



BioTechCircle News®

April 2008

Featured April article – it could have been titled “Against All Odds”:

The Man Who Lost His Name—and His Genetic Identity

An inspiring story of beating incredible odds of recovery from a virulent form of cancer, identity theft, bill collectors and a credit history ruined by a health-care worker who assumed he would be dead soon.

<http://discovermagazine.com/2008/apr/09-the-man-who-lost-his-name-and-his-genetic-identity>

In this articles section: links to 60 free Web articles in 13 major categories.

The major categories are in alphabetical order and further subdivided to make it easy for you to locate news and developments in technology, the business and the markets in the life science areas of interest to you.

Note: if the links don't connect you directly, please copy and paste the entire URL into your web browser.

Here are the major categories and the page where each category starts:

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significant scope for copycatting patented Western drugs, legally or illegally, without penalty. Langer reviews this and other issues.

<http://biopharminternational.findpharma.com/biopharm/ArticleStandard/Article/detail/507465>

IP Strategies to Combat Distribution of Counterfeit Drugs

Antoinette Konski

BioProcess International

01-Apr-08

Reviews how pharmaceuticals get counterfeited, types of drugs that are vulnerable to fakery, the global impact and economic injury of counterfeiting and preventive measures companies can take.

http://www.bioprocessintl.com/default.asp?page=article_display&docid=30120082

Subcategory: Project Management

Getting the Results You Expect from Consultants

John Avellanet

BioPharm International

01-Apr-08

Avellanet offers 7 steps you need to take to ensure that you hire the right kind of consultant and actually get the help you need, starting with determining if outside help is appropriate and if so, the type of help.

<http://biopharminternational.findpharma.com/biopharmArticleStandard/Article/detail/507468>

Subcategory: Venture

Trends in Convertible Note Financing for Biotechs

Peter N. Townshend,
George Colindres

BioPharm International

01-Apr-08

For biopharmaceutical companies, the biggest advantage of note financings is speed but companies should weigh their options carefully before choosing convertible notes over traditional equity financing.

<http://biopharminternational.findpharma.com/biopharm/ArticleStandard/Article/detail/507473>

CLINICAL TRIALS

Subcategory: Big Pharma

Trial Results Roil Drug Companies

Ann Thayer

Chemical & Engineering News

07-Apr-08

Merck & Co. and Schering-Plough are facing harsh criticism from lawmakers who say the companies held back negative clinical trial data so that they could continue to profit from sales of their cholesterol-lowering drugs Vytorin and Zetia.

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/news/86/i14/8614notw4.html>

Subcategory: Collaboration

The Local Central Lab Model

Dr. Francisco Leão, Jr

Applied Clinical Trials

01-Apr-08

With globalization of trials comes the difficulties of sample logistics. Discusses why a new concept is becoming more popular among the most innovative trial sponsors and global central labs: partner laboratory harmonization.

<http://appliedclinicaltrialsonline.findpharma.com/appliedclinicaltrials/Rotating+Feature+Article/ArticleStandard/Article/detail/506848>

Subcategory: Miscellaneous

A Pandora's Box for Clinical Trials?

Paul Bleicher Applied Clinical Trials 01-Apr-08

Discusses how one patient community on the Web is single-handedly forging new ground in the clinical trials world and outlines the risks related to the open, collaborative discussion of drug efficacy and safety in communities of physicians and patients.

<http://appliedclinicaltrialsonline.findpharma.com/appliedclinicaltrials/article/articleDetail.jsp?i>

Subcategory: Subject Enrollment/Management

Inspire Will Introduce Trials to Online Community Members

Deborah Borfitz Bio-IT World 07-Apr-08

A builder of online health communities hopes to make introductions between members of those social networking venues and companies who need participants for their clinical trials.

http://www.bio-itworld.com/BioIT_Article.aspx?id=74510

INDUSTRY

Subcategory: Geographic focus

Biotech Isn't in the DNA

Stuart Luman Business Week 22-Apr-08

Reviews Chicago's interrelated deficits in biotech leadership: lack of early-stage money, business-savvy researchers, serial entrepreneurs, public-sector financial and regulatory support, cooperation among institutions, and practical infrastructure.

http://www.businessweek.com/bwdaily/dnflash/content/apr2008/db20080421_737282.htm

Subcategory: Government/ Approvals

EPA Science Investigated

Cheryl Hogue and Jeff Johnson Chemical & Engineering News 14-Apr-08

Discusses how a U.S. House committee intends to determine what influence the chemical industry yields over the scientific community regarding public safety and whether that influence is proper.

