



Wednesday March 11, 2009
11:00 to 12:30

Lyon Convention Center
France

DECISIONMAKERS, OVER TO YOU...

Moderator

- **Maria Cattai**, Member of the Board of Directors of Petroplus Holdings AG, Switzerland

Speakers

- **Christian Béchon**, Chairman, Laboratoire Français du Fractionnement et des Biotechnologies (LFB), France
- **Roch Doliveux**, CEO and Chairman of the Executive Committee, UCB, Belgium
- **Clara Gaymard**, Regional Executive for North West Europe, GE
- **Federico Mayor**, President, Fundación Cultura de Paz, Spain
- **Elmar Schnee**, President, Merck Serono, Switzerland

Summary

These last three days, the 6th edition of BioVision highlighted the challenging role of life sciences in the world's expanding cities. More than 2000 participants attended 30 sessions where they interacted with 140 speakers, most of them chief executives, directors and presidents of global acting organizations from the policy, research and industry worlds, exchanging their ideas on former and future achievements to solve some of the world's major problems.

In those sessions, issues like major diseases, agriculture and sufficient food supply, as well as global warming were addressed. Attention was obviously given to the current state of the world economic situation and impacted the short- and long-term visions of each theme. A special focus was given on cities and their recent and strong growths as they amplify most of today's challenges as if seen through a magnifying glass. Intense debates about the future role life sciences in solving city-specific (water, pollution, energy) and medical issues (infectious diseases, malaria, neurodegenerative diseases) were shared by the international audiences.

In conclusion it became clear that life sciences can massively contribute in bringing more wealth and health to the world. However, they must not progress on their own, as they are only one part of a whole orchestra of technologies and policy transformations needed to be successful.

Critical outcomes of the 2009 BioVision conference

1. Life Sciences and governance

- As they grow in size and importance, cities equally grow in power.
- Cities require more recognition in the decision making processes at a national and international level.
- This empowerment of cities is a key element in better integrating scientific research into society so as to maximise its benefits to the community and optimise the correlation between scientific advances and the citizens' needs.
- Thus, a new governance system must be put in place, where the city has a major role to play.
- In order to achieve such a goal, communities must work towards developing better integrated mechanisms using reflection groups, reinforcing the roles and responsibilities of existing ones such as C40, and obtaining commitments from existing bodies.
- The successful of tomorrow's cities can only be achieved through the reinstatement, or sometimes the integration of a strong bond between the citizen and his or her city.

2. Singling out priority domains: health and ageing populations

- Life sciences were obviously identified as having a major impact on progresses in medicine to face the diseases of tomorrow, more specifically illnesses linked to old age, a critical issue in tomorrow's ever aging urban population.
- New developments in science can lead to the betterment of citizens' lives all the more successfully as private public partnerships are set up.
- Neurodegenerative diseases were clearly identified as a major issue of the future and might even equal the place cancer holds today in our society.
- Breakthroughs in other critical other diseases (infectious diseases, malaria, cancer, etc.) are imminent which emphasises the importance of current funding of such projects.

3. Educating the urban citizens of tomorrow

- Maximising the potential of Life Sciences for the emerging urban world requires the enhancement of scientific education in the population's curriculum.
- As a general rule the nations must aim at providing higher education to all their constituents.
- A specific effort must be made regarding the education of women as not only are they left out, but they also are the cohesive tissue of most developing countries.
- This education improvements will benefit urban citizens in the following ways:
 - The ability to use science on a day to day basis so as to simplify their lives.
 - Informed education grants citizens the ability to act responsibly and preventively when faced with potentially harmful decisions.
 - An increase in the number of citizens choosing a scientific career, which is the main factor in successful research and innovation.

BioVision 2009 session reporting

- An informed population has a better understanding of new developments and thus will not fear them unnecessarily.
- Better education leads to an innovation-oriented society, which in turn is better prepared when having to adapt to change. This all the more so true in urban societies where the day-to-day pace of evolution can be extremely high.