

# EuroMeeting Plenary Session 1

The first Plenary Session opened the 19th Annual EuroMeeting in Vienna, Austria on Monday, March 26. Overall, there were more than 3,000 attendees at the EuroMeeting.

keynote presenters Andrew Witt and Georgette Lalis: *The New Pharmaceutical Legal Framework: A Step in the Right Direction for Europe?*

members and volunteers whose contributions made the EuroMeeting possible. Brigitte then presented William Brassington, Acting DIA Executive Director.



EuroMeeting Co-chairpersons, Christa Wirthumer-Hoche and Gerd Bode, at the Plenary.

This first Plenary also provided a thought-provoking prelude to subsequent meeting sessions by exploring the implications of the question asked by

The audience was initially welcomed by Brigitte Franke-Bray, Director, DIA Europe, who began by thanking all the

Dr. Cynthia Kirk, President of the DIA Board of Directors, welcomed the attendees. "As I look out over this impressive audience of diverse participants...I recognize this extraordinary forum is the result of your contributions of time, effort, and passion, a forum of professionals with the same vision of quality information exchange leading to the development of better medicines that enhance health and well-being," she said.

Cindy then called the two EuroMeeting co-chairs, Dr. Christa Wirthumer-Hoche and Dr. Gerd Bode, forward to be recognized. "It is a pleasure and honor for me to particularly welcome you to this city, because it is my hometown," said Christa. "We as chairs would like to thank you, our colleagues and friends, very much for all your excellent engagement," said Gerd. "I think it is you that will make this 19th Annual Euro-

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## Plenary Session 2: Regulatory Agencies & Trade Association Presentations

The second EuroMeeting Plenary Session proved a stellar demonstration of DIA's unique capability for bringing regulators and the regulated together for common discussion, as agency and industry leadership convened to further discuss implications of the new legal framework for pharmaceuticals in Europe.

Martin Terberger, Head of Enterprise & Industry, DG Pharmaceuticals Unit, European Commission, EU, shared the first regulatory agency perspective. His presentation on "Further Steps in the Right Direction" outlined three important aspects of the legislation's ongoing implementation: Continued refinement of practical incremental legislation; continued work toward complete implementation; and continuation of good

collaborative relationships with ICH, WHO and similar bodies.

Thomas Lönngren, Executive Director, EMEA, EU, reflected that refining and implementing this legislation advanced four primary objectives – improving evaluation, safety, innovation, and transparency of information and communications – made 2006 an extremely busy year for the agency.

Jytte Lyngvig presented from her perspective as the CEO of the Danish Medicines Agency and Chair of Heads of Medicines Agencies (HMA) management group. She cited the ongoing Benchmarking of European Medicines Agencies (BEMA) effort to develop a world class medicines regulatory system based on a network of agencies operat-

ing to best practice standards, as one of the legislative framework's benefits.

Marcus Müllner, Director, AGES PharmMED, Austria, discussed the paediatric regulation as another example of the ongoing need for harmonization within legislative implementation.

Brian Ager, Director General, European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries & Associations (EFPIA), Belgium, was the first to share the trade associations' complementary perspective on the impact of the new legislative framework on European pharmaceutical enterprises. "I believe very strongly that Europe has a great deal to gain in health and economic terms from a strong, competitive, indigenous re-

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# Student Poster Winners in Vienna

International graduate students submitted 18 posters that were exhibited at the Austria Center during the recent 19th Annual EuroMeeting in Vienna. The judging was done by Agnès Saint-Raymond, Fritz Erni, and Klaus Olejniczak, and the awards were presented at 17:30 on Tuesday, March 27 at the DIA booth. Cynthia Kirk, DIA President, presented the awards as a large crowd of students and other attendees looked on. The abstracts of all the accepted student posters were published in the March 2007 (vol. 41, no. 2) issue of the *Drug Information Journal*. The awards were as follows: first prize, 1500 Euro, second prize 1000 Euro, and 500 Euro for third prize. The names of the winning posters and their authors appear below.

