



Drug Discovery 2017

ACC, LIVERPOOL
3rd - 4th October 2017

TARGET IDENTIFICATION AND VALIDATION Wednesday 4th October 2017: HALL 1C

Session Chairs

Darren Cawkill (Apollo Therapeutics) & **Louise Jones** (MRC)

In drug discovery, selecting a specific molecular target/pathway to modulate and therefore alter a human disease process is the first and fundamentally critical step to success. As such, current approaches to identify and validate drug targets place an early emphasis on human translation.

This session will begin by giving an expert overview of the current landscape around drug target ID and validation from both an industrial and academic perspective. The translational challenges posed to drug discovery scientists in both settings will be highlighted alongside some new and innovative funding strategies that aim to bridge basic biological research with industrial therapeutic application.

The presentations will focus on improvements to key aspects of translational target validation, for example in addressing the need for human disease relevant in vitro and in vivo models and fully exploiting our knowledge of human genetics.

Experts in the latest cutting edge technologies will report on how both single cell analysis and CRISPR/CAS9 are driving forward our ability to dissect the molecular mechanisms of disease and improve our understanding of drug targets.

Target validation & ID will then be put into a clinical context, by reviewing two diverse areas of medical need that are in urgent need of novel validated targets; antimicrobial resistance and Alzheimer's disease.

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

Steve Wedge (Newcastle University)

Lorna Ewart (AstraZeneca)

Maya Ghossaini (OpenTargets)

Klio Maratou (GlaxoSmithKline)

Mike Stubbington (Cell Atlas Project, Sanger)

Lee Dawson (Astex)

Chris Dowsen (University of Warwick)

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