

CANCER SCIENCE INSTITUTE OF SINGAPORE SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENT

Alex MATTER, M.D.

CEO, Experimental Therapeutics Centre, A*STAR, Singapore



Translational R&D at the Experimental Therapeutics Centre (ETC)/D3, A*STAR

Date: Wednesday, 12 September 2012

Time: 11am – 12pm

Venue: Centre for Life Science (CeLS) Auditorium

28 Medical Drive, Level 1, Centre for Life Sciences, Singapore 117456

Abstract:

ETC has been founded in 2007 by A*STAR and is currently located in Biopolis, on 2'600 sqm, with a total staff of 80. The mission of ETC and its sister organization D3 (for "Drug Discovery & Development", created in January 2012) is to build bridges between basic science and the clinic, i.e. to perform translational R&D at the highest professional standards. A main task is to guide early-stage scientific discoveries of the Singapore academic community towards Proof-of-Concept clinical trials in man, and to serve unmet medical needs through innovative product candidates generating economic benefit.

The basic strategy is based on a rigorous focus on competitiveness that is built on three pillars: a) partner-orientation of all our activities, b) differentiation of our technology platforms from those of the competitors, and c) productivity in terms of robust and differentiated product candidates.

ETC has built up a full complement of state-of-the-art technologies to drive drug discovery from drug target to the stage of preclinical development candidate, at which point the projects, if of sufficient value and attractiveness, are handed over to D3 for preclinical development and early clinical trials, with the aim to achieve Proof-of-Concept in man, i.e. evidence for efficacy at tolerated doses in a clinical setting. Every project is pursued with a partner in academia, A*STAR and/or industry. Examples of early projects will be discussed and collaborations are invited.

Biosketch:

Professor Alex Matter, M.D., is CEO of the Experimental Therapeutics Centre, A*STAR, Singapore, having spent five and a half years as Director of the Novartis Institute for Tropical Diseases (NITD), from October 2003 to February 2009. Prior to this role, Dr. Matter was Global Head of Oncology Research for Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, Head of Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research in Basel and Global Head of Translational Research. Dr. Matter played an important role in the success of several anticancer drugs, including Gleevec/Glivec® and more recently, Tassigna®, building and leading the teams that discovered these and several other anticancer drugs as well as one HIV protease inhibitor (Reyataz®) that is marketed by another company.

Dr. Matter received his medical degree from the University of Basel. He also had fellowships at the Swiss National Science Foundation and the Swiss Academy for Medical Sciences. He has published more than 100 scientific articles and several book chapters in the area of oncology and hematology. He is emeritus Professor of the Medical Faculty of the University Basel and an Honorary Adjunct Professor of the Department of Pharmacology, YLL School of Medicine, NUS in Singapore.

He is a member of the American Association for Cancer Research, the National Medical Research Council in Singapore, and the Board of Curiox, a Singapore-based start up company. He is also a member of several Scientific Advisory Boards. He is an elected member of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences. Dr. Matter is the recipient of the Life-time Achievement Award from IBC Life Sciences, the 13th Warren-Alpert prize and the AACR-Bruce F. Cain Memorial Award.