

CROSS-INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS

The INTFG: Becoming an AAPS community and a call for volunteers

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On behalf of the INTFG

What is the INTFG?

For many years, the Inhalation and Nasal Technology Focus Group (INTFG) has functioned as a primary advocate and sponsor for the open discussion of scientific issues related to inhalation drug delivery. Over its long history, it has been instrumental in bringing scientists together and serving as a forum for discussion of issues and innovations in the field. It has achieved this through numerous educational events and open forums. The INTFG has also influenced regulations and guidances relevant to orally inhaled and nasal drug product (OINDP) programs.

The INTFG has long been associated with the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS). However, unconfirmed reports indicate the group predates the formation of the AAPS organization itself.

How does the INTFG function?

Through the support of its volunteer members and sponsors, the INTFG has promoted its objectives through a wide range of meetings and an online presence. These have included an annual fall symposium, events at the AAPS national meeting and presentations held in collaboration with other cross-industry organizations.

The success of the INTFG has also been due to its collaboration with organizations such as Respiratory Drug Delivery (RDD). The INTFG has hosted evening

presentations during RDD conferences, both in the United States and Europe. To support lateral discussion and exchange ideas across specialties, the INTFG has arranged workshops with RDD as well as with the Product Quality Research Institute (PQRI). For example, workshops in March 2009 on bioequivalence and in May 2010 on pharmacokinetics and bioequivalence remain relevant today and are critical areas that are still being defined within the industry and regulatory agencies.

The AAPS transition to communities

Recently, the AAPS has phased out its focus groups and shifted to “communities.” This is an important change because communities will help the AAPS grow its network and improve the sense of membership within the organization.

Communities have many functions that are familiar. Members join based on their interest in a topic, they can organize and propose programming to AAPS, participate in networking, etc. In addition, each community has a web-based platform in which to post messages and resources. At the same time, communities differ from focus groups because their boards manage activities through AAPS staff, thereby enabling volunteer leaders to have greater focus on science.

The Goals of the INTFG

- 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.

The INTFG needs you!

Due to the transition by AAPS to communities, it is pertinent to reflect on the history of the INTFG and identify the actions needed to keep the group strong. The INTFG has always relied on its volunteer members to stimulate interactions, collaborations and activities to move the scientific field forward. This is especially true now.

Therefore, this is a call for members of the inhalation and nasal community to volunteer and help lead the INTFG as our field enters exciting and innovative times. Everyone is highly encouraged to participate in this transition.

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10 Years of Past INTFG Chairs

2008-2009	Jill Sherwood, PhD
2009-2010	Dennis O'Connor, PhD
2010-2011	Jason Ehrick, PhD
2011-2012	Samiran De, PhD
2012-2013	Sai Chamarthy, PhD
2013-2014	Jeffrey Breit, PhD
2014-2015	Bill Schachtner, PhD
2015-2016	Jayne Hastedt, PhD
2016-2017	Philip Kuehl, PhD
2017-2018	Hugh Smyth, PhD