

CROSS-INDUSTRY Organizations

INTFG hosts joint workshops and special presentations

Jeffrey Breit

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). The group's goal is to bring together scientists focused on the nasal or pulmonary delivery of therapeutic compounds in order to disseminate state-of-the-art information in the field. Industrial, academic and government scientists actively participate in INTFG activities in order to ensure a robust and current approach to understanding the science and application of nasal and pulmonary drug delivery technologies. Topics of interest to INTFG evolve in order to address current medical needs and areas of scientific interest within the industry. These topics include, but are not limited to, excipient/formulation selection, analytical technologies, novel delivery and device technologies.

Members of the current Executive Committee (EC), elected at the 2013 AAPS Annual Meeting in San Antonio, are listed in Table 1.

INTFG at RDD 2013

An INTFG business meeting was held at RDD Europe in May 2013 and presented an overview of the group's activities. Following the business meeting, a short scientific presentation was given by Guenther Hochhaus, Ph.D., an INTFG EC member from the Uni-

versity of Florida. His talk, entitled "Pulmonary Bioequivalence—Is There Any News?" was well attended and engaging and the Q&A session was lively.

INTFG regularly hosts business meetings at RDD in order to generate interest within the inhalation community and promote the inhalation-based (nasal and pulmonary) pharmaceutical sciences. Any persons interested in learning about AAPS and/or INTFG activities or meetings and interacting with INTFG scientists engaged in research on inhalation drug delivery are welcome to attend the INTFG business meetings as well as the meetings that regularly take place at the AAPS Annual Meeting.

Workshops and Fall Symposia

In 2013, INTFG co-hosted a joint workshop with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the International Pharmaceutical Aerosol Consortium on Regu-

lation and Science (IPAC-RS), and the U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP). The workshop, entitled "Inhaled Drug Products: Current Practices and the Future of *In Vitro* Testing Technologies and Regulation," was held at the USP facility September 9 and 10 and had high attendance.

INTFG is currently planning to co-host another collaborative workshop in 2014 or early 2015. Updates on INTFG activities and workshops will be posted on the INTFG LinkedIn page and the INTFG website and will be e-mailed to INTFG members. Please stay tuned to these sites and emails in order to stay up-to-date on activities.

AAPS Annual Meeting INTFG events 2013

Scientific talks were hosted by INTFG at the 2013 AAPS Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. Two roundtables were presented. One was entitled "Global Clinical Regulatory Requirements for

Table 1

Members of the current INTFG Executive Committee

Jeffrey Breit, Ph.D.	Chair	Capsugel/Bend Research, Inc.
Bill Schachtner, B.S.	Vice Chair	PPD, Inc.
Sai Chamarthy, Ph.D.	Past Chair	Merck
Jayne Hastedt, Ph.D.	Secretary	JDP Pharma
Reinhard Vehring, Ph.D.	Executive Member	University of Alberta
Philip Kuehl, Ph.D.	Executive Member	Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute
Prabo Wijetunge, Ph.D.	Executive Member	Novel Laboratories, Inc.
Goncalo Andrade, Ph.D.	Executive Member	Hovione
Brijesh Patel, Ph.D.	Student Member	Texas Tech University

Inhalation Products.” The other was held in conjunction with the Ocular and Transdermal Focus Group and entitled “Biopharmaceutical Considerations in Selecting Non-oral Drug Candidates: Ocular, Pulmonary and Transdermal.”

AAPS/INTFG webinars

It is the goal of INTFG to present multiple webinars every year on an inhalation-focused topic. The 2014 webinars will include: inhalation fundamentals to be presented by Reinhard Vehring, Ph.D.; nanotechnology and inhalation delivery to be presented by David Lechuga, Ph.D.; and a third webinar on protein formulations with the presenter to be determined. Webinar information will be emailed to INTFG members and posted on the LinkedIn website.

For further information

The focus group also posts a blog through AAPS and is preparing its spring newsletter, which will be distributed through the AAPS INTFG member email list and posted on INTFG’s LinkedIn site. For further updates on INTFG’s activities throughout the year, scientific discussions and job postings, please check the focus group’s LinkedIn site or contact members of the group’s executive committee. Information about INTFG presentations from past meetings and upcoming events can be found on its website: www.aaps.org/Inhalation_and_Nasal_Technology.

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