

RSC Biotechnology Group and RSC Chemical Biology Interface Forum (CBiF)

Conference Report

Chemical & Biological Therapeutic Approaches to Neurological Disorders
19 Apr 2010

This one-day Meeting, held at the *RSC Chemical Centre, Burlington House, London W1*, featured six speakers. Originally, there were eight, but the volcanic ash plume from Iceland prevented four of them from coming, one from Denmark, one from Switzerland, one from Ireland and one UK speaker who was at a conference in Sweden and could not get back to London. Fortunately, two speakers from the UK were recruited at short notice.

In the last hour, to fill the gap created by the absence of the seventh and eighth speakers, the six speakers formed a Panel, seated at the front facing the audience, ready to answer any questions posed by the delegates. This session, chaired by Dr Irene Francois, turned out to be a lively one, with important issues raised, such as future funding in the UK and mainland Europe for neurological drug discovery.

The names of the Speakers and the Titles and Abstracts of their Lectures are given in the enclosed Conference Booklet. Also listed there are the Titles and Abstracts of the 5 Posters which were an important component of the Conference. Also included are the names/affiliations of the delegates. A comprehensive 8-page Conference Synopsis by Dr Irene Francois was commissioned for publication in *Drug News and Perspectives* and is *in press*.

The total attendance was 61. The delegates clearly enjoyed the Conference, since lively Question and Answer Sessions followed most of the Lectures - and the Posters prompted good interactive discussions at the coffee, lunch and tea breaks. Moreover, the informal feed-back to the Conference Committee by word of mouth and via a Questionnaire was very good and has encouraged the Conference Planning Committee to consider running a similar meeting at the *RSC Chemical Centre* in 2012.

We thank:

- (i) the staff of the *RSC Chemical Centre* for their hospitality and support;
- (ii) *Eisai Ltd* and the *Chemistry Biology Interface Forum* for generous Sponsorship;
- (iii) the *RSC's Education Section* for the provision of Student Bursaries.

We should also wish to acknowledge the important contribution to the smooth-running of the administration of the Conference by Lesley Ulrick.

Colin Bedford

The Conference Committee

Dr Irene Francois (Chair), Consultant, Drug Discovery and Pre-clinical Development, UK

Dr Colin Bedford, Chemistry Department, University College London, UK

Dr Klaus Rumpel, Pfizer Global Research & Development, UK

12 July 2010

ADDENDUM (December 2010) – An 8-page report of the Proceedings of the Conference¹ was published in Nov 2010

1. I Francois, *Drug News Perspect.*, **23** (8), 524-31 (2010)