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EDITORIAL

Dear readers

A new year necessitating many courage and cleverness concerning the economic crisis has just begun. What would be better than starting it with a good deed?

BIO Germany, with biosaxony as a member, donated the 18,000 € receipts from a charity event to the Alliance of Chronically Infrequently Diseases (ACHSE e.V.). The federal wife and patron of ACHSE received the check on Castle Bellevue in January. Horst Domdey, member of the executive board of BIO Germany, emphasized the importance to show social responsibility – especially in difficult times.

Criteria for being classified as a rare disease are regulated different from place to place. For the EU this means less than 230.000 patients per year or 5 per 10.000 habitants - a mostly non-attractive niche market for big pharma but nevertheless on focus of many innovative biotech companies. Most important impulsion for the development of “orphan-drugs” is among others exclusive marketing rights for the expelled therapeutic area of application over a period up to ten years. Until January 2009 about 620 drugs had gotten the adjudication and 50 the authorization (source: VfA, 2009). With these authorized medical products it is possible to treat more than 2.7 million patients with rare diseases in the EU.

Saxon biotech companies are investigating and developing innovative “orphan drugs” such as in the area of oncology or metabolism providing treatment for some of the more than 6000 rare diseases.

We wish you good start in an exiting, demanding and successful year 2009!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dr. Martin Pfister".

Dr. Martin Pfister & the biosaxony team

ECONOMY

Free State of Saxony invest more money into research

The Free State of Saxony, in the years to come, plans to support research even more intensively. As stated by the Sächsische Staatsministerium für Wissenschaft und Kunst (Saxon Department of Science and Arts), the Free State has the highest per capita expenses for research and development in Germany of all Federal States. Related to the economic efficiency, Saxony, with 0.6 percent of the gross domestic product, is ranking first in Germany with regard to federal state expenses. The means will be increased from five million euros annually at this time to nine million euros. In addition, the budget for the extrauniversity research institutes financed by Germany and the federal states jointly shall be increased.

www.medienservice.sachsen.de/news/32682

ForMat BMBF Program: Innovations from Saxony

The “ForMaT“ program of the Federal Department of Education and Research (BMBF) reaches the second phase. 13 research teams of 30 managed to get into round 2, among which seven teams being from Saxony. The following ones have a biotech background: Technical University of Dresden, the Biotechnological Center of the Technical University of Dresden and the Institute of Structural Physics, as well as the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics in Dresden. The teams are now invited to create innovative products for the market. To this end, the projects will be further developed under the aspect of market and customer requirements. The competition belongs to the innovation initiative of the Federal Department of Education and Research for the New Federal States.

www.bmbf.de/media/press/pm_20081211-220.pdf
www.medienservice.sachsen.de/news/32621

VolkswagenFoundation supports research team from Saxony

VolkswagenFoundation is promoting the development of nanotechnology by its “Integration of Molecular Components in Functional Macroscopic Systems“ initiative. The Foundation is supporting seven projects in total, among which one from Saxony as well. The researchers Dr. Stefan Diez (Dresden Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics), Prof. Dr. Petra Schwille (Technical University of Dresden), Prof. Dr. Frank Jülicher (Dresden Max Planck Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems) and Prof. Dr. Henry Hess (University of Florida, USA) receive 700,000 euros for their project. They are busy with molecular motors as power machines orientating themselves according to how muscles function.

www.volkswagenstiftung.de/service/presse/pm/die-nanotechnologie-wird-erwachsen.html?no_cache=1&cHash=7350f61469

BioFuture Competition: Winners determined

The winners of the funding program for Junior researchers "BioFuture" of the Federal Department of Education and Research have been determined. Two Saxons are among the winners: Mr. Thomas Schmidt of the Technical University of Dresden, Chair of Plant Cell and Molecular Biology, and Ms. Evelin Schröck, Technical University of Dresden, Institute of Clinical Genetics. Their project topics convinced the jury. Mr. Thomas Schmidt is busy with the topic of "Plant Centomeres – Molecular Isolation and Use for the Development of Artificial Plant Chromosomes", Ms. Evelin Schröck is dealing with "Identification of Basic Cell Mechanisms of Tumor-Specific Chromosomal Translocations".

www.biotechnologie.de/BIO/Navigation/DE/Foerderung/foerderbeispiele,did=84822.html
www.biofuture-wettbewerb.de

