

ECNP Medicines Chest Initiative – Update February 2017

Ann Hayes and David Nutt

Background

The 'Medicines Chest' is an initiative by the ECNP to provide access for researchers to pharmacological tools in order to support human experimental medicine studies. This initiative is viewed as particularly important given the recent reduction of research by pharmaceutical companies in this field. The most attractive compounds for inclusion in the Medicines Chest are those that could readily be employed in human studies, for example, compounds that have been shelved by pharmaceutical companies but for which clinical safety packages and possibly drug substance are available. Drug substance is not essential, as long as the regulatory documents are available to allow compound to be synthesized to the appropriate specification for use in a human study. If such information is available it is possible to get the compound synthesized by a Contract Manufacturing organisation and the cost can be covered in a grant application.

Status

A summary of the compounds currently in the Medicines Chest is presented below.

Compound	Mechanism
Befiradol	5HT1a agonist with high affinity and selectivity
Emapunil	Translocator protein agonist (physiological studies only)
ADX10061	Dopamine D1 antagonist
Dipraglurant	mGluR5 negative allosteric modulator
	GABA-B receptor positive allosteric modulator
Bavisant	Histamine H3 antagonist
JNJ- 18038683	5HT7 antagonist
Idazoxan	A2 adrenoceptor agonist (physiological studies only)
Volinanserin (MDL100907)	5-HT _{2A} antagonist

Other Compounds

In some cases, companies have not wanted to put compounds into the chest, but have pointed out that they have their own initiatives for academics to access clinical stage compounds. In this regard, we would draw your attention to:

- The AstraZeneca 'clinical Compound Bank' <http://openinnovation.astrazeneca.com/what-we-offer/clinical-compound-bank/>
- An initiative by the Medical Research Council in the UK (open to UK-based academics only) as described in http://www.pharmatimes.com/Article/14-07-22/Pharma_pact_with_MRC_to_repurpose_stalled_compounds.aspx

- GSK will make certain compounds available on direct application by the academic to the company.

Contracts

In order to facilitate contractual arrangements between the pharmaceutical company and academic institution, a number of sample contracts are available. Agreement on one of these templates, or a similar version preferred by the company, will be reached when a compound enters the medicines chest and can subsequently be used by other researchers when accessing the compound.

Funding opportunities

Once a compound is in the medicines chest, the ECNP encourages grant proposals relating to it from its members. Clearly a number of different grant-providing bodies can be approached but we have spoken with the UK Medical Research Council who have said they would be willing to receive applications based on compounds in the chest. Also, the Stanley Medical Research Institute (SMRI) have registered interest in receiving applications relating to this initiative.

For further information contact Dr Ann Hayes by email: ecnp-medicineschest@ecnp.eu