

Trend in Drug Discovery and Development: the Impact of Globalization

Report on SAPA-NE Annual conference



On May 6, 2007, SPAP-NE held its 10th annual conference at the conference center of Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA. The meeting was very successful. It attracted more than 280 members and guests. In the meeting, numerous high-profile speakers such as senior executives from Pharmaceutical and Biotech industries, distinguished professors, entrepreneurs, and officials from regulatory agencies and government branches, have given wonderful speeches.

The meeting was kicked-off by Dr. Junjun Wu, the SAPA-NE president-elect. Then Dr. Jeff Elton, the COO of Novartis Institute of Biomedical Research gave a presentation highlighting the global efforts of Novartis. As the Senior Vice President and Head of Research, Dr. Richard Gregory described Genzyme's R&D strategy in China. In the meeting, Dr. Jeff Hanke, Ph.D., Vice President of Cancer Research R&D Boston, AstraZeneca, detailed the company's effort on discovering new anti-cancer drugs. Dr. Tomi Sawyer, head of chemistry and Sr. Director of Pfizer shared his extensive kinase research experience. Dr. Louis A. Tartaglia, senior Vice President and General Manager of Gene Logic talked about Drug Repositioning. Dr. Tod Wolf, President and Chief Executive Officer from RXi Pharmaceuticals Corporation gave the attendees another hot topic about RNAi research. From the academia part, Professor Tom Roberts, Chair of Harvard Medical School described the area of PI3 Kinase research. He discussed years' research in his group in tracking a Drug Targets from a Viral Oncogene into the Clinic. In addition to research work conducted in the US companies and academic institutions, the conference attendees were also in seeing government officials and entrepreneurs to talk about favorable policies to attract people to set up their business in China. Mr. Dequan Ren, former deputy director of SFDA gave a encouraging talk about how to discover and put a new drug into the Chinese market. Mr. Zhonglin Wu from WuXi and Ms. Daisy Gao from Suzhou Industrial Park Science & Technology Development Center addressed the special strategies and policies they have to support oversee personals to start business in their districts. Finally, Dr. Chunlin Chen, President and Chief Executive Officer, Medicilon, and Dr. Yajun Xu, Vice President of Biology, Shanghai ChemPartner and ChemExplorer Co., LTD., discussed their companies and experience in China.

Besides the wonderful presentations given by the speakers, there are also a variety of exhibitions set up by more than a dozen of companies coming both from US and China. They showed the attendees their products, or opportunities in their organizations.

Overall, this is very successful conference. It is a record and a great milestone in the history of SAPA-NE. Both the speakers and attendees are stunned with our program, and grateful for the preparation of such a great event to serve our members.