

# Newsletter

## 01/2013

LISAvienna's new service  
**Bulletin Board**  
 page 3



Location Spotlight  
**Respiratory Research**  
 page 7



## E-Health in Vienna

**Use of the internet and corresponding IT infrastructure for a large variety of health care related services has been advancing for years. Vienna has also developed a blossoming e-health sector where you can find anything from major players to creative founders.**

### **Agfa:** Hospital IT and diagnostic support

After digital photography developed, the former chemistry and photo technology corporation looked around for new business fields. Among other things, it entered the field of medical imaging systems, later expanding into IT solutions for imaging and hospital management. The Vienna branch, where more than 100 persons work in software development, formed when Agfa purchased the company GWI in 2005. At this time, GWI was a market leader in clinical information systems and had also previously acquired a small company – the so called "Picture Archiving & Communication Systems" (or PACS). These two fields are still the cornerstones of a branch which is one of the four most important IT development locations of the corporation. Medical informatics offer data mining and business intelligence solutions for this purpose, which help to draw the right conclusions from the wealth of recorded data. Furthermore, diagnostics in radiology are increasingly being performed with IT support. On the one hand, algorithms can point out specific structures in x-ray images; on the other hand, they can be used to provide a second opinion for a doctor's judgment, contributing to higher quality findings. More and more, this is being referred to as "Computer Aided Diagnosis" (CAD).



### **Medexter Healthcare:** Clinical Decision Support

The company Medexter Healthcare works in a similar field – "Clinical Decision Support". The core expertise of the company, which was founded by Klaus-Peter Adlassnig, Professor of Medical Informatics at the Medical University of Vienna, lies in processing clinical knowledge to provide to decision-makers in a suitable form. A wide-ranging bundle of methods is used here – such as medical expert systems, Fuzzy Logic and Artificial Intelligence. But they also know the details of the clinical workflows and have experience in using such systems in hospitals, laboratories, outpatient departments and doctors' practices.

### **AME International:** System integrator and consultant

AME International, on the other hand, does not develop its own software products. This company is headquartered in Vienna and has several branches in Africa and Asia. It operates as a consultant and system integrator when building IT infrastructures in the healthcare field. Changes in the procurement process mean that system decisions are made less and

less often by individual facilities, and more by superordinate authorities. This development is seen especially in countries which are less advanced in building their medical infrastructure. AME International acts as a consultant for large tender offers in Albania and South Africa, and was able to build the first fully digitalized hospital.

Two aspects stand out in networking further towards patients: direct patient access to medical information and the collection of patient data which can be used for treatment.

### **MySugr:** M-Health applications for diabetics

M-Health is a special aspect of e-health – a field in which the company "MySugr" works. Frank Westermann and Fredrik Dehong developed a smartphone app for diabetics in which the process of recording blood sugar parameters is part of a game where points are collected and challenges earned. M-health applications are suitable for all indications which are better managed with regular patient interaction and concretely benefit the user himself.

➔ Read the whole story at »Chemiereport 2/2013«.

## Dear readers!



The first half of 2013 has been filled with numerous international conferences and congresses, exploratory trips and events to which we were able to invite our Viennese companies.

In January, LISAvienna visited Arab Health, the largest medical technology exhibition in the Arabian region, together with twelve Viennese companies. Our first business seminar on the subject of "Development and Sale of Software and Apps in Healthcare" took place in March, in a cooperative venture with ZIT – The Technology Agency of the City of Vienna and the Vienna Business Agency. The fact that all seats were completely filled showed the importance for Vienna's entrepreneurs. In April and May, two e-health exhibitions – ConhIT in Berlin and E-Health in Vienna – were given a closer look for Viennese companies. The cover article of this newsletter points out the promising developments in the field of e-health.

In the biotechnology field, the BIO-Europe Spring in Barcelona was attended with 19 Viennese companies in cooperation with the LISA umbrella brand, and in April, the BIO International in Chicago. The exceptionally fascinating "Zukunftsreise" with Viennese life science companies to South Korea took place in May, ending with a visit to the CBPF Peking exhibition. Back in Vienna, a business seminar was held in cooperation with UK Trade & Investment on the beautiful premises of the British Embassy Vienna on the subject of "New Business Opportunities in the UK Biotech/ Life Science Sector". The article on the subject of respiratory research demonstrates the increasing diversification of Vienna's biotechnology and pharmaceutical sectors.

