



Report from the SAPA-GP's 2nd Member Conference

“State-of-the-Art Technologies in Drug Discovery and Development”

On Sunday, February 25, 2007, SAPA-GP successfully organized the 2nd Member Conference in Doubletree Guest Suites in Plymouth Meeting, PA. The theme of this 2nd Member Conference focused on the “State-of-the-Art Technologies in Drug Discovery and Development”. Totally 12 speakers from leading pharmaceuticals and biotech companies in the region were invited to present various cutting edge technologies that have been implemented in drug discovery and development. More than 60 members attended this conference and most stayed until the last presentation in spite of the inclement weather in the afternoon.

The topics of this 2nd Member Conference covered a variety of the most advanced technologies applied in drug discovery and development, including a ray of high throughput screen technologies for lead identification (presented by Dr. Hu Li from GlaxoSmithKline), various structure-, fragment- and computer-based drug designs to identify or optimize the leads (presented by Dr. Tao Guo from Pharmacopeia, Dr. Jian Li from Johnson & Johnson, and Dr. Guosheng Wu from Vitae Pharmaceuticals, respectively), the innovation on drug processing and quality assurance (presented by Dr. Weiyong Li from Johnson & Johnson), nano-crystal-based drug delivery (presented by Dr. Wei Liu from Elan Drug Delivery, Inc.), as well as positron emission tomography for drug efficacy and assessment (presented by Dr. Sean Zhang from Johnson & Johnson). In addition to these technology-based topics, several most attractive and future biology- and methodology-related areas in drug discovery and development were also presented, including the RNAi technology for drug target assessment and direct therapeutic intervention (presented by Dr. De-Min Zhu from Merck), various applications of bioinformatics to guide drug discovery and clinical management (presented by Dr. Guanghui Hu from GlaxoSmithKline), the application of liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry based metabolic profiling (presented by Dr. Wensheng Lang from Johnson & Johnson), translational medicine and a variety of biomarker strategies to optimize preclinical and clinical studies (presented by Dr. Jingsong Wang from Wyeth), and the use of stem cell therapy as a potential of future medicine (presented by Dr. Julie Jia from Millipore Corporation). Each topic of this theme presentation was well received and stimulated scientific discussion on the floor, and gained very positive responses from the attendees based on the surveys collected at end of the conference.

This Member Conference was organized by the organization committee headed by the SAPA-GP EC members, Guosheng Wu, Wensheng Lang and Xinkang Wang, with the support from the GP Scientific Committee headed by Hua Zhong and Lee Kang, and the GP President Jian Li and President-Elect Zhongda Zhang. In addition, the support from the operation team and EC members, including the on-site operation headed by Chang Bai, Demin Zhu and Jiangfan Li, as well as the dedicated fund-raising team and kind sponsorship from Keystone Analytical Lab, Inc and Millipore Corporation to make this event become possible and successful. Once again, this is another successful example to show that the team-work really works in SAPA-GP and more EC members are building up their leaderships in our events. Most importantly, this Member Conference has fulfilled the primary objectives, i.e., having provided SAPA members the opportunity to foster their professional development by broadening their knowledge in key technologies and research field that are rapidly evolving in drug discovery and development, and thus to better adapt their scientific career development if desired. (Reported by Xinkang Wang).