

Top industry leaders and key policy makers to participate in the US-India BioPharma & Healthcare Summit

The USA-India Chamber of Commerce (USAIC), a bilateral Chamber of Commerce aimed at promoting and facilitating trade and investment between the United States and India, will organize its annual US-India BioPharma & Healthcare Summit on May 14th, at Hyatt Regency Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.

Co-Chairs for 2009 Summit include Dr Martin Mackay, president, Global R&D, Pfizer; Hari Bhartia, managing director, Jubilant Organosys; Jeff Elton, senior vice president, Novartis Institutes of Biomedical Research and

“The US-India BioPharma & Healthcare Summit is part of an ongoing dialogue with all the stakeholders: industry, investors, policy makers, and academia,” said Karun Rishi, president of the USA-India Chamber of Commerce. We have created an ecosystem where all stake holders meet to share and learn. This unique platform creates mutually beneficial opportunities for the US and Indian industry necessary to take the business to the next level. The platform encourages both established and emerging companies. “Over the last few years, our initiatives,

with drug discovery and development. Pfizer also is exploring opportunities to expand the scale and scope of clinical trials in India.”

Added Hari Bhartia, co-chair of the US-India BioPharma & Healthcare Summit and managing director of Jubilant Organosys, “As we see the pressure to reduce healthcare costs and find innovative solutions to unmet needs build up, the necessity to leverage the global intellectual enterprise takes center stage. Over the years, India has emerged as a preferred destination for the development of knowledge-based industry. The pharmaceuticals and life sciences industry in particular has revolutionized the ways of doing business through alliances and collaborations between large innovator companies and Indian research boutiques and integrated pharma players.”

Dr Mackay added, “We seek to reach more patients than ever before with Pfizer medicines in emerging markets such as India. To do so, we will develop bold and innovative partnerships in all parts of the business, including R&D. Scientific talent and medical expertise are important to our ability to access biomedical innovation across a range of therapeutic areas. Continued strengthening of intellectual property protection will remain a key factor in R&D investment decisions.”

According to Karun Rishi, “The positive side of current economic downturn is the likely growth in discovery research business between India and the US. Many US companies sitting on the fence will be compelled to seriously consider integrating India in their global R&D strategy. This is the time for Indian companies to ramp up their capacity and quality standards.”

“Indian companies are poised to take advantage of this changed paradigm and have already initiated capacity build up in the areas of drug discovery,



Hari Bhartia



Karun Rishi



Dr Martin Mackay



Jeff Elton

Dr Naresh Trehan, chairman, Global Health Pvt Ltd.

Leading industry leaders and academicians on the advisory board include: Dr Barry Bloom, past dean, Harvard School of Public Health; Dr William Chin, vice president, Discovery Research, Eli Lilly & Company; Venkat Jasti, chairman, Suven Life Sciences; Dr Ismail Kola, senior vice president and chief scientific officer, Schering Plough; Reid Leonard, executive director, Merck & Co; Dr Peter Mueller, executive vice president and chief scientific officer, Vertex Pharmaceuticals; CSN Murthy, CEO, Aurigene Discovery; Dr Michael Rosenblatt, dean, Tufts University School of Medicine; Dr KV Subramaniam, CEO, Reliance Life Sciences and Dr Gunther Winkler, senior vice president, Biogen Idec.

regular follow up, and consistency of approach have greatly contributed to the industry friendly policies, fostered innovation and created business opportunities,” added Rishi.

According to Dr Martin Mackay, co-chair of the US-India BioPharma & Healthcare Summit and president, Global R&D of Pfizer, “Pfizer has a network of research partners in biotech companies, academic institutions, hospitals and contract research organizations (CROs). This global network includes scientific collaborations with Indian researchers and dozens of planned and ongoing clinical studies in India. As part of Pfizer strategies to grow the business in emerging markets and pursue the best science, our R&D organization is leveraging the capabilities of this network to assist

drug development, clinical research, biotechnology, value added generic pharmaceuticals, custom synthesis of complex and 'difficult to make' APIs and intermediates, thus offering end-to-end solutions," said Hari Bhartia.

