Continuing Professional Development / Masters of Advanced Safety Sciences degree

Full Course Brochure: upcoming courses 2012–2014
The course modules in the SafeSciMET programme are clustered within five separate domains. Each domain deals with one or more specialised topics and contains from two to six individual courses. The course objectives and key subjects of these courses are introduced in detail in this brochure on pages 7–20.

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Please note:
More and the most up-to-date information can always be obtained from our website: www.safescimet.eu
Please check this site before registration.

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SafeSciMET is a new and unique Pan-European network of academia and pharmaceutical industry, who have come together to establish a comprehensive modular education and training in Safety Sciences for medicines. The programme will cover all aspects of safety in drug development, in order to fulfill the needs of drug safety scientists in the pharmaceutical industry, regulatory authorities and academia. The aim of the programme is to bridge crucial gaps in the education and training of scientists evaluating the safety of drug candidates and new medicines and to ensure that European drug safety scientists are at the forefront of their field.

Target audience
SafeSciMET courses are open to all scientists and students from industry, academia and regulatory authorities, who need a broad comprehensive understanding of the drug development process with particular emphasis on safety. The applicant will normally possess an MSc degree in a Life Science discipline or equivalent. In addition, applicants are expected to have at least one year’s working experience in a related discipline.

Principle learning outcomes
SafeSciMET will ensure that Europe’s biomedical education landscape is enhanced to provide maximum support in revamping training of scientists evaluating the safety of drug candidates and new medicines and to ensure that European drug safety scientists are at the forefront of their field.

SafeSciMET will provide novel competences in translational safety sciences, an aspect which was found largely lacking in today’s educational programmes.

Programme structure
A set of 20 core and a number of supplementary courses will be made available, of which all are introduced in detail in this brochure. The teachers are experts from academia, regulatory agencies and industry at an academic centre or industry location. Each course will include translational orientation case studies provided by the experts. In this context, ‘translational’ typically refers to the translation of basic research into therapies for real patients where translational safety sciences concern all ‘safety related aspects’.

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A set of 20 core and a number of supplementary courses will be made available, of which all are introduced in detail in this brochure. The teachers are experts from academia, regulatory agencies and industry at an academic centre or industry location. Each course will include translational orientation case studies provided by the experts. In this context, ‘translational’ typically refers to the translation of basic research into therapies for real patients where translational safety sciences concern all ‘safety related aspects’.

Principle learning outcomes
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SafeSciMET will provide novel competences in translational safety sciences, an aspect which was found largely lacking in today’s educational programmes.

It will lead to a new generation of safety scientists who are able to perform holistic and critical evaluations of the safety of drug candidates and new medicines. Linking animal and human data more effectively, both in vitro and in vivo, will be made available, of which all are introduced in detail in this brochure. The teachers are experts from academia, regulatory agencies and industry at an academic centre or industry location. Each course will include translational orientation case studies provided by the experts. In this context, ‘translational’ typically refers to the translation of basic research into therapies for real patients where translational safety sciences concern all ‘safety related aspects’.

All courses have a common format (set at 3 European Credit Transfer System ECTS). The courses will consist of one week of on-site face-to-face training concluded by an exam. Immediately subsequent to the week of on-site training, students will receive an individual home assignment and a case study, which have to be completed within six weeks after the course. The modular set up has major advantages:

• part-time study, spread over 2 – 5 years, is possible
• participants can follow single courses, follow sub-sets of the programme aiming at CPD credits, or join the full Master of Advanced Safety Sciences programme
• dedicated quality assurance
• the course design is already consistent with the requirements of the Bologna process. At the moment, the full master program is undergoing evaluation for being accredited and certified as a regular MSc degree from the University of Constance/Germany.
• the programme can be adapted to cope with new scientific insights in safety sciences and legislation or the emergence of new top-institutes for safety sciences. Apart from the core courses, a set of supplementary courses will be made available in the future.

How to register

Entry requirements
Participants on this programme are normally science, medical or veterinary graduates either currently working in a safety science environment or seeking to gain knowledge on safety science at a specific point of their career. Competence in both written and spoken English to an IELTS level or equivalent of 7.0 is an absolute requirement. Participants can also attend courses as ‘stand alone’ for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) purposes.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
Applicants who wish to follow individual courses as part of a CPD will normally possess a minimum of a higher academic qualification (e.g. a MSc degree or equivalent) and a minimum of one year experience in the Safety Sciences field. Participation in 15 courses and a written Master thesis (60 ECTS) are required to receive the MASS degree.