After this varied first half year, we are now gathering our strength for fall, which will start right away with exciting business seminars. We are happy to announce the LISAvienna Life Science Circle – Vienna's life science networking event – in cooperation with FH Technikum Wien on 3 October.

In November, LISAvienna will host the BIO-Europe, Europe's largest biotechnology partnering exhibition. And before the first Christmas markets open in Vienna at the end of November, we will be supporting our Viennese medical technology companies at the Medica in Düsseldorf.

We look forward to seeing you again in the second half of the year, and wish you an enjoyable summer!

*Peter Halwachs and Johannes Sarx*  
LISAvienna Managing Directors



### LISAvienna – Connecting Life Sciences

LISAvienna - Life Science Austria Vienna is the life science cluster organization of the City of Vienna, serving all stakeholders in the areas of biotechnology/ pharmaceuticals and medical technology.

Whether you are an entrepreneur, an investor or a researcher, LISAvienna can provide you with essential services in Austria's largest life sciences location.

Please visit our website [www.LISAvienna.at](http://www.LISAvienna.at) to learn more about Vienna as a top location for life sciences!

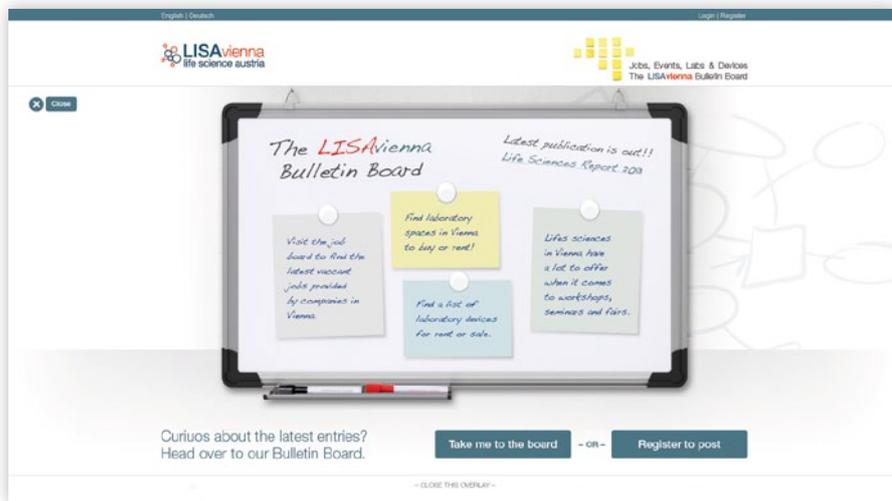
## Meet LISAvienna

- **FFG Forum**  
Vienna, 18 September, 2013  
[www.ffg.at](http://www.ffg.at)
- **ÖGMBT Jahrestagung, 5th Life Science Meeting**  
Innsbruck, 25-27 September, 2013  
[www.oegmbt.at](http://www.oegmbt.at)
- **Branchenforum „Einstiegs-möglichkeiten für österreichische Unternehmen in den deutschen Gesundheitsmarkt“**  
Vienna, 1 October, 2013  
[www.wko.at](http://www.wko.at)
- **LISAvienna Life Science Circle**  
Vienna, 3 October, 2013  
[www.LISAvienna.at](http://www.LISAvienna.at)
- **FH Campus Wien – 10 Jahre Biotechnologie**  
Vienna, 17 October, 2013  
[www.fh-campuswien.ac.at](http://www.fh-campuswien.ac.at)
- **BIO-Europe 2013**  
Vienna, 4-6 November, 2013  
[www.ebdgroup.com/bioeurope](http://www.ebdgroup.com/bioeurope)
- **Medica**  
Duesseldorf, 20-23 November, 2013  
[www.medica.de](http://www.medica.de)

## Life Science Events in Vienna

- **TBI Challenge 2013**  
19-21 September, 2013  
[www.tbi-challenge.eu](http://www.tbi-challenge.eu)
- **XXI World Congress Neurology**  
21-26 September, 2013  
[www2.kenes.com/wcn/Pages/Home.aspx](http://www2.kenes.com/wcn/Pages/Home.aspx)
- **WWTF Life Sciences Tag 2013**  
23 September, 2013  
[www.wwtf.at](http://www.wwtf.at)
- **27th EACTS Annual Meeting**  
5-9 October, 2013  
[www.eacts.org](http://www.eacts.org)
- **DGHO Jahrestagung**  
18-22 October, 2013  
[www.haematologie-onkologie-2013.at](http://www.haematologie-onkologie-2013.at)
- **Mercur '13**  
5 November, 2013  
[www.wko.at](http://www.wko.at)

# LISAvienna's new service Bulletin Board



**Starting** at the end of summer, LISAvienna will be offering a new Bulletin Board service to Vienna's life science community on the LISAvienna website. The service will cover the categories of training, career, real estate and equipment and will be available to all of Vienna's life science entrepreneurs at no charge. With this, LISAvienna would like to render all information which is helpful or relevant to life science companies accessible to them in a fast, uncomplicated manner, and offer a platform for exchanging information and services.



