

BioWin is starting the academic year off in style. It is investing in a European inter-cluster project (ABC Europe) and in an in-company training project ... and in a support project to help SMEs to comply with regulatory constraints (SME Coaching).

Focus on ABC Europe

On 14 September last, BioWin participated in the meeting to launch **a brand new European inter-cluster project, called ABC Europe**. The objective of this project is to develop support services for innovative SMEs in order to promote their development and internationalisation. To support this project, a consortium made up of health clusters from the CEBR (Council for European BioRegions) network has been set up. BioWin has joined this consortium alongside leading European health clusters - Alsace Bio-Valley, ERBI (Cambridge), Medicen (Paris), Medicon Valley Alliance (Denmark and Sweden) – and other major health clusters: Milan InnovHub, Barcelona Science

Park, BioIndustry Park Canavese Turin, Bio-Munich, BioTop Berlin, Heidelberg Tech Park, Innova Hungary, Matimop Israël and Stockholm Science City.

A budget of 3.5 million euros over 3 years has been allocated to the consortium to roll out a broad portfolio of services to be proposed to innovative SMEs: entrepreneurship support, facilitating access to research infrastructures, centralising intellectual property support mechanisms, etc. This budget will also be used to roll out a programme of ambassadors (exchanges of experts between the consortium's various health clusters).

The logo for ABC Europe, consisting of the text "ABC Europe" in a white, sans-serif font. "ABC" is on the top line and "Europe" is on the bottom line. The logo is set against a grey circular background, which is partially overlapped by a larger orange circle.

A win-win in-company training project

Since the summer of 2009, BioWin has been participating alongside Skywin, Wagrallim, Mecatech and Logistics in Wallonia (the 4 other Walloon competitiveness clusters) in an **inter-cluster in-company training project**, approved in June 2009 by the Walloon government. These relatively long in-house training periods (from 9 to 22 weeks), are intended for students nearing the end of their university or higher education studies in scientific, technological or management fields. These in-company training periods have to be part of a technological activity and/or in support of an innovative project linked to one of the themes of the 5 competitiveness clusters: health biotechnology, agribusiness, mechanical engineering, logistics and aeronautics. **Member companies of the five clusters have the possibility to publish free of charge their in-company training offers** via the www.monstage.be platform. In collaboration with institutes of higher education, **training programmes to enable the trainees to “discover” the world of industry will be available**, in order to support them and facilitate their transition from the academic world to the world of industry. Two modules of this type are currently being put in place: a “management of innovative projects” module to help trainees develop the necessary autonomy in handling the responsibility of the assignments entrusted to them and a “quality system in biopharma: ISO, GLP, GMP and validation best practices” module.

The programme of the training modules prior to the in-company training periods will be enhanced over time depending on the needs of companies. **For more information** on this win-win programme which benefits everyone from companies to institutes of higher education and students, **contact Rose-May Delrue or Véronique Pironet: rosemay.delrue@biowin.org - Tel. 071/376 386**



In-Company
training

More haste less speed

The **SME coaching project** was approved on 2 July last by the Walloon government. The objective of this project is to **help BioWin's SMEs anticipate regulatory constraints** (GxP standards, registration, etc.) **applying to new products launched on the market and to acquire sufficient expertise to manage them at all stages of development and production**. This will help the companies concerned accelerate development processes while sheltering them from unpleasant surprises while reducing their risks. This project is based on the realisation that SMEs are too often unaware of regulatory constraints. This situation is exacerbated by a lack of initial training (colleges of higher education, universities) and available expertise and competences in the area of quality-regulatory matters and this can have very expensive consequences if companies become aware too late of the need to comply with these constraints.

The Coaching project is based on two phases: individualised consultancy support for SMEs and a training phase adapted to the specific needs of each SME. The first phase is organised in collaboration with CEQUAL (the Walloon Centre of Quality) whose role, since it was created in 1995, is to help organisations integrate quality, safety and environmental management systems. Each SME participating in the programme will have the opportunity to select a consultant-expert (on the recommendation of BioWin), whose services will be partially subsidised by CEQUAL). Based on a consultancy period of 4 to 8 days, the consultant will analyse the company's specific needs, taking into account its business sector, applicable regulatory constraints, existing employee training levels and the level of development of quality/regulatory systems in place. A customised training plan will then be drawn up for the company on the basis of this analysis. Subsequently, in accordance with the arrangements to be determined, **various training programmes will be organised for the relevant employees**. If you are interested in benefiting from this support or if you would like further information please **contact Monique Dethier, Training Coordinator: monique.dethier@biowin.org - Tel. 064/310700**.



SME
coaching

- Cell therapy
- Diagnostics
- Biomarkers
- Drug delivery systems
- Medical imaging
- Medical devices
- Biopharmacy
- Clinical research

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- Partnerships university-industry
- Excellence in science
- Outstanding human capital

BioWin
THE HEALTH CLUSTER OF WALLONIA

A revamp for BioWin

Via its new visual communication campaign **BioWin intends to continue to promote its position in supporting innovation in the area of health.** This new campaign will be used in European media specialising in biotechnology as well as at international fairs in which BioWin participates with the support of the AWEX.

