1999, is among the first companies worldwide to have implemented and optimized the principle of atomic force microscopy in areas of application like soft matter and the life science sector.

New appointment at the Prostate Cancer Foundation

The Prostate Cancer Foundation (http://www.prostatecancerfoundation.org) has announced the appointment of Craig A. Dionne as Executive Vice President of research and therapeutics. Dionne recently served as Vice President, biological research at Cephalon (http://www.cephalon.com), where he directed drug discovery programs in oncology and neurobiology. During his tenure at Cephalon, he led many collaborative initiatives with academic research scientists and biopharmaceutical companies, and brought four novel drugs into clinical development.

In his new position at the Prostate Cancer Foundation, Dionne will be responsible for the scientific vision of the organization and coordination of research initiatives with leading academic and medical centers. Leslie D. Michelson, Vice Chairman and CEO of the Prostate Cancer Foundation commented, 'Craig brings extensive expertise in drug discovery and development to the PCF. His efforts will be critical to the organization as we seek to accelerate the development of new treatments and a cure for recurrent prostate cancer. We are proud to welcome Craig to our team.'

The Prostate Cancer Foundation is the world's largest philanthropic source of support for prostate cancer research. Founded in 1993, the it has raised more than US$210 million and provided funding for prostate cancer research to more than 1,100 researchers at 100 institutions worldwide.

People was written by *Matthew Thorne*