Application
Please visit our website www.safescimet.eu and sign up for an Master of Advanced Safety Sciences, for Continuing Professional Development (CPD), or for single courses.

Participants can also attend courses as ‘stand alone’ for Continuing Professional Development (CPD), without fulfilling the needs of a full Master of Advanced Safety Sciences. The programme is open to all scientists and students from industry, academia and regulatory authorities, who have come together to establish a comprehensive modular education and training in Safety Sciences for medicines. The programme will cover all aspects of safety in drug development, in order to fulfill the needs of drug safety scientists in the pharmaceutical industry, regulatory authorities and academia. The aim of the programme is to bridge crucial gaps in the education and training of scientists evaluating the safety of drug candidates and new medicines and to ensure that European drug safety scientists are at the forefront of their field.

For the entire MSc curriculum covering 15 out of 20 courses, 50% reduction is offered, if signed up before completion of the first 3 courses.

Within one week after the application deadline you will be informed upon your acceptance to the course.

Just prior to the starting date of the face-to-face course week you will be given a password that will allow you to enter BlackBoard (BB), an E-Learning platform which will contain all necessary information pertinent to the course. Congrex® (Sweden) will instruct you how to pay the course fee.

SafeSciMET course fees and discounts

Employment € per course

Industrial 2500
Governmental 1500
Academic 750
New Member State 400

Other fees and discounts

a) Multiple participants from the same organization

1st participant: 20% reduction; 2nd and following participants: 30% reduction.

b) Multiple courses for the same participant:

- 3 – 5 courses: 20% off each; 6 – 9 courses 30% off each, 10 or more courses 40% off each.

c) Early Bird offer for the entire MSc curriculum: covering 15 out of 20 courses, 50% reduction is offered, if signed up before completion of the first 3 courses.

Within one week after the application deadline you will be informed upon your acceptance to the course.

Just prior to the starting date of the face-to-face course week you will be given a password that will allow you to enter BlackBoard (BB), an E-Learning platform which will contain all necessary information pertinent to the course. Congrex® (Sweden) will instruct you how to pay the course fee.

SafeSciMET admission board.

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Cancellation of a pre-registered student is possible, upon

Cancellations policy:

Cancellations of a pre-registered student is possible, upon
written notice until 2 weeks in advance. Before that date
the course fee will be refunded except for an administrative
fee of EUR 75.- After that date, no refunds can be made.

Participants from EFPIA SafeSciMET partners are not eli-
gible for discounts, until their respective in kind contribu-
tion quota are reached.

Course fees for the SafeSciMET courses of participants
employed by those EFPIA companies should be paid as
instructed on this page.

The EFPIA companies will be continuously informed on
their financial contribution by the fees paid.

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Cancellations of a pre-registered student is possible, upon
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Typical entry requirements:
The applicants will normally possess an MSc degree in a
related discipline.

Please check this site before registration.

More and the most up-to-date information can always be
obtained from our website.

Use info@safescimet.eu for cancellation.

Programme overview

The course modules in the SafeSciMET programme are clus-
tered within 5 separate domains. Each domain deals with
one or more specialised topics and contains from two to six
individual courses. They are:

DOMAIN 1 Drug Discovery and Development

DOMAIN 2 Pharmaceutical Aspects of Drug Safety

DOMAIN 3 Adverse Drug Reactions / Predictive Toxicol-
ogy / 3Rs

DOMAIN 4 Non-Clinical Safety

DOMAIN 5 Clinical Safety

The individual courses are introduced in detail on the follow-
ing pages. Dates, locations and topics for all courses can also
always be obtained from our website.

Please visit www.safescimet.eu for details of the full course
programme and confirmation of course dates.

Course I.1 Drug Discovery and Development

DOMAIN 1 – Drug Discovery and Development

Course objectives

Drug development processes from discovery to approval and
marketing require the interaction of numerous disciplines and
specialists with the ability to understand the connections be-
tween all stages. This introductory course will provide the
participants with a comprehensive overview of the steps in-
volved in drug development with special emphasis on drug
safety. The lectures cover the basic steps of discovering and
developing new medicines, the clinical development phase,
regulatory matters, safety pharmacology and marketing man-
agement processes. The students will learn to identify critical
factors and bottlenecks during the overall development pro-
cess and how the various disciplines are integrated. By the end
of the course, the students have the appropriate knowledge
to outline the key concepts in drug development processes
and to communicate them in professional terms. Thus, this
module provides an ideal background for the more detailed
and specific courses that make up the rest of the programme.

