

BIOTECH NEWS

Lytix Biopharma completes funding round

Drug development company Lytix Biopharma has completed a funding round to a value of about \$10.4 million, the proceeds of which will fund the early-stage clinical development of two novel drugs.

Lytix develops novel lytic peptide drugs for the treatment of resistant bacterial and fungal infections, as well as first-in-class oncology treatments, both areas of high unmet medical need. The company was established in 2003 to commercialise research in the field of lytic peptides, having been spun out by scientists working in the University Hospital and University of Tromsø in Norway.

WIL Research Laboratories acquires Midwest BioResearch

WIL Research Laboratories, LLC has acquired Midwest BioResearch, LLC and will integrate the companies' service offerings through scientific collaboration, sharing of best practices and marketing. Midwest BioResearch has expertise in immunoanalytical and bioassay techniques and small-molecule bioanalysis, supporting both clinical and non-clinical research, and genetic toxicology, complementing WIL Research's contract research service offerings which include expertise in chronic, neuro-, inhalation, and intravenous toxicology, developmental and reproductive toxicology, safety pharmacology, bioanalytical chemistry and metabolism.

Michael Schlosser, PhD, DABT, president and founder of Midwest BioResearch, will continue to lead the existing Skokie, Illinois, USA site reporting to Christopher P. Chengelis, PhD, DABT, vice president and chief scientific officer at WIL Research. Midwest BioResearch was founded in



Midwest BioResearch: expertise in immunoanalytical and bioassay techniques plus small-molecule bioanalysis

2003 by scientists, directors and managers from major pharmaceutical companies to provide drug disposition and toxicology services. The company has experience in protein and small-molecule bioanalysis, genetic toxicology and structure identification, along with non-clinical safety assessment and programme services, supporting both discovery and development within the pharmaceutical industry. It occupies a 16,000 square foot facility in Skokie,

Illinois at the Illinois Science + Technology Park, the location of a former Pharmacia/Pfizer facility. WIL Research Laboratories is a contract research organisation that provides an interdisciplinary approach to non-clinical toxicology, pharmacology, metabolism and both clinical and non-clinical bioanalytical services. The company provides product safety assessment research and services to the pharma, biotech, chemical and veterinary industries.

Synthetic biology, drug discovery and more at BioFine Europe 2009

BioFine Europe 2009 takes place in Freiburg, Germany from April 16-17 and consists of two top-quality conferences covering the areas of synthetic biology and drug discovery. Taking place at the same time is the sixth BioFine Europe exhibition.

The 'Applied Industrial Synthetic Biology in Europe Conference' is organised in collaboration with www.synthetic-biology.info, and reflects the growing importance of synthetic biology with world-renowned speakers. This two-day dual-track conference is expected to be the most important and influential on the subject of synthetic biology to be staged in Europe. More than 40 speakers including George Poste of Arizona State University, Chris Paddon of Amyris Biotechnologies and

Wilfried Weber of ETH Zurich will present how and why synthetic biology is becoming the talking point of the biopharmaceutical and associated industries. This is a must-attend conference for technology developers and leaders, decision makers and policy makers from life sciences, materials sciences and other industrial application areas. Registration includes attendance at any of the conference papers from both tracks (and attendance at the Drug Discovery and Delivery Conference).

The 'Drug Discovery and Delivery: Membrane Proteins and Natural Product Research Conference' is organised by The Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg in cooperation with kongress&kommunikation GmbH and presents the latest advances in membrane protein

microbiology and natural product research for drug discovery applications. It covers recent discoveries in the structure and mechanisms of biological systems, the discovery of natural product hits and leads, natural products as probes of cell biology, and biology-oriented synthesis with an emphasis on how these scientific advances are being used to discover new treatments for unmet medical needs and new delivery systems to improve drug efficiency. The programme is complete and includes papers from Nobel Laureate Prof Dr H. Michel, MPI für Biophysik, Frankfurt, Germany and from Dr S. Cottens, Novartis Pharma, Basel, Switzerland. The conference will appeal to molecular biologists and biochemists, pharmacologists, and discovery and medicinal chemists advancing the fields of

drug discovery and delivery. Registration for this conference also includes attendance at the Applied Industrial Synthetic Biology Conference.

BioFine Europe also features the BioFine Europe Exhibition of products and services supporting drug discovery and development. Exhibiting companies include Sloning Biotechnology GmbH, febit holding gmbh, m2p-labs GmbH, Eurofins, atg: biosynthetics, BaseClear Group, Ingenza Ltd, Strem Chemicals, ChemCon GmbH, Albemarle SA and the Synthetic Biology Engineering Research Center, UC Berkeley. For information on exhibiting contact Mark Harrington on Tel: +44 1403 220753 Email: mark@avakado.eu

For further information and to register for the conferences visit www.biofineeurope.com