

AAiPS

Newsletter

Vol. 16 Issue 1

January-March 2006



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENTISTS

**P.O. Box 7244
Colonia, NJ 07067**

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- **Thomas Alva Edison Patent Award to Dr. Navnit Shah**
- **AAiPS 2006 Office Bearers and committee members**
- **Eminent Indians in Science**
- **India-Pharma News**
- **Indians in Research**
- **Letters**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

On behalf of AAiPS Executive Committee, I wish you all a belated Happy New Year. Over the last 20 years AAiPS has grown up to be a mature professional organization of its own merits and records, and I would like to point out that each one of you have contributed to this growing process. You need to be proud of that. We have a unique character; we are not an ethnic group but a national organization with global outlook. We felt that it was a good time to pause and to take a look at the next 10-year horizon – where AAiPS should be and what it should be doing. With this in mind, we have created a few strategic task forces to accomplish our goals.

Dr. Vinod Shah has kindly accepted the responsibility of heading a “Vision Team”. Dr. Suggy Chrai is heading ‘Finance Strategy Team’ to recommend a sound financial strategy and Dr. Sam Singhvi is heading “Awards Criteria Strategy Team” to define the various awards/scholarships. Various team members who will be helping in this process are listed in this newsletter. I thank all of these individuals and the hard working committee chairs and members for their tireless support. If you would like to contribute to any of these efforts, please send us an email.

I hope you all will have a wonderful and rewarding New Year.

**Mukund 'Mike' Yelvigi
President (MYELVIGI@hotmail.com)**

AAiPS SPONSORS

AAiPS thanks the following sponsors for their support of this organization

- Aqualon Inc
- Bioassay Laboratories, Inc.
- Blispack, Inc.
- Chrai Associates, Inc.
- Capsugel
- Colorcon
- Contract Pharma
- Degussa
- DMV International/Mutchler Pharma Ingredients
- Dow Chemical Company
- Femto Calibrations
- Formatech Inc.
- Mendel Company
- K.W. Tunnell Company, Inc.
- Thomas Engineering, Inc.
- Tris Pharma
- Universal Capsules LLC
- UBS Financial Services

AAiPS OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2006 -2008

President : *Mukund 'Mike' Yelvigi*

Vice President : *Dilip Wadgaonkar*

Secretary : *Punit Marathe*

Treasurer : *Ramesh Raikar*

Continued from previous page...

Immediate Past President : *Suggy Chrai*

Past President : *Sampat Singhvi*

Members-at-large : *Barry Fox, Vijai Kumar
and Vinod Shah*

Metro DC Chapter Chair : *Mehul Mehta*

Various committees have been formed for 2006 and various committee chairs are :

Programming : *Pramod Chemburkar*

Newsletter : *Hemant Joshi, Editor*

Scientific : *Navnit Shah*

Sponsorship : *Bala Srinivas*

Membership : *Dilip Wadgaonkar*

Vision Committee : Chair - *Vinod Shah*, Members - *Krip Borah, Praful Sheth (FIP-India), Ajit Singh (AAC, India), Atul Mehta, Suggy Chrai, Ben Issac, Paul Likhari*

Finance Strategic Committee : Chair - *Suggy Chrai*, Members - *Bala Srinivas, Andy Honeycheck, Dilip Parikh, and Ramesh Raikar.*

Awards Strategic Committee: Chair - *Sam Singhvi*, Members - *Nemi Jain, Dev Wadke, Yatindra Joshi, and Vijai Kumar*

SPECIAL MENTION

Dr. Navnit H. Shah, a renowned scientist from the New Jersey area, received 2005 Thomas Alva Edison Patent Award in the Enabling Technologies category at the New Jersey Council's Annual Fall Dinner. He received a patent (US patent # 6008,228) for the invention of a lipid-based drug delivery system for an HIV drug that increased the absorption three-fold. Dr. Shah immigrated to the United States in 1971 for higher education (MS and Ph.D.). He joined Roche and has been working there for the past 32 years in the R&D department. Heartiest congratulations to Navnit!

EMINENT INDIANS IN SCIENCE

Obtained from : <http://www.freeindia.org/>

Following are some great Indian scientists and visionaries. We need to pass on this knowledge to our new generation.

Dr. C.V. Raman

Dr. Raman was a genius who won the Nobel prize in physics, with simple equipment barely worth Rs. 300. He was the first Asian scientist to win the Nobel prize.