## LISAvienna Business Seminars

### Development and distribution of software and apps in the healthcare field

Vienna, 11 March 2013 – With its business seminar "Development and Sale of Software and Apps in the Healthcare Field", LISAvienna offered a business seminar for the rapidly growing group of companies in Vienna which have already gained or want to gain a foothold in this specialized market. The event was held in partnership with the IT cluster of Vienna's economy agency and the ZIT initiative WienWin. With such strong partners, 70 participants from 53 companies and research facilities became enthused about the business seminars, filling the lecture hall in the aws right down to the last seat.

Presenters included Stefan Sauermann, who heads the study course in Biomedical Engineering Sciences of the FH Technikum Wien, Carole Tomaschek, who heads the service office of the KAV-IT, Martin Schmid, CEO of en.co.tec, as well as Frederik Debong, shareholder and product manager of mySugr.

### LISAvienna Business Seminar in cooperation with UK Trade & Investment and the British Embassy Vienna

Vienna, 27 June 2013 – Life Science Austria Vienna and the British Government organization UK Trade & Invest organized a business seminar at the British Embassy to showcase recent developments in the life science sector within the UK and to introduce business and co-operation opportunities for Austrian life science companies.

The introduction was given by Ivana Ridler, Senior Attaché and Head of Inward Investment at UKTI Austria, continued by Nigel Whittle, Life Science Expert at UKTI, Frances Pennell-Buck, UKTI NHS Expert and the Austro-British entrepreneur Jason Slingsby.

The audience had the opportunity to talk with the speakers at the networking reception after the seminar, and to admire the impressive reception rooms of the British Embassy, which have remained largely unchanged since 1873.

**Next LISAvienna Business Seminar**  
in cooperation with GPMed – Gesellschaft für Pharmazeutische Medizin

**Klinische Entwicklung von Arzneimitteln in Österreich – Biotech meets Global Pharma**  
(Clinical Development of Drugs in Austria)

**19 September, 2013**

Please register at [www.LISAvienna.at](http://www.LISAvienna.at)  
Attendance is free.

For more event reports  
visit our Website  
[www.LISAvienna.at](http://www.LISAvienna.at)

# Company News

## **Marinomed: Pharma Company Acquires Rights to Antiviral Product Line for China**

July 16, 2013 – The rights to five medical products of the Viennese biotech company Marinomed have now been licensed to an international pharmaceutical company for the Chinese market. Besides three antiviral nasal sprays against common cold, influenza and colds in children, the deal also includes the two newest products from Marinomed: antiviral lozenges and a throat spray against viral throat infections. The entire product portfolio is based on the MAVIREX® technology platform from Marinomed. This takes advantage of special antiviral properties of a natural polymer derived from red algae.  
[www.marinomed.at](http://www.marinomed.at)

## **Two Pi: SelfFit technology links to tomorrow's hearing healthcare**

June 17, 2013 – Two Pi GmbH announces that SelfFit, an innovative Mobile Medical Application for hearing aid fitting, has successfully entered the clinical trial stage.

Developed with the support of the audiological division of the Amsterdam Medical Center (AMC), SelfFit combines the characterization of the individual hearing loss through the hearing aid with an advanced First-Fit protocol and a well-structured fine-tuning process using realistic sound samples. This substantial innovation has a potential for broadening hearing healthcare beyond the frontiers of the traditional markets.  
[www.two-pi.com](http://www.two-pi.com)

## **AOP Orphan spins off its stake in Activartis and outlines business strategy**

June 17, 2013 – AOP Orphan Pharmaceuticals AG today announced the spin off of its 80 % stake in Activartis GmbH, a Vienna-based biotech company with a strong platform for immune-based cancer vaccines, to a group of private investors.

