

## EVENTS

**September 12-15, 2004**  
**SOCMA Corporate Excellence**  
**Conference**

Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay,  
 Cambridge, Maryland, USA  
 Organiser: SOCMA

**April 13-14, 2005**  
**BioFine 2005**

Messe Berlin, Berlin, Germany  
 Organiser: avakado

## Organisers' contact details

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## IBC Life Sciences

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## IBC Life Sciences

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Lonza and RNA-TEC in  
oligonucleotides agreement

Lonza and RNA-TEC, a biotechnology spin-off from the REGA Institute based at the University of Leuven, Belgium, have formed a collaboration in the field of TBDMS-based oligonucleotides. The companies will combine their efforts to provide state-of-the-art RNA synthesis expertise, providing high-quality RNA oligonucleotides ranging from

intermediate scale, manufactured by RNA-TEC, up to industrial quantities, manufactured under cGMP conditions by Lonza at Visp in Switzerland. TBDMS technology with streamlined high-yield protocols is regarded as one of the leading methods for the manufacture of RNA- and siRNA-based oligonucleotides.

## OSI invests further in Prosidion Limited

OSI Pharmaceuticals, Inc has approved an investment of up to an additional \$40 million in its UK-based majority-owned diabetes subsidiary, Prosidion Limited. The first instalment of \$10 million will be invested immediately and give OSI an 81 per cent ownership

position in Prosidion. Prosidion was formed by OSI to provide an independent vehicle to pursue research in the diabetes and obesity areas following OSI's decision to focus its core research and development activities into oncology.

Chemical Search International  
launches networking website

Chemical Search International has launched a chemical industry networking website, www.chempeople.com, a professional and industry-specific site designed by and exclusively for chemical professionals. The site aims to provide an innovative way of helping them advance their careers, enrich their businesses and share ideas. Membership is open to anyone with interests in chemistry or the chemical industry, and they can join by registering their details and paying a small yearly fee. The site provides a wide range of up-to-date information in an

easy-to-access, well-presented way.

The global membership ranges from senior executives to chemists, consultants and students working in sectors from basic chemicals to advanced materials and biosciences. The site allows networking with other professionals across the global chemical industry; access to a searchable, industry-specific who's who; easy identification of new clients or suppliers, employers or job candidates; and re-connection with ex-colleagues. For further information visit [www.chempeople.com](http://www.chempeople.com)

BMS and Merck & Co in diabetes  
treatment alliance

Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) and Merck & Co., Inc have formed a global collaborative agreement for muraglitazar, BMS's dual PPAR (peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor) agonist, currently in Phase III clinical development for use in treating both blood glucose and lipid abnormalities in patients with type 2 diabetes. Muraglitazar is expected to be submitted within the next nine to 12 months for US regulatory approval.

ChemOvation and LGC  
in drug discovery  
services alliance

ChemOvation and LGC have established a collaboration that will enable them to build on their services to drug discovery companies. Based in Horsham, West Sussex, UK, ChemOvation's core business areas are in medicinal and organic chemistry, and the company also offers a unique library of synthetic compounds. LGC's expertise is in biomeasurement and cell-based testing, especially in ADME/Tox testing.

Ian Matthews, chief scientific officer of ChemOvation, commented: "ChemOvation offers accessibility to drug discovery knowledge. Our expertise lies in providing tailored medicinal chemistry solutions allowing our customers to benefit from our comprehensive understanding of the drug discovery process. We are able to take compound 'hits' and biological protein targets and decide quickly whether or not to progress into an integrated drug discovery programme. Like LGC, ChemOvation believes that establishing alliances such as this latest collaboration is the way forward."

Derek Craston, head of LGC Pharmaceutical Services, added: "ChemOvation's impressive and high-quality capability in medicinal chemistry makes an excellent fit with LGC's offering and while both LGC and ChemOvation have organic chemistry capabilities, these complement each other well rather than overlap. This collaboration is the latest in a number of alliances that LGC has formed as part of its business strategy for the Pharmaceutical Services Division. Through a combination of these alliances and our skills, LGC can offer a range of competences as part of a package of services that best meets each customer's needs."