EU funding in favor of Paul Flechsig Institute

The University of Leipzig's Paul Flechsig Institute of Brain Research, in the scope of the "NEUROPRO" compound project, receives 430,000 euros from the European Commission. The team around PD Dr. Steffen Roßner is now intensively working on the prolyl oligopeptidase enzyme (POP). It is their intention, among other things, to decode the meaning of the POP for the pathogenesis and course of neurodegenerative diseases.

http://db.uni-leipzig.de/aktuell/index.php?modus=pmanzeige&pm_id=3051

futureSAX: Phase I of the Business Plan Competition completed

A total of 116 participants submitted their business ideas for the futureSAX Business Plan Competition. Nine business ideas from the biotech/nanotech industry are among them. The prizes will be awarded on January 20, 2009 at "Alte Aktienspinne-rei" in Chemnitz. The competition is itemized into three phases – from the business idea to the business plan.

www.futuresax.de/Home/Aktuelles/tabid/100/Default.aspx

Current job offer

HIT.net UG, as soon as possible, is looking for an innovative and creative employee for **Business Development & Marketing**.

Hit.net UG deals with the development and operation of an Internet-based, international business and communication platform for product and service suppliers, field of information technology, health industry and its customers, and third parties interested in this field.

The contact point is Mr. Uwe Buddrus, 0341 33395111, Uwe.Buddrus@DII-Healthcare.com

SCIENCE & EDUCATION

BBZ among the winners of the “356 Orte im Land der Ideen“ (365 Places in the Country of Ideas) competition

The Chair of „Molecular Biological and Biochemical Process Technology“ at the Center for Biotechnology and Biomedicine (BBZ) at the University of Leipzig was selected “Selected Place in the Country of Ideas“. The idea, a 3D biochip by Prof. Dr. Andrea Robitzki, will be presented to the public in May 2009. Within a few milliseconds, the chip is able to check tissue samples with regard to the effect of pharmaceuticals. All 365 winners of the competition are ambassadors for the “Germany – Country of Ideas 2009“ initiative. It is under the patronage of the Federal President Dr. Horst Köhler.

http://db.uni-leipzig.de/aktuell/index.php?modus=pmanzeige&pm_id=3051
www.land-der-ideen.de/CDA/365_orte.1949.0.,de.html

Technical University of Dresden: Medical Faculty appoints the first honorary professor

Prof. Dr. John Louis Gerin is the first honorary professor of Carl Gustav Carus Medical School at the Technical University of Dresden. He is an emeritus of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology of the Georgetown University, Medical Center (Washington, D.C.). The virologist John L. Gerin was decisively involved in the development of the hepatitis B vaccine and is among the discoverers of hepatitis D.

http://tu-dresden.de/die_tu_dresden/fakultaeten/medizinische_fakultaet/news/news-20081215-btfsystem/newsarticle_view

Leipzig University: Foundation of the Medical NeuroCenter

The Medical NeuroCenter is currently being founded at the Medical School of the University of Leipzig. It is intended to optimize the therapy against diseases of the central nervous system. "By the profile-forming research field IV, “Brain, Cognition and Language“, bundling of brain research knowledge has been achieved that combines basics and clinical research and, in addition, has a distinct interdisciplinary profile“, so the speaker of the profile-forming research field, Prof. Dr. Rudolf Rübsamen, Department of Biosciences, Pharmacy and Psychology.

http://db.uni-leipzig.de/aktuell/index.php?modus=pmanzeige&pm_id=3051

Research project on the Survivin protein

The team around Prof. Achim Temme of Carl Gustav Carus University Hospital of Dresden is working on the Survivin protein at this time. The protein appears in connection with cancer. Concretely, they are studying new protein partners of Survivin. The research project is supported by the Wilhelm Sander Foundation with more than 70,000 euros.

www.bionity.com/news/d/92922/

CRTD the most family-friendly institute of the Technical University of Dresden

CRTD (DFG Research Center for Regenerative Therapies in Dresden) was awarded "Most Family-Friendly Institute of the Technical University of Dresden". The jury of the Technical University of Dresden this way appreciated the commitment of all CRTD employees and the initiative in favor of the "BioPolis" daycare facility for children that will be opened in 2009. The research center stood up to ten competitors. The prize is 1,000 euros and is awarded annually.

