

Course 1: Introduction to Drug Discovery

Brief Introduction:

This 2 hour workshop will describe the scope and scale of global Drug Discovery research. Case studies will cover basic medical research, methods of optimising drugs, protecting intellectual property, regulatory aspects, clinical trials, commercial aspects and the management of the life cycle of drugs.

Objectives:

The Workshop will cover the above aspects as follows:

1. 30 minutes: The main milestones in Drug Discovery, from drug target gene identification to post launch Phase IV.
2. 45 minutes: Case studies of successful Drug Discovery projects with examples of novel drug target identification through to launching a drug.
3. 30 minutes: Guidelines to de-risking and ensuring a successful Drug Discovery project.
4. 15 minutes: Q&A with participants.

Who should attend:

This workshop is designed for researchers and managers who wish to learn about the processes, challenges and rewards of working in the Drug Discovery industry. A comprehensive overview of all stages of the Drug Discovery process will be given in order to enable participants to bridge knowledge gaps and provide a business advantage.

About the Speaker:

Dr. Sheraz Gul

Head of Drug Scening, Franthaufer, Germany

Dr Sheraz Gul is Head of Drug Discovery at the Fraunhofer Institute (Hamburg, Germany) and scientific co-founder of Transcriptogen Ltd (London, UK). He is a Drug Discovery Key Opinion Leader with 23 years' academic and industrial experience (University of London & GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals). His accomplishments include publications and opinion pieces, book chapters, the Enzyme Assays: Essential Data handbook, drafting patents and contracts and is an advisor to biotech companies. He manages a Drug Discovery project portfolio that has attracted €6.4 million funding. He has attended 130 international meetings and delivered 63 presentations. Since 2011, he has organised Drug Discovery workshops across the globe (Brazil, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Saudi Arabia and U.S.A) and trained over 400 scientists.

Dr. Julen Oyarzabal

Translational Sciences, Director Molecular Therapeutics Program, Director Center for Applied Medical Research (CIMA), University of Navarra 31008 Pamplona (Navarra), Spain

Dr. Julen Oyarzabal obtained his Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical and Organic Chemistry from University of Basque Country in 1998. After his Ph.D., he moved to the University of California San Francisco (CA); and later, he joined the University of Southampton (UK) where he worked in computational chemistry. In November 2001 he joined Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical R&D where he led several projects, from molecular design and chemoinformatics perspective, in the CNS therapeutic area. In October 2006, after leaving J&J, he joined the Spanish National Cancer Research Centre (CNIO) where he set up and led the Computational Medicinal Chemistry and Chemoinformatics Section. After 4 years, in September 2010 he left CNIO and joined the Center for Applied Medical Research (CIMA), at the University of Navarra, to set up the small molecule discovery platform and led the Molecular Therapeutics Program. With research interests in chemoinformatics and competitive intelligence tools, the group is running a comprehensive program, from drug discovery informatics to chemical biology and medicinal chemistry, focused on derisking drug discovery. To date, Dr. Oyarzabal has published more than 60 research papers (e.g. Angew Chem, J Med Chem, Nature Comm, Neuropsychopharma, ... as PI or co-PI). He is also co-inventor of 24 published PCT patent applications. Dr. Oyarzabal is Director of Translational Sciences of the CIMA, on the Board of Directors for the Academic Drug Discovery Consortium (ADDC), and a member of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) experts panel.