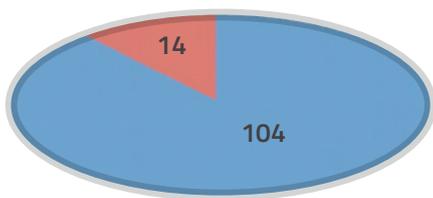


Infect-ERA
September 2014

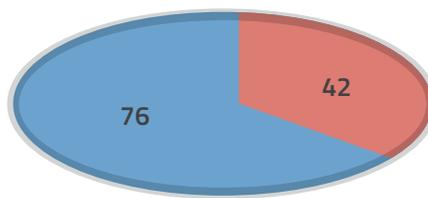
NEWSLETTER 4

Infect-ERA Call Update

The 2014 Infect-ERA joint call is currently under review. Results are expected to be announced by November 2014. Among the 118 eligible pre-proposals submitted, 34 have been invited to the second evaluation phase. 14 consortia of young scientists submitted proposals, 3 of which passed preliminary vetting. The 2015 joint call is scheduled to be launched in January 2015.



Type of consortia
14 Consortia of Young Scientists (12%)



Participation per topics
64% - the role of commensal flora in homeostasis and microbe's pathogenicity
36% - development and application of new techniques to investigate the initial steps of the infection process.

Infect-ERA Partners With The Industry To Promote Young Scientists Training

Infect-ERA supports the training and integration of young scientists in its projects. This can be enhanced through cooperation with the private sector. Leading laboratories and companies operating in the area of infectious disease (molecular microbiology, synthesis, structure and function of peptides) are being approached to establish collaborative programs within the Infect-ERA framework that provide training in research tools (state-of-the-art software and biochips for highly specific antibody services), molecular diagnostic tools and in vaccine development. The aim is to increase the "hands on" know-how and methodological expertise of young scientists by using the most modern reagents, kits and research equipment under the instruction and guidance of experienced experts of select companies.

The optimal manner in which to approach these companies and to draw their attention to the training and career support of young scientists specializing in infectious diseases, were discussed at the first External Advisory Board (EAB) workshop held in Lisbon, June 2013. Subsequent to the workshop, an invitation letter addressed to companies was prepared, and a company registration platform was launched on the infect-ERA website. Approximately one hundred companies in the field of infectious disease research (molecular microbiology, synthesis, structure and function of peptides), were approached.

Companies which offer training for young scientists can benefit from:

- partnering opportunities in Joint Transnational Calls;
- sourcing talented young scientists as potential employees;
- participation as training partner companies at the regular scientific meetings of Infect-ERA (based on preliminary confidentiality agreements);
- increased visibility through Infect-ERA communication platforms: registration on the database for companies, the advertising of training and job opportunities (LinkedIn group);
- involvement in Infect-ERA networking events.

For updated details please visit our website: <http://www.infect-era.eu>

"I Believe In The Young Generation" An Interview With Dr. Antonio Parada, CEO of Fairjourney Biologics

Antonio, please tell us about your journey from B.Sc. to starting your own company?

Starting a company is a very easy thing to do. Building and managing a successful company is a very hard thing to do. The measurement of a company's success is first and foremost value creation for its shareholders. When I decided to start my own company I had no idea about the field I wanted to contribute to. So I decided to enrol in an MBA program, during which I developed a business model that was submitted and accepted by a venture capital firm. We negotiated the terms of my participation as both shareholder and CEO. I can best summarize the lessons I've learned over the years as follows:

- You can only survive if you have a long list of friends that can help you;
- When others ask for your help, try to help them;



Dr. Antonio Parada, CEO of Fairjourney Biologics, headed the Technology Transfer Office at the Institute for Molecular and Cell biology (IBMC) in Porto, Portugal.

- Be fair. It is possible that one day the tables turn to your disadvantage;
- Be honest, hardworking and deliver on your promises;
- Your team is your biggest asset;
- People can make mistakes, however, they cannot make the same mistake twice. However, some mistakes can terminate your company;
- Companies are “problem factories”;
- Take risks, but with both feet on the ground.

“We motivate our human resources with career paths”

What motivated you to leave academia for industry?

Most of my research days were spent in industry. I was a pre-clinical pharmacologist at a pharma company. During that time I began to understand the business environment and decided that value creation together with job creation from the start-up perspective was what I wanted to do with my life.