[www.crt-dresden.de/index.php?id=6&L=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=346&cHash=a540c8fbdf](http://www.crt-dresden.de/index.php?id=6&L=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=346&cHash=a540c8fbdf)

Saxon universities get a coordination center for equal opportunity commissioners

The Saxon universities, in 2009, will get a coordination center for equal opportunity commissioners, so the Saxon Department of Science and Arts. "We have to create improved conditions for women on all scientific levels in research and teaching in order to compensate structural disadvantages for ambitious female scientists, so the Federal State Secretary Dr. Eva-Maria Stange. The coordination center will presumably be located at the Technical University of Dresden.

www.medianservice.sachsen.de/news/32702

FZD: Christoph Schmelzer Prize awarded to Dr. Fine Fiedler

Dr. Fine Fiedler, for her doctoral thesis, received the Christoph Schmelzer Prize of Verein zur Förderung der Tumorthapie mit schweren Ionen e. V. (Association for the Promotion of Tumor Therapies with Heavy Ions, registered association). She wrote her doctoral thesis on the irradiation with helium ions in therapy against cancer tumors. She thereby refined the existing method named in-beam PET at the Dresden-Rossendorf Research Center (FZD). The prize is funded with 4,000 euros. She shares it with Ms. Gabriele Kragl of the Vienna Technical University.

www.fzd.de/db/Cms?pOid=27851&pNid=473

Technical University of Chemnitz: Students rank third in the SAXEED competition

Students of the Technical University of Chemnitz successfully participated in the SAXEED Idea Competition "Send Ideas 2008": The young researchers Romina Arndt, Katja Pinkwart and Daniel Rautenberg ranked third with their KRDiC mediatechnical system. It is a mobile, universal system for analyzing implanted stimulators such as pacemakers and defibrillators. In 2008, it was the fourth SAXEED competition that is invited for on an annual basis by the Technical University of Chemnitz, Technical University Bergakademie Freiberg, Mittweida University of Applied Sciences and West Saxony University of Zwickau.

www.tu-chemnitz.de/tu/presse/dateien/print.php?aid=1756

FUNDING

Partec GmbH starts a worldwide competition for the first time

The Görlitz company Partec GmbH, on the occasion of the World Aids Day 2008, started a new, worldwide competition. Aid organizations facing up to the fight against HIV/Aids may participate. Participants may submit their detailed project description to Partec GmbH on or before **March 31, 2009**. Partec GmbH will provide its HIV/Aids diagnostics one year for free to the winning projects.

www.partec.com/preview/cms/front_content.php?idcat=329

FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH: Funding for research into rare diseases

The Federal Department of Education and Research (BMBF), jointly with international partner organizations within the E-RARE, support the research into rare diseases. Such cooperative and interdisciplinary research projects will be funded that are able to advance prevention, diagnosis and therapy of rare diseases decisively. To this end, research teams from minimum two of the participating countries shall be formed. State and non-state universities, extrauniversity research institutes, organizations of health prevention and enterprises of the industry may apply. The submissions of the project overviews and descriptions may be presented on or before **February 5, 2009**.

www.gesundheitsforschung-bmbf.de/de/2068.php

FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH: German French research projects in the focus of funding

Within the „Biotechnology – Use and Design Chances“ program, German and French research projects will be funded that deal with the genomics and pathophysiology of cardiovascular diseases and diseases of the metabolism. The research team, by their projects, shall achieve advancement in prevention, diagnostics and therapy. Project sketches shall be submitted on or before March 20, 2009, by state or non-state universities, extrauniversity research institutes, health prevention or enterprises of the industry.

www.gesundheitsforschung-bmbf.de/de/2074.php

Federal Department of Education and Research supports top research financially

By the “Top Research and Innovation in the New Federal States“ guideline, the Federal Department of Education and Research (BMBF) invite researchers and entrepreneurs to apply for funding of innovative projects. They, for example, shall relate to the fields of research and development or investments in equipment for qualification and R&D (research and development). Applications for funding may be submitted by

universities, extrauniversity research institutes or enterprises of the industry. The deadline is **February 28, 2009**.

www.bmbf.de/foerderungen/13205.php

Federal Department of Education and Research fund cooperation with Russia

The Federal Department of Education and Research (BMBF) fund the initiation of cooperation between Russia and Germany on the field of science, research and technological development. Thematically, for example, projects of laser research and technology, biotechnology or life sciences will be funded. German universities, extrauniversity research institutes, hospitals actively researching and enterprises of the industry with a Russian partner may apply. No deadline exists for the submission of the application.

www.bmbf.de/foerderungen/13284.php

VERANSTALTUNGEN, MESSEN, KONGRESSE

In Saxony (January/ February 2009)