Great and the most up-to-date information can always be
obtained from our website.

Please check this site before registration.

Typical entry requirements:
The applicants will normally possess an MSc degree in a
Life Science discipline or equivalent. In addition, applicants
are expected to have at least one year work experience in
a related discipline.

Course duration and assessment:

Each course will consist of one week of on-site face-to-face
training concluded by an exam and followed by an indi-
vidual home assignment. The teachers are experts from
academia, regulatory agencies and industry at an academic
centre or industry location. The courses will include trans-
lationally oriented case studies provided by the experts.

Maximum number of participants per course:

In order to maximize interaction of participants with the ex-
erts the maximum number of participants is restricted to 20.
Course 2.1  Pharmaceutics and Safety | 25 February – 1 March 2013, Uppsala, Sweden

Course objectives
Pharmaceutics is the discipline that deals with the design and manufacturing of the drug product. Drugs are rarely used only as a pure substance but instead are used in the form of a medicine, i.e. a formulated preparation or a dosage form. This course aims to introduce the various aspects of the administration routes (e.g. oral, nasal, transdermal), the formulation (e.g. liquid, solid, powder) and the manufacturing of medicines. Besides a broad overview about basic concepts of pharmaceutics in general students will acquire specific knowledge of excipients, dosage forms and their physical constraints as well as understand the functions of the several pharmaceutical packagings and devices used for medication. The participants will receive knowledge about methods and procedures used in the quality control of medicines, both in development and manufacturing. Lastly, standards of Good Manufacturing Practice and regulatory aspects will be part of the course.

Key subjects covered by this course
• Administration routes and drug formulation
• General pharmaceutics
• Excipients and dosage forms
• Packaging and devices
• Unit operations and manufacturing
• Microbiological aspects, clean room and sterilization
• Quality systems and GMP Regulatory aspects, harmonization between major market regions

Course 2.2  Regulatory Requirements and Guidelines | 18 – 22 March 2013, Lisbon, Portugal

Course objectives
Drug development and production underlies laws and regulations to secure protection of human, test animals and the environment. Guidelines provide advice to applicants on specific scientific issues reflecting a harmonized EU approach to fulfil the pharmaceutical legislation. This course will provide participants with a comprehensive overview of the required in vitro and in vivo nonclinical studies, strategies for the development and risk assessment of new pharmaceuticals. Special emphasis is put on the translational science methodologies for the transfer into humans of nonclinical data generated from integrated in vitro and animal models. The study needs for specific patient populations (pregnant women, paediatric, geriatric) are also part of this course’s curriculum. At course completion students will have knowledge of the type and rationale of the tests required and will be able to determine which data need to be generated in each situation and for which stage of the development.

Key subjects covered by this course
• Drug development process and regulatory requirements
• EU & ICH guidelines and the Common Technical Document
• ICH guideline on nonclinical safety
• Extrapolation of animal data, human translation and risk assessment
• Species selection for nonclinical studies and 3Rs principles
• Reproductive toxicity testing, pregnancy labeling
• Testing genotoxic and carcinogenic potential
• First in Human studies and regulatory guidelines for safe dose estimation
• Nonclinical safety testing of biologics
• Environmental risk of pharmaceuticals

Course 2.3  Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics | 8 – 12 April 2013, Uppsala, Sweden

Course objectives
Investigating and understanding the physiological pathways of absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion (ADME) of a drug candidate is crucial in drug discovery and development. The course will give scientists who work in drug discovery and development, but also scientists and decision makers not directly involved in these fields, a working knowledge of PK/TK and PD/TD principles. Students will receive knowledge of the mechanisms of drug transport and metabolism in plasma and tissues, learn about half-life determination, concentration effects and clearance rates. A part of the lectures deals with in vitro testing and the scaling from animal models to human. Special emphasis is put on safety margins, inter-individual variance, counteracting processes and drug-drug interactions. Case studies from current research provided by EFPIA partners aim to improve the practical understanding of PK/TD and PD/TD and their applications. Upon completion of the course, the participants will be able to understand, explain and apply the principles of PK/TK and PD/TD in preclinical and clinical drug development.

