

mediconValley

Biomedical Newsletter

Medicon Valley Biomedical Newsletter is published by Copenhagen Capacity and Position Skåne.

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Research News

The Lundbeck Foundation Gives Grants to Multiple Sclerosis research

The Lundbeck foundation has granted Professor Arne Svejgaard at the Rigshospital, USD 250,000 to research in the connection between the hereditary HLA, Humane Leukocyte Antigen, tissue types and the brain diseases Multiple Sclerosis and Narcolepsy. Both of these diseases are autoimmune diseases meaning that the immune system attacks the healthy tissue. By this project the hope is to discover new ways of treatment, and possibly prevention of the diseases.

Furthermore, Professor Bengt Saltin at the Rigshospital has received USD 250,000 to research in the activation of different genes in untrained and trained muscles. The purpose of this is to obtain an understanding of the mechanisms behind gene regulation.

The main objective of the Lundbeck Foundation is to maintain and expand the activities of the Lundbeck Group and to provide funding for scientific research.

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Swegene Enters into Agreement with the Research Council of Norway

The Swedish functional genomics consortium Swegene, and The Research Council of Norway's FUGE programme, Functional Genomics in Norway, have entered into an agreement to encourage collaboration between institutions in the field of functional genomics.

Swegene is a scientific program with the purpose to strengthen research and development within functional genomics in southwest Sweden. FUGE is a Norwegian program with the same purpose in Norway as that of Swegene. Both organisations have established technology platforms and resource centres giving the national academic researchers access to subsidized advanced technology. FUGE and Swegene have agreed to give access to these platforms and centres to all researchers within their areas. Researchers in Norway and Sweden will thereby be granted access to each others' platforms on the same conditions as the national researchers in their respective countries.

The agreement will be a basis for a joint effort towards extending Nordic collaboration within functional genomics.

Swegene is a consortium within the field of functional genomics, established by the Chalmers University of Technology, Göteborg University and Lund University/the Lund Institute of Technology.

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Business News

Acadia Pharmaceuticals to Expand in Malmö, Sweden

Acadia Pharmaceuticals plans to establish a modern chemistry research and development facility in Malmö, Sweden. The new laboratory is to be constructed at the Medeon Science Park in Malmö, centrally located within the Medicon Valley region. Acadia intends to occupy the new 3000 m² custom-built chemistry laboratory to support expansion of its proprietary drug discovery activities.

Acadia's biological research and clinical development activities are conducted at the company's headquarters in San Diego, California. The company has its chemistry research operations in the Copenhagen region.

Acadia is a biopharmaceutical company utilizing innovative science to fuel drug discovery and clinical development of novel treatments for central nervous system disorders. The company has at this time five drug programs in clinical and preclinical development directed at Parkinson's disease, schizophrenia, chronic pain and glaucoma. Using its proprietary drug discovery platform, Acadia has discovered all of the drug candidates in its product pipeline.

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Biolmage and PerkinElmer to Develop Cell Based Screening Methods

Biolmage A/S has entered into collaboration with US based PerkinElmer Inc. a leading provider of drug discovery and life science research. The collaboration combines the Biolmage assay technology with the PerkinElmer EnVision detection platform to develop a series of cell based screening methods.

Biolmage A/S uses protein translocation based technology to identify novel therapeutics. The company has developed a suite of assay technologies for measuring protein-protein interactions in living cells using PerkinElmer's EnVision platform. The EnVision provides extremely sensitive fluorometric detection at high speeds, making it the ideal detection platform for the Biolmage assays. This powerful combination enables customers to perform robust cell based identification of inhibitors of protein/protein interactions at throughput levels previously not available.

Biolmage Enters into Licensing Agreement with Merck & Co

Biolmage A/S has signed a licensing agreement with the US based biotech company, Merck & Co, giving Merck & Co the rights to use Biolmage's Redistribution technology for drug discovery research. The financial terms of the agreement have not been disclosed.

The Redistribution technology comprises of a broad range of methods aimed at studying intracellular signalling events. The technology enables high throughput screening on a number of drug discovery live cell screening applications, such as protein translocations, receptor internalizations, protein trafficking, and secretions. Biolmage is presently out licensing the portfolio to a number of leading companies within the life science industry.

Biolmage A/S is a drug discovery company based in Copenhagen in Medicon Valley. It was created as a spin-out company from Novo Nordisk in 1999 and is owned by Apax Partners, Novo and Abingworth Management. Biolmage is collaborating with companies such as Bristol-Meyers Squibb, Lilly and Amersham Biosciences.

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CMC Biopharmaceuticals and Resistentia Enter into Development Agreement

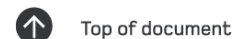
CMC Biopharmaceuticals A/S, a Medicon Valley based contract manufacturing organization, and Resistentia Pharmaceuticals AB, has announced that they have entered into a development and manufacturing agreement for the cGMP production of a fusion protein. The product which is an immunotherapeutic reagent used for treatment of IgE-mediated allergies will be manufactured at CMC's facility. CMC's facility has been designed and constructed specifically for contract manufacturing services. It has been purpose-built to operate with a high degree of flexibility and is capable of handling simultaneous multiproduct manufacturing. The facility has recently received approval from the Danish Medicines Agency on behalf of EMEA for manufacture of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients for Phase I, II and III clinical trial studies produced from both microbial and mammalian expression systems.