The dendritic cell-based technology for individualized tumor therapy developed by Activartis is well patented and represents a unique therapeutic approach. Clinical development is at an advanced stage for glioblastoma, an incurable disease, and data from a multicentric, prospective trial are expected soon. Beyond glioblastoma, other indications are being pursued, since the technology can be used for virtually any kind of tumor.  
[www.aoporphan.com](http://www.aoporphan.com)

## **mySugr launches in the US and gets Ferris on board**

June 6, 2013 - Yesterday, Austrian startup mySugr launched its diabetes app in the US.

The Vienna-based company developed a medical app for diabetics that turns the tedious monitoring of food intake and blood sugar into a game that even 6 year olds can use with an own junior version to answer to the increasing rate of diabetes. After a lengthy process of authorisation by the American Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which recently published their guidelines for the mHealth

sector, mySugr could now enter this promising market.

Co-founded by Fredrik Debong, Frank Westermann, Gerald Stangl and Michael Forisch in 2011, mySugr currently have almost 14.000 users mainly in Austria, Germany and Italy. By the end of 2013, the team of 16, which to a big part is made up of diabetics and is based at Vienna's Sektor5 hope to grow their customer base to 60.000 users by the end of the year, as Debong told inventures.eu last month.  
[mysugr.com](http://mysugr.com)

## **Intercell Announces Pediatric Approval of its Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine in the U.S.**

May 21, 2013 – Intercell AG (VSE; "ICLL") announced today that the pediatric indication for IXIARO®, a vaccine to protect against Japanese Encephalitis (JE), was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In Europe, the pediatric label extension was granted in February 2013.

"We are very pleased that the FDA has now approved IXIARO® for use in children from the age of 2 months. For the first time in nearly 2 years, a licensed vaccine will now be available to vaccinate also traveling children and those children of forward deployed military personnel in Asia, against JE. This important step is a key element of the further growth for Intercell's first commercial product and another milestone in the fight against this potentially deadly disease with a licensed vaccine", says Thomas Lingelbach, Chief Executive Officer of Intercell AG.  
[www.valveva.com](http://www.valveva.com)

## **APEPTICO initiates phase II clinical trial with AP301**

April 17, 2013 – APEPTICO, a privately-held biotechnology company developing peptide drugs based on its PEP-BASE™ discovery technology, today announced that the Ethics Committee of the Medical University of Vienna has approved the company's application to perform a phase clinical study in male and female patients following lung transplantation to investigate the clinical effect of repetitive orally inhaled doses of AP301 on primary graft dysfunction.

AP301 is synthetic peptide which has been shown in animal studies in rats and pigs following application by inhalation of the nebulised compound, to prevent and treat ischemia reperfusion injury, to significantly improve gas exchange in pre-damaged donor lungs and to activate lung oedema reabsorption. Until today, no medicinal product has been specifically authorized by medicines agencies for prevention and treatment of primary graft dysfunction / ischemia reperfusion injury in the lung following lung transplantation.  
[www.apeptico.com](http://www.apeptico.com)

## **Activartis: Early Results of AV0113 Cancer Immunotherapy in Glioblastoma Trial Reveal Promising Trend**

April 11, 2013 - Glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) is the most severe form of brain cancer and progresses rapidly.

With the first-line treatment (surgery, chemo-, and radiotherapy) the prognosis is poor with a median survival rate of 14 to 15 months. This makes novel treatment strategies

highly warranted. One such strategy is cancer immunotherapy (CIT).

Activartis has developed a novel patented cancer immunotherapy concept, AV0113, based on dendritic cells (DC). While DCs have already demonstrated their potential in cancer immunotherapy, the novel feature of AV0113 is that exposure to bacterial endotoxins enables the DC to prime type 1 T helper cells, which support cytolytic anti-tumour immune responses. This is comparable to conjugated vaccines, which are a more artificial way to modulate the features of an immune response.  
[www.activartis.com](http://www.activartis.com)

## **S-TARget Achieves In Vivo Proof of Concept for Its Allergy Vaccine SG100**

April 8, 2013 – S-TARget therapeutics ("S-TARget"), a biotechnology company developing vaccines that address the cause of severe allergic diseases, announced today that it has achieved in vivo proof of concept for its drug candidate SG100.

SG100 is being developed for the prevention and therapy of severe allergic asthma caused by house dust mite (HDM) allergens.