Key subjects covered by this course
• Basic pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic concepts
• Drug transport and metabolism
• In vitro and in vivo correlations and interspecific scaling
• Preclinical applications of ADME
• Concentration effect and concentration-toxicity relationships
• Causes of inter-individual variance in pharmacokinetics
• Principles and applications of PKPD and TK/TD modeling and strategies in preclinical and clinical drug development
**Course objectives**

In drug development the non-specific interactions of drugs, substances or their metabolites pose problems on the cellular level. Therefore there is a need for experts in preclinical safety who interpret and understand pre-clinical and clinical data, especially in terms of evaluating the toxicological profile of a candidate drug. It is important for safety scientists to have a broad overview and the ability to understand the connections between molecular events at the cellular level upon chemical exposure and the consequences for organ functioning. The course will provide participants with a comprehensive overview of how cells deal with chemical stress at the molecular and cellular level and make them familiar with the fundamentals necessary to understand cellular mechanisms of adverse drug reactions. Special emphasis is put on the recognition that during drug development the involvement of specialist scientists is often required to achieve a multidisciplinary solution. Participants will receive knowledge about the major processes in cytotoxicity, become aware of technologies (use of stem cells, bioimaging, in silico modelling) to evaluate cellular stress responses and cytotoxic reactions and will be able to extrapolate the knowledge from the cellular level to the organ and human level.

**Key subjects covered by this course**

- Consequences of cell injury and biochemical mechanisms
- Cellular defence mechanisms against cell stress
- Molecular mechanisms of cellular senescence, autophagy or cell death
- Intra- and intercellular signalling and mechanisms of cell injury
- Translation of cell injury to in vivo models and the clinic
- Molecular mechanisms of idiosyncratic drug toxicities and ADR
- Stem cell technology and applications in understanding mechanisms of toxicity
- Functional genomic technologies
**Course 3.3 Organ/Systems Toxicology | 30 September – 4 October 2013, Constance, Germany**

**Course objectives**
During drug development the evaluation of the toxicity potential of a new compound to the different organ systems plays a crucial role in drug safety concepts. This course will provide participants with a comprehensive overview of organ specific toxicity and familiarize them with fundamental toxicity mechanisms. Emphasis will be given to organ function, anatomical structures, physiological aspects and the site-specific toxicities of heart, immune system, renal system, liver and lung. Lectures will cover experimental design and statistics as well as include real case studies, regarding apical, pre-clinical and clinical endpoints in drug safety research. Participants will be able to identify critical points in drug development and recognize when and how specialists of the several fields involved (especially liver, kidney, cardiovascular) need to be involved in order to receive a multidisciplinary solution.

**Key subjects covered by this course**
- Physiology and function of main organ systems
- Acute, subchronic and chronic effects
- Apical, pre-clinical and clinical endpoints
- Mechanistic understanding of toxicity (molecular, biochemical and pathological level)
- Distinction between primary organ with subsequent systemic effects from prima facie systemic effects
- Extrapolation from animals to human
- Experimental design
- Principal requirements for the detection, robust analysis and evaluation of endpoints
- Statistical evaluation of endpoints and measure for extrapolation

**Course 3.4 Reproductive Toxicology | 21 – 25 October 2013, Berlin, Germany**

**Course objectives**
During embryo-fetal development xenobiotic substances can interfere with the “normal” development of the organism, while the effects and severity are dependent on the timing and developmental stage during which the exposure takes place. In contrast to other types of toxicity, interpretation of reproductive toxicity studies is more complicated and, due to the inclusion of a broad range of endpoints, requires a profound knowledge in order to detect any effects a new compound can have on mammalian reproduction. Additionally, it is essential to investigate and interpret these results in relation to all other pharmacological and toxicological data available. The reproductive toxicity of drugs is usually assessed with animal experiments, using the classical three “segment testing protocols”. The course will also present newer alternative methods in reproductive toxicity testing such as the “whole embryo culture” or the embryonic stem cell test. An additional part of the lectures will discuss the authority guidelines.

