



Top Institute Pharma

International Scientific Review Committee

Report of the eleventh meeting, November 18, 2011 (Leiden, The Netherlands)

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Report of the eleventh meeting of the International Scientific Review Committee (ISRC) on November 18, 2011, in Leiden, The Netherlands

Summary

The ISRC convened for the eleventh time on November 18 2011 to discuss the scientific aspects of the TI Pharma research program and related activities. The progress in Value Creation Call was discussed as well as the future plans of TI Pharma. The ISRC looked at three projects in more detail: 1) 'Renin-angiotensin system blockade beyond angiotensin II', 2) 'Metalloproteases and novel targets in endothelial dysfunction' and 3) 'Validation of the use of fMRI as an objective measure in clinical pain models'. The ISRC gave recommendations with respect to the projects discussed, to the Value Creation Call results and to the future plans of TI Pharma.

Introduction & agenda

On Friday November 18 2011 the ISRC convened for the eleventh time.

The members of the ISRC are:

- Prof. dr. E.J. Ruitenberg (chair, Professor of International Public Health, VU University Amsterdam, ex RIVM and Sanquin)
- Prof. dr. A.T. Florence (former Dean of the London School of Pharmacy)
- Prof. dr. G. Folkers (Director Collegium Helvetica, ETH Zurich and member of the Swiss National Research Council)
- Prof. dr. R. Laing (WHO, author of the Priority Medicines report, unable to attend the eleventh meeting, provided input on the future plans in spring 2011)
- Prof. dr. L. Lesko (Food and Drug Administration, USA, unable to attend the eleventh meeting)
- Dr. T. Wells (CSO, Medicines for Malaria Venture)
- Prof. dr. T.M. Jones, CBE (ex Wellcome Foundation, ex ABPI, unable to attend the eleventh meeting, provided input on the future plans in spring 2011)

In addition, all members except prof. dr. Lesko attended the review meeting on June 6, 2011 to discuss the ranking of the Value Creation Call project proposals.

The meeting was held at the TI Pharma office in Leiden. The items discussed during this meeting were:

1. TI Pharma general status update including
 - introduction of the new Scientific Director,
 - Dutch Topsector plans,
 - euSEND / neglected diseases,
 - Value Creation Call.
2. Discussion on new plans and strategy and action plan 2011-2014.
3. Project presentation: 'Metalloproteases and novel targets in endothelial dysfunction', Prof.dr. J. de Mey
4. Project presentation: 'Renin-angiotensin system blockade beyond angiotensin II', Prof.dr. J. Danser
5. Project presentation: 'Validation of the use of fMRI as an objective measure in clinical pain models', dr. W. Timmerman

1. TI Pharma general status update

The ISRC was updated on the current status of TI Pharma and plans for the future. Dr. Ton Rijnders, the new scientific director as of November 18th 2011 was introduced. The ISRC welcomed dr. Rijnders and is convinced that he will strengthen the management team of TI Pharma. Prof.dr. Daan Crommelin was thanked for his commitment and incredibly valuable contribution to the institute.

Developments in the Dutch landscape of Life Sciences and Health.

The current developments within the Dutch landscape of Life Sciences and Health were discussed. The ISRC noted that moving from funding approaches to tax incentives has only beneficial effects for companies that are already situated in the Netherlands and/or pay taxes in the Netherlands. It will not directly attract foreign investors to the Netherlands.

Value Creation Call

An update was given on the Value Creation Call. In the tenth meeting on June 6, 2011 of the ISRC, project proposals were ranked. Based on this ranking the Executive Board selected 12 projects for funding. The total budget of the 12 selected projects is 24 million euro, of which 7 million euro is provided by the Dutch government. This 7 million includes the 6 million 'bridge financing' and an additional 1 million provided by the ministry of Health to support projects on the Life Sciences Park in Oss. All projects include a private matching of at least 40%, compared to 25% in the current portfolio. In budgetary terms the call was overwritten almost 3 times. The budget has to be spent before the end of 2013.

The ISRC is satisfied with the value creation call procedure and with the projects that have been granted. It is seen as a clear example of how to selectively continue successful projects in order to create additional value. The ISRC is pleased to see that also patient-organizations are involved in several VCC projects. The support of the Life Sciences Park in Oss was seen as an important contribution to increase the chances of start-ups. The ISRC encourages TI Pharma to facilitate where possible.

euSEND

An update was given about euSEND / the neglected disease portfolio. On the 25th of October 2011, a workshop 'Investing in neglected tropical diseases' was successfully organized. Many (international) experts shared their view on the topic. In total there were more than 100 participants. It was advised by the ISRC to actively look for partners to keep continuity in this important portfolio.

Future plans

The future plans of TI Pharma were discussed, e.g. to continue while being more independent from governmental support in a neutral, not-for-profit setup. The ISRC provided several ideas, leads and contacts to work on the partial repositioning of TI Pharma.

The ISRC complimented the institute with its big achievement in bridging the cultures from industry and academia. Compared to the situation at the start of the institute, both worlds are much more connected and realize that collaboration is of mutual benefit. In order to extend the output of the project portfolio, the ISRC recommends addressing the

societal impact and challenges. Valuable suggestions were made to continue the activities of the institute in light of the presented future plans.

2. Project presentation: Metalloproteases and novel targets in endothelial dysfunction. Prof.dr. Jo de Mey

The Principal Investigator presented for the ISRC the “Metalloprotease” project, which has two main objectives: 1) To examine new mechanisms by which dual inhibition of different metalloproteases may have a beneficial influence, not only on blood pressure and endothelium-dependent vasodilatation, but also on endothelial repair, maintenance of endothelial barrier function, modulation of arterial remodeling, and ultimately prevention of end-organ damage, and 2) to test and identify novel therapeutic targets that relate to the goals mentioned under 1). The ISRC appreciated the high quality of the project and especially appreciated the way in which the Principal Investigator demonstrated the high added value of this PPP consortium.

3. Project presentation: Renin-angiotensin system blockade beyond angiotensin II. Prof.dr. Jan Danser

The Principal Investigator of this project (which is very much related to the Metalloprotease project) presented the project, the results so far, and plans for the future to the ISRC. The industrial partner is highly committed to this PPP collaboration. The ISRC appreciated the high quality of the collaboration, the project and the presentation.

4. Project presentation: Validation of the use of fMRI as an objective measure in clinical pain models. Dr. Wia Timmerman

An overview of goals and achieved results for this project was presented by the the Principal Investigator of this project to the ISRC. The ISRC was impressed by the project working on the establishment of a new, standardized way of objectively measuring pain, and subsequently using this in order to better interpret fMRI results. The Principal Investigator was encouraged to identify possible new partnerships to continue the work of this consortium.

5. Other remarks

The next meeting of the ISRC will be held on 16 April 2012 at 10:00 AM, followed by the Spring meeting on April 17 2012.