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/government/86/8615gov1.html>

INVESTMENTS/ GOV. SUPPORT

Subcategory: Bio Pharma

New Indian Owner to Invest in Cambridge Biotech Enterprise

Tony Quested Business Weekly 02-Apr-08

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories in Hyderabad is promising to replicate its class and commitment at its newly-acquired Cambridge, U.K. hub.

<http://www.businessweekly.co.uk/2008040231687/life-sciences/new-indian-owner-to-invest-in-cambridge-biotech-enterprise.html>

Subcategory: Venture

Sir Christopher Evans Launches New Investment House

Business Weekly 10-Apr-08

One of the founding fathers of the Cambridge biotech cluster, Sir Christopher Evans has announced the launch of a new international investment house. The new company's investment strategy to encompass the "entire medical sciences sector."

<http://www.businessweekly.co.uk/2008041031768/life-sciences/sir-christopher-evans-launches-new-investment-house.html>

NOVEL APPLICATIONS

Subcategory: Energy/ Fuel

Cellulose Biofactory Needs Only Sun and Salty Water

R & D Magazine 24-Apr-08

A newly created microbe produces cellulose that can be turned into ethanol and other biofuels, report scientists. Along with cellulose, the cyanobacteria secretes glucose and sucrose. These simple sugars are the major sources used to produce ethanol.

<http://www.rdmag.com/ShowPR~PUBCODE~014~ACCT~1400000100~ISSUE~0804~RELTYPE~PR~ORIGRELTYP~LST~PRODCODE~0000000~PRODLETT~MB.html>

Subcategory: Environment

Using Nature as a Design Guide

Matt Vella Business Week 11-Feb-08

Describes use of biomimicry to yield a variety of compelling, quirky, and elegant innovations across industries. Examples: a bullet train with a distinctly bird-like nose, biodegradable glues developed by analyzing how mussels cling to rocks under water.

http://www.businessweek.com/innovate/content/feb2008/id20080211_074559.htm

Subcategory: Imaging

Medical Advances—Through Your iPhone?

Olga Kharif

Business Week

30-Apr-08

Researchers are beginning to understand how mobile phones can cut costs, help solve rural health-care problems, and even reduce medical errors. Notes that 2/3 of the world's population has no access to imaging technologies.

http://www.businessweek.com/technology/content/apr2008/tc20080429_186428.htm

PERSONALIZED MEDICINE

Subcategory: Genomics

Lawless Gene-Testing Industry Needs a Sheriff

Brandon Keim

Wired Science

03-Apr-08

More than 1,000 genetic tests are now available, many promising to help people pick drugs and dosages. Keim warns that while gene-testing claims are not so much fraudulent, they are ambiguous and do not necessarily have a sound scientific basis.

http://www.wired.com/medtech/drugs/news/2008/04/gene_testing

Subcategory: Miscellaneous

Modern Genetics Casts a Wide Statistical Net

R & D Magazine

15-Apr-08

DNA samples will be collected from more than 120,000 people in the U.K. to explore the genetic roots of reading and mathematical ability and patients' responses to a commonly prescribed drug.

<http://www.rdmag.com/ShowPR~PUBCODE~014~ACCT~140000100~ISSUE~0804~RELTYPE~PR~ORIGRELTYPE~LST~PRODCODE~0000000~PRODLETT~GT.html>

PHARMACEUTICALS

Subcategory: Drug Discovery

An Uphill Battle

Lisa M. Jarvis

Chemical & Engineering News

14-Apr-08

With short lives and uncertain profits, antibiotics are a unique development challenge for drug companies, says Jarvis, explaining why.

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/coverstory/86/8615cover.html>

Subcategory: Geographic focus

Courting Japan

Economist

10-Apr-08

Some features are shared by all organisms, and may thus go back to the beginning of life. One of the most bizarre of these features is that a lot of the molecules of which life is made, such as amino acids, are left-handed.

http://www.economist.com/science/displaystory.cfm?story_id=11014505

Subcategory: Imaging

Seeing the Light

Economist

10-Apr-08

Some fossil-scientists are using synchrotrons to look inside their specimens without damaging them. Their X-rays are so powerful that they can reveal minute details of fossil plants, right down to individual cells and pollen grains.

http://www.economist.com/science/displaystory.cfm?story_id=11014512

Subcategory: Miscellaneous

AMPK Phosphorylation of Raptor Mediates a Metabolic Checkpoint
Dana M. Gwinn Dana M. Gwinn

Dana M. Gwinn, et. Al

Molecular Cell

25-Apr-08

Scientists report that when mammalian cells sense that glucose and other nutrients are running short, they muffle a cellular protein called raptor, causing cells to slow their growth. Suggest an extremely intriguing link between cancer and diabetes.