**Key subjects covered by this course**
- Morphology and physiology of the male and female reproductive tract
- Prenatal and postnatal development of mammalian organisms
- Standard testing for fertility impairment and development toxicity
- Developmental neurotoxicity / immunotoxicity
- Reproductive toxicity of selected drugs and workplace chemicals
- Relevance of maternal toxicity
- Pharmacokinetic issues in reproductive toxicity
- Endocrine disrupting chemicals
- Toxicogenomics in developmental toxicity
- Guidelines (ICH, OECD etc)

**Course 3.5 Mutagenesis and Carcinogenesis | 18 – 22 November 2013, Vienna, Austria**

**Course objectives**
The development of new chemical compounds holds the potential of harmful mutagenic and/or carcinogenic effects to humans. Minimising these risks during drug development requires appropriate experimentation and expert knowledge whose basic principles will be delivered with this course. Special emphasis will be given to the biology of cancer formation, the identification of mutagens and carcinogens and their modes of action on the cellular, biochemical and molecular level. In silico methods prediction as well as animal test systems and tissue culture assays for carcinogenicity testing will be presented. Furthermore, the importance of responsibly estimating dose-dependent probabilities of mutagens/carcinogenic effects (risk assessment) and the risk-benefit evaluation will be discussed. In case studies, participants will review and assess safety data for mutagenic and carcinogenic compounds.

**Key subjects covered by this course**
- Overview on the biology of carcinogenesis
- Principles of mutagenesis and carcinogenesis
- Examples of mutagenic carcinogenic actions at the cellular, biochemical and molecular level
- Experimental design for specific identification of mutagenic/carcinogenic compounds
- Interpretation of dose-response curves
- Extrapolation of animal findings and experimental data to human
- Safety data reports, authority guidelines
- Risk-benefit evaluation

**Course 3.6 Safety Pharmacology | 25 – 29 November 2013, Liverpool, UK**

**Course objectives**
Translational Safety Pharmacology is a dynamic science that embraces basic pharmacology, clinical pharmacology and toxicology. Translational safety pharmacologists support the discovery and development of novel therapeutics from low molecular weight chemicals to biologics, assisting in target identification to post-marketing pharmacovigilance. In order to assess the safety of a drug candidate state of the art approaches are necessary to analyse how compounds interact with the physiological systems. An integrated experimental design with core, supplemental and investigative studies forms the centre of safety management, combining the clinical route of administration and the relevant organ systems (i.e. cardiovascular, central nervous, respiratory, renal and gastrointestinal systems).

**Key subjects covered by this course**
- Organ-specific safety pharmacology: CNS, cardiovascular, respiratory, and others
- Use of integrated animal models in safety pharmacology
- Telemetric methods
- Role of the biological clock
- The preclinical regulatory dossier
- Safety pharmacology of biologics
- Emerging trends in safety pharmacology, including stem cells and biotherapeutics
Course 4.1  Non-Clinical Safety Assessment: Strategies, Ethics and Protocols
9 – 13 December 2013, Vienna, Austria

Course objectives
The development of new medicines underlies multiple regulatory and scientific aspects dealing with the safety assessment of a drug candidate during nonclinical testing. This course presents key lectures referring to the knowledge and understanding of the legal requirements and how the safety science and toxicology fit into strategies, timelines and project plans of preclinical safety pharmacology. Emphasis is given to experimental designs, the relevance and predictability of animal models including the 3 Rs and ethical aspects. The course also covers the safety assessment requirements of special compounds classes (e.g. biologics, MAEBL, stem cells) and special product classes (e.g. high risk products or veterinary medical products). Participants will acquire a comprehensive overview of nonclinical safety assessment focusing on strategies, protocols, experimental design and the role of ethics committees.

Key subjects covered by this course
- Novel developments: therapeutic oligonucleotids, reactive drug metabolites, profiling of body fluids and metabolomics
- Integrated bioanalytical assay strategies
- General considerations in bioanalytical strategies for drug metabolites, profiling of body fluids and metabolomics
- Bioanalytical strategies for small molecules: sampling, sample pretreatment, separation, detection, validation, and data handling
- Physico-chemical parameters at the basis of method development
- PKPD and biomarker assay formats
- Development of immunogenic assay strategies: background, assay strategies, predictive immunogenicity
- Novel developments: therapeutic oligonucleotids, reactive drug metabolites, profiling of body fluids and metabolomics
- The role of nonclinical safety assessment in drug development
- In vitro and in vivo nonclinical study types
- Nondrclical safety strategies and principles of protocol design
- Safety implication of target choice
- Regulatory requirements behind nonclinical safety testing
- Investigative toxicology and pathology
- Experimental design and application of the 3Rs
- Translation from nonclinical to first in human studies
- Special approaches and special products
- The role of ethics committees