## First Place

*Nanomedicine: studies of interactions between nanoTherapeutics and cancer cell*

Virginie Simon, Laurent Levy, Alex Duval, Nanobiotix, Paris

*The current antitumor treatments remain insufficient since approximately 50% cancers are not neat effectively. Within the framework of the innovating therapies applied to cancer, Nanobiotix, a biotech company founded in 2003, develops a new safer generation of anti-cancer tools,*



Gerd Bode, Virginie Simon (1st prize winner), Charlotte DuPont, Jean-Marc Husson, and Timothée Fraise.

*named nanoTherapeutics. NanoTherapeutic are multifunctional (therapeutic and diagnosis) nanoparticles (<70 nm) made up of a therapeutic core activable remotely by external energy source. This unit is protected by a Silica coating. Targeting agents (peptid, antibody...) could be linked to the nanoparticle, allowing an highly specific targeting to the tumor cells. Results already obtained in cancer animal models have demonstrated the capacity of such activated nanoparticles to destroy tumor cells.*

*The research project beginning today implying a PhD student in financing CIFRE aims at studying the interactions between the tumor cells and the nanoparticles (targeted or not) activated or not with external physical sources.*

*The purposes of work envisaged are to:*

*(I) Study the follow up of fluorescent nanoparticles (Texas Red) before and after their activation in cellulo in different cancer cells lines (HCT116, KB, MCF-7...)*

*(II) Specify the mechanisms by which these nanoparticles support the destruction of the tumor cells after activation;*

*(III) Develop techniques of effective targeting of these particles using targeted agent of interest;*

*(IV) Specify the transferability to animal models*

*On the long range, the objectives of this project are to better understand the mechanisms of action of the nano-therapeutics, pre-necessary essential to their future use in clinical research.*

## Second Place



Dr. med. Christian Behles (research associate), Cynthia Kirk (DIA President), Venessa Plate (2nd prize winner), Gerd Bode (EuroMeeting Co-chair), and Timothée Fraise (chair of graduates session).

*Reducing off-label-use in paediatrics by improving drug information—comparative study of approvals of children's medicines since 2001 and a database for approved children's medicines*

Vanessa Plate, C. Behles, H. Schwein Rheinische Friedrich Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, Pharmazeutisches Institut, Drug Regulatory Affairs

## Objectives

*To investigate, whether the first available database, providing information on the pharmaceuticals licensed for use in children in Germany, complies with requirements necessary to reduce off-label-use in paediatrics. Pre-condition for a decrease of off-label-use in paediatrics is integrity of database information. Integrity consists of both a near complete display of all available paediatric drugs, doses and pharmaceutical forms.*

## Third Place

*RSV bronchiolitis and breathing-swallowing coordination in infants*  
Aude Fievet, Yasmina Khaniche, Florent Lavergne, Marie Mulet, Stephane Vincent  
Master Développement Clinique des Produits de Santé, EUDIPHARM, Lyon

*In France, 460,000 infants are infected every year by bronchiolitis; 1-2% are hospitalized where Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is involved in 70% cases. Results of a case-control study suggest that infants with bronchiolitis had a less effective coordination of breathing with swallowing with more swallows followed by inspiration.*

*We hypothesised that RSV bronchiolitis is involved in the modification of the coordination between breathing and non-feeding swallowing.*

## Objectives

*To investigate frequencies of swallowing followed by expiration in infants with bronchiolitis. Secondary objective is to measure frequencies of swallowing associated with the number of apnoeas and arousals. ■*



Student poster judges Fritz Erni (far left), Agnès Saint-Raymond (second from right), and Klaus Olejniczak (far right), with Christa Wirthumer-Hoche (EuroMeeting Co-chair), Brigitte Franke-Bray (Director, DIA Europe), and Cynthia Kirk.

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