<http://www.biosciencetechnology.com/ShowPR~PUBCODE~090~ACCT~9000000100~ISSUE~0804~RELTYPE~RLSN~PRODCODE~00000000~PRODLETT~AH.html>

Subcategory: Nanotechnology

Lab-made Nanostructures Work like DNA, only with Bells and

R & D Magazine

12-Apr-08

Researchers have made the first self-assembled nanostructures composed entirely of glycerol nucleic acid (GNA), a synthetic analog of DNA. Working at this scale holds great potential for advancing medical, electronic applications.

<http://www.rdmag.com/ShowPR~PUBCODE~014~ACCT~1400000100~ISSUE~0804~RELTYPE~PR~ORIGRELTYPE~LST~PRODCODE~00000000~PRODLETT~QW.html>

Nanofibers Heal Spinal Cords

Prachi Patel-Predd

Technology Review

09-Apr-08

An engineered liquid material that can be injected into damaged spinal cords could help prevent scars and encourage damaged nerve fibers to grow. It contains molecules that self-assemble into nanofibers which act as a scaffold.

<http://www.technologyreview.com/Nanotech/20534/>

Subcategory: Cell Therapy

The Man Who Lost His Name—and His Genetic Identity

David Kushner

Discover

09-Apr-08

An inspiring story of beating incredible odds of recovery from a virulent form of cancer, identity theft, bill collectors and a credit history ruined by a health-care worker who assumed he would be dead soon.

<http://discovermagazine.com/2008/apr/09-the-man-who-lost-his-name-and-his-genetic-identity>

Reprogrammed Stem Cells Work on Parkinson's

Courtney Humphries

Technology Review

08-Apr-08

A study in rodents suggests that stem cells reprogrammed into skin cells can be transformed into neurons to treat neurodegeneration.

<http://www.technologyreview.com/Biotech/20530/>

Subcategory: Genomics

Smoking out the Smoking Gene

Economist

03-Apr-08

Based on a study of 13,945 Icelandic smokers, deCODE's researchers showed that having a T in the appropriate part of the gene correlates very strongly with being a heavy smoker also correlates with the chance of a smoker getting lung cancer.

http://www.economist.com/science/displaystory.cfm?story_id=10952815

High Hopes: An Athlete's Genes May Help Determine the Results of

Economist

03-Apr-08

Explains why athletes travelling to the Olympic games may be wise to travel armed not only with courage and the “spirit of Olympianism”, but also with a copy of their genetic profile, just in case.

http://www.economist.com/science/displaystory.cfm?story_id=10952799

Subcategory: Immunology/ Infectious Diseases

Study Identifies Mechanism Underlying Multidrug Resistance In Fungi

Bioscience Technology

02-Apr-08

Similarity between the regulatory switches controlling multidrug resistance in fungi and drug detoxification in humans may help identify new therapies for resistant fungal infections in patients with compromised immunity.

<http://www.biosciencetechnology.com/ShowPR~PUBCODE~090~ACCT~9000000100~ISSUE~0804~RELTYPE~RLSN~PRODCODE~00000000~PRODLETT~E.html>

Imminent Threat

Lisa M. Jarvis

Chemical & Engineering News

14-Apr-08

Industry observers say a bigger problem of antibiotic resistance than gram-positive organisms lies in gram-negative organisms, which tend to

strike the very old, the very young, and the very sick. Reviews search for new drugs.

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/coverstory/86/8615cover1.html>

Sugar Link Calms Inflammation

Carmen Drahl

Chemical & Engineering News

21-Apr-08

Scientists generated a synthetic antibody that relieves inflammation in arthritic mice at a dose 30 times lower than IVIG, a mixture of antibodies modified with different branched sugar chains. Patients need high doses of IVIG to relieve inflammation.

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/news/86/i16/8616notw7.html>

Tentative T Cells: Memory Cells Are Quick to Respond, but Slow to

Jason K. Whitmire, Boreth

PLOS Pathogen

28-Apr-08

Eam, J. Lindsay Whitton

T cell memory is a cornerstone of protective immunity and the key element in successful vaccination. Evolution may have provided a safeguard that balances the risk of infection against the consequences of severe T cell-mediated immunopathology.

