

Dear Colleagues:

Pharma-Bio-Med (TM) is the new conference in Europe that is specifically geared to information professionals working in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, biomedical and health sciences industries, as well as medical research and university libraries. The first ever event, Pharma-Bio-Med 2006, will be held in the heart of historic Lisbon, Portugal, November 12-15, 2006 - for background details and to keep informed about the upcoming 2006 conference, please see below.

PHARMA-BIO-MED 2006 CALL FOR PAPERS

Papers are now being invited from information practitioners within the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, biomedical and health sciences fields to address unique challenges and best practice solutions in Pharma-Bio-Med information.

Papers should be of practical benefit, such as those, which evaluate or critically analyse a particular aspect of interest, or should provide new insight or future vision to fellow information professionals within these industries. Subjects covered may fall under one or more of the following general categories:

1. Enabling technologies, including integration, text mining, and visualisation
2. Scientific and technical literature, including databases and other sources
3. Techniques for searching and handling pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and biomedical information
4. Medical information
5. Pre-clinical trials information
6. Clinical trials information
7. Regulatory information
8. Safety information
9. Drug pipeline information
10. Competitor and business information
11. Other - e.g. strategic issues, case studies, etc.

Pharma-Bio-Med's unique focus is on the specialist role of the Information Professional through all phases of a drug's progression, including R&D, pre-clinical and clinical, regulatory, safety, pipeline, business and competitor information. For example, presentations cover the role of Information Professionals and their Managers with respect to:

- Providing the scientific and technical information that is required throughout the research and development process;
- Addressing the information and reporting needs required for clinical, safety and regulatory purposes;
- Researching competitor information and other business information requirements;
- Researching and supplying medical information; and
- Maintaining all aspects of the scientific and technical information function within an organisation, including information department and library management, implementation of information related software tools and networks for knowledge management, biomedical searching expertise, and related information services.

Key issues for information departments and libraries will be addressed including how to find and use alternative and innovative sources of information, biomedical searching techniques, knowledge management, and enabling technologies (integration, text mining, visualisation, etc.), to name but a few. The conference will address topical information related issues, solutions to current challenges, and best practices in information retrieval and handling, as presented in technical papers from experienced users of information within the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical information fields.

Be a part of this groundbreaking initiative in networking with like-minded information specialist managers and practitioners from information departments and libraries. Find out how others identify and tackle problems as they present and discuss day-to-day challenges, best practices, and information solutions for professionals working in the biomedical information field.

We are also interested in hearing suggestions for specific high-interest topics for information specialists in this area, and/or suggestions for good speakers on such topics. If you would like to make a recommendation for a speaker on a particular topic, please contact the Pharma-Bio-Med organizers with your views.

HOW TO SUBMIT A PAPER

Submit an outline of your paper for consideration to Trudi.Jones@Pharma-Bio-Med.com BEFORE MAY 31, 2006 and include the following information:

- Your name and contact details
- A brief biography (2 or 3 paragraphs)
- Your proposed presentation title
- An initial abstract (2 or 3 paragraphs)

There is a high demand for speaker slots, so please submit your abstract and biography as soon as possible in order to be considered for one of the speaking opportunities. We are particularly interested to hear from information users within scientific information departments and libraries of corporations, medical research institutes and universities.

If you think you may be interested in speaking but require management approval beforehand, please let us know so that we can begin to consider your general proposal for a paper in the meantime (submission of just a few descriptive sentences will be sufficient in the interim).

The organisers reserve the right to accept abstracts at their discretion in order to assemble the best possible program. Please be advised that your abstract submission may be published on the Internet or elsewhere shortly after receipt or at any time thereafter. Therefore, do not include confidential or business-sensitive information in your abstract.

VENDOR EXHIBIT & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Abstract submissions for commercial information providers (database hosts, tool providers, database producers, etc.) are considered through a separate process from other abstract submissions (i.e. from corporate users of information). Selection of vendor presentations is based on merit and relevance to the overall conference program. The presentations should include technical information and be of direct benefit to the attendees.

Please note that there is a limited number of opportunities available for vendor presentations, exhibit spaces and special events. Allocation of program time, workshops, and exhibit space will be based on a first-come, first-served basis and is at the discretion of the organisers. Please contact Julie.Watling@Pharma-Bio-Med.com directly for more details of vendor presentation submissions, sponsorship opportunities and benefits.

PHARMA-BIO-MED - BACKGROUND

Pharma-Bio-Med has come into being as a direct result of a need expressed by information professionals in the pharmaceutical and health technologies industries for such a conference to be held in Europe. The conference is being organised by a team led by Ford Khorsandian, and is being steered by an advisory board of eminent information professionals working in pharmaceutical and health technology companies and representing different user group associations and countries in Europe (see www.Pharma-Bio-Med.com). Pharma-Bio-Med provides a forum for the professional development, continuing education, training and sharing of best practices in the industry. Highly relevant content and the opportunity to learn alongside and network with like-minded information professionals are just two of the main reasons to attend.

Ford Khorsandian is known in the SciTech information industry for also organising IPI-ConfEx, the International Patent Information Conference & Exposition in Europe, which is attended by over 320 patent information specialists every year (see www.IPI-ConfEx.com). Due to the unique focus of Pharma-Bio-Med and the distinct group of information professionals that it is designed to serve, it is not envisaged to overlap with IPI-ConfEx.

ABOUT PHARMA-BIO-MED 2006

The Pharma-Bio-Med 2006 conference check-in takes place at the 5-Star Hotel Altis, Lisbon, Portugal, on Sunday evening, 12th November. The Plenary Sessions run Monday 13th November to Wednesday 15th November. In conjunction with the conference Plenary Sessions, an Exhibits Hall features the products and services of many information providers such as database producers and hosts, scientific and information publishers, software solutions providers, etc. Additional workshops are offered in conjunction with the conference and details will be released as these become available.

Information on Pharma-Bio-Med is being posted to the conference website at www.Pharma-Bio-Med.com, and will be updated on a regular basis with the latest news regarding programme and registration details as soon as these become available.

JOIN THE PHARMA-BIO-MED DISCUSSION LIST TO KEEP INFORMED

Information professionals working in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology fields, specialist medical librarians, and information service providers are invited to join the Pharma-Bio-Med Discussion List as a convenient way to keep informed. As well as providing the latest news regarding the conference, the list is an interactive forum for the discussion of information related topics between like-minded information professionals within the health technology industries. To join the list, visit the Pharma-Bio-Med website or go directly to the sign-up page at www.Pharma-Bio-Med.com/discussions.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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