Dr. Jagadish Chandra Bose

Dr. J.C. Bose was a great biologist who showed that plants too can "feel" in their own way. Dr. Bose wrote an article on electromagnetic waves in 1896. Royal Society of England honored him with the degree of Doctor of Science. Dr. Bose also conducted independent research in the field of wireless telegraphy. Marconi (Father of radio) was able to announce the result of his work earlier than Dr. Bose.

Dr. Prafulla Chandra Ray

Dr. Ray was a Professor of Chemistry. He is the first Indian who began the manufacturing of medicines in India about 100 years ago. Dr. Ray's book titled, "The History of Hindu Chemistry" brought him great praise from scientists all over the world.

Dr. Homi Bhabha

Dr. Bhabha was the architect of Nuclear Science in modern India. Science and art both enriched his mind and life. His far sightedness, powers of organization, and the encouragement and guidance young scientists received from him built up an invaluable asset for scientific work in India.

Dr. Vikram Sarabhai

Dr. Sarabhai was a born scientist and a beloved teacher. As the Chairman of the

Atomic Energy Commission, he guided research of significant importance to India.

Sathyendranath Bose

Dr. Bose was known for his love of mathematics and physics. In 1922, he wrote a short article on 'Max Planck's Law' and 'Light Quantum Hypothesis'. Albert Einstein liked the article so much that he translated it in German. Dr. Bose worked with famous scientists such as Albert Einstein and Madame Curie.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

- Ø Dr. Dilip Wadgaonkar joined Sun Pharma in New Jersey.
- Ø Dr. Hemant N. Joshi joined Spectrum Pharmaceuticals in California.

UPCOMING COMPANIES-NEW COLUMN

We are starting this column from the next newsletter. The idea is to introduce companies started and run by people of Indian origin. The purpose is to recognize the business talent of Indians and how they are making a difference in the business circle. If you own a pharmaceutical company or if you know of such a company, please write to the Editor of the AAiPS newsletter or to the AAiPS President (hemantnjoshi@gmail.com or myelvig@hotmail.com)

INDIA-PHARMA NEWS

Ranbaxy Forms African Joint Venture on AIDS Drug (Scrip World Pharma News)

Ranbaxy Laboratories and Community Investment Holdings (CIH) of South Africa have formed a joint venture, Sonke Pharmaceuticals, to market Ranbaxy's antiretrovirals in South Africa, Namibia and Botswana. Ranbaxy will hold 70% equity in the venture, while CIH will hold the balance. Products marketed under the venture will have the trademark Sonke and are expected to be sold at affordable prices. CIH said that product dossiers have been submitted to the regulatory authorities of South Africa, Botswana and Namibia, and the company expects approvals soon.

Aurobindo Gets Tentative US FDA OK for Nevirapine Suspension (Scrip World Pharma News)

India's Aurobindo Pharma has received tentative approval from the US FDA for nevirapine oral suspension 50mg/5ml, the first generic version of Boehringer Ingelheim's Viramune oral suspension. The product was reviewed under the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Last year, the FDA tentatively approved Aurobindo's lamivudine oral solution 10mg/ml.

Pfizer Launches Viagra in India (Scrip World Pharma News)

Pfizer has launched Viagra (sildenafil citrate) in India, priced at Rs 463 (\$10.27) for a 50mg tablet and Rs 594 for a 100mg tablet. The drug faces competition from more than a dozen domestic generic versions priced at about Rs 19-22 per 50mg pill. But Pfizer said patients and doctors in India had been seeking the introduction of Viagra to give them the "peace of mind" of accessing the original product. The Indian market for erectile dysfunction is estimated at about Rs 1 billion a year.

GlaxoSmithKline to Introduce Boostrix (Express Pharma)

GlaxoSmithKline has announced the launch of vaccine Boostrix in India. The vaccine comprises of acellular pertussis reduced, diphtheria toxoid reduced and tetanus toxoid (dTpa). Boostrix has been registered for use in children over the age of four years, who have already received their primary DTP doses in the first and second year of life. Currently, Boostrix is the only globally approved acellular pertussis boosting vaccine for all age groups available in India.

Hetero signs agreement with Roche for Tamiflu (Express Pharma)

Hetero Drugs was granted a sub-license for the production and marketing of oseltamivir (generic of Tamiflu) by Swiss pharmaceutical Roche. The Chairman of Hetero Group, Dr B Parthasaradhi Reddy, informed that under the sub-licensing agreement, Hetero is allowed to manufacture and market both the API and finished product of oseltamivir for supply to India and other developing countries.