Neofor has passed its mid-term review with flying colours

Like all BioWin R&D projects, the **Neofor project has recently undergone its mid-term review carried out by a panel of three international experts.** This review has confirmed that Neofor is living up to its promises and was respecting its timetable. In short it passed the examination with flying colours.

According to Michel Deleers (VP New Pharmaceutical Technologies & Academic Liaison at UCB Belgium who is the project coordinator): “the mid-term review is an excellent exercise from the point of view of good governance, but it also requires a real commitment and investment in time. It involves the project management in all aspects where the consortium requires guidance. It cannot be treated lightly.” Other projects will be subject to a mid-term review before the end of the year, namely Colvir (development and clinical evaluation of a local treatment of pre-cancerous lesions of the cervix induced by HPV) and Oncomethyloimic (development of innovative tools for the early detection of cancer and decision-making relative to personalised treatment).

Calls for European projects have recently been launched

Some of them were launched by Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI is public-private partnership between 26 pharmaceutical industries that are members of EFPIA - European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations – and the European Community). Others were launched by the European Commission under its 7th Framework Programme for Research and Development (FP7). The ERA-Net Euro-Trans-Bio has also launched its 5th call for projects. For more information, please contact Anne-Marie Bauduin, NCP Wallonie anne-marie.bauduin@uwe.be

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New BioWin's Governance Board members

As the mandates of Benjamin Damien (BioXpr) and Jean- Claude Havaux (Zentech) have expired, they have been replaced as members of the Governance Board by Thierry Leclipteux (Coris BioConcept) and Hugues Bultot (Kytozime) who were elected by the General Assembly of members last June. On the university side, Roland Keunings (UCL) has been replaced by Jean-Luc Balligand (UCL), Joseph Martial (GIGA - ULg) by Jacques Boniver (GIGA Research – ULg) and Michel Goldman (IMI – ULB) by Dominique Demonté (IMI – ULB). Following the resignation of Michel Goldman (ULB) as the cluster's Vice-President when he was appointed Executive Director of the Innovative Medicines Initiative at European level, the Conseil des Recteurs des universités francophones de Belgique (CREF) has designated Jean-Luc Balligand (UCL) to replace him in as Vice-President. Finally, Philippe Cronet (Eurogentec) has replaced Jean-Pierre Delwart (Eurogentec) who has become the new President of the Union Wallonne des Entreprises. A complete, updated list of members of the cluster's Governance Board can be found on www.biowin.org.

The Neofor team



BioWin wishes to thank the outgoing members of the Governance Board for the huge amount of work that they have accomplished since 2005 to create the cluster and supervise it during its first years of activity. The cluster welcomes the new members and wishes them every success in their role of supporting BioWin in its future development.

Come and participate in partnering meetings on medical diagnosis in Montpellier

In the framework of its networking policy, BioWin has been invited by **Montpellier Agglomeration** to participate alongside **Euromediag** (diagnosis cluster of Eurobiomed) in a business-to-business seminar devoted to medical diagnosis on **8 December next** in Montpellier. Ten companies at the cutting edge of innovation will grasp this opportunity to introduce themselves. Half of them come from Wallonia, namely DNAvision, Coris Bioconcept, Eurogentec, BioXpr and ValiBio. On this occasion, BioWin invites you with the support of

the AWEX to participate in the partnering meeting organised during the afternoon of 8 December by Info Veille Biotech. This invitation is open to companies and research centres (university or others).

Leading companies such as Analis, Zentech, Delphi Genetics, BV Transgenic and BiopTis have already registered for the event. Travel arrangements and accommodation in Montpellier (at your expense) will be organised by BioWin while the cost of participating in the meetings will be reimbursed to you by the AWEX.

Please also note that BioWin will distribute during the event its first technological brochure which will put the spotlight on the stakeholders and strengths of Wallonia in the area of in vitro diagnosis. Other brochures devoted to other technological areas will follow.

For more information and/or to register, please contact **Frédéric Druck**: frederic.druck@biowin.org
T 071/376.386.

● **ARESA**, the Clinical Research Cluster of the Walloon Region, is organising a Meetings day on **21 October** at B&C Group, focusing on the theme of "Pharmaceutical industry: prepare yourself for changes!"

On the agenda, presentations and debates in which Doctor Josse Thomas, Director, Servier R&D Benelux and Doctor John Schulpen, Director Clinical Research Unit, Sanofi-Aventis Belgium will participate.

You can register up to 5 October. You will find the full programme and the registration form on the site <http://clusters.wallonie.be/rechercheclinique/>

● **FlandersBio** is organising with the assistance of **BioWin** and the Dutch research centre **BMM** (BioMedical Materials) a seminar and a partnering event called "Novel Tissue Engineering Opportunities" on **1st Octo-**

ber. You can register via the site www.flandersbio.be which also contains the full programme or by sending an email to Mrs Hilde Van Raemdonck:

hilde.vanraemdonck@flandersbio.be – Tel. 09 241 80

45. Registration will close on 29 September.

● **On 3 and 4 December next, BioLog Europe** is organising, with the support of BioWin in particular, the first European conference devoted to biologistics. It will be held in Liège. To consult the programme and/or to register go to the site www.biologinsight.com



Agenda