In a study of SG100 in naïve rhesus monkeys, S-TARget has demonstrated that repeated injections of the candidate vaccine induced a Th1 cell mediated memory immune response against natural HDM allergens. A Th1 immune response is considered a "healthy" immune response to allergens. By contrast, a Th2-mediated immune response can lead to allergic diseases – which in the case of exposure to HDM allergens include severe and persistent asthma. The study has also shown that SG100 can be safely applied in a relevant animal model.  
[www.s-target.com](http://www.s-target.com)

## **Miracor successfully completes first German patient using the PICSO® system**

March 3, 2013 – Patient underwent normal stent placement after a severe heart attack, and PICSO® was applied for 90 minutes immediately following PCI, with the intent to enhance myocardial perfusion.

Miracor Medical Systems GmbH announced today that the first German patient was successfully treated using its PICSO® (Pressure-controlled Intermittent Coronary Sinus Occlusion) System designed to improve myocardial perfusion following primary PCI (Percutaneous Coronary Intervention, or angioplasty). The procedure was successfully performed by Prof. Dr. med. Stefan Sack and Dr. Jochen Menne and their team at the General Academic Hospital Schwabing in Munich.  
[www.miracormedical.com](http://www.miracormedical.com)

## **More news**

Fore more news please visit our website  
[www.LISAvienna.at](http://www.LISAvienna.at)

## MedUni Vienna: Factor for impaired immune response in pneumonia identified

July 18, 2013 – Macrophages, also known as scavenger cells, play an important role in defending against bacteria and pathogens by activating inflammatory processes. In cases of lung inflammation (pneumonia) caused by pneumococcal bacteria, this important immune response function is hampered and blocked by the protein lipocalin 2. These are the findings of scientists at the MedUni Vienna, led by Sylvia Knapp, Head of the Infection Biology Laboratory at the University Department of Internal Medicine I.

[www.meduniwien.ac.at](http://www.meduniwien.ac.at)

## MedUni Vienna: Brain surgery simulator in use at the MedUni Vienna

July 17, 2013 – Of late a brain simulator has been in use for training in microsurgical operating techniques at the Medical University of Vienna. In Austria, this so-called “neuro touch” simulator is so far being used exclusively at the University Department of Neurosurgery, and much know-how from Vienna has also gone into the development of this training technology.

[www.meduniwien.ac.at](http://www.meduniwien.ac.at)

## IMBA: The Fight against Genome Parasites

June 4, 2013 – In the gonads of animals, genome parasites such as transposons pose a serious threat to evolutionary fitness. With their ability to bounce around in the genome, they often cause dangerous mutations. To protect genomic integrity, animals evolved a sophisticated mechanism – the so called piRNA pathway – to silence the deleterious transposons.

Not much is known about the molecular processes and the involved factors that constitute the piRNA pathway. Researchers at the Institute of Molecular Biotechnology (IMBA) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) in Vienna have now identified ~50 genes, that play important roles in the piRNA pathway of the fruitfly *Drosophila melanogaster*.

[www.imba.oeaw.ac.at](http://www.imba.oeaw.ac.at)

## MFPL: 1 million euro FFG funding to boost structural biology research

May 23, 2013 – “Laura Bassi Centre of Excellence” of Kristina Djinovic-Carugo extended for another three years.

On May 23rd, the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) extended the contract with the Center for Optimized Structural Studies (COSS) at the Max F. Perutz Laboratories and the University of Vienna. The COSS is one of only eight centres funded through the “Laura Bassi Centre of Excellence” program. Over the next three years – until 2016 – structural biologist Kristina Djinovic-Carugo and the COSS team will be funded with 1 million euro to do research at the interface between science and industry.

[www.mfpl.ac.at](http://www.mfpl.ac.at)

## MedUni Vienna: Effective vaccination against borreliosis possible

May 10, 2013 – “Borreliosis” or “Lyme disease” is caused by the bacterium “*Borrelia burgdorferi*”. In Austria approximately 16,000 people fall ill with borreliosis annually following a tick bite. Roughly every fifth tick in Austria carries the pathogen.

Borreliosis can be treated effectively with antibiotics, however a prophylactic vaccination is not available. In a current multicentre study, in which the MedUni Vienna participated, the reliable effectiveness of a possible vaccine against borreliosis has now been proved.

[www.meduniwien.ac.at](http://www.meduniwien.ac.at)

## Uni Vienna: Computer simulations reveal the energy landscape of ion channels

May 2, 2013 – Ion channels are important drug targets. A young team of researchers led by pharmacologist Anna Stry-Weinzinger from the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Vienna investigated the opening and closing mechanisms of these channels: for the first time the full energy landscape of such a large protein (> 400 amino acids) could be calculated in atomic detail. The scientists identified a phenylalanine, which plays a key role for the transition between open and closed state. The time consuming calculations were performed using the high performance computer cluster (VSC), which is currently the fastest computer in Austria. Recently, the results were published in PLOS Computational Biology.