Strand and ChemAxon enter into collaboration (Express Pharma)

Strand Life Sciences announced that it has integrated ChemAxon's JChem suite of software with Admetis, its tool for modelling and predicting drug-relevant properties of molecules *in silico*. The integrated offering will be launched in the early part of 2006. Admetis offers the possibility to customize data models through model-building workflows based on Strand's expertise in *in silico* model building. Admetis comes packaged with its pre-built models, truPK and truTox, for predicting bio-availability, protein binding, volume of distribution, elimination half-life, rate of absorption and hERG binding. It also has a data mining and visualization module that supports an embedded chemical structure viewer.

Indian Companies Out to Acquire British Companies (The Economic Times)

LONDON: Indian companies are increasingly looking to acquire British firms in the automobiles, engineering design, IT, pharmaceuticals, consumer products and chemicals sectors, a leading consultancy firm has said. Clearwater Corporate Finance has said it is working with several leading Indian companies looking to make acquisitions in Britain. Indian companies "on the hunt for deals" reportedly include pharmaceutical concern Ranbaxy Labs and the Anand Group.

Betapharm acquisition by Dr Reddy's (Vikas Sonawale, Refco-Sify Securities)

Dr Reddy's has acquired Betapharm - the fourth largest generic company in Germany for USD 570 million at 2.9X sales value.

MARCH 16, 2006 REGIONAL AAIPS MEETING – DR. PARIMAL DESAI - BIOGRAPHY AND ABSTRACT

Biography : Dr. Parimal Desai is the Vice President, Analytical & Quality Sciences, Preclinical Development at Wyeth since Sept 2003. He joined Medical Research Division of American Cyanamid in January 1990, which became Wyeth-Ayerst Research in 1995. He was promoted to Section Head, Analytical R&D in 1997 and rapidly assumed increasing and complex responsibilities to become VP in 2003. Dr. Desai is responsible

for directing global analytical, CMC regulatory submissions and development planning activities of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Development by providing leadership to a staff of 200 and supporting a portfolio of more than 70 projects ranging from pre-development to commercial.

Abstract: The presentation will discuss the reengineering strategy within Preclinical Development function at Wyeth R&D. It will emphasize on the following items – 1) Reduced cycle time from pre-development declaration to IND filing from 17 months to 12 months, 2) API delivery and cost cutting, 3) Usage of single API batch, 4) Decrease in turn around time for analytical testing, and 5)

Implementation of quality by design initiatives.

Title: New Approaches to Increase Productivity in Preclinical Drug Development

INDIANS IN RESEARCH

Parkinson's disease management strategies.

[Rajput A](#), [Rajput AH](#).

Royal University Hospital, Saskatchewan, S7N 0W8, Canada. rajputa@sask.usask.ca

[Expert Rev Neurother](#). 2006 Jan; 6(1) :91-9.

Parkinson's disease (PD) treatment strategies should consider each patient individually. As PD is a progressive disorder, all drugs have adverse effects and reduced efficacy with time. PD patients need regular follow-ups to make necessary medication adjustments. There is no perfect treatment. The authors have discussed their treatment methods and the reasoning behind it. In an average patient the least potent drugs, such as anticholinergics or amantadine, are administered first adding a dopamine agonist later on. Levodopa (LD) remains the most useful drug for PD and is reserved for later stages of disease. In older subjects, the first choice is LD. In patients who cannot be managed medically, surgical treatment is an option in selected patients (nondemented, <70 years old, previous good LD response). Physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy are valuable in advanced PD cases.

Simultaneous determination of lamivudine and stavudine in antiretroviral fixed dose combinations by first derivative spectrophotometry and HPLC.

[Kapoor N](#), [Khandavilli S](#), [Panchagnula R](#).

Department of Pharmaceutics, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Sector 67, Mohali 160 062, Punjab, India.

[J Pharm Biomed Anal](#). 2006 Feb 4.

Two methods are described for the simultaneous determination of lamivudine (3TC) and stavudine (d4T) in combined pharmaceutical tablets. The first method depends on first derivative UV-spectrophotometry with zero-crossing measurement technique. The second method is based on the separation of both drugs by HPLC using methanol:water (20:80) as the mobile phase at 0.6ml/min on a reverse phase column with detection at 270nm. Both the methods showed good linearity, reproducibility and precision. No spectral or chromatographic interferences from the tablet excipients were found.

