

► DDT 2003

The eighth annual World Congress Drug Discovery Technology 2003 (DDT 2003) will be held at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston from August 10 through 15. DDT 2003 will provide a venue for academic, government, and industrial personnel in the life sciences to share best practices and strategies for accelerating the discovery of new drugs. The annual event, started in 1996 with approximately 500 attendees, grew to more than 6000 attendees in 2002. Also, two meetings on August 12 and 13 will be held in conjunction with DDT 2003: the inaugural Biomarkers in Drug Discovery and the second annual Model Organisms in Drug Discovery.

New for 2003

A number of new events are scheduled for DDT 2003. Among them are separate four-day programs on informatics and business issues in drug discovery, sessions on therapeutic applications of new drug discovery technologies to cancer and cardiovascular disease, free presentations to visitors registered only for the exhibit hall, and expansion of the scientific program to run on two concurrent tracks including roundtable discussions and open forum sessions.

Keynote sessions

The keynote addresses continue to be the highlight of the conference. On the morning of Tuesday, August 12, Gov. Mitt Romney (Massachusetts) will welcome the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries; FDA Commissioner Mark B. McClellan will give "The FDA Perspective"; and Robert R. Ruffolo, Jr., president of R&D for Wyeth Research, will discuss "R&D Productivity in the Pharmaceutical Industry". On Wednesday morning, August 13, Jeffrey M. Leiden, president and

CEO of Abbot Laboratories, will speak about "Better Drugs ... Faster". Other keynote events will be the fourth annual Aventis Innovative Investigator Award and the Best Poster Award Presentation, both on Wednesday, August 13.

Special events

DDT 2003 will feature several forums for networking throughout the conference. The "Welcome to Boston" networking

hold a chapter meeting at DDT 2003 that will be open to anyone interested in exchanging ideas about laboratory automation. Visit their website at http://lab-robotics.org/New_England for more information. Several "Birds of a Feather" and panel discussions will be held throughout the meeting. Finally, the annual "Biotech-Tuesday" networking event will be held Tuesday evening after the close of the exhibit hall. Advance registration is required for this event. Visit www.biotech-tuesday.com to register.



Scientific sessions

The scientific sessions will run concurrently and are divided into science, informatics, and business. Each section will have an opening workshop: Introduction to Drug Discovery for the science track, Pipeline Informatics for the informatics track, and Alliance Management for the business track. Topics for the science track will include target validation, high-throughput technologies, protein and antibody therapeutic technologies, structure-based drug design, lead generation and optimization, and applications of new drug discovery technologies to cancer. Informatics topics will include value from scientific information,

reception will kick off the grand opening of the exhibit hall and poster display on Monday evening, August 11, and will be open to all attendees. The "Around the World" networking reception will be held on Tuesday evening, August 12. It will feature food and drinks from more than 35 countries and will also be open to all attendees. The Massachusetts Biotechnology Council Drug Discovery Committee will hold a meeting at DDT 2003 on Tuesday, August 12. Visit www.massbio.org/calendar for information.

The New England chapter of the Laboratory Robotics Interest Group (LRIG), a probationary ACS division, will

scientific data integration and knowledge management, in silico drug discovery, and best practices in informatics implementation. Business topics will include best practices for pharma/biotech partnering, strategies for successful biotech financing and deal-making case studies, and emerging and early-stage companies.

Additionally, many leading companies in the drug discovery arena will sponsor several technology workshops.

Exhibits

A mainstay of the Drug Discovery Technology meetings, this year's exhibit hall will feature more than 370 booths unveil-

