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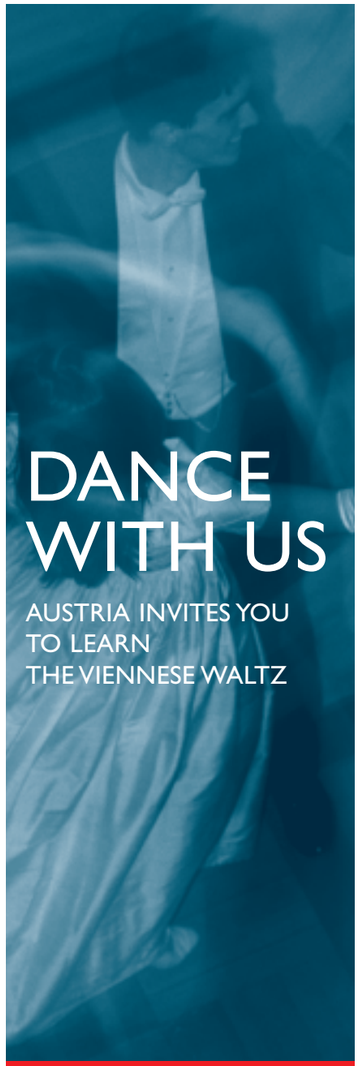
LISA Vienna Region
Ebendorferstraße 4
1010 Vienna
AUSTRIA
PHONE: +43-1-4000-86934
FAX: +43-1-4000-7099
E-MAIL: ecker@lisavr.at
WEB: www.lisavr.at

Life Science Austria
Vienna Region



AUSTRIAN BIOTECH COMPANIES AT **CHICAGO'S BIO 2006**

MEET US AT THE AUSTRIAN PAVILION (BOOTH 335)

Austrian organisations represented at BIO 2006 range from diagnostic specialists to companies engaged in vaccine development with products already in phase III, and from small start-ups to listed companies.

› **Apeiron Biologics'** objective is to translate biological knowledge into innovative biopharmaceutical products for the treatment of diseases with serious unmet medical needs.

› **Austrianova** focuses on cancer therapy. Its principal product is used in treating pancreas cancer and has been granted orphan drug status by the European Medicines Agency (EMEA). A multicentre phase III trial has started recently.

› **Eucodis** uses its novel technology platform to improve or produce therapeutic proteins and industrial enzymes. The technologies are based on in vivo recombination and somatic hypermutation.

› **Greenhills Biotechnology's** expertise is in applying the latest virological discoveries to products combating viral infectious diseases and cancer. GHB's core competence is its extensive knowledge of virology, in particular with respect to interactions between viruses and host cells.

› **Igeneon**, a 100% subsidiary of Apthon Corporation, focuses on the development of immunotherapeutic products for fighting cancer. Its most advanced product, IGN 101, is currently undergoing Phase III trials.

› **Oridis Biomed** maintains one of the world's largest tissue banks, which can be used for target validation. Its first product is used for the diagnosis of liver cancer.

› **Sanochemia Pharmazeutika AG** concentrates on diseases of the central nervous system. Its strengths are in the development and synthesis of drugs used against senile dementia and in the treatment of strokes and epilepsy.

In addition to these companies, which share the Austrian Pavilion, the Austrian company **Intercell** (Booth 426) is also present at BIO 2006. **Intercell** is a specialist in vaccine development with lead products against Japanese encephalitis and hepatitis C.

The LISA VR team is available to answer your enquiries at the booth during BIO 2006 - please e-mail us to arrange an appointment: *ecker@lisavr.at*

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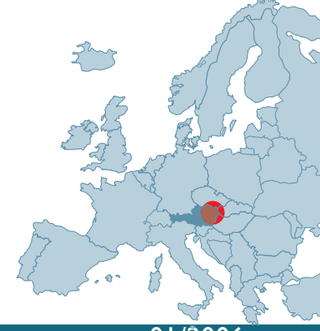
LIFE SCIENCE AUSTRIA → **vienna region's newsletter** 01/2006



