

What's on the shelf: The biotech pipeline of novel antibiotics

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Concerned over the rapidly worsening, and quite visible, multi-drug resistant (MDR) bacteria health crisis, several multinational campaigns have initiated broad discussion and put action plans in place. Specifically, the ECDC, EMEA, WHO, and the US government, as well as the IDSA and several other large non-profit organizations, are addressing the global problem by emphasizing the lack of new antibiotics to combat drug-resistant bacteria, especially Gram-negative bacteria. In contrast, internal competition for research and developing funds at large pharma firms increasingly favors drugs against chronic diseases which can have far higher return of investment than antibacterials. Realizing the unmet medical need, several small biotech and research & development (R&D) companies hope to fill the otherwise empty antibacterial development pipeline. But with uncertain return of investment compounded by the world wide economic crisis, smaller companies struggle to obtain venture capital and are often disappointed. So, the current situation - pipelines of novel antibiotics barely trickle. Compounds effective against new targets or with new mode of action, especially against Gram-negative bacteria, cannot be expected in the near future. Perhaps a ray of hope, driven by the worsening resistance crisis, public campaigns may be working as there are early signs of renewed R&D interest even among big pharma companies. Hopefully these signs will translate into robust pipelines during the next decade. Until then, the problem of MDR Gram-negative bacteria must continue to be addressed with a multifaceted set of solutions based on currently available tools.

ICAAC 2010, Boston, USA

Session Detail

Novel Antibacterial Agents by Licensing: What Big Pharma Wants and What Small Biotech Can Offer

Symposium Sunday, Sep 12, 2010, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM, Room 258A

Upon completion of this Symposium Session, participants should be able to: • Describe the present profiles for new antibiotics and biological approaches which big pharmaceutical companies do intend to develop; • Evaluate the current research and early development pipeline of small and medium enterprises in this area; and • Assess the success chances for new antibacterial treatments (antibiotics and biologicals) within a time window of 3 – 10 years from now.

Sunday, Sep 12, 2010, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Convener

MICHAEL J. PUCCI, PhD. - *Senior Director, Antimicrobial Drug Discovery*;
Achillion Pharmaceuticals, New Haven, CT.

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Convener

HARALD LABISCHINSKI, PhD. - *Consultant*;
MerLion Pharmaceuticals GmbH, Berlin, Germany.

Sunday, Sep 12, 2010, 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM

467. Requirements for New Antibacterial Agents in the Big Pharma Setting

MICHAEL R. BARBACHYN, PhD. - *Director, Infection Discovery*;
AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP, Waltham, MA.

Sunday, Sep 12, 2010, 4:30 PM - 5:00 PM

468. Novel Antibacterial Agents by Licensing: What Big Pharma Wants and What Small Biotech Can Offer

STEVE J. PROJAN, PhD. - *Vice President, Global Head of Infectious Diseases*;
Novartis Inst.s for Biomedical Res., Cambridge, MA.

Sunday, Sep 12, 2010, 5:00 PM - 5:30 PM

469. Developing Molecules for Sale Into Drugs: Is the Model Working?

GARY J. NOEL, MD. - *Anti-infectives Medical Leader*;
Johnson and Johnson, North Caldwell, NJ.

Sunday, Sep 12, 2010, 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM

470. What's on the Shelf: The Biotech Pipeline of Novel Antibiotics

URSULA THEURETZBACHER, PhD. - *Founder*;
Ctr. for Anti-Infective Agents, Vienna, Austria.