CMC Biopharmaceuticals is a contract development and manufacturing organization with sales offices located in both the UK and the U.S. CMC specializes in process and analytical development as well as the scale-up and cGMP manufacture of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients for pre-clinical and clinical trials. The facility has also been designed to support the commercial production of proteins.

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Evolve Raises USD 15 million in A-round from International Investors

Evolve Biotech has announced that it has raised USD 15 million of equity financing in a first-closing of its A-round. The financing was led by Aravis and included new investors Novartis Venture Fund, Yamanouchi Venture Capital and Dansk Innovationsinvestering. Existing investors Symbion Capital and Vaekstfonden also participated.

Evolve evolves small molecule drugs using massively combinatorial gene libraries that drive chemistry rich pathways. Its Watchmaker technology platform replicates, on an industrial basis, the ability of nature to evolve molecules with exquisite “design”, but with the evolution directly aimed at making functional drugs – HIV blockers, anti-obesity compounds etc.

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Nordic Bone Starts Phase I Clinical Trials with PhaseOneTrials

Nordic Bone A/S has entered into an agreement with the Medicon Valley based PhaseOneTrials A/S for the conduction of two Phase I clinical trials for their drug targeting bone disease. About 100 people from PhaseOneTrials database are to be part of the two clinical trials, which is to begin in the fall of 2004. The two phase I clinical trials planned by Nordic Bone will evaluate the effect of the new drug on bone reconstruction and bone decomposing, which will be measured from blood samples.

PhaseOneTrials A/S is a Contract Research Organisation based in Medicon Valley at the university hospital, Hvidovre Hospital. The company was started in 2003 and service the pharmaceutical- and biotechnological industry with planning, carrying through and reporting Phase I clinical trials, and early Phase II clinical trials.

Nordic Bone A/S is focused on the development of pharmaceuticals against bone and joint related diseases. The company's lead candidate drug belongs to a new class of pharmaceuticals having an ability to down-regulate bone resorption and up-regulate bone formation. The toxicological properties of the compound have been studied extensively and it has proven to be well tolerated and safe. Nordic Bone A/S is owned and financed by Nordic Biotech, and is based on an important intellectual property rights portfolio.

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Novo Nordisk Sign Agreement on Regenerative Therapy with Transition Therapeutics

Novo Nordisk A/S has signed a licensing agreement with the Canadian biopharmaceutical company, Transition Therapeutics Inc. The licensing agreement with Novo Nordisk is focused on the development of Islet Neogenesis Therapy, I.N.T. , for the treatment of diabetes. The I.N.T. technology represents a novel approach to regenerate insulin producing cells in the body and is currently under development for the treatment of both type I and type II insulin dependent diabetics.

The agreement includes an equity investment of USD 4.6 million, upfront payments and development milestones potentially totalling up to USD 48 million, commercial milestones and royalties. Novo Nordisk will receive exclusive worldwide rights to Transition's I.N.T. technology except for I.N.T. for transplantation.

The I.N.T. technology platform is based on the discovery that a short course of injections of naturally occurring peptides can regenerate insulin-producing cells in the body. Two lead islet neogenesis products are currently under development. E1-I.N.T., a combination of Transition's epidermal growth factor analogue and gastrin analogue has completed two Phase I clinical trials and is advancing towards Phase II clinical trials, and GLP1-I.N.T., a combination of one of the leading diabetes drug candidates, Glucagon-Like-Peptide-1 with gastrin analogue, is currently in pre-clinical development.

Novo Nordisk A/S is a world leader in diabetes care. Novo Nordisk has a leading position within areas such as haemostasis management, growth hormone therapy and hormone replacement therapy. Novo Nordisk manufactures and markets pharmaceutical products and services making a significant difference to patients, the medical profession and society. Headquartered in Medicon Valley, Novo Nordisk employs approximately 18,800 people in 69 countries and markets its products in 179 countries.

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Rheoscience Signs Collaboration Agreement with Global Genomics

Rheoscience A/S and Swedish based Global Genomics AB have entered into an agreement for the use of tangerine gene expression profiling to study targets in metabolic diseases. The agreement is a result of Global Genomics' recent launch of tangerine gene expression profiling, a proprietary solution that reveals a whole genome expression profile in a single experiment.

Global Genomics AB develops and out-licenses innovative tools in functional genomics that provide unique insight into healthy, diseased or drug-treated cells. The company's expertise in advanced molecular biology techniques and computational analysis has resulted in the recent launch of tangerine gene expression profiling.

