

BioVision World Life Sciences Forum



The BioVision Forum presents a unique opportunity for business leaders, policy makers and researchers from around the world to engage in dialogue about the life sciences. Looking to BioVision 2011, Executive Director **Christian Grenier** throws light on what we can expect

2011

Can you outline the objectives of the three day BioVision forum (March 27-29 – Lyon, France)? What does it facilitate, and in what ways is it distinctive from other life science events and conferences?

BioVision is an international platform for debate and exchange that focuses on the economic, scientific and sociological issues we face in life sciences. What makes it distinctive is that it brings together a broad range of interested parties including scientists, policy makers and representatives from community and non-governmental organisations. BioVision is a place to listen, to learn through debates, and to network.

What differences do you anticipate seeing this year in contrast to previous years, and how many visitors are you expecting during the course of the event?

A new 'business in science' track has been introduced with a view to highlighting the role of the business world at BioVision. 25 top-flight experts from the business sector will be considering the role of business in the economics of health. Further opportunities to network and benefit from the business input will be available for the first time via a networking tool provided for BioVision participants, which will enable participants to organise their meetings during the forum.

We also have the 'BioVision off' series of events, which comprises 15 or so annexe events organised by our regional, national and international partners.

What aspects of the event are you most looking forward to?

I enjoy everything about BioVision! The quality of the programme itself is very high, and the profiles of the participants likewise. What is so exciting about BioVision is that it is a real melting pot for participants and delegates, all of whom come from a very wide range of disciplines.

There's also the BioVision.Nxt programme, in which we welcome 100 or so young doctorates from all over the world. It's a great opportunity for them to learn from others and to experience the incredible atmosphere of the event.

I have to mention also the 'business in science' track and the networking opportunities. This is a great chance for business leaders to keep abreast with developments in life sciences and to meet others – including researchers and representatives from relevant organisations – with a vested interest in the fields that pertain to their business.

The event boasts a highly impressive roster of speakers; leading scientists will share the rostrum with policy makers and representatives from charities and industry, which will inevitably attract extremely diverse audiences. What are the merits of pooling together so many interested parties?

The impact of the major advances being made in life sciences are not restricted to the scientific field, and it is

important to bring together those whose specialist domain can throw fresh light on a given scientific theme. The contributions of a philosopher or a religious figure are as relevant to a discussion on the biology of artificial life, or treatments using cell therapy, as those of participants with a background in industry or science.

Can you offer a glimpse of what is in store regarding the 'Scientific Advances' session and the roundtable sessions set to feature at BioVision 2011?

The 'Scientific Advances' track is divided into 12 themes that focus on health, environment, and nutrition. Each of these themes is dealt with by way of three talks, in which the latest scientific advances are presented in a 20 minute period without a debate as such. Meanwhile, the roundtable sessions enable participants to discuss and consider the non-scientific impact of these advances. The roundtable format provides an opportunity for key participants to engage in dialogue with the forum itself. All participants are involved in life sciences, whatever direction they may be coming from, and their contribution can only serve to enrich the debate.

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