

AAPS Update

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENTISTS' SOURCE FOR TOP EXPERTS, INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS, AND KEY NETWORKING!

January 2003

More than 500 Attend Biotechnology Conference

by Mark Staples, Ph.D.

The first-ever AAPS National Biotechnology Conference was held June 24-26 at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina in San Diego, C.A. Consensus of attendees and organizers was that the meeting was very successful, especially as a first effort. A final total of 532 registrants and 43 exhibitors was recorded, exceeding expectations. Building on this experience, plans are to hold the conference every two years, alternating between the east and west coasts in recognition of the high concentration of biotechnology industry in these regions. There is also some discussion of working with the European Association of Pharmaceutical Biotechnology to co-sponsor the next meeting.

Corporate sponsors who helped make the conference possible included Genentech, Inc. (Gold Level), Chiron Corporation, Novartis Pharmaceuticals (Silver Level), Diosynth RTP, Inc., and Immunex Corporation (Bronze Level). Corporate contributions ranged from \$1,000 to \$5,000 in support of the event.

Although the planning committee, co-chaired by Steven J. Shire (Genentech), Thomas Zioncheck (Genentech) and Siddharth Advant (Diosynth RTP, Inc.), consisted of BIOTEC section members, the organizers emphasized that the meeting was designed from the start to be a true national AAPS conference intended to offer elements of interest to members of all AAPS sections. Programming included aspects of pharmaceutical biotechnology such as research/discovery, cell culture/fermentation, alternate expression systems, recovery processes and pharmacogenomics, and their impact on biotechnology-derived pharmaceuticals.

The plenary session was headlined by a series of three talks describing the implications of applying knowledge of the human genome sequence to drug development (Wolfgang Sadéc, Ph.D., Ohio State University), applications of genome variability to genotyping (Charles Cantor, Ph.D., Sequenom, Inc.), and genomic techniques in cancer diagnosis and therapy (Joseph W. Gray, Ph.D., University of California, San Francisco).

Following the plenary session, three parallel sessions allowed attendees to customize their agenda for the remainder of the meeting. With three sets of symposia per

day and late afternoon roundtables, there was plenty of variety and a lot of high quality science.

Awards presented included Student Travelship Funds contributed by the PPDM and PT sections. This year's winners were Yan Gong (University of Florida), Siddhesh D. Patil (University of Connecticut), and Vikas K. Sharma (University of Connecticut).

Several poster presentations detailed work by NEOSE Technologies, a company that uses purified recombinant glycosyltransferases to construct glycoproteins with defined oligosaccharide compositions. Access to economical tactics for specifying the oligosaccharide structures on protein therapeutics has important implications for product consistency, PK profiles and yield.

With regard to estimation of dosing for early-phase projects, Amgen presented a series of posters demonstrating the successful use of allometric scaling. This approach uses PK data across several animal species to produce a scaling model that extrapolates to human dosing.

Presenters from Scripps, Stanford, and Cardiff provided excellent presentations on the analysis of cellular trafficking mechanisms and the application of these mechanisms for drug delivery.

Elan Drug Delivery, Inc. chose this conference to introduce their new subcutaneous injector for self-administration. The product was not only featured at the booth area, but special product demonstrations were held on Tuesday afternoon which allowed interested attendees to obtain more detailed information, to watch the device in action, and to ask plenty of questions.

An outdoor reception was held near the Marina on Monday evening. Taking advantage of the use of the Sheraton for all activities, lunch was served gratis to attendees all three days in the same area as the exhibits and posters. This format was well-received and allowed a chance for busy participants to talk to poster presenters and company representatives as well as socialize and network. The efficient buffet service minimized waiting time and the food was "Very good, with good variety" according to one student attendee.

Continued

Drug Transport Workshop Coming in February

The **AAPS Workshop on Drug Transport: From the Bench to the Bedside** will be held February 10-12, 2003, at the Wyndham Peachtree Conference Center in Peachtree City, G.A. This workshop will integrate cutting-edge knowledge on drug transporters, taking attendees from research at the bench to applications at the bedside. At this workshop attendees will have the opportunity to: enhance knowledge on mechanisms of drug transport; provide a forum for pharmaceutical scientists to learn about and exchange ideas on the state-of-the-art techniques (both *in vitro* and *in vivo*) to study drug transport; identify and provide expert perspectives on translational aspects of drug transport research; derive significance of drug transport research as it pertains to clinical research and drug development; synergize academic, industrial, and regulatory opinions and perspectives in the quest to outline implications of drug transport research in the development of new drugs across all therapeutic categories; learn from case presentations by industrial scientists and discuss issues and opportunities pertaining to drug discovery and development. Additional workshop features will include a poster/podium session for graduate students and post-docs and an exhibits session. For more information, visit www.aapspharmaceutica.com/meetings/drugtransport.

2003 Arden House Dates Announced!

Mark your calendars now for **AAPS 38th Annual Pharmaceutical Technologies Conference at Arden House: The Key for Achieving New Standards of Manufacturing Excellence and Regulatory Compliance: Process Analytical Technology** at the Arden House Conference Center in Harriman, N.Y., January 26-31, 2003. Details to come.

Calling All Authors!

AAPS has launched a new book program called AAPS Press. Whether you're an established author, or a recently minted Ph.D. with research to discuss, send AAPS Press your manuscript and AAPS Press will share it with the world.

Visit www.aapspharmaceutica.com/news/press for AAPS Guidelines for Book Proposals a listing of current AAPS Press book titles.

To learn more about this groundbreaking book program, contact the AAPS Director of Publications, Victor Van Beuren at 703-248-4760 or VanBeurenV@aaps.org.

Have an Idea for a Meeting?

To submit a proposal for a workshop or themed meeting, use the submission form at www.aapspharmaceutica.com/meetings/meeting_proposal.asp.

Upcoming AAPS Meetings

Log onto www.aapspharmaceutica.com/meetings for the latest meeting news and registration details.

► January 26-31, 2003

AAPS 38th Annual Pharmaceutical Technologies Conference at Arden House: The Key for Achieving New Standards of Manufacturing Excellence and Regulatory Compliance: Process Analytical Technology
Arden House Conference Center, Harriman, NY

► February 10-12, 2003

AAPS Workshop on Drug Transport: From the Bench to the Bedside
Wyndham Peachtree Conference Center, Peachtree City, GA

► February 19-20, 2003

AAPS Workshop on Strategies for Implementation and Compliance with the Common Technical Document
Co-Sponsored with FDA
Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA

► March 3-5, 2003

AAPS Workshop on a Scientific Approach to Analytical Instrument Validation
Co-Sponsored with FIP
Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA

► March 27-28, 2003

AAPS Workshop on Exposure Response Relationships of Immunomodulators
Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill Washington, DC

AAPS Workshop on Pharmaceutical Profiling in Drug Discovery for Lead Selection

Date and Details: TBA