: editorial

Dear Readers,

The year 2005 was a very successful one: in February, Intercell AG became the first Austrian biotech company to obtain a stock exchange listing, and Biovertis AG's acquisition of Morphochem AG in December is a further evidence that Vienna's biotech scene is as lively as ever. Collaborative cross-border projects are not just a political platitude in Vienna, but very much part of everyday life. The start of new collaborative ventures with partners in neighbouring countries in Eastern and South East Europe has especially enhanced that status. Five life sciences companies secured significant quantities of Viennese grant funding for transnational projects with partners in Croatia, the Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Before it closed in June 2005, Best of Biotech, the multinational business plan competition, had attracted lively interest from scientists in Hungary and the Czech Republic.

PEOPLE

Sonja Hammerschmid, who pioneered public funding for life sciences in Austria, is leaving the management team of Life Science Austria Vienna Region (LISA VR) to join the Advisory Board with effect from the beginning of 2006. We should like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her work over the past years, and look forward to working with her in her new capacity.

For more about what's going on in Vienna's life science industry, read on.

Michaela Fritz
Edeltraud Stiftinger
Executive Board

› *www.lisavr.at*

NEW BIOINFORMATICS CHAIRS IN VIENNA

In November 2005, David Kreil and Arndt von Haeseler started to establish their bioinformatics groups.

Left to right:
Arndt von Haeseler
(Max F. Perutz Laboratories)
David Kreill
(University of Natural Ressources and Applied Life Sciences)

Sequencing projects, high throughput methods and the dramatic improvement in the performance of computers has transformed the biosciences into a high-tech discipline, and bioinformatics is playing an increasingly important role in model building and theory formulation.

› **Arndt von Haeseler**
is establishing the Centre for Integrative Bioinformatics at the new Max F. Perutz Laboratories, which are the joint creation of Vienna University and the Medical University of Vienna. One of his main interests is the analysis of DNA sequences from different species to determine degrees of relatedness. Modern DNA can thus be used to explore far back into the past.

› *www.wwtf.at | www.gen-au.at*

› **David Kreil**
Austrian born, David Kreil has been brought back from Cambridge to Vienna's University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences. Since the interpretation of data generated by modern biochips is at present a considerable challenge, the main emphasis of his work is the potential weakness of microarrays.

Funding available for bioinformatics
Towards the end of December 2005 the second phase of the Austrian Genome Research Programme (GEN-AU) started. Austria is making a further EUR 31 million available for genome research. Part of this money will be used to continue the funding for the Austrian Bioinformatics Integration Network, which links the academic institutions in Austria working in bioinformatics.

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"BYTES AND GENES"

Left to right: Georg Casari, Arndt von Haeseler and David Kreil

David Kreil, Arndt von Haeseler and Georg Casari, CIO of Oridis Biomed, in a panel discussion on the potential of bioinformatics

A chance to hear David Kreil and Arndt von Haeseler as well as Oridis Biomed's Georg Casari brought 170 guests from science and business together. Kreil and von Haeseler explained the focus of their research and the general further importance of bioinformatics. Georg Casari is Chief Information Officer at Oridis Biomed, which specialises in diseases of the liver. He gave examples of what bioinformatics is capable of, and how it functions as an enabling technology in the development of new drugs. Pharmaceutical companies expect its use to reduce the enormous costs and lengthy development phases of new medicines by as much as 30%.

During the meeting, posters were used to introduce more than 30 research institutions and businesses from all over Austria; the posters then acted as meeting points for informal discussion groups. Representatives of almost all the organisations engaged in bioinformatics in Austria attended, both from universities and non-university research institutions and from numerous businesses. A range of topics and products were presented: Siemens introduced a joint research project with the University of Vienna's Theoretical Biochemistry Group on RNA structure software, Inte:ligand Software Entwicklungs- und Consulting GmbH presented its pharmacophore modelling software, and Insilico Software GmbH was there to discuss biological networks and system biological approaches. Emergentec biodevelopment GmbH presented its strategy - based on computational biology - which the firm uses to help its clients to select new target molecules, while Sun Microsystems' Bioinformatics Center of Excellence demonstrated how closely research and business are linked in the biotech field.