January 22 – 24, 2009 – Leipzig, Germany: ANIM 2009 – seminar for neurological intensive care and emergency medicine www.akmcongress.com/anim2009

Untill February 25, 2009 – Dresden: Anatomic Exhibition „Real Bodies – learning from the dead“ – www.realbodies.eu

January 23 – 25, 2009 – Dresden: Dresden Cardiovascular Days – www.dhkt.de

February 27 – 28, 2009 – Leipzig: 4th Saxon Retraining conference for Nephrology & child nephrology – www.leipziger-kubus.ufz.de/index.php?de=15319#122008

February 28, 2009 – Chemnitz: Medicine within area of conflict between science and community: "Therapy of hardness of hearing - operation or hearing device", Presentation – www.tu-chemnitz.de/tu/termine/?jahr=2009&monat=01

In Germany and around the world (January/ February 2009)

January 21, 2009 – Munich, Germany: ScieCon Munich 2009, company contact fair - www.sciecon.info

January 27 – 28, 2009 – Osnabrück, Germany: International Symposium Biobased Products and Biorefineries – www.biorefinica.de

February 2 – 3, 2009 – Lisbon, Portugal: EuroPLX 39, platform of international exchange in the fields of pharmaceutical – and biopharmaceutical-companies www.europlx.com

February 6 – 9, 2009 – Linz, Austria: XI. Annual Linz Winter Workshop, Advances in Single-Molecule Research for Biology & Nanoscience – www.biophysics.jku.at/e2926/e2927/index_eng.html

February 8 – 11, 2009 – Zurich, Switzerland: LogP2009 - PhysChem and ADMET Profiling in Drug Research – www.pharma.ethz.ch/logp2009/

February 10, 2009 – Wiesbaden, GER: Digital Pharma & Life Sciences conference 2009 – www.microsoft.com/germany/branchen/pharma/digital-pharma/konferenz2009/default.aspx

February 11, 2009 – Frankfurt am Main, GER: Youth Conference on European Life Sciences Careers – www.yebn.org

February 13, 2009 – Berlin: 2nd Berlin Conference on IP in Life Sciences - From Biomarkers to Diagnostics – www.biocom.de/service/biocom-events

February 18 – 20, 2009 – Tokyo, Japan: nano tech - International Nanotechnology Exhibition & Conference – www.ics-inc.co.jp/nanotech

February 19 – 20, 2009 – Erfurt, Germany: 5th international technology transfer days "Biomaterial 2009" – www.biomaterial2009.de

February 24 – 25, 2009 – Berlin, GER: SCREENING EUROPE, Medchem EUROPE and ADMET Europe, conference – www.selectbiosciences.com/conferences/SE_MED_AD09/index.aspx

preview (March bis August 2009)

March 2 – 3, 2009 – Lisbon, Portugal: EuroPLX39 – cooperation with generics, bio – generics, OTC – pharmaceuticals, dietary supplements; international platform for pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical companies www.europplx.com/eplx/set.htm

March 4 – 6, 2009 – Berlin, Germany: NanoMed 2009, 6th International Conference on Biomedical Applications of Nanotechnology – <http://nm09.nanoevents.de>

March 11 – 13, 2009 – Weimar, Germany: 42nd annual meeting of german catalytics – www.processnet.org/katalytiker09

March 12 – 14, 2009 – Bangkok, Thailand: 4th World Congress on Regenerative Medicine – <http://regmed.de/wcrm2009>

March 13 – 15, 2009 – Dresden, Germany: active + vital 2009, the health & wellness exhibition www.messe-dresden.de/deutsch/termine/messen---veranstaltungen/2009/aktiv---vital-2009/index.html

March 13 – 15, 2009 – Chemnitz, Germany: Vital – The health fair with focus on „Fair for the best years“ – www.messe-chemnitz.com

March 15, 2009 – Milano, Italy: BIO-Europe Spring 2009, Conference – www.ebdgroup.com/bes

March 17 – 19, 2009 – New York, USA: BIOTECHNICA AMERICA – www.biotechnica.de/14727

March 18, 2009 – Stuttgart, GER: T5 Job fair of healthcare branch – www.t5-futures.de/cms/front_content.php

March 18 – 19, 2009 – Berlin, GER: Technically Assisted Rehabilitation - TAR 2009 – www.tar-conference.de

March 18 – 19, 2009 – Munich, Germany: Forum Life Science 2009; congress – www.bayern-innovativ.de/fls2009