<http://www.plospathogens.org/article/info:doi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.ppat.1000041>

Subcategory: Oncology

Researchers Learn How Signaling Molecule Orchestrates Breast

Bioscience Technology

08-Apr-08

Metastasis is the cause of approximately 90% of all cancer-related deaths. Study examines how cells in the body communicate with each other through cytokines, signaling molecules that direct a wide range of activities such as cell growth and movement.

<http://www.biosciencetechnology.com/ShowPR~PUBCODE~090~ACCT~9000000100~ISSUE~0804~RELTYPE~RLSN~PRODCODE~00000000~PRODLETT~K.html>

Subcategory: Ophthalmology

Gene Therapy Improves Vision in Small Clinical Trial

Howard Hughes Medical Institute

27-Apr-08

Six months after the launch of a clinical trial evaluating the safety of gene therapy for a rare but severe form of retinal degeneration, vision has improved in all three patients who received the treatment.

<http://www.hhmi.org/news/high20080327.html>

RESEARCH TOOLS

Subcategory: Computing Systems

Supportive Oncology Services Accrues One Million Cancer Patient Self-Reported Assessments

Applied Clinical Trials 14-Apr-08
Discusses the value of a wireless, touch screen e/Tablet system known as the Patient Assessment Care and Education (PACE) System for collection of information directly from cancer patients.
<http://appliedclinicaltrialsonline.findpharma.com/appliedclinicaltrials/News/ArticleStandard/Article/detail/511606>

Subcategory: Databases

PSI Structural Genomics Knowledgebase

01-Apr-08
The Protein Structure Initiative Structural Genomics Knowledgebase (PSI SGKB) is a portal designed to turn the products of the Protein Structure Initiative effort into knowledge that is important for understanding living systems and disease.
<http://kb.psi-structuralgenomics.org/KB/>

Google Wants to Index Your DNA, Too

Business Week 18-Apr-08
The Web search giant's investment in Navigenics is further proof it wants an early stake in direct-to-consumer genetic screening, as Google believes your DNA falls into the realm of "the world's information."
http://www.businessweek.com/technology/content/apr2008/tc20080418_112207.htm

Subcategory: Genomics

GNS: Building a SNPs-to-Outcomes Engine

John Russell Bio-IT World 16-Apr-08
Determining which of the 3 million genetic variations that make us all different and determine our disease progression and response to therapeutics is a huge challenge, despite the popularity of DNA sequence information for consumers.
http://www.bioitworld.com/BioIT_Article.aspx?id=74848

Enter Navigenics, Where Personal Genomics Gets More Medical

Thomas Goetz Wired Science 08-Apr-08
Reviews differences in cost, results and medical education emphasis between 23andMe, DecodeMe and newcomer Navigenics.
<http://blog.wired.com/wiredscience/2008/04/enter-navigenic.html>

Subcategory: Imaging

Eyedrops that Probe the Brain

Anna Davison Technology Review 04-Apr-08
By dosing mice with eyedrops containing gene probes that then travel to the brain, researchers are using magnetic resonance imaging to observe the brains of living animals. Method could allow doctors to

directly diagnose problems without a biopsy.
<http://www.technologyreview.com/Biotech/20515/>

Subcategory: Proteomics

Better Protection

Peggy Ho Faix

Drug Discovery & Development

01-Apr-08

RNA integrity is crucial for obtaining reliable, meaningful gene expression data. Discusses technology advances in sample preservation that can prevent the degradation process of biological samples, enabling more accurate and reliable results.

<http://www.ddmag.com/Article-Preventing-RNA-degradation.aspx?adcode=group=genpro>

STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS

Subcategory: M&A Activities

Takeda Buys Millennium To Build U.S. Business

Ann Thayer

Chemical & Engineering News

14-Apr-08

Already the largest pharmaceutical company in Japan with nearly \$11 billion in annual sales, Takeda sees its purchase of a U.S. biotechnology company as a way to expand its worldwide position in the oncology drug market.

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/news/86/i15/8615notw5.html>

THERAPEUTIC CATEGORY

Subcategory: Immunology/ Infectious Diseases

Using Viruses to Kill Bacteria

Jennifer Chu

Technology Review

15-Apr-08

Scientists have come up with an alternative to antibiotics, which may effectively stop bacteria in its tracks: viruses, found naturally in water, that eat bacteria while leaving human cells intact.

<http://www.technologyreview.com/Biotech/20566/>

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