

An introduction to the AAPS Inhalation and Nasal Technology Focus Group (INTFG)

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On behalf of the Inhalation and Nasal Technology Focus Group

The Inhalation and Nasal Technology Focus Group (INTFG) is a specialty focus group within the Formulation Design and Development (FDD) section of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS). Led by an executive committee elected by its members, the INTFG works as a primary advocate and sponsor for the open discussion of scientific issues related to inhalation drug delivery. Through its many educational events and open forums, the INTFG influences regulations and guidances relevant to orally inhaled and nasal drug product (OINDP) programs.

Fostering education and discussion

Over the years, through the ongoing support of its members and sponsors, the INTFG has promoted its objectives through a wide range of educational events and open forums. These include its annual fall symposium, events at the AAPS national meeting and presentations held in collaboration with other cross-industry organizations.

Annual INTFG Symposium

The annual INTFG Fall Symposium addresses many areas of inhalation drug delivery. Recent topics have included inhalation devices, nanotechnology and particle engineering. The Fall 2011 Symposium will have the theme “Delivery of Biologics through the Lung: Challenges and Opportunities” and be held on September 9, 2011. Additional details will be available on the INTFG website at http://www.aapspharmaceutica.com/inside/focus_groups/IT/index.asp

AAPS Annual Meeting

The INTFG also supports the AAPS Annual Meeting by recommending symposia related to inhalation and nasal technology development. The most recent symposium was a sunrise session in November 2010 held at the Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress (PSWC), a joint meeting of AAPS and the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), which featured the topic “Nose to Brain – Reality or Just Blowing Smoke?”

Collaboration with other organizations

The INTFG also works with cross-industry organizations outside AAPS,

such as Respiratory Drug Delivery (RDD), to host evening presentations during their annual conferences. Past events have discussed inhaled drugs in low-income settings, imaging and adherence monitoring. To support lateral discussion and exchange ideas across specialties, the INTFG has arranged workshops with RDD as well as the Product Quality Research Institute (PQRI). Workshops in March 2009 on bioequivalence and in May 2010 on pharmacokinetics and bioequivalence were both well attended, as these critical areas are still being defined within industry and regulatory agencies.

Influencing OINDP regulations

The INTFG has also played a role in discussion forums that have influenced regulations and guidances for OINDP programs. Some of these exchanges have been collaborative efforts among INTFG, AAPS and IPAC (International Pharmaceutical Aerosol Consortium). Tapping the experiences of INTFG members and bringing industry and academia representatives together with government regulators has proven stimulating and educational for all parties.

Objectives of the AAPS Inhalation and Nasal Technology Focus Group

- To foster and advance the art and science of the pharmaceutical inhalation aerosol and nasal drug delivery systems among focus group members and interested parties.
- To provide and disseminate to its members information relating to matters of scientific and technical interest in the field of inhalation aerosol and nasal drug delivery products, aerosol and nasal technology, and related processes.
- To encourage and undertake projects relating to matters of scientific and technical interest in the field of inhalation aerosol and nasal drug delivery products, aerosol and nasal technology, and related processes and when appropriate, publish such findings in the pharmaceutical press.
- To support lateral discussion and exchange of ideas across different specialties in the areas of novel drug delivery methods, delivery formulations, clinical trial issues and regulatory sciences specific to inhalation and nasal drug delivery.
- To foster and encourage a spirit of friendly cooperation among its members and to promote favorable relations between its members and related health professionals.
- To collect and disseminate, for the benefit of its members and interested parties, such information as may be deemed of value.
- To organize seminars and/or symposiums in the general area of inhalation aerosol and nasal drug products, aerosol and nasal drug delivery technology, and regulations for inhalation and nasal drug products.

Led by an executive committee

The Executive Committee of the INTFG is the main driver for these activities. It seeks ideas for the many workshops, seminars and symposia that INTFG supports to ensure the major issues within the inhalation drug delivery arena are openly and freely discussed in the scientific community. All members of the executive committee are scientists experienced in the development of inhalation drug delivery products across multiple disciplines. This creates a wide range of perspectives (on issues such

as engineering, testing, processing, clinical, regulatory and quality) in considering scientific forums that the membership will find stimulating and enlightening.

How to get involved

The INTFG invites all members of the inhalation community to join the group and become actively involved. It also encourages any INTFG member to run for a position on the Executive Committee to bring new leadership and perspective about the content and direction for the INTFG. Nominations are taken at

the annual fall symposium and by email to the executive committee members. A nominee must be a member of AAPS and the INTFG. Elections are held by email ballot or at the annual business meeting during the AAPS annual meeting.

Information about the INTFG and its upcoming events can be found on its website http://www.aapspharmaceutica.com/inside/focus_groups/INT/index.aps. In addition, the INTFG has a LinkedIn group that provides event updates, scientific discussions and job postings. Twice per year, the INTFG also publishes the newsletter "Inhalation Inspiration," which is sent to the INTFG membership.

Current INTFG Executive Committee

Jason Ehrick, Ph.D.	Chair	Merck & Co.
Samiran De, Ph.D.	Vice Chair	Next Breath, LLC
Mike Riebe, Ph.D.	Past Chair	Merck & Co.
Bill Schachtner, B.S.	Secretary	PPD, Inc.
Dennis O'Connor, B.S.	Executive Member	Boehringer Ingelheim
Frank Thielmann, Ph.D.	Executive Member	Novartis
Sai Chamorthy, Ph.D.	Executive Member	Merck & Co.
Prabo Wijetunge, Ph.D.	Executive Member	MicroDose Therapeutx

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