



Jack Aurora

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Jack Aurora is Senior Director of Research and Development (R&D) for Perrigo Company, where he is responsible for leading formulation R&D in Perrigo's consumer healthcare business. Prior to joining Perrigo, he worked with Pharmascience Inc., a generic company, with Labopharm Inc., a speciality pharmaceutical company focused on controlled-release drug delivery, and Patheon Inc., which is responsible for the development of a wide variety of dosage forms for new drug application (NDA) support. Dr Aurora is also a Consultant with the Council of Healthcare Advisors, an association of leading physicians, scientists and other healthcare professionals. He is also a part-time faculty member with different universities and a member of the visiting scientist programme sponsored by the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS). His research focuses include the development of controlled-release systems, pelletisation technology and nasal formulation development. In the field of controlled-release development, Dr Aurora has three US patents to his credit, and another four are in process.

Welcome to this exciting and interesting publication, *Drug Discovery 2007*, which will provide you with an overview of the latest updates in various aspects of drug discovery and related topics. The industry as a whole, as well as specific technologies, are covered, including information technology, the industry and business outlook and biomarkers.

One of the challenges facing the pharmaceutical sector is that the centre of gravity for worldwide research and development (R&D) investment is gradually moving to the US and Asia. Europe therefore needs to strive to regain the territory it covered for most of the 20th century, when it was the home of pharmaceutical innovations. Initiatives and focused action plans are also required to meet the EU's twin objectives of protecting public health and strengthening the competitiveness of the European pharmaceutical industry. It is also interesting to note that the UK remains second only to the US in terms of supporting science and promoting a climate in which scientific and technological development can flourish despite increasing international competition.

Certainly, the time has now come for clear-cut decisions and concrete action if Europe is to make a comeback as a world leader in pharmaceutical innovations, rather than being just a talking shop. In this respect, and in order to support industry-wide initiatives, the UK government has set out four principles for the way forward: delivering value for money; encouraging and rewarding innovation; assisting the uptake of new medicines; and providing stability, sustainability and predictability. In addition, this year the EU is planning further steps to improve the risk management of medicines. These steps include a new pharmacovigilance data analysis system and actions to address non-compliance with reporting obligations.

Biosimilars is yet another interesting but challenging area to explore. It requires a through understanding of protein analysis and management of pre-clinical and clinical trials. Companies looking to develop biosimilar medicines will not only have to employ marketing models akin to those of the originator industry, but will also have to adopt an entirely different and newer mindset in terms of developing timelines and return on investments.

Drug Discovery 2007 is the result of a lot of hard work and devotion from the editorial advisory staff and the contributors. I am confident that you will find the published articles, review notes and research findings interesting and useful. As always, Touch Briefings is committed to maintaining the highest of standards. Therefore, the success of any publication depends on constructive feedback from its esteemed readers. With this objective in mind, may I urge you all to please provide us with your ideas as to how we can improve future editions. Last but not least, on behalf of Touch Briefings I would like to thank all the contributors and editorial review and administrative staff for their commitment and support to bringing out this excellent publication. ■