Course 4.2 Biomolecular Analysis: From Method Development to Clinic
13 – 17 January 2014, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Course objectives
Integrated bioanalytics represent a variety of important methods to acquire reliable information about the state of a biological system, e.g. by analysing tissues, body fluids. Common used methods include gas chromatography, HPLC, capillary electrophoresis etc. and are important tools to follow the physico-chemical properties, appropriate analysis strategies and biopharmaceuticals. As compounds differ in their emphasis given to sample preparation, small molecule strategies and large molecules (e.g. antibodies, genetically engineered proteins), regulatory requirements behind nonclinical safety assessment are required for sample separation, pre-treatment, detection methodology and validation. Students will acquire the necessary knowledge to understand the most common methods applied and will be able to define the basic needs to develop, prepare and perform integrated biomolecular analyses, as well as to review and evaluate studies in the bioanalytic field.

Key subjects covered by this course
- Physico-chemical parameters at the basis of method development
- Bioanalytical strategies for small molecules: sampling, sample pretreatment, separation, detection, validation, and data handling
- General considerations in bioanalytical strategies for biopharmaceuticals
- PKPD and biomarker assay formats
- Development of immunogenic assay strategies: background, assay strategies, predictive immunogenicity
- Integrated bioanalytical assay strategies
- Novel developments: therapeutic oligonucleotids, reactive drug metabolites, profiling of body fluids and metabolomics
- Nondrclical safety strategies and principles of protocol design
- Safety implication of target choice
- Regulatory requirements behind nonclinical safety testing
- Investigative toxicology and pathology
- Experimental design and application of the 3Rs
- Translation from nonclinical to first in human studies
- Special approaches and special products
- The role of ethics committees

Course 4.3 Predictive Cell Culture Systems | 3 – 7 February 2014, Halle, Germany

Course objectives
Cell culture systems are integral parts of standard in vitro test methods in research and development of new drugs covering the major toxicology pathways for preclinical safety evaluation to generate robust data in screening assays on a sound cost effect relationship. This course introduces the principles of cell culture systems as a tool to monitor homeostasis and early onset of functional imbalance leading to toxicity as well as their use and impact for drug development. Upon completing the course students will be able to evaluate the strengths and the limits of specific cell culture systems and to disseminate between biochemical and cellular assays, in vitro and in vivo tests for safety purposes. Recent developments and new biomarker and their ability to improve predictability regarding species differences and extrapolation to human will be discussed.

Key subjects covered by this course
- The role of nonclinical safety assessment in drug development
- In vitro and in vivo nonclinical study types
- Nondrclical safety strategies and principles of protocol design
- Safety implication of target choice
- Regulatory requirements behind nonclinical safety testing
- Investigative toxicology and pathology
- Experimental design and application of the 3Rs
- Translation from nonclinical to first in human studies
- Special approaches and special products
- The role of ethics committees

Course 4.4 Toxicogenomics and Systems Toxicology | 10 – 14 March 2014, Leiden, The Netherlands

Course objectives
Toxicogenomics is the study of how drugs influence the actions of the genome. Systems toxicology integrates data generated from high throughputs, genomics, proteomics and metabolomics methodologies with bioinformatics in order to assess and predict the effects at the molecular levels of biological complexity. Typical datasets usually have a high content data integration, therefore data integrity, storage, visualisation and presentation play a major role. This course deals with established as well as novel methods in toxicogenomics and systems toxicology research and their application in drug safety by introducing and comparing the principles of the various genomics and bioinformatics tools used. Students will gain understanding of the design of such studies, their statistical evaluation and the biological interpretation of the data, including cross-platform consistency and extrapolations from in vitro to in vivo and from animal to man. Emphasis is given to development, validation and use of relevant biomarkers in toxicology and early phase clinical development. Regulatory aspects relevant for toxicogenomics data and drug registration within the context of risk assessment are also covered.

