



# The European BioAlpine Convention 2007 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition – “Inflammation and Autoimmunity: *Bridging Public and Private research*”

The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2007, the BioAlpine Cluster organises hosts the Second Edition of the EBAC - European BioAlpine Convention. The event will be hosted by the Bioindustry Park del Canavese (Colleretto Giacosa – Italy).

The topic of this Second Edition of the EBAC is: “**Inflammation and Autoimmunity: bridging public and private research**”.

This annual event represents the opportunity for people coming both from Academia and industry to meet each other, to present and to discuss the most recent findings in this specific field. The objective is to create a unique moment of exchange with the opportunity to build synergies and to share best practices.

The topic is really relevant if we take into account the increase of prevalence and the absolute necessity for innovative treatments of pathologies coming out from the deficiency of our immune system. Our immune system, in fact is a complex system of cells, organs and tissues which serves as our body’s defence against bacteria, viruses, and other potential illness causing agents. In this context, the mechanisms of Inflammation represent in general the body’s first immune response to infection and irritation. Unfortunately sometimes the immune system loses the capacity to recognise our own body and begins to attack organs, tissues and cells causing autoimmune and inflammatory diseases. These represents a family of more than 80 chronic diseases and, while many are rare, collectively they affect millions of people all over the world (5% of the total world population, more than 500 millions only in developed countries) and the total prevalence is growing. Treatment of the patients poses substantial economic burden and more and more efforts are made to find new effective therapies and diagnostic strategies to fight against this pathologies. In 2006, the value of the Autoimmune and Inflammatory diseases market was estimated around \$27,9 billion with a worldwide market growth of 9.4% over the 2002-06 period (source: Business Insights - The Autoimmune Market Outlook to 2012 – September 2007).

The European BioAlpine Convention 2007 will be structured in **three huge moments**.

The first one a **Brokerage event** aimed at fostering partnership between academics and industrials. Building from the last year’s experience, the organisers have decided to offer more space to this part of the event by dedicating half a day completely to it.

The second moment will be **the convention** in se that will give to the participants the opportunity to attend conferences conducted by some the most important figures of the field and giving an overview of the most recent findings in Inflammation and Autoimmunity.

Finally, a **poster session** will give the chance to young academics (under 35) and start-up companies (less than three years old) to present their work and make themselves known to industrial and potential financiers. The best posters will be awarded a money prize.





A scientific committee of the highest calibre formed by researchers coming both from academia and industry have been selected by the organisers in order to ensure that EBAC establishes itself as one of the major events for researchers and European industry leaders.

Organised in turn in France, Italy and Switzerland, the EBAC focuses every year on a different topic. Last year, the success of the first edition, organised in Grenoble (France), on Neuroscience has encouraged the BioAlpine Cluster to reiterate and to develop this unique moment aiming to bridge academia and industry.

The BioAlpine Cluster is a transnational bio- and medical technologies cluster founded by the Adebag in Grenoble (France's Rhône-Alpes region), the Bioindustry Park del Canavese near Turin (Italy's Piedmont region) and BioAlps in Western Switzerland. It intends to promote and foster the transalpine competitiveness in the biotech and medical sciences sectors. It is the result of the union between three complementary territories sharing the same will to create in the life sciences sector, a unique area endowed with a strong identity and an international visibility. Today, the transalpine space is becoming one of the most dynamic biotech cluster in Europe.



*BioAlpine Cluster founder members are:*

**Adebag (Grenoble-Rhône-Alpes):** The Association for the Development of Bioindustry in the Grenoble Area brings together and federates universities and research centres, institutions and financiers in order to facilitate the development and promotion of biotechnologies, bio-Industry and health technologies in Grenoble.

[www.adebag.org](http://www.adebag.org)

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**Bioindustry Park (Turin-Piemonte)** : Located at Canavese, close to Turin, the Bioindustry Park is a Science and Technology Park aimed at promoting and developing R&D activities and hosting companies working in the life sciences sector. The park is equipped with high-tech platforms (Advanced Methodologies Laboratory) as well as a Bio-Incubator (Discovery) and a seed capital company – Eporgen Venture.

[www.bioindustrypark.it](http://www.bioindustrypark.it)

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**BioAlps- Lake Geneva Biotech & Medtech Cluster (Western Switzerland):** A not-for-profit association bringing together participants from the economic and academic sectors of French-speaking Switzerland, BioAlps aims at promoting western Switzerland as a European centre for life sciences, strengthening synergies among the scientific, industrial and financial sectors as well as stimulating the development of new businesses. .

[www.bioalps.org](http://www.bioalps.org)

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