

REPORTS OF NOTE

Asthma: Current and Emerging Therapies and Markets

The prevalence of asthma and the number of deaths attributable to it are rising. A new report compiled by Lucy J. Sannes, *Asthma: Current and Emerging Therapies and Markets*, examines the market opportunities for the development of new drugs or therapeutic approaches to improve control and to reduce the prevalence and incidence rates of asthma.

The goal of asthma therapy is to control the symptoms: shortness of breath, wheezing, a tightness in the chest and coughing. Two types of drugs currently used by patients are anti-inflammatory agents and bronchodilators. Currently 80 drug companies are developing new asthma therapies in current or new drug classes; many of these drugs are still being researched or are in clinical trials. The need for improved asthma therapies will make the anti-asthmatic market highly active and competitive in the near future.

Profiles of several anti-asthmatic drug companies, including Abbott, Ciba-Geigy, Ltd., and Zeneca are highlighted with their developmental activity and current market shares. The report's cost is \$2,400.

Decision Resources, Inc.

Bay Colony Corporate Center

1100 Winter Street

Waltham, Massachusetts 02154

BIO: Editors' and Reporters' Guide to Biotechnology

The Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) recently published a useful reference tool for editors and reporters. The guide provides concise information on key issues, statistics and industry terminology.

The guide is divided into five major categories. The state of the industry provides background information about biotechnology that includes definitions. Biotechnology plays a role in health care by examining the different facets of health care, including drug production. In the environment, bioremediation technology is used in the clean-up of contaminated hazardous waste sites and underground storage tank sites. The "Other Uses" section highlights DNA fingerprinting and the Human Genome Project. A glossary concludes the document.

The Editors' and Reporters' Guide to Biotechnology is also available on Internet via <http://www.bio.com>. The complete guide is available on the BIO on-line home page, which gives the user access to the document by clicking on "Biotechnology Industry Organization" in the first paragraph, then choosing "BIO Publication Online". The guide is located on the publication menu.

Biotechnology Industry Organization

1625 K Street NW, Suite 1100

Washington, D.C. 20006

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: Diagnosis, Epidemiology, Prevention, and Treatment

The Institute of Medicine has issued a new report on fetal alcohol syndrome that recommends an expansive approach to future research on a well-known but intractable problem. Previous studies have stated that alcohol can cause serious harm to the child, from low birth weight and facial abnormalities to long-term behaviour and learning problems. The question remains: how much alcohol is dangerous and at what stage during the fetus' development does the alcohol begin to cause damage?

Without answering these questions, the report recommends full-scale prevention tactics that target everybody. Rather than preaching that drinking is bad during pregnancy, research should focus on why some women continue to drink heavily. Health professionals could screen women to identify those who drink moderate to heavy amounts and refer them for treatment.

Women should continue to heed the US Surgeon General's warning and refrain from consuming alcohol during pregnancy until research has determined how much alcohol is dangerous to the development of the fetus.

National Academy Press

2101 Constitution Avenue NW

Washington, D.C. 20418

Compiled by Jennifer K. Snow

CORRIGENDA

Marked amelioration of established collagen-induced arthritis by treatment with antibodies to CD23 *in vivo*

CHRISTINE PLATER-ZYBERK & JEAN-YVES BONNEFOY

Nature Medicine 1, 781-785; 1995.

C.P.-Z. thanks the ARC of Great Britain for their financial support while at the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, London.

HIV-1 Recombinant poxvirus vaccine induces cross-protection against HIV-2 challenge in rhesus macaques

ALASH'LE G. ABIMIKU, GENOVEFFA FRANCHINI, JAMES TARTAGLIA, KRISTINE ALDRICH, MARIA MYAGKIKH, PHILLIP D. MARKHAM, PELE CHONG, MICHEL KLEIN, MARIE-PAULE KIENY, ENZO PAOLETTI, ROBERT C. GALLO & MARJORIE ROBERT-GUROFF

Nature Medicine 1, 321-329; 1995.

The authors provide the following correction to protective status.

Table 1 Summary of viral detection in immunized and control rhesus macaques following challenge with HIV-2_{S81.6669}

	Viral detection	Months post-HIV-2 challenge						Protective status
		1	2	3	4	5	6	
Controls								
LI	VI	-	-	+				I

VI, virus isolated; I, infected.