March 18 – 20, 2009 – Vietnam: analytica Vietnam 2009 – www.analyticavietnam.com

March 18 – 21, 2009 – Leipzig, GER: 19th Annual Meeting of society for virology – www.virology2009.de

March 19 – 21, 2009 – Leipzig, GER: therapy Leipzig, congress – www.therapie-leipzig.de

March 24 – 26, 2009 – Frankfurt am Main, GER: HealthCare Management 2009 - www.messefrankfurt.com/frankfurt/de/visitors/veranstaltungen/gastmessen_factsheet/HealthCare.html

March 26 – 27, 2009 – Berlin, Germany: 3rd Biotech-/Pharmaindustry Congress 2009 "Best Automation Practice" – www.festo.com/cms/de_de/9616.htm

March 29 - April 2, 2009 – Berlin, Germany: Proteomics Forum 2009 – www.ctw-congress.de/proteomicforum2009

April 9 – 11, 2009 – Beijing, China: CISILE 2009 - The 7th China International Scientific Instrument and Laboratory Equipment Exhibition – www.cisile.com.cn/bjlp/kxyg/index.htm

April 21, 2009 – Geneva, Switzerland : LogiPharma Europe 2009 – www.wbresearch.com/logipharmaeurope

April 22 – 25, 2009 – Leipzig, Germany: 47th annual conference of the German Society for Nuclear Medicine www.nuklearmedizin2009.de

May 7 – 9, 2009 – Dresden, GER: New Drugs in Cardiovascular Research – www.dresden-bps-dgpt-2009.com

May 9 – 12, 2009 – Leipzig, Germany: German anaesthesia congress 2009 (DAC) – www.dac2009.de

May 11 – 15, 2009 – Frankfurt a.M., Germany:ACHEMA 2009 – 29th international exhibition congress for chemistry, techniques, environment protection and biotechnology - www.achema.de

May 14 – 16, 2009 – Munster, GER: 6th Annual meeting German Association Biomechanics - www.conventus.de/dgfb2009/

May 18 – 21, 2009 – Atlanta, Georgia, USA: BIO 2009 – The Global Event for Biotechnology - www.bio2009.org

May 20 – 23, 2009 – Leipzig, Germany: 44th annual conference of the German Society for Diabetes (DDG) www.deutsche-diabetes-gesellschaft.de/jahrestagung2009

May 26, 2009 – Leipzig, Germany: Saxon Biotechnology Day 2009 – www.bio-city-leipzig.de/news-de/events-de/saechsischer-biotechnologietag-2009

May 26 – 27, 2009 – Dresden, Germany: Nanofair - 7th international nanotechnology symposium - www.vdi-wissensforum.de/index.php?id=769

May 27 – 29, 2009 – Helsinki, Finland: ChemBio Finland 09 – www.finnexpo.fi/exhibition.asp?Id=1699&code_language=en

May 27 – 29, 2009– Berlin, GER: Capitol Conference Medicine and Health – www.hauptstadtkongress.de/2009/

June 1 – 3, 2009 – Shanghai, China: Biotechnica China 2009 International Trade Fair & Congress for Biotechnology – www.biotechnica.de/41195

June 8 – 9, 2009 – Warsaw, Poland: EuroPLX40, Plattform for Pharma- and Biopharm companies – www.europlx.com/eplx/set.htm

June 10 – 12, 2009 – Chemnitz, GER: SIT - Saxon Industry- and Technology fair – www.messe-chemnitz.com

June 15 – 16, 2009 – Stockholm, Sweden - 12th Annual Conference of the European BioSafety Association – www.ebsaweb.eu/EBSA_12

June 16, 2009 – Dusseldorf, GER: T5 Jobfair of Healthcare-Branche – www.t5-futures.de/cms/front_content.php?idcat=74

June 18 – 23, 2009 – Dusseldorf, GER: 15th International Congress on Photobiology – www.iuf.uni-duesseldorf.de/ICP2009/

July 11 – 14, 2009 – Leipzig, GER: 4th ESN Conference on Advances in Molecular Mechanisms of Neurological Disorders – www.esn-meeting.uniklinikum-leipzig.de

July 12 – 17, 2009 – Leipzig, GER: 11th International Congress of European Association for Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology EAVPT – www.eavpt2009.de

August 3 – 7, 2009 – Vienna, Austria: 11th International Congress on Amino Acids, Peptides and Proteins – www.meduniwien.ac.at/ICAAP09/

August 29 - September 2, 2009 – Malaga, Spain: AMEE 2009 (Konferenz) – www.amee.org/index.asp?lm=73

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