In the very beginning of my research career I spent a year working in botany in an academic setting. I came to know some of the people I respect most today: true scientists, people who devote their life to science. Unfortunately, the research environment is managed by scientists and that often caused substantial problems, which led me to search for more targeted, entrepreneurial research and development opportunities.

I joke about the fact that I have already written a book, planted a tree, had children and have also created companies. These types of organizations provide the majority of value and jobs in today's society. It is my belief that people who have the necessary skills to start companies should do so.

Please describe how your company “supports” young scientists and what is unique about that?

We currently have five research associates with master degrees. I have offered three of them the opportunity to complete their PhDs based on their work at Fairjourney. For them the advantages regarding career advancement and personal professional experience are clear. The remaining two young scientists are just beginning their life in the company and it is still early to make similar offers.

For other positions we offer attendance at conferences and participation in specific courses. Again, these enable career advancement and the development of a better and deeper set of skills within Fairjourney.

“I have never regretted allowing people to learn as much as possible”

What do you gain from this support?

We motivate our human resources with career paths. Most importantly we seek to promote people who share our corporate culture and fully understand our technology.

What can other company owners and managers learn from you?

Different companies and different managers may have alternative approaches to job satisfaction and organizational competence. For my part, I can only comment that I have never regretted allowing people to learn as much as possible within the company setting.

Interview With Mr. Jürgen Hausmann - Manager Pox Virus Research, Bavarian Nordic GmbH, Germany

What is your company about?

Bavarian Nordic is an international biotechnology company, which focuses on the research, development and manufacture of novel cancer immunotherapies and vaccines for infectious diseases.

With operations in Kvistgaard, Denmark, Washington DC (USA), and Munich, Germany, Bavarian Nordic's Infectious Diseases Division (IDD) develops and manufactures vaccines to prevent infectious diseases, including biological threats to national security such as smallpox. IDD research and development activities are mainly concentrated at our facility situated within the renowned biotechnology cluster at Martinsried near Munich.

IDD utilizes the company's patented MVA-BN® technology platform to develop a broad infectious disease vaccine pipeline. Its leading program is a non-replicating smallpox vaccine based on the proprietary, highly replication-restricted vaccinia virus strain, MVA-BN®, a strain derived from a traditional smallpox vaccine strain. MVA-BN is licensed in the European Union under the trade name IMVANEX® and in Canada under the trade name IMVAMUNE®.

On the research level, we are committed to understanding the biology and the interactions of our major poxvirus vector platforms with the immune system. This enables us to further develop their immunogenicity and provide tailored solutions for the distinct requirements of our vaccine targets, including diverse pathogens such as respiratory syncytial virus, bacillus anthracis and filoviruses.



*Mr. Jürgen Hausmann,
Manager Pox Virus
Research, Bavarian Nordic
GmbH, Germany.*

“We have an established culture of interaction with academic institutions, including trainee positions”

Is your company able to provide training opportunities to young researchers (=Phd students, post docs and young PIs)?

Bavarian Nordic hosts junior staff at various stages in their career. In our research-oriented departments, we have an established culture of interaction with academic institutions, including trainee positions for undergraduate and graduate students and project-oriented work stays for more experienced scientists. Thus, scientists at all stages of their education willing to expand their knowledge and technical capabilities in projects related to our platform technologies and research interests are highly welcome.

At Bavarian Nordic, we offer a challenging international work environment in which job satisfaction and personal development are a priority. We are committed to making it a great place to work by empowering our employees to perform their tasks to their own satisfaction, while aiming for the success of the company.

What can Infect-ERA offer your company, in order to enhance the support to careers of young scientists involved in infectious diseases?

Our goal in participating in the Infect-ERA network is to build up new contacts and collaborations with research groups in our fields of interest to consolidate our position at the forefront of poxvirus and immunology-related R&D. At the same time we endeavor to provide our partners knowledge and insights regarding the application of the most up-to-date research findings.

We consider the exchange with leading academic groups in the infectious disease and immunology fields to be extremely important. We would highly appreciate Infect-ERA supported funding for travel and the compensation of young students and scientists from the network who have interesting and promising project ideas in our fields of research interest.

“We are committed to making it a great place to work by empowering our employees”

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Further details on our website: <http://www.infect-era.eu/>

Find us on