Rheoscience A/S is a Danish independent biotech company that, apart from own obesity research projects, provides research services within the fields of obesity and diabetes. Unique well-characterized animal models of the metabolic syndrome and internationally recognized scientists ensure fast, versatile and flexible in vivo pharmacology of lead compounds targeting metabolic disorders.

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Statens Serum Institut Opens a New Centre for Vaccine Research

Statens Serum Institut has gathered its vaccine research within Tuberculosis, Malaria and HIV in a new centre. The new centre is to be called Centre for Vaccine Research.

Researchers at the new centre hope to have developed and tested vaccines against Tuberculosis and Malaria within the next ten years. A vaccine against HIV is, however,

considered to be a couple of years further into the future. The EU, the Gates Foundation and the European Malaria Vaccine Initiative have over a period of three years granted USD 20 million to the new centre to development of these new vaccines.

Statens Serum Institut, SSI, is a Danish government owned company engaged in the prevention and control of infectious diseases and congenital disorders. SSI is a manufacturer of vaccines and other biological products approved by the US FDA, the European regulatory authorities and WHO. SSI is a major manufacturer of the current vaccine against Tuberculosis, the BCG vaccine. The Tuberculosis research group at SSI is world leading and has made important contributions to the understanding of Tuberculosis infection and immunity.

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7TM Pharma Signs Research Agreement with AstraZeneca

7TM Pharma announces that the company has entered into a research agreement with AstraZeneca under which 7TM Pharma will apply its structure based drug discovery approach, Site-Directed Drug Discovery, to AstraZeneca proprietary targets.

During the past year, 7TM Pharma has focused on generating a rich in-house pipeline of promising drug discovery projects through its proprietary discovery engine – Site-Directed Drug Discovery - and expects to announce the selection of its first pre-clinical candidate derived from own drug discovery projects shortly.

7TM Pharma is a drug discovery and development company focusing on medicines acting through 7TM receptors - a family of receptors that are among the most valuable drug targets for the pharmaceutical industry - with approximately one quarter of all prescription drugs in use targeting this class of receptors.

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TopoTarget and Curagen Enter into Collaboration with the National Cancer Institute

TopoTarget A/S has announced that its licensing partner, CuraGen Corporation, has signed a Clinical Trials Agreement with the Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) for PXD101, a histone deacetylase inhibitor currently in Phase I clinical trials. Under the agreement, the NCI will sponsor several clinical trials evaluating the activity of PXD101, either alone or in combination with other anti-cancer therapies, for the treatment of solid and hematologic cancers.

CuraGen licensed PXD101 from TopoTarget and both companies are jointly developing PXD101 and additional histone deacetylase inhibitors for use in oncology and other indications. As part of the Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis's mission to improve cancer care, the Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program works to advance new anticancer therapies and has been involved in the development of numerous anticancer drugs. Clinical research activities will be coordinated with the NCI to identify which patient populations may benefit from PXD101 and develop PXD101 for these cancer populations, either as a single-agent or in combination with other cancer treatments.

TopoTarget A/S is a biopharmaceutical company dedicated to the discovery, development and clinical progression of new and improved therapeutics for the cancer patient. The company was created through the merger of TopoTarget and Prolifix Ltd. TopoTarget develops and markets novel pharmaceuticals and aims to identify new indications for existing compounds. It applies its precise and in-depth understanding of the molecular mechanisms of cancer with its wide experience in clinical oncology practice to develop new and effective medicines to combat the disease.

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Conferences

BioTech Forum

5-7 October 2004 in Copenhagen, Denmark

BioTech Forum consists of an exhibition, a conference and a summit:

BioTech Forum + Scanlab Exhibition organised by Stockholm International Fairs and Bella Center. The merger of BioTech Forum and Scanlab into a single trade fair creates an event encompassing both the biotech and laboratory industries bringing together two interdependent sectors under one umbrella at the most comprehensive life science exhibition anywhere in Scandinavia.

BioTech Forum Science Conference organised by Medicon Valley Academy. Biotech Forum Science Conference is for all players within biomedical and biotechnological research and development in Scandinavia and Europe. The conference is a unique occasion for scientists and biotech players from hospitals, universities and industry to present their research results and create scientific and interdisciplinary network and partnerships.

BioTech Forum Business Summit organised by Stockholm International Fairs and Life Science Technologies.

The Business Summit is Scandinavia's most important and prestigious event for bringing together executives and decision makers from the Life Science industry to meet, evaluate and explore opportunities to collaborate and create business.

Position Skåne, Copenhagen Capacity and Medicon Valley Academy will be present at the BioTech Forum Science Conference at booth C2-043.

For further information please visit: <http://www.biotechforum.org>



World Drug Manufacturing Summit

5-6 October 2004 in Copenhagen, Denmark

The World Drug Manufacturing Summit provides you with compelling opportunity to meet one-on-one with leading industry experts and decision makers from the World's top Pharmaceutical and Life Science arena.

For further information please visit: <http://www.wdm.worldtradeco.com>



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