

# SLAS High-Content Screening Conference and Spanish Drug Discovery Network Meeting 2017

19-21 September 2017

[Courtyard by Marriot Madrid Princesa Hotel](#)

Madrid, Spain

**SLAS Europe together with the Spanish Drug Discovery Network (SDDN)** is glad to announce its 2nd **SLAS High-Content Screening Conference**, which will take place in Madrid, Spain, on 19-20 September 2017.

The SLAS High-Content Screening conference brings together scientists, technologists, researchers, academics and data informatics professionals from many countries to share their experience and latest results in the domain of high throughput microscopy and data analysis. We are currently witnessing a revolution in biology with the emergence of several ground breaking technologies, ranging from stem cell culture, organoids, genome engineering to engineering progresses such as microfluidics, bioprinting, imaging modalities, sequencing methods. These extraordinary advances in the various fields are being integrated into research projects with astounding results. This conference will offer some examples of how scientists are integrating these advances into their research to produce novel insights into biology.

## Spanish Drug Discovery Network Meeting 2017

**Thursday, September 21**

This year the SDDN / SLAS 2017 meeting has the theme "Case Studies in Drug Discovery and Development", and it will showcase several success stories, from academia, biotech, and pharma; opportunities, challenges, solutions and lessons learned will be highlighted.

*This programme is graciously sponsored by [Promega](#).*

Welcome and opening remarks will be followed by three (3), 30-minute presentations.

9:00-9:30

*Presentation Title Forthcoming*

José Antonio Enríquez, CNIC

9:30-10:00

*Drug Discovery of allosteric inhibitors: the experience from Allinky*

Miguel Vega, Allinky

Allinky Biopharma is a biotech company-associated to academia-that focuses its activities on the discovery and development of small molecules to treat chronic inflammatory conditions, age-related degenerative diseases and cancer.

10:00-10:30

*Bridging early academic research & clinical development on polypeptide-based nanomedicines*

María Jesús Vicent, Polypeptide Therapeutic Solutions

10:30am - 11:00am

[Foyer](#) Courtyard by Marriot Madrid Princesa Hotel

[Refreshment Break](#)

This session will include four, 30-minute presentations.

11:00-11:30

*Partnering to Face the Challenges of Drug Discovery for the Neglected World*

Julio Martin, GlaxoSmithKline

Neglected diseases are understood as those diseases affecting populations in mainly low-income countries. Despite the neglect suffered in terms of funding, research and policy, they are a leading cause of mortality, chronic disability and poverty. Amongst them, Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) are a group of infectious diseases categorized by the particular neglect they have suffered in terms of investment in control measures. NTDs are still lacking effective and safe treatments. Of the 850 new therapeutic products registered in 2000-2011, only 5 were indicated for NTDs, none of them being a new chemical entity (NCE)<sup>1</sup>. However, the global disease burden caused by NTDs is high. The lack of investment in drug discovery for NTDs has been partially due to the absence of economic incentives. The issue of poverty is central to the nature of NTDs, since these diseases not only are due to poverty but also contribute to it through their socioeconomic impact. As a response to this unmet medical need of global health, we have adopted a Public-Private-Partnership operative model. In this context, pharma R&D activities are aligned to the main not-for-profit organizations or alliances. Our partnership model is based on three open innovation pillars: open lab (Tres Cantos Open Lab Foundation supports visiting scientists to develop their own research projects working hand to hand with GSK scientists), open source (our early discovery assets are publicly available) and IP pool (we adhere to WIPO principles).

1 B. Pedrique, N. Strub-Wourgaft, C. Some, P. Olliaro, P. Trouiller, N. Ford, B. Pecoul and J. H. Bradol, *Lancet Glob. Health*, 2013, 1, e371.

11:30-12:00

*The role of venture capital in the drug discovery and development process*

Raúl Martín-Ruiz, Ysios Capital

Start-up companies are, in many cases, the initial source of molecules that might eventually become safe, efficacious and commercially successful pharmaceutical products. Since the life sciences venture capital industry kicked-off back in the late 1970s, it became the main source of funds for financing those innovative companies until they reached the position to be acquired by a bigger player or to become publicly listed in the stock exchange markets. During this talk I will explain how venture capitalists work and which are the reasons between their positive and negative investment decisions. I will review the due diligence process of investment opportunities that they undertake, that covers the whole value chain from science to pricing and reimbursement. Contribution of venture capital to success stories in the biotech sector will also be discussed, as well as creative and

innovative business models on top of the traditional ones.

12:00-12:30

Amelia Martín Uranga, Farmaindustria

I am going to explain the development of new drugs is currently immersed in a series of important changes that are related, among others, with the following aspects: The general reformulation in investments in R&D; The expiration of patent rights for drugs that have been major sales; The change in focus towards drugs of biological origin; The ever more widespread trend to outsource part of research. The interest of the pharmaceutical industry in finding new drugs of biological origin is growing, and it needs to do so while maintaining costs are not very high, making attractive the approach of finding products in development in research centers or small start-up companies, in order to reach effective collaboration agreements with them. In this context and within the framework of the Spanish Technological Platform for Innovative Medicines, FARMAINDUSTRIA launched (in the context of open innovation) the Farma-Biotech program in 2011 with the aim of providing the necessary information and promoting potential cooperation agreements between pharmaceutical companies, small Spanish biotechnology companies and research centers, to take advantage in the best way possible of the results of the research conducted in research centers and hospitals, and the positive preclinical findings that were obtained by these small start-ups. The reception by public & private sector has been excellent from the start of the program, and 109 different stakeholders participated in 15 meetings carried out since then.

12:30-1:00

*ASEBIO Drug Discovery Group. A Case study: Harnessing the Power of the Drug Discovery Community in Spain*  
Arsenio Nueda, Almirall / ASEBIO

ASEBIO, the Spanish Bioindustry Association, brings together companies, associations, foundations, universities, research and technology centers carrying out biotechnology related activities in Spain. ASEBIO is integrated in EuropaBio (European Bioindustries Association) and is member of the CEOE (Spanish Confederation of Employer's Organizations) and the SEBBM (Spanish Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology). The Drug Discovery Group of ASEBIO was created in June 2016 to promote networking, educational and strategic initiatives based on the expertise and capabilities of ASEBIO members covering the entire drug discovery value chain.

The Group's activities are articulated around 3 main objectives: (i) Networking and "super-networking" activities through integration and coordination with national and international drug discovery networks, sharing initiatives, information and experiences of common interest. (ii) Educational outreach to the general public and particularly to young students seeking an academic or industrial scientific career in the field of drug discovery. (iii) Offering our capabilities and expertise as a strategic drug discovery bio-industry that can contribute to the risk prevention and emergency response initiatives currently coordinated by the Spanish Health Authorities.

Current activities of the group will be put into context as a case study illustrating the benefits that harnessing the experience, capabilities and networking base of the drug discovery community has both for society and the bio-industry in general.

**Thursday, September 21 • 1:00pm - 1:30pm**

#### **SDDN Programming: Roundtable Discussion**

The morning's speakers will participate in a moderated roundtable discussion moderated by Ion Arocena, ASEBIO.