[www.univie.ac.at](http://www.univie.ac.at)

## MFPL: Flu and bacteria: Better prognosis for this potentially fatal combination

April 25, 2013 – Research by scientists from the Max F. Perutz Laboratories points to new treatment options.

Scientists from the Max F. Perutz Laboratories (MFPL) of the University of Vienna and the Medical University of Vienna have provided insights into how much harm bacteria can cause to the lung of people having the flu. An infection with both the flu and bacteria can be a fatal combination. The results could prompt the development of alternative treatments for flu-related bacterial infections, to improve patient outcome and prevent permanent lung damage. The study is published in the renown journal “Science”.

[www.mfpl.ac.at](http://www.mfpl.ac.at)

## TU Vienna: The Bee's Knees for Detecting Disease

April 22, 2013 – Fire blight is a serious threat to fruit trees. Now a quick test has been developed at the Vienna University of Technology, which can indicate the danger early – with the help of bees.

When blossoms and leaves wilt and turn black, it is usually too late: the plant disease fire blight damages especially apple trees and pear trees, clearing the affected trees is often the only chance left. Within a single season, fire blight can destroy an entire orchard. However, researchers at the Vienna University of Technology together with the

Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) have now developed a method to detect the disease very quickly. Bees visit many trees at the same time and so they bring the dangerous bacteria back to the hive, where a test station is located. A genetic test, tailor-made to detect fire blight DNA, then reveals if an imminent fire blight danger actually exists.

[www.tuwien.ac.at](http://www.tuwien.ac.at)

## Vetmeduni Vienna: A surprising new function for small RNAs in evolution

April 19, 2013 – An international research team including Christian Schlotterer and Alistair McGregor of the Vetmeduni Vienna has discovered a completely new mechanism by which evolution can change the appearance of an organism.

The researchers found that the number of hairs on flies’ legs varies according to the level of activity of a so-called microRNA. The results, published in the journal *Current Biology*, shed a completely new light on the molecular mechanisms of evolution.

[www.vetmeduni.ac.at](http://www.vetmeduni.ac.at)

## CeMM Adjunct PI Thijn Brummelkamp identified entrance mechanism of the Lassa Virus into Cells

March 21, 2013 – In collaboration with scientists at Radboud University (Netherlands) and Harvard University (USA), the laboratory of Thijn Brummelkamp (Netherlands Cancer Institute, Adjunct Principal Investigator at CeMM) identified genes that are required for coupling sugar groups to the dystroglycan protein.

[www.cemm.oeaw.ac.at](http://www.cemm.oeaw.ac.at)

## IMBA: Mutated gene causes nerve cell death

March 10, 2013 – Researchers identify new mechanism in the onset of incurable nerve disease The British astrophysicist Stephen Hawking is likely to be the world’s most famous person living with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease.

ALS is a progressive disease affecting motor neurons, nerve cells that control muscle function, and nearly always leads to death. Researchers at the Institute of Molecular Biotechnology of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (IMBA) in Vienna have now identified a completely new mechanism in the onset of motor neuron diseases. Their findings could be the basis for future treatments for these presently incurable diseases.

[www.imba.oeaw.ac.at](http://www.imba.oeaw.ac.at)

## Your news placed here

Vienna-based organizations are invited to e-mail news and press releases to [news@LISAVienna.at](mailto:news@LISAVienna.at) to contribute to LISAVienna’s online news collection and this printed newflash.

# International Life Science Events

## Arab Health 2013 in Dubai

In January, LISAvienna was represented for the third time after 2011 and 2012 at the world's second largest medical technology and healthcare exhibition, Arab Health.

12 Viennese companies presented themselves in Dubai with LISAvienna. Aside from the presentation of the Life Science location by the Viennese companies, the exhibition was an excellent opportunity to advance international networking.

▶ **The next Arab Health: 27–30 January 2014, Dubai**



## BIO-Europe Spring

On behalf of the umbrella brand LISA - Life Science Austria, LISAvienna organized a shared exhibition booth for all Austrian and Viennese companies at this year's BIO-Europe Spring partnering exhibition in Barcelona in March 2013.