Key subjects covered by this course
- Toxicogenomics is the study of how drugs influence the actions of the genome.
- Systems toxicology integrates data generated from high throughputs genomics, proteomics and metabolomics methodologies with bioinformatics in order to assess and predict the effects at the molecular levels of biological complexity.
- Typical datasets usually have a high content data integration, therefore data integrity, storage, visualisation and presentation play a major role.
- This course deals with established as well as novel methods in toxicogenomics and systems toxicology research and their application in drug safety by introducing and comparing the principles of the various genomics and bioinformatics tools used.
- Students will gain understanding of the design of such studies, their statistical evaluation and the biological interpretation of the data, including cross-platform consistency and extrapolations from in vitro to in vivo and from animal to man.
- Emphasis is given to development, validation and use of relevant biomarkers in toxicology and early phase clinical development. Regulatory aspects relevant for toxicogenomics data and drug registration within the context of risk assessment are also covered.

Key subjects covered by this course
- Design of DNA-microarrays and microarray experiments.
- Quality control, data pre-processing, normalisation and statistics.
- High-throughput data visualisation and presentation.
- Building biological networks and systems toxicology.
- Functional genomics screening to identify biological networks.
- Genetic susceptibility and inter-individual variation.
- Predictive toxicology and biomarkers of adverse effects.
- In vitro to in vivo translations and extrapolation from animal data to human.
- Regulatory aspects, toxicogenomics data and drug registration.
- Perspectives for future developments in toxicogenomics, systems toxicology and their applications in drug research.

- Electronic companion to this course.
- The role of ethics committees.
- Regulatory aspects, toxicogenomics data and drug registration.
- Perspectives for future developments in toxicogenomics, systems toxicology and their applications in drug research.
Course 4.5  Pathology Interpretation in Drug Development | 5 – 9 May 2014, Surrey, UK

Course objectives
The aim of this course is to introduce the principles of pathology, including the preparation, examination and interpretation of tissues from toxicity studies. In addition, the relevance of pathology findings in animal studies to clinical risk assessment will be addressed by consideration of pathological processes and common target organs, including the liver and cardiovascular system. Pathology forms an important part of the data used to characterize the hazard of new drugs in research and development. All those individuals involved in designing preclinical safety studies or in interpreting or using data from these studies, will benefit from a deeper understanding of pathology. The course is carefully designed to be of value to those with little pathology knowledge and also to those already working in this area. The course aims to provide attendees with the knowledge they need to integrate pathology data into risk assessments. In addition, many of the current hot topics in toxicological pathology will be included in the course.

Key subjects covered by this course
• Pathological processes and causes of cell injury. General pathology including acute and chronic inflammation
• Pathology of organ systems including the immune, cardiovascular, CNS, kidney, liver and respiratory system
• Disorders of tissue growth including neoplasia
• Introduction to toxicological pathology
• Integration of anatomic and clinical pathology
• Distinguishing spontaneous from test article-related lesions in toxicity studies
• Determining adverse versus non-adverse findings
• Interpretation and reporting of pathology, including data from carcinogenicity studies
• Extrapolation of animal data to human risk assessment
• Specialised techniques used in histology and electron microscopy including image analysis.

Course 4.6  In silico ADME and Predictive Toxicology | 19 – 23 May 2014, Copenhagen, Denmark

Course objectives
In silico methods, defined as experiments and compound testing performed via computer simulation, have become an important tool in drug discovery and in the development of medicines. Predictive in silico methods are getting considerably more reliable, they cover a broader spectrum of predictive endpoints and are getting easier to use also for non-specialists. Reliable predictive models may replace costly experiments and thereby contribute to a cost-reduction of the drug discovery and development process. This course will provide the participants with a comprehensive overview of in silico methods in drug discovery and development as well as where they can be used and what their strengths and limitations are. Additionally, students will get hands-on experience with several predictive in silico methods, e.g. web-based tools to predict simple ADME/Tox endpoints and purpose-developed software to predict more complex ADME/Tox endpoints.

Key subjects covered by this course
• Computational tools used in drug discovery and development, with focus on ADME/Tox
• Absorption and distribution from a PK point of view
• Critical analysis of experimental data
• Prediction of absorption and distribution
• Phase I and II metabolism – the Cytochrome P450 enzymes
• Prediction of metabolism
• Prediction of site of metabolism
• Prediction of toxicity (e.g. genotoxicity, phospholipidosis, hERG etc)
• Genomic effects on metabolism and toxicity
• Different QSAR systems available
Course objectives
The clinical phase during drug development requires translation of safety information from previous pre-clinical trials of the new compound. Signal detection depends on the understanding of mechanisms of action, preclinical safety findings including histopathology and the monitoring of applicable baseline biomarkers. The translation of animal findings regarding toxicity levels and target organs to human has to ensure a safe First Dose in Man where appropriate risk mitigation strategies play major roles. Therefore the aim of this course is to introduce the principles of translational safety as a tool to bridge preclinical and clinical safety assessments as well as safety management throughout the clinical phase of drug development. Lecturers and students will discuss the strengths and limits of these approaches and will have insight into the overall strategy of clinical safety evaluation prior to drug approval. Case studies from the development of successful new drugs as well as from discontinued compounds are used to illustrate the process of developing safe medicines. Also regulatory requirements from the major target markets are presented and discussed. Upon completion of the course the students will have an overall understanding of integrated drug safety activities, how to approach safety margins during translation from animal to man and the benefit/risk assessment methodology used during drug development.

