

Editorial

Beat Löffler

Dear readers



This is the first issue of the *European Journal of Nanomedicine* in which the collaboration between the CLINAM Foundation and the Publishing House DE GRUYTER is manifested. CLINAM was looking in the last year for a partner who is a professional publisher, able to bring the journal into a flow of regular editions and spreading the contents through many professional portals so that it can be hoped that the citation quote shall be rapidly rising. Last autumn it was clear that CLINAM holds the editorial board and the publishing shall be done by De Gruyter and that this will lead to excellence. From now on you can read the journal online on <http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/ejnm> and all members of the *European Society for Nanomedicine* shall get a quarterly hardcopy by mail. We thank De Gruyter's staff for the excellent start of cooperation and hope that it shall be a great benefit to all our readers!

This issue of the *European Journal of Nanomedicine* appears just ahead of the *5th European Conference for Clinical Nanomedicine* which evolved to the "European Summit for Clinical Nanomedicine" in cooperation with the European Technology Platform on Nanomedicine (ETPN). Ten European organisations* join this year as collaborators of CLINAM 5/12 and assist to a programme that brings together again over 100 high excellence speakers from all over the world. The goal of the steadily growing conference is to advance the state of nanomedicine in clinical applications for the benefit of patients and to explore its implications in an interdisciplinary context.

The speakers and the participants of this meeting consist of medical doctors, scientists from nanoscience, biology, chemistry, physics, pharmaceuticals and other fields, including a number of speakers who count among the fathers and pioneers of nanoscience and nanomedicine. Since two years, this conference also hosts meetings from the regulation authorities that

create fruitful discussions with the clinicians. These meetings aim at improving and facilitating translation of excellent research into approved therapies for the benefit of patients and society. The time to bring nanomedicines to the market is still challenging, long and of substantial economic risk for a company. The expectation is that the conference assists in optimizing regulation pathways for regulatory bodies and in successful translation for industry. Starting from unsolved medical problems and presenting the latest developments in nanoscience, the speakers in Basel discuss various fields of medicine, this year with an emphasis on the interplay of molecular imaging and diagnostics with targeted therapies. In addition to a number of clinical highlights there are also discussions addressing the issues of the toxicity of nanoparticles, of ethical implications and of the relevance of nanotechnology for future healthcare. Like all prior CLINAM conferences, this is a "debate conference". Most speakers make their statement in 10 min. After four to six such statements they are followed by in-depth interdisciplinary discussion of 20–60 min with the participants who bring in their broad knowledge of their respective fields, like medicine, biology, physics, chemistry and nanoscience. A particular highlight of the conferences is the "Late Breaking Clinical Trial Sessions", where the latest clinical studies will be presented and critically examined.

We hope that you will take a glimpse into the web to see the high variety and the importance of this annual meeting in Basel (www.clinam.org).

In a comparatively new area such as Nanomedicine, worldwide competition makes it essential that translation of Nanomedicine becomes much more efficient. Therefore, we are glad that in Basel important pioneers exhibit their products and services during this event but also that 20 Universities from all over Europe present themselves in the "University Village" and will discuss the approach to leadership of the Universities and the ingredients for such excellence.

I wish you a pleasant and interesting reading.

Beat Löffler, MA
CEO of the *European Foundation for Clinical Nanomedicine*

* Joint Collaborators for CLINAM 5/2012.

• European Foundation for Clinical Nanomedicine (CLINAM), Basel (CH) • European Technology Platform on Nanomedicine (ETPN), Berlin (D) • The International Association for Pharmaceutical Technology, Focus Group "Drug Delivery" (APV), Mainz (D) • European Medicines Agency (EMA), London (UK) • European Society for Nanomedicine (ESNAM), Basel (CH) • Helmholtz Institute for Pharmaceutical Research Saarland (HIPS), Saarbrücken (D) • "BioNanoNet Research Association" (BioNanoNet), Graz (A) • EU, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (RTD), Brussels (B) • European Association for Predictive and Preventive and Personalised Medicine (EPMA), Brussels (B) • European Platform for Photodynamic Medicine (EPPM), Hull (UK) • European Materials Research Society (E-MRS), Strasbourg (F).