

## ▶ DDT 2004

*A Boston perennial for drug scientists*

An expanded scientific program is the main feature of this annual event. The ninth annual Drug Discovery Technology 2004 World Congress (DDT 2004) will be held at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston August 8–13. DDT 2004 aims to bring together 6000 attendees and provide a venue for academic, governmental, and industrial personnel in the life sciences to share best practices and strategies for accelerating the discovery of new drugs. This year's theme is "expanding drug pipelines through innovation." Following on this theme, DDT 2004 organizers have expanded the scientific program to include more in-depth symposia in addition to the customary keynote addresses, networking receptions, short courses, special events, and the exposition.

### Keynotes

The keynote addresses continue to be the highlight of the conference. The presenters provide unique perspectives on medical research, pharmaceutical discovery, and biotechnology. On the morning of Monday, August 9, Elias A. Zerhouni, director of the NIH, will discuss the "NIH Roadmap for Medical Research," a series of initiatives to transform medical research capabilities and reduce the time it takes to translate discoveries from the lab bench to the patient. Tuesday morning, August 10, Mark C. Fishman, president of the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, will examine a key limitation of drug discovery—the incomplete biological understanding of disease and the inability to recognize targets linked with the determination of disease. On Wednesday morning, August 11, Nobel laureate David Baltimore, president of the California Institute of Technology, will discuss what the future may hold for biotechnology.

### Scientific sessions

As noted earlier, DDT 2004 organizers have expanded the scientific program. According to Michael Keenan, project manager and producer of DDT 2004, "We expanded the scientific program because there is a thirst in the industry for cutting-edge science that is being applied to drug discovery research and to the movement of products into clinic. Beefing up the drug pipelines is what this conference is all about, and we wanted this year's program to reflect the best drug discovery in the field."

The expanded scientific program will be divided into five symposia: Advances in Drug Discovery, Business Strategy and Partnering, Discovery Informatics, and two new symposia topics—Discovery to Clinic and Advances in Biotherapeutic Discovery. The new symposia were added to address potential growth of conferees in these areas. Keenan notes, "While we have always attracted people interested in these topic areas in past years, we do feel that there is great potential to increase attendance to the meeting in these topic areas. We have added a significant amount of content



catering to the interests of these two groups."

The Advances in Drug Discovery symposium will focus on scientific strategies and techniques to accelerate drug discovery efforts and help expand drug pipelines. Discovery to Clinic will examine innovative technologies to improve success rates as compounds transition from discovery to early clinical development. Advances in Biotherapeutic Discovery will provide an overview of existing opportunities in the biotherapeutic market and research advances that are driving the discovery of new protein therapeutics. The Business Strategy and Partnering symposium will focus on case studies that explore successful partnerships as determined by increased revenue. Discovery Informatics will present strategies employed to integrate biological, chemical, and other information at the scientific level.

### Special events

DDT 2004 will feature several forums for networking throughout the conference. On Monday, August 9, at 5:00 p.m., the exhibit hall cocktail reception will kick off the grand opening of the exhibit hall and poster display. Tuesday evening will feature a themed cocktail reception beginning at 5:30 p.m. Both receptions are open to all attendees.

For DDT 2004, the organizers have divided the scientific luncheon and poster sessions by topic area to bring together conferees of similar interests at the same time. Poster session topics include cancer drug discovery, protein drug delivery, and cell-based screening and analysis. Luncheon topics include protein optimization, pharmaceutical profiling, atherosclerosis/cardiovascular diseases, and RNAi/target validation.

### Exhibits

A mainstay of the DDT meetings, this year's exhibit hall will feature more than 400 booths displaying the latest technologies available for all phases of drug discovery research. Exhibit hall hours will be Monday, August 9, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.; Tuesday, August 10, from 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and Wednesday, August 11, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

For more information on any aspect of the meeting, visit the DDT 2004 website at [www.drugdisc.com](http://www.drugdisc.com). ■