Key subjects covered by this course
- Integrated and translational drug safety
- Signal detection and biomarkers
- Clinical safety with organ focus on main target toxicities: liver, kidney, cardiovascular system, immune system, neurotoxicity
- Clinical trials methodology and safety issues
- Integrated safety management planning
- Population selection, epidemiological and statistical aspects
- Risk/benefit assessment, stratification and management
- Risk evaluation, mitigation strategies

Course 5.1 Clinical Safety: Pre-Approval | 2 – 6 June, Basel, Switzerland

Course 5.2 Clinical Safety: Post-Approval | 23 – 27 June 2014, Paris, France

Course objectives
This course will provide participants with an overview of the current knowledge on the clinical assessment and follow-up of drug safety post-approval and human safety. Drug safety in human patients is the ultimate goal of drug safety scientists. Because limitations of patient populations studied during drug development and uncertainties related to potential drug-drug interactions or rare or idiosyncratic adverse reactions, it is important to pay careful attention to human safety to achieve a better understanding of the safety of drugs on the market used in a wider patient population, for long treatment duration and on various co-medication compared to the population included in the approval package. Human safety plays an important role for assessing drug safety profile in daily conditions of use, which includes adherence to recommended modalities of therapeutic use (pharmacovigilance) as well as exposures deriving from accidental or intentional acute poisonings (clinical toxicology and toxicovigilance), misuse or abuse of therapeutic agents (pharmacodependence) or unintended indications. Aspects of occupational exposure to active ingredients used in the manufacture of therapeutic agents (occupational toxicology) are also covered.

Key subjects covered by this course
- Modalities of detection, analysis and validation of drug-induced adverse events (pharmacovigilance)
- Pharmacoepidemiology as a tool for the identification and study of drug-induced adverse events
- Diagnosis and management of acute drug poisonings
- Risk minimization activities in the post-marketing phase
- Medication errors, assessment of drug abuse and misuse
- Occupational safety in workers exposed to active drug ingredients
- Post-approval safety commitments
- Legal, societal and economic aspects of adverse drug reactions
- Statistical evaluation of endpoints and measure for extrapolation
Course objectives
Pharmacogenetics is rapidly growing partly as a result of the very rapid development in techniques for studies of the human genome and genome function. The aim is e.g. to find pharmacogenetic biomarkers which can predict drug response and drug toxicity. In addition, drugs aimed for genetically defined populations have become a reality.

Knowledge about drug action requires information about the involvement of polymorphic genes encoding e.g. drug metabolising enzymes, drug transporters, drug targets and human leukocyte antigens. Pharmacogenetics is now an integrated part in drug development. Already today we know about specific genomic biomarkers that effectively predict ADRs and this development is expected to continue in the future. The regulatory agencies now require pharmacogenomic aspects to be integrated into all different phases of drug development. Pharmacogenetic knowledge can also help to identify novel drug targets as well as to understand the bases for interindividual variation in drug response. In addition, there are examples where drugs have been rescued based on novel pharmacogenetic information.

Key subjects covered by this course
• Human genome and web accessible databases
• Methods to identify mutations and to study their functionality
• Clinical important genetic polymorphism of drug metabolizing enzymes
• Clinical important genetic polymorphism of drug transporters
• Pharmacogenetics of importance for therapy of different types of diseases
• Association between certain HLA alleles and adverse drug reactions
• Useful pharmacogenomic biomarkers for prediction of adverse reactions
• Regulatory guidelines for pharmacogenetics in drug development
• Ethical issues in pharmacogenetics and the use of material from biobanks
• Personalized medicine in the future
European Modular Education and Training Programme in Safety Sciences for Medicines

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