

CROSS-INDUSTRY Organizations

Drug Delivery to the Lungs: Highlights of DDL2023 and a preview of DDL2024

Notable achievements of DDL2023

The 34th Drug Delivery to the Lungs Conference (DDL) welcomed more than 900 delegates in person at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC) in Edinburgh, UK plus 120 virtual attendees. Before the conference, the Association of Inhalation Toxicologists (AIT) held the workshop “Pre-clinical development—Back to Basics,” attracting more than 150 delegates.

Congratulations were extended to Olivia Merkel, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, who was awarded the DDL2023 Emerging Scientist title. Olivia opened the conference with her talk, “What’s in the future of inhaled RNA?” She was presented with a check for £1,000 and a commemorative award. The winner of the DDL2023 Pat Burnell New Investigator Award was Brunella Grassiri, University of Pisa. Her presentation on “Development of pulmonary formulations with gallium siderophores against *Aspergillus fumigatus* lung infections” won her the acclaimed prize.

DDL2023 abstracts and presentations can be found on the DDL website.

Anticipating DDL2024

DDL2024 will be presented live at the EICC and virtually on Wednesday through Friday, December 11-13, 2024. Celebrating its 35th year, DDL will again showcase the latest research in inhaled drug delivery. Alongside

talks, an exhibition and posters, there will be the renowned convivial hospitality and networking, with a complimentary gala dinner for all delegates in the spectacular National Museum of Scotland. Sponsorship opportunities are available for this unique event.

The conference will provide a balance of coverage across key areas of aerosol science and the development of inhaled medicines, with a single conference stream eliminating decisions as to which presentation to attend. The prestigious DDL Annual Lecture will be presented by Mike Hindle of Virginia Commonwealth University, who will deliver a talk on “Delivering aerosols to premature infants, a most challenging and precious patient: Accelerating development using realistic airway models.”

Conference themes

The DDL2024 session themes will be:

Advances in inhalation technology. Innovation and opportunities in inhalation technology, including computational modeling, biopharmaceutics, formulation and manufacture, regulatory science, delivery systems and analytics to address current unmet needs or anticipate the evolving landscape of inhaled delivery.

Biologics for the lungs. New biological therapeutics for the treatment of respiratory disease, including antibody and gene therapies targeted to the lungs by inhalation, as well as those

administered by other routes of delivery for action in the lungs.

Inhalation across the ages and patient-centered care. Design considerations for aerosol medicines used in different age groups, e.g., neonates and older adults. Promotion of health equity in access to inhaled medicines for special patient populations, e.g., pregnancy, frailty, cognitive or physical impairments, and people with language or cultural barriers.

Nasal drug delivery. Local, systemic and nose-to-brain delivery. The latest therapeutic approaches, advances in powder and liquid formulations and device technology, and innovative new methods for nasal product performance testing.

Workshop: Transition to new propellants—Current solution and future challenges. This workshop will focus on new low global warming potential (LGWP) propellants to replace existing propellants in metered dose inhalers (MDIs). Additional topics will be implications of F-gases and new per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) regulations and the response of the aerosol community to these challenges.

The New Researcher Network (NRN)

A subgroup of DDL, the New Researcher Network (NRN) engages and supports young researchers. In September, the NRN will enable 25 candidates (selected from among 50 applicants across the world) to participate in a free, three-day event including expert

lectures and a site visit to the sponsor, Viartis, in Sandwich, UK. The NRN will provide a summary of this event at DDL2024. This event has been jointly funded by DDL and Viartis.

Supporting new talent

DDL is proud to recognize and encourage new talent through our awards and activities:

The Pat Burnell Young Investigator Competition. Named in honor of one of the founders of the Aerosol Society, shortlisted applicants for this prestigious award will have the opportunity to deliver a live presentation at DDL2024, with the winner being announced during the conference.

The DDL Emerging Scientist Award. The winner of this award will have demonstrated significant scientific accomplishment or innovation during the early stages of their career in inhalation science (within 15 years from achieving their PhD). The winner will be announced at DDL2024 and will give a keynote presentation describing their research achievements. Entries are encouraged from researchers across the globe working in academia, industry, public service or other scientific establishments.

The DDL Career Development Grant. This flexible grant is intended to support new and emerging scientists by funding projects that contribute to a scientist's career development. The grant can support individuals from public, private and university organizations.

Complimentary student registration

Registration costs for DDL2024 will continue to be held at a level that enables attendance across the breadth of industry, with attendance from academia actively encouraged, to facilitate cross-fertilization of knowledge across the sector.

Students will continue to enjoy complimentary registration, providing the next generation of aerosol and drug delivery researchers an extraordinary opportunity to engage with world-renowned scientists from across the aerosol and respiratory delivery field, promote their own work and gain experience participating in a premier conference in their research field.

Thanks to our sponsors

As a "not for profit" organization, we would like to extend our thanks to our valued conference sponsors, without whom we would not be able to bring you the great value, high quality DDL conference experience.

For more information

For details about DDL2024 as well as previous DDL conferences, please visit our website: <https://ddl-conference.com>.