USAIC to host annual US-India BioPharma & Healthcare Summit in USA

Our News Bureau - Mumbai

The USA-India Chamber of Commerce (USAIC), a bilateral Chamber of Commerce aimed at promoting and facilitating trade and investment between the US and India is organising its annual US-India BioPharma & Healthcare Summit on May 6th, at Hyatt Regency Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.

Co-Chairs for 2010 Summit are: Dr Martin Mackay, President PharmaTherapeutics R&D Pfizer; Hari Bhartia, Managing Director, Jubilant Organosys; Dr Mervyn Turner, Chief Strategy Officer and Senior Vice President- Emerging Markets, Merck & Co. and Dr Naresh Trehan, Chairman, Medanta- The Medicity.

On the advisory board of the Summit are industry leaders, investors and academicians Dr Marc Cluzel, Executive Vice President and Global Head of R&D, sanofi-avantis; Dr Paul Stoffels, Group Chairman, Global Pharma R&D, Johnson & Johnson; Dr M K Bhan, Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Biotechnology; Ashok Kumar, IAS, Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Pharmaceuticals; Dr K V Subramaniam, Chief Executive Officer, Reliance Life Sciences; Dr Victor Dzau, Chancellor Health Affairs, Duke University; Dr David Lacey, Senior Vice President and Head of Research, Amgen; CSN Murthy, Chief Executive Officer, Aurigene; Dr Allen Spiegel, Dean, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva University; Dr Peter Mueller, Executive Vice President- Global R&D and CSO, Vertex Pharmaceuticals; Joel Marcus, Chairman and CEO, Alexandria; Dr. Barry Bloom, Professor and past Dean, Harvard School of Public Health; Dr Michael Rosenblatt, Chief Medical Officer, Merck & Co; Dr Gunther Winkler, Senior Vice President, Biogen Idec; Jonathan Fleming, Managing General Partner, Oxford Biosciences; Dr David Golan, Dean of Graduate Education, Harvard Medical School.

According to Karun Rishi, President, USA-India Chamber of Commerce, "The annual R&D spend of just the advisory board members is in excess of $25 billion. From the business perspective, this clearly is a great opportunity. Access is a key to business success. Having so many high profile key decision makers at the Summit in one day at one place is remarkable. I hope the industry will be able to leverage this opportunity. We have been working for the last few years to create this ecosystem. I must admit, we have succeeded in creating it."
The academic side is well represented with deans and chancellors of top medical and public health schools participating, notably: Harvard Medical School, Duke University, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston University School of Public Health Tufts Medical School and University of Pittsburgh.

In a statement Ashok Kumar, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals and an advisory board member to the Summit commented, "The US has been an important partner of India in our overall trade and our pharma sector has been an important component of it. US-India cooperation in pharma would be an important aspect of department of pharmaceutical vision and mission and would play an important role in our efforts of fostering innovation, creating mutually beneficial business opportunities and partnerships. The USA-India Chamber of Commerce has since the past years continued to support this department's efforts towards newer initiatives in the pharma sector."

Dr Marc Cluzel, Global Head, R&D for sanofi-avantis and also on the advisory board said, "India is now developing very fast with its own R&D model. During my recent visit to India and thanks to several interactions I had with top officials, leading scientists and top entrepreneurial managers, I was able to get comforted in this view. What was striking and encouraging to me was that the government and private sector are working hand in hand in India. I encourage you to attend this Summit since this presents a unique opportunity to meet all stakeholders in one place with a common goal of fostering pharma innovation."

Dr Naresh Trehan, Co-Chair of the Summit and Chairman of
Medanta- The Medicity, "The growth in the healthcare services in India is driven by the 350 million strong middle class people aspiring for quality and affordable healthcare services. According to the WHO report, India needs to add 80,000 hospital beds each year for the next five years to meet the demands of its growing population. This presents a great opportunity for ethical players with long term view." Dr Trehan emphasised the importance of hospitals to engage in research and innovative technologies. Medanta recently tied up with Duke University. I encourage you to participate in the Summit since this presents a great opportunity to learn, share, network and benefit for all us, commented Dr Trehan."

Minister of State for Chemicals & Fertilizers Srikant Jena said, "The Summit provides an insight to the policy makers regarding growing and varying needs of various stakeholders and thus to decide upon policy initiatives to facilitate cross border investments, create public-private-academic partnerships and open new opportunities. I must applaud the USA-India Chamber of Commerce for persistently doing phenomenal work in facilitating trade and investment between Indian and US Industry, the domino effect of which is far-reaching. I wish all success to the US-India Bio-Pharma and Healthcare Summit-2010 and wish the USA-India Chamber of Commerce keeps attaining great landmarks."

The Summit will have panel discussions and keynotes covering drug discovery and development, licensing, industry-academic partnerships, healthcare opportunities, clinical research, funding innovation and cross border M&A trends. On the sidelines there will be advisory board meeting and pre-Summit brainstorming session for operational people focussed on collaborative research and sourcing.

Aneesh Chopra, Assistant to President Barack Obama and Chief Technology Officer, White House is confirmed to speak at the Summit. McKinsey & Company is the Knowledge Partner.