www.boku.ac.at | www.cibiv.at
www.emergentec.com | www.insilico.com
www.inteligand.com
www.oridis-biomed.com
www.pse.siemens.at | www.sun.com

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: people

NEW MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

Since 2006 ***Michaela Fritz*** *joined the executive board of LISA Vienna Region. At Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH, partner with the City of Vienna's Centre for Innovation and Technology (ZIT) in LISA Vienna Region, she advises and supports life sciences enterprises in their start-up and growth phase based on her previous experience in industry.*

Erich Felber, CEO of Biovertis

BIOVERTIS: NOVEL ANTIBACTERIALS TO OVERCOME RESISTANCE

Biovertis, a privately owned Austrian biotechnology company founded in September 2003, discovers and develops novel classes of small molecule antibacterials. Following the acquisition of Morphochem AG in November 2005, the Company has developed into an integrated R&D company with an advanced pipeline and distinct drug discovery and development expertise in the field of anti-infectives. The Company is led by an experienced management team with a proven track record in the industry and is backed by first-tier life science investors, including Techno Venture Management (TVM), Life Sciences Partners (LSP) and Kapital und Wert, an Austrian corporate finance specialist.

"A decreasing number of pharmaceutical companies investing in anti-infectives, a meager pipeline and increasing levels of antibiotic resistance have all caused an alarming impasse in medicine", Erich Felber CEO of Biovertis points out. "Biovertis addresses exactly this challenge. All our programmes focus on truly novel therapeutic modalities with strong potential to combat the increasing threat of bacterial resistance." The most advanced programme is Oxaquin®, a novel class of small molecule antibiotics with a unique dual mode of action: it inhibits microbial protein synthesis and DNA replication at the same time. Clinical trials will start in mid-2006. Biovertis' second program, novel topoisomerase inhibitors, could follow in late 2007. For both programmes the Company has secured a strong proprietary position.

In addition, Biovertis has established a highly efficient drug discovery program combining genomic and immunology-based techniques, as well as bioinformatics structure prediction and fragment-based NMR screening. "Typically, we are able to identify and validate novel targets with proven druggability and strong potential to overcome bacterial resistance within 3-6 months", Biovertis' CSO, Uwe von Ahsen, explains. And once a target has been selected, the team employs structural information as well as in silico screening techniques to rapidly establish a highly focused repertoire of high-quality hits. "In this way, we will be able to sustain our pipeline from our internal drug discovery and developmental capabilities", von Ahsen continues. The first compound will enter lead optimisation in 2006.

Gertraud Unterrainer, CFO of Biovertis

Uwe von Ahsen, CSO of Biovertis

Biovertis' headquarters are located at the Campus Vienna Biocenter, one of Europe's most vibrant biotech hotspots, bringing together top scientists and executives from all over the world at several research institutions and biotechnology start-ups. "This local network together and the favourable funding environment have been extremely helpful to us in starting and developing our business", Unterrainer comments. "Just two and a half years after foundation, we are about to start clinical trials. And our projects will continue to gain pace over the coming months." The Company will focus its resources on its lead programs, fuel its pipeline from its internal drug discovery engine and may selectively enter into commercial partnerships to co-finance and accelerate its programmes.

www.biovertis.com

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latest news latest news latest news latest news

::: EUR 42 Mio. first round financing for antibiotic specialist

Vienna, January 31, 2006 *- Nabriva Therapeutics Forschungs GmbH ('Nabriva'), a specialist antibiotic research and development company is launched as a spin-off of the Vienna based Antibiotic Research Institute (ABRI) from Sandoz GmbH, Kundl. The spin-off is being financed by a group of venture capitalists led by Nomura Phase4-Ventures, a specialist investor in the healthcare market and other well-recognised investors including HBM, the Wellcome Trust, Global Life Sciences Ventures and Novatis Venture Fund, al long-term suporters of anti-bacterial drug development. The EUR 42 Mio. financing will provide Nabriva with sufficient funding to bring core products to Phase II trials.*

www.sandoz.at | www.nomura.com
www.nabriva.com