The 19 participating institutions from Vienna had the opportunity to use the booth to publish the companies' own documents and as a contact and information point.

▶ **The next BIO-Europe Spring: 10–12 March 2014, Turin**



## BIO Chicago

With more than 16 000 expert visitors from all US Federal states and 65 countries, the BIO International Convention, which already took place this year from 22–25 April in Chicago, is the world's leading exhibition for the biotechnology sector. Together with LISAvienna, 22 Viennese companies were represented at the Austrian group booth which was organized by AUSSENWIRTSCHAFT AUSTRIA in partnership with LISA – Life Science Austria.

▶ **The next BIO: 23–26 June 2014, San Diego**

## LISAvienna: Life Science-delegation visit to China and South Korea

Vienna, 3 June 2013. China and South Korea are two fast growing life science markets in East Asia. In both countries pharmaceutical and medical technology companies are looking for new technologies and are increasingly interested in innovations from Europe and North America.

To facilitate access to these markets for Austrian, and in particular, Viennese life science companies, the Vienna life science cluster organization LISAvienna offered a delegation visit from 26 - 30 May 2013 in cooperation with the Vienna Economic Chamber, the AUSSENWIRTSCHAFT AUSTRIA and the Office of Science and Technology (OST) in Beijing and Shanghai.

**left:** booth at the BIO-Europe Spring

**right:** Jürgen Fuchs and Johannes Sarx at the BIO Chicago

**bottom:** CBPF in Peking  
ftr: Christian Gaisbauer (BMVIT), Stefan Kahl (AußenwirtschaftsCenter Shanghai), Peter Schintmeister (BMWVJ), Johannes Sarx and Jürgen Fuchs (LISAvienna)

Would you like to accompany us to an international biotech/pharma event? Please contact Jürgen Fuchs at [fuchs@LISAvienna.at](mailto:fuchs@LISAvienna.at)

# Location Spotlight

## Respiratory Research

**In recent years, a number of companies which would like to use new knowledge on the pathology of respiratory tract disorders to develop therapeutic approaches were founded at the Life Sciences location of Vienna.**

**The company Mucokinetica** is the most recent example. The company, which recently received support from the Pre-Seed program of the aws, deals with the interaction between mucus which is secreted in the respiratory system to provide protection against particles, and the cilia of epithelial lung cells which contribute to transporting the mucus. Mucokinetica's objective is to develop specific therapies which will start at the points where this system does not fulfill its purpose sufficiently (e.g. in Cystic Fibrosis or COPD).

**Apeptico develops a medication against lung edema.** Numerous disorders, such as acute lung damage (ALI), acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), ischemic reperfusion damage, primary transplant dysfunction, as well as viral and bacterial pneumonia and the so called altitude sickness are associated with life threatening lung edemas. Fluid seeps out into the surrounding tissues without a cardiac cause. Thus far, intensive care measures are the only treatment – there is still no licensed, specifically acting medication. With the support of Pre-Seed from the aws, the company Apeptico – which was founded by Bernhard Fischer – developed a group of synthetic peptides which are able to contribute to reducing the lung edema and effectively protecting the lung tissues against further injury. After pleasing Phase I results with the leading substance AP301, the company started a Phase II study in June 2012 to investigate the effects of repeated oral inhalation of the active substance in acute lung edema patients. Another Phase II study in patients with dysfunction after lung transplants will enter its active phase in May. Apeptico obtained the "Orphan Drug Designation" for its molecules both from the European Medications Agency EMA and from its US counterpart, the FDA.

**Apeiron: Recombinant protein against ARDS.** The company Apeiron was guided by another pathophysiological mechanism. Research work by founder Josef Penninger, the head of the Institute for Molecular Biotechnology (IMBA), had shown that an enzyme called "Angiotensin Converting Enzyme 2" plays a decisive role in an important hormonal system. Disorders of this system are related to various respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses. To allow therapeutic interventions, Apeiron developed a recombinant form of the protein (APN301) to the clinical Phase I level. Preclinical investigations concentrated primarily on ARDS – an indication for which the project was licensed out to Glaxo Smith Kline at the start of 2010. With a total possible volume of 236 million Euros, the deal was one of the largest ever closed in Vienna's biotechnology sector, and allowed Apeiron to build an expanded development pipeline by licensing

projects which were close to market readiness. The company, which is supported by the Seed Financing program of the aws, already succeeded repeatedly in ZIT research calls. Glaxo is currently performing a multicentric Phase II study on the efficacy of APN301 in ARDS patients.

