

The Pharmaceutical R&D Information Systems Management Executive (PRISME) Forum

The Pharmaceutical R&D Information Systems Management Executive (PRISME) Forum (prismeforum.org) is the *de facto* R&D IT leadership group of the global biopharmaceutical industry. Currently, it has 64 members drawn from 38 different biopharmaceutical companies estimated by R&D expenditure, representing 9 of the top 10 companies and 23 of the top 30. It hosts two face-to-face meetings—Europe in spring, USA in fall—and virtually otherwise.

The meetings are in two parts: the first part (the so-called Business Meeting of one and a half days) is set aside for members to discuss current issues and the emerging trends affecting their members and their organizations. In particular, the session entitled “Company Updates” forms an information-rich and important part of this section of the meeting; each member is able to update the Forum on the key activities and opportunities in that member’s company allowing members to obtain a view on the current key issues in biopharmaceutical R&D IT. The second part (the Technical Meeting of one day) is open to non-members too, albeit by invitation only. It covers in detail a “hot topic” previously identified as important by the PRISME Forum and is addressed by a faculty of carefully selected domain experts.

These two parts of the PRISME Forum meeting provide the unique opportunity in biopharmaceutical industry R&D IT for its senior practitioners to network and form new friendships.

Objective

The objective of the PRISME Forum is to promote and represent the common interests of, and improve conditions in, R&D IT in the biopharmaceutical industries by:

- providing a forum for its members to exchange non-commercially sensitive information to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of global biopharmaceutical R&D IT;
- educating the Corporation’s members regarding best practices in biopharmaceutical R&D IT;
- promoting the development and use of open standards for applications in R&D;
- creating opportunities for open and informal dialogue between its members and suppliers of life science R&D IT products and services;
- alerting its members to new and emerging opportunities in life sciences R&D IT.

Background

The PRISME Forum is a not-for-profit, type 501 (c) 6 company, incorporated in the State of Missouri. It was formed in 2011 by the merger of PRIME (the origins of which lie with senior pharma R&D IT Executives and the Digital Equipment Corporation) and PRISM (conceived in 1997 and formed in 1998). PRISM was a community of R&D IT managers and their senior colleagues. It was constructed bearing in mind the model established by the international High Energy Physics Community with their HEP-CCC (Computer Coordination Committee).

An objective of the HEP-CCC was to encourage albeit competitive HEP sites to coordinate the construction of their non-competitive computer infrastructure.

Governance

The PRISME Forum is governed by a Board of Directors and an elected Chairman. Currently, the Chairman is Dr. Dan Chapman, Head, Information Management, IT Early Solutions Information Management at UCB, whose term of office commenced in November 2018 and was renewed in 2020. The previous Chairman was Dr. Olivier Gien, Global Head Medical IT at Sanofi. The Board of Directors and Chairman are supported by other sub-committees of the organization. In particular, the Technical Meeting Advisory Committee serves to advise on the faculty to present at the Technical Meetings.

Topics that recent Technical Meetings have addressed include:

Half-Year	Location	Title of the Technical Meeting
Fall 2011	Cambridge, MA	The Virtualization of R&D
Spring 2012	Alderley Park, UK	Patient-Centred Approaches to R&D
Fall 2012	Whitehouse Station, NJ	Delivering Innovation through Collaborative, Networked R&D
Spring 2013	Paris, France	How is Pharma R&D Exploiting Big Data?
Fall 2013	Boston, MA	Implications of Real-World Evidence for Pharmaceutical R&D IT
Spring 2014	North Mymms, UK	Visualising the Value of Big Data
Fall 2014	Thousand Oaks, CA	Collaboration
Spring 2015	Basel, Switzerland	Disrupting IT for Biopharma R&D
Fall 2015	Plainsboro, NJ	Opportunities in Translation Science in Biopharma R&D
Spring 2016	Prague, Czech Republic	Understanding Disease through Mining Clinical Trial Data
Fall 2016	Celgene, San Diego	New Ways of Generating Insights in Biopharmaceutical R&D
Spring 2017	Berlin, Germany	If Data Is the Currency of R&D, How Do We Recognize its Value?
Fall 2017	Cambridge, MA	The Potential of AI in Healthcare
Spring 2018	Paris, France	Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare Part II
Fall 2018	Deerfield, IL	Data-readiness in a World of AI
Spring 2019	Basel, Switzerland	What Does “Digital” Mean for Biopharma R&D?
Fall 2019	Boston, MA	Where Technology Creates Value for Pharma R&D
Spring 2020	Online	How Does Data and Analytics Transform R&D
Fall 2020	Online	Digital-enabled Change in R&D & Healthcare as Triggered by COVID-19
Spring 2021	Online	Machine-Ready Data in Support of Data Science
Fall 2021	Online	Research on The Cloud

Contact

PRISME Forum members are always interested to learn of innovative approaches to the common challenges of providing high-quality, computer-based technology support for biopharmaceutical industry R&D. Such innovative approaches might be based on new products and/or new services. Furthermore, the PRISME Forum is interested in identifying and understanding the role of other R&D IT-focused cross-company alliances operating in the life science R&D information ecosystem.

The PRISME Forum is the venue to send ideas and topics that merit the attention of the R&D IT biopharmaceutical industry leadership group. Typically, such topics would be presented to the PRISME Forum members (e.g. TransCelerate Biopharma Inc., Innovative Medicines Initiative, the tranSMART Foundation and the Research Life Science Cloud, AI in Healthcare, etc.) or would be incorporated into the agenda for one of the PRISME Forum’s Technical Meetings.

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