

Update on the Programme

The programme for the 13th ICDRA conference from 16 to 19 of September 2008 in Berne, Switzerland, is steadily progressing. A lot of moderators and speakers have confirmed their attendance, so we can expect a lot of practically orientated presentations. Please just click [here](#) to view the detailed programme.

The programme for the Pre-Conference (14 and 15 September 2008) is also at a very developed stage. Please follow the link to view more details: [detailed programme Pre-Conference](#).

Programme Spotlight: Workshop on Safety and Pandemic Preparedness

Pandemics and epidemics are public health emergencies that put sudden and intense stress on all institutions involved. Regulatory authorities will be faced with several issues that need to be dealt with rapidly, efficiently and possibly with limited resources as pandemics are likely to disrupt many aspects of public life. Medicines, vaccines and blood products will have to be made available at short notice for large populations, which includes large scale quality control and intense monitoring of therapeutic agents that might not have been previously administered outside clinical development settings. In the case of an avian influenza pandemic the safety of vaccines administered during the pre-pandemic phase needs to be evaluated very rapidly while the development, production and quality control of the actual pandemic vaccine is completed. Adequate storage of therapeutic agents and safe and rapid distribution channels are further challenges to be taken on.

The 13th ICDRA 2008 proposes a workshop on Safety and Pandemic Preparedness on Tuesday, 16 September. The following topics will be covered by prominent speakers from Canada, Germany, Switzerland, the UK and USA:

- Medicines and associated regulatory issues relevant in the pandemic context
- Vaccines and associated regulatory issues relevant in the pandemic context
- PaniFlow tool for monitoring drug/vaccine adverse events during a pandemic
- Blood supply and blood products: regulatory issues in the pandemic context
- Convalescent plasmas during a pandemic

This workshop will address the relevant regulatory and safety issues of medicines as well as biologicals. An electronic tool (PaniFlow) especially developed for monitoring adverse reactions during large scale vaccination programs with new vaccines in a pandemic setting will be presented.

Poster Session - Extension of deadline

With regard to the announcement in our first ICDRA Newsletter the deadline for submission of an abstract for the ICDRA poster session has been extended until 31 July 2008.

Submit your abstract with name, address, title of the poster and a short description of the content to the ICDRA 2008 Organising Office at icdra@swissmedic.ch. We are looking forward to reading your proposals!

Keynote Presentation

We are pleased to announce the participation of William M. Burns, CEO Roche Pharmaceuticals Division and Prof Dr Marcel Tanner, Chief Executive of the Swiss Tropical Institute in Basel, at the keynote address on Friday, 19 September 2008, the last day of the conference.

William M. Burns joined Roche in 1986. He was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Pharmaceuticals Division of The Roche Group in January 2005 and was elected to the Corporate Executive Committee in 2000.

Prof Dr Tanner leads the Swiss Tropical Institute since 1997. The institute was founded in 1943 as a public organisation. It is supported by the Swiss Federal Government and the Canton of Basel-Stadt. Its overall goal is to contribute to the improvement of the health of populations internationally and nationally through excellence in research, services, and teaching and training.

The social side of ICDRA

The social events are an important aspect of ICDRA. They mean a chance to establish bilateral contacts, to exchange experiences and opinions... or simply to enjoy a chat.

The Gala Dinner

The gala dinner within the framework of the 13th ICDRA will be devoted to Swiss tradition. The very venue - the Kornhaus Cellar - is bathed in tradition and history. The "Kornhaus" in Bern was built between 1711 and 1718. The three upper floors were used as a granary, while the vast ground floor served as a market hall on market day and the cellar housed barrels filled with tithed and domain wines. "Venice sits on water, but Bern sits on wine" was a saying at the time.

Swiss folklore of yesterday and the present

We have concocted a programme of musical delights to present our national folklore to you. You will be welcomed by the majestic tones of two Alphorns, an impressive instrument once used by Swiss herdsman as a means of communication. Yodelling - another of our specialities - was once a way of sending messages over long distances. A women's yodelling choir will present this ancient art of song to you, followed by a second section in which a solo artist will show you how it has been brought up to date. Flags are as much a part of Switzerland as its world-renowned chocolate. As long ago as in the early Middle Ages, flag, banners and pennants were insignia of power and nobility. Today, flag-throwing in Switzerland is a type of sport with a long-standing tradition. Enjoy a unique demonstration of it by two absolute masters.

A traditional, Swiss evening in a sublime setting, with guests from a host of different countries: we are really looking forward to it!



The „Kornhaus“ Cellar





Traditional costume

We are expecting representatives from many different countries, to promote collaboration among drug regulatory authorities and coordinating the work of the various authorities and thus enhance the safety, efficacy and quality of medicines. We would be delighted to highlight this international aspect of ICDRA in a visual way, and are adopting an idea from an earlier edition of the Conference: that of inviting all participants to attend the gala evening in their own national costume. We look forward to a striking, colourful mix of traditional dress. For our part, the ICDRA 2008 Organising Office members will be dressed in traditional Swiss finery!

Excursions

On the second day of the 13th ICDRA - Wednesday 17 September - there will be an afternoon excursion. Participants can choose between 3 destinations that are among the most stunning Switzerland has to offer:

- Lucerne and Lake Lucerne
- Mt Rothorn, Brienz
- Gruyère

Anticipation is always a pleasure, so we'll be presenting one of the excursions in each coming newsletter.

Excursion to Lucerne including boat trip on Lake Lucerne

Leaving from Hotel Allegro/Kursaal at 13.00h. Coach ride through the picturesque Emmental region to Lucerne. On arrival (14.30h) in the 'city of lights' on the lakeside we will take you on a guided tour by foot (duration: 2 hours). Lucerne is the ideal city for strolling around, which is why the tour isn't called a walking tour, but a strolling tour. You can learn some important, funny and true facts about the history of Lucerne, its churches, bridges, its oriel windows, alleyways, towers and squares, and also of course about Lucerne's emblematic landmark, the wooden Chapel Bridge with the water tower. The stroll around the city ends at the quayside where the ship awaits you for a one-hour lake cruise. Once back in Lucerne there is still time to explore this fascinating city on your own. At 18.00h, journey back to Berne by coach. Arriving in Berne at approx. 19.15h.

Register now!

If you haven't registered for the 13th ICDRA, you can do it right now on the dedicated website: www.icdra.ch. Deadline for registration as well as for the hotel booking is 31 July 2008.

Please pass this Newsletter on to anyone who would be interested. You can find more information about ICDRA at: www.icdra.ch