Amphotericin B colloidal dispersion for the treatment of Indian visceral leishmaniasis.

[Sundar S](#), [Mehta H](#), [Chhabra A](#), [Singh V](#), [Chauhan V](#), [Desjeux P](#), [Rai M](#).

Kala-Azar Medical Research Center, Department of Medicine, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India. drshyamsundar@dataone.in

[Clin Infect Dis](#). 2006 Mar 1;42(5):608-13.

In Bihar, India, where visceral leishmaniasis (VL) is hyperendemic and refractory to antimony, amphotericin B is the most effective option for the treatment of VL. Lipid formulations of amphotericin B are able to circumvent the toxic effect of conventional amphotericin B, and the total dose of these formulations can be administered over a short duration. However, cost is a major constraint in the use of lipid formulations of amphotericin B. Amphotericin B colloidal dispersion (ABCD), which is a less expensive lipid formulation, was tested for the treatment. All 135 patients in group A completed treatment, and the final cure rate for

this group was 97%. In the group that received the highest dose of ABCD (group C), severe backache, an unusual side effect, was observed in 8 patients (5.92%). Although the cost of ABCD is prohibitive, the high level of efficacy associated with short-term treatment with low-dose ABCD provides another alternative for the treatment of VL, especially in regions where VL is antimony refractory.

LETTERS

Dear Friends:

I wish to convey you and your family members a Very Happy, Joyous, and Peaceful New Year! AAPS Discussion Group (Western India), which has its office at the SciTech Centre promotes symposia and lectures by visiting scientists from abroad. Kindly keep us informed whenever you are in India when we can have the benefit of your company at the SciTech Centre and participation in the discussion group. Whenever you plan your visit, please send us well in advance an email. Let me know the time convenient to you as well as the topic and brief abstract of your presentation. We have a state-of-art auditorium, which can accommodate more than 100 participants.

Yours Sincerely,

Prof. H.L. Bhalla, Convenor, AAPS Discussion Group (Western India)

Email address: scitech@bom5.vsnl.net.in

Advisor, SciTech Centre, Mumbai

Telephone number : 9122-26780127

Fax number : 9122 26780131

MARK YOUR CALENDER

Upcoming Dinner Seminar, May 18th at Moghul Morristown, Speaker - Dr. Scott Grossman, VP, Bristol-Myers Squibb,
Topic - IS DRUG HUNTING DEAD?

For Training Programs And Consulting Needs

CONTACT:

CHRAI ASSOCIATES, INC.

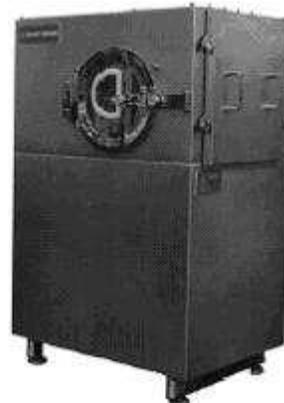
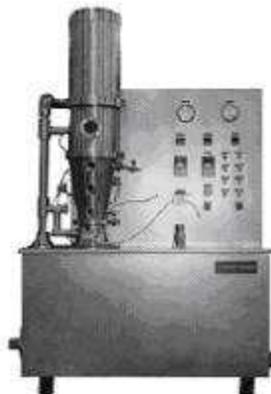
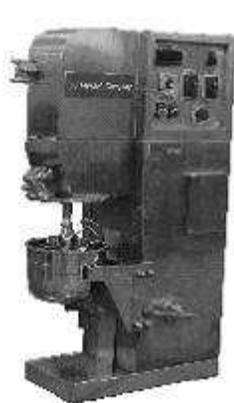
16 BODINE DRIVE, CRANBURY, NJ 08512

Voice: (609) 655 2573; Cell: (609) 462-6845

Fax: (609) 655 2573; E-mail: schrai@att.net

 **Mendel Company**

OFFERS the following Process Equipment plus Extruder-Spheronizers, Tablet Inspectors, Roller Compactors/Mills and Spray Dryers for Research or Production



Laboratory High Shear Mixer, Fluid Bed Processor and Perforated Pan Tablet Coater

AAPS Booth 639

Mendel Company
12C Great Meadow Lane
East Hanover, NJ 07936

☎: 973-599-1300
Fax: 973-599-0019

Web: www.mendelco.com

E-mail: sales@mendelco.com