



Drug Discovery 2018

ExCeL, London
9TH – 10TH October 2018

Anti-infectives & Rare Diseases: Tuesday 9TH October

Session Chairs: David Brown (Healx Ltd) & **Chris Dowson** (Warwick University)

Rare diseases and infectious diseases share several common factors. Both have been relatively neglected for funding in both the private and public sectors; both often do not respond well to the single target / single drug paradigm and require combination therapies that hit multiple targets for efficacy; and as a result both have thin drug pipelines in the face of mounting unmet medical need.

Over the past 20 years the rare disease landscape has been transformed in advanced economies by implementation of commercial incentives such as the Orphan Disease Act in the USA and Orphan designation in the EU. The anti-infectives field has not yet been similarly supported but could be in similar ways. Such commercial incentives lead to new business models and invention of much needed medicines. In fact, the need to multi-target in both infectious and rare diseases adds strength to the commercial model because patent positions can be very strong for combinations of drugs. Those drugs can be 2 NCEs, a NCE plus repurposed drug, or even two repurposed drugs. All can give strong IP and viable commercial positions if approached in the right way. To be worthwhile, combinations require very careful consideration of how to obtain a synergistic action from the drugs while preserving safety. In this session we will explore the exciting possibilities ahead for multi-targeting in both rare diseases and infectious diseases.

Plenary Keynote Speaker



Professor Janet Thornton
(European Bioinformatics Institute)

Confirmed Speakers

Ursula Theuretzbacher (Center for Anti-Infective Agents)
Michale Bouskila-Chubb (Healx Ltd)
William Hope (University of Liverpool)
Stephen Zimmer (Mitodys)
David Brown (Healx Ltd)

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The deadline for general poster abstract submission is **5TH October 2018**.

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