

Walter Gilbert has resigned his positions as chairman and principal executive officer of Biogen N.V., stating that the company's development has made it appropriate for the firm to seek new management. Gilbert remains a member of Biogen's board of supervisory directors and scientific board, but a company spokesman reports that his future role with the firm is unclear. Mark Skaletsky, the current principal operating officer, will act as principal executive officer.

Two biotech specialty concerns have agreed to jointly develop and market herbicide-tolerant varieties of cotton. Under the accord, Calgene (Davis, CA) will provide its proprietary gene for resistance to the herbicide glyphosate, and Phytogen (Pasadena, CA) will introduce the gene into cotton varieties and will coordinate field testing. Executives in the plant genetic engineering industry expect additional joint ventures between specialty firms with complementary technologies.

Other agreements involving biotech companies:

- The Seagram Company (Montreal) will contract for \$10 million worth of research at Biotechnica International (Cambridge, MA) over the next five years and will purchase an 11 percent equity interest.
- The Alberta Research Council (Edmonton, Alb., Canada) and AC Biotechnics AB (Arlöv, Sweden) will develop commercial production processes for Advanced Genetic Sciences' (Berkeley, CA) snow- and ice-inducer, Snowmax™.
- The Upjohn Company (Kalamazoo, MI) will distribute animal health care products developed by Molecular Genetics (Minnetonka, MN) to some 57 international markets. The deal includes Molecular's Gene-col™₉₉, a monoclonal antibody product to prevent calf death from scours.
- Immunomedics (Newark, NJ) will develop a monoclonal antibody-based imaging kit for the detection of human cancers for the Technicare Corp (Solon, OH), a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson.

The Netherlands has succeeded in attracting a U.S. biotechnology company. Bolstered by \$2.5 million in equity capital from Holland's \$400 million MIP Equity Fund, Centocor

(Malvern, PA) plans to create a Dutch subsidiary, Centocor-Europe B.V., that will include a \$25 million facility for R&D and manufacture of *in vivo* imaging and therapeutic products. Also, Molecular Genetics (Minnetonka, MN) is reported near agreement on establishing a plant genetic engineering company in the Netherlands.

Human superoxide dismutase has been cloned and expressed by BioTechnology General Corp. (New York). The firm is now providing the enzyme—potentially useful in treating cardiac ischemia, oxygen toxicity in premature infants, and for renal transplants—to hospitals in preparation for human clinical trials.

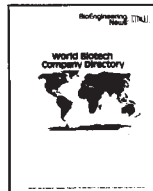


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