**Inoxia fights asthma.** Bronchial asthma, a chronic inflammatory disorder of the lower respiratory tract, is appearing more frequently. Here as well, it is only possible to treat the symptoms today – but not the causes of the inflammation. Andreas Kubin and Georg Jessner, the founders of Innoxia, started with molecular foundations: Allergens trigger an inflammation process in asthma patients in which a certain type of white blood corpuscles gives off the enzyme "Esinophile Peroxidase". This enzyme catalyzes the formation of oxygen radicals, which are released to fight the allergens. To counteract this process, Innoxia is developing active substances which can act as specific inhibitors of peroxidase. The company, which receives aws' Pre-Seed support, is investigating the effects of the medication candidates in various models of the illness in the preclinical development stage.

**Boltzmann Institute researches COPD.** The Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for COPD and Respiratory Epidemiology is scientifically addressing another chronic lower respiratory tract disorder. COPD stands for "chronic obstructive pulmonary disease" (commonly known as "smoker's lung") and describes a group of disorders marked by chronic cough, expectorate and shortness of breath.

➔ Read the whole story at »Chemiereport 3/2013«.



# Coming to Town BIO-Europe

## Highlights BIO-Europe 2012

- 15,276 scheduled one-to-one meetings
- 3,028 licensing opportunities posted
- 2,957 attendees
- 1,638 companies
- 174 company presentations
- 94 international exhibitor
- 52 countries
- 18 workshops and panel sessions

Since 2009, LISAvienna has been able to bring Europe's largest partnering exhibition for life sciences, the BIO-Europe, to Vienna for a second time. From 4–6 November, representatives of all of the world's renowned biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies will come to the Messe Wien exhibition and congress center to set the pace for their future.

### The congress

Due to its excellent concept, BIO-Europe has become a central focus of the international biotechnology sector. The innovative partnering concept makes it possible to identify the company's important cooperation partners simply and effectively, and arrange scheduling. At the conference, business like speed dating takes place whereby meetings can be held in one of the innumerable partnering booths and for 30 minutes views can be exchanged between business partners about relevant topics. After 30 minutes, the partners and booths are switched.

### Vienna is special

To provide socializing opportunities aside from the tightly managed partnering units, perfectly organized networking events are offered on each congress evening to allow for reflection and inspiration. "We would like to show our guests the beauty and variety of Vienna with its imperial character and the city's modern sides. That is why we as the hosts together with the organizer thought of something very special." says Peter Halwachs, Managing Director of LISAvienna. Here's a tip: the welcome reception, which is offered by LISAvienna on Sunday before the congress, will be held in the imperial atmosphere of the Maria Theresia's elegant ballroom at Vienna's Hofburg. Subsequent evening networking receptions will also reflect the grandiose and modern sides of Vienna – something to look forward to!

### Vienna – Translational City

Transferring scientific results into products is a major challenge to the biotech and pharma sectors. The BIO-Europe 2013 is addressing this problem by developing a theme focus on the subject of Translational Research. Vienna will present models of how "translational" solutions can help to manage the challenges in the biotechnology/pharma fields.

"We are planning to involve university and non-university research institutes which will be able to present themselves at a separate booth at BIO-Europe." Johannes Sarx, Managing Director of LISAvienna, states.

For domestic companies, a special bonus is offered: "All Austrian companies will receive special conditions at registration to the BIO-Europe and for company presentations." Jürgen Fuchs, cluster manager at LISAvienna, explains. Further information is available on the website [www.LISAvienna.at](http://www.LISAvienna.at), or can be sent upon request ([office@LISAvienna.at](mailto:office@LISAvienna.at)).

For more information on the congress please visit [www.ebdgroup.com/bioeurope](http://www.ebdgroup.com/bioeurope) and [www.LISAvienna.at](http://www.LISAvienna.at)



## INVITATION

### LISAvienna Life Science Circle

in cooperation with FH Technikum Wien

**3 October, 2013**

Please register at [www.LISAvienna.at](http://www.LISAvienna.at)  
Attendance is free.

LISAvienna  
Life Science Austria Vienna  
Walcherstraße 11A  
A – 1020 Vienna

PHONE +43 (0) 1 50175 358  
FAX +43 (0)1 50175 492  
E-MAIL [office@LISAvienna.at](mailto:office@LISAvienna.at)  
WEB [www.LISAvienna.at](http://www.LISAvienna.at)

