



Great success for the first edition of the European BioAlpine Convention

Grenoble, the 6th October 2006 – Last October 6, 2006, Grenoble hosted the first edition of the European BioAlpine Convention, a European event organised by the tri-national transalpine biocluster composed of Adebag (Grenoble/Rhone-Alps), Bioindustry Park del Canavese (Turin - Piedmont) and BioAlps - Lake Geneva BioCluster (Swiss Western)*. A beautiful success for this event, which gathered about **230 people**, mainly coming from the three organizing areas but also from others **all over Europe** (Germany, Great Britain, Slovenia, Estonia...).

A total and fully completed mission for the organisers, who wished to make this event as a **unique meeting place between researchers and industrials**: the participants coming from the academic and industrial worlds were present at a comparable rate (respectively 43% and 44%). In parallel with the conference-debates, **80** business meetings could take place during the business convention, thus allowing the research project developers in particular to exchange with industrials and to create strategic partnerships.

37 posters selected by the Scientific Committee were presented during the event, whose great quality was emphasized by the industrial representatives. **Four prizes**, reaching a total of **6000 €** (1500 € each) were awarded at the end of the event: the list of the prize winners can be found on page 2).

The diversity of participants, the alternation of scientific conferences with companies presentations, the quality and the variety of the speakers, the business convention and the high standard of the presented posters made possible to transform the first edition of the European BioAlpine Convention into an **original event** approved by the participants plebiscite. The optimised format of the event also allowed to multiply informal contacts in a friendly atmosphere.

An **Appointment** for the second edition has already been taken for **next year**: it will be up to Bioindustry Park del Canavese, in the area of Piemonte-Turin, to organise it during the last quarter of 2007, on the topic of "Inflammation and autoimmunity".

Moreover, the relevance of the chosen topics for this first edition (innovation in neuroscience), has provoked the desire to continue a cooperation in this field by the creation of the NeuroAlpine network. It could be built around a shared identity, an awareness and common resources as it was suggested at the end of the day by Mr. Johan Luthman, Head of Science at Serono International.

Let us recall that European Bioalpine Convention is the first European event resulting from the recent creation of the tri-national transalpine biocluster. Effectively, Adebag, Bioindustry Park del Canavese and BioAlps - Lake Geneva BioCluster have signed a cooperation agreement at the beginning of the year in order to federate their networks, and thus simultaneously develop the transalpine competitiveness area in the sectors of biotechnologies and medical technologies. This annual event, organised by turns in France, Italy and Switzerland, is a first concretisation of the will of these three structures to facilitate the access to resources and local scientific and technological know-how and to raise links between the different actors of the sector.

Press Contact

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Poster Session Laureates

Neuroimaging Session

Subject : CEREBRAL BLOOD VOLUME FRACTION MAPPING IN A C6-TUMOR MODEL USING RSST1-MRI WITH AN INTRAVASCULAR CONTRAST AGENT GD-ACX

Authors : Perles-Barbacaru, Adriana Teodora; Chieze, Lionel; Van der Sanden, Boudewijn; Farion, Régine; Segebarth, Christoph; Lahrech, Hanah

Institutes/Departments :

Functional and Metabolic Neuroimaging, UJF/INSERM U594,
French National Health and Medical Research Institute, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire, Pav. B, BP 217, 38043 Grenoble cedex 9, France

“Value of -omics” Session

Subject : IMAGING OF RADIOLABELLED BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES WITH SILICON PIXEL SENSORS

Authors : Pasquale Emanuele Scopelliti (a), Chiara Cappellini (a), Fabio Risigo (a), Marcin Jastrzab (a), Silvia Mila (b), Gabriella Fanali (b), Monica Colapinto (b), Ilaria Mannelli (c), Giacomo Ceccone (c), Andrea Valsesia (c), Francois Rossi (c), Mauro Fasano (b), Massimo Caccia (a).

Institutes/Departments :

(a) Department of Physics and Mathematics, University of Insubria, via Valleggio 11, 22100, Como, Italy.

(b) Department of Structural and Functional Biology, and Center of Neuroscience, University of Insubria, Via A. da Giussano n°12, 21052, Busto Arsizio (VA), Italy.

(c) Surface Characterization & Processing, Institute for Health and Consumer Protection – European Commission Joint Research Center, I-21020 Ispra (VA), Italy.

“Ageing and dementia” Session

Subject: GLYCINE-MEDIATED MODULATION OF NMDA RECEPTOR ACTIVITY, A DOUBLE GENETIC APPROACH TO INVESTIGATE ITS IMPACT ON COGNITION AND BEHAVIOUR IN MICE

Authors: Aubin Michalon, Kyoko Koshibu, Karsten Baumgartel, Dominique Spirig, Volker Eulenburg*, Heinrich Betz*, Isabelle Mansuy

Institutes/Departments : Brain Research Institute, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) and University of Zurich, Switzerland

* Max Planck Institute for Brain Research, Frankfurt /M, Germany

« New breakthroughs to therapies » Session

Subject: IN VITRO EXPRESSION OF HUMAN LEUKOCYTE ANTIGENS IN RESPONSE TO TNF-• AND IL-6 ON CONDITIONALLY IMMORTALISED HUMAN NEURAL STEM CELLS

Authors: Yuan Xue, Saga Johansson, Mike Modo

Institutes/Departments : Department of Neuroscience, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, De Crespigny Park, SE5 8AF

***About :**

Adebag (Grenoble-Rhône-Alpes) : Association for the Development of Biotechnologies in the Agglomeration of Grenoble (ADEBAG) gathers and federates universities and research centers, institutional and economic actors to support the development and the promotion of biotechnologies, bio-industries and technologies related to health-care in the Grenoble and Isere area.

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Bioindustry Park del Canavese (Turin-Piemont) : Bioindustry Park is a scientific park aimed to promote and develop Research and Development and to host companies in the life science sector. The park is equipped with a Laboratory of Advanced Methodology (LIMA), which offers a broad range of research services and activities in the fields of molecular biology, biotechnology, chemistry, imaging, bioinformatic and proteomic. The park is also equipped with a Bio-Incubator (Discovery).

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BioAlps - Lake Geneva BioCluster (Western Switzerland) : No lucrative Association bringing together members of the economic and academic sectors of the French-speaking Switzerland, BioAlps has for principal mission to promote the French-speaking and Latin Switzerland as a European pole in the life sciences fields, in research and teaching institutions, as well as the companies of the sector.
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