According to Dr Mackay, scientific collaborations between pharmaceutical and biotech companies, academic institutions, government research centers, and other R&D investors increase opportunities to convert innovative ideas into next generation medicines. "In addition to expanding our alliances in drug discovery, we also pursue clinical study collaborations that will yield competitive advantage and speed the delivery of safe and effective medical therapies. In 2008, Pfizer established three academic alliances with Indian researchers in neuroscience. Expanding our R&D presence in Asia allows us to better understand patient needs and unique disease biology. It also helps build relationships with doctors and other healthcare professionals, and government agencies," said Dr Mackay.

Private sector hospitals in India can play an important role in capacity building to provide healthcare to Indian masses. "Just providing services will

not be enough. Hospitals in India will have to integrate research in their business model. This will create a great opportunity for everyone involved in the discovery process and will ultimately benefit the patients," added Dr Naresh Trehan, co-chair of the summit and chairman of Global Health Pvt Ltd. The growth in the healthcare services in India is driven by the 350 million strong middle class people aspiring for quality healthcare services. According to the WHO report, India needs to add 80,000 hospital beds each year for the next five years to meet the demands of its growing population.

Dr Mackay, added, "As co-chair, I am excited about the summit organized annually by the USA-India Chamber of Commerce. This summit is important to the continued advancement of global health care. I am delighted to represent Pfizer and co-chair US-India BioPharma & Healthcare Summit 2009. I welcome the active participation of other life science companies, academic researchers, investors and policy makers who share our purpose of working together for a healthier world."

Dr MK Bhan, secretary, Department of Biotechnology, and Ashok Kumar,

secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, are also likely to participate in the summit. The Summit will help create cross border strategic alliances and partnerships to survive and grow in a tough economy.

"Noble Laureate Prof. Sydney Altman Sterling, will also address the summit. Large numbers of professors and deans of schools of medical and public health have confirmed their participation. The interest for strategic alliances and collaborative research is strong and growing," said Rishi.

Top tier life sciences focused venture capitalists, private equity firms and investment bankers have shown great interest in the summit. Since the last summit, some venture capitalists have set up India/Asia focused funds. This trend has slowed down due to current market situation. It is likely to pick up once markets bounce back and venture capitalists are able to raise money for their funds. Recent wave of M&A in the industry, especially of Wyeth by Pfizer and Schering Plough by Merck & Company has created a momentum for consolidation in the industry. This trend will likely continue and will impact the Indian market too. ■

EVENTS LISTING

BIO International Convention

The BIO International Convention, the largest global event for the biotechnology industry that attracts the biggest names in biotech, offers key networking and partnering opportunities, and provides insights and inspiration on the major trends affecting the industry. The event will be held on May 18-21, 2009, in Atlanta, USA.

The event features keynotes and sessions from key policymakers, scientists, CEOs, and celebrities. The convention also includes hundreds of sessions covering biotech trends, policy issues and technological innovations, and the world's largest biotechnology exhibition - the BIO Exhibition.

For details visit: www.convention.bio.org

Bangalore Bio 2009

Bangalore Bio, one of the largest and most productive biotech events for the life sciences industry in Asia will be held on June 18-20, 2009. Bangalore Bio 2009 is expected to attract delegates from India and trade delegations from over 20 countries including France, Germany, UK, Canada, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia and China.

The event attracts biotech companies from India and across the world, pharma companies, policy makers, Government and regulatory bodies and features focused conference sessions across the biotech value chain providing delegates with an unparalleled opportunity to experience new value generating interactions.

For details contact:

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Amity to organize workshop on IPR and WTO affairs

Amity Institute of Microbial Technology, Amity University, Uttar Pradesh, is organizing a workshop on "India-US sponsored international congress-cum-workshop on intellectual property rights (IPR) and World Trade Organization (WTO) affairs" scheduled to be held on November 11-13, 2009, at Amity Campus.

For further details, contact:

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IBMB's workshop on Effective GCP

The Institute of Biosciences and Molecular Biology (IBMB) brings together experts who are distinguished in their respective fields of clinical research for a two day workshop on "Effective GCP" to be held on April 3-4, 2009, at Bangalore. The workshop aims at educating the participants to effectively manage clinical trials in the changing scenario of ethical and modern clinical research. The participants can share the platform to imbibe the best in clinical industry by interacting with subject experts.

For further details, contact:

Denny John

Director, Biosciences, IBMB, Bangalore.