



Network of Universities  
from the Capitals of Europe in cooperation with



**3<sup>rd</sup> UNICA STUDENT WEBINAR ON  
“PHARMA AND BIOMEDICAL CAREERS IN EUROPE**

**Monday 25 January 2021, 10 am CET**

**Participation is free**

**Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89589882981>**

**Further information:**

**<http://www.unica-network.eu/event/unica-student-webinars-pharma-and-luciano.saso@uniroma1.it>**

**FINAL PROGRAMME**

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION (15’)**

**Luciano Saso**, UNICA President

**Ruben Viegas**, Vice President of External Relations in EPSA

**Sibel Süzen**, Professor of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Ankara University and Member of the UNICA Steering Committee

**Josse R Thomas**, Guest Lecturer at KU Leuven and Senior Consultant at PharmaCS

**SESSION I**

**Career paths in medical research by *Daniele D’Ambrosio***, Head of Clinical Research, Galapagos, Basel, Switzerland (15’)

**Job and career opportunities in the medical technology sector by *Olivier Kerckhove***, Managing Director, Xplore Life Science, London, UK (15’)

**Career opportunities in Regulatory Affairs by *Mónica Serrano***, Regulatory and Safety department (Safety professional) in Novo Nordisk Pharma S.A (Spain) (15’)

**Discussion (15’)**

**Comfort break (5’)**

**SESSION II**

**How to start your own company by *Lieven Baert***, Jalima Pharma, Belgium (15’)

**Thinking beyond science: the creation of a startup as way to exploit scientific results By *Fabrizio Conicella***, General Manager, OpenZone SpA, Zcube srl (Italy) (15’)

**Prometheus: story of an Italian startup from research to entrepreneurship by *Valentina Menozzi*** CTO Prometheus S.r.l., Parma, Italy (15’)

**Discussion (15’)**

**CLOSING: Luciano Saso & Josse R Thomas (5’)**



**Prof. Luciano Saso** (Faculty of Pharmacy and Medicine, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy) received his PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences from Sapienza University in 1992. He is author of more than 250 scientific articles published in peer reviewed international journals with impact factor (SASO-L in [www.pubmed.com](http://www.pubmed.com), total impact factor > 800, H-index Google Scholar 47, Scopus 39). He coordinated several research projects and has been referee for many national and international funding agencies and international scientific journals in the last 30 years. Prof. Saso has extensive experience in international relations and he is currently Vice-Rector for European University Networks at Sapienza University of Rome. In the last 15 years, he participated in several

projects and has been speaker and chair at many international conferences organised by the UNICA network of the universities from the Capitals of Europe (<http://www.unica-network.eu/>) and other university associations. Prof. Saso has been Member of the Steering Committee of UNICA for two mandates (2011-2015) and he is currently President of UNICA (2015-2023).



**Ruben Viegas** is a Portuguese pharmacist from the south of Portugal. He has a master degree in physical exercise and health and is currently a PhD student in the Faculty of Pharmacy from the University of Lisbon. He is currently the Vice President of External Relations in EPSA."



**Professor Sibel Suzen**, Ankara University, Faculty of Pharmacy, UNICA steering Committee member. Sibel Süzen is professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy of Ankara University. Her research is focused on the synthesis and development of antioxidant-based anticancer compounds, their biological evaluation, melatonin-based compounds in drug research. She graduated from Ankara University Faculty of Pharmacy in 1985. After completing her Master's Degree in Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the same university in 1989, she received her doctorate in 1997 from the University of Swansea, UK, Department of Chemistry. She continued her research at Swansea University in various years. She has been a member of European Farmacopea expert in Group (Semi synthetic and synthetic

compounds) since 2011. In the last 10 years, she has been working as Institutional Erasmus Coordinator, Internationalization and Foreign Relations Coordinator of Ankara University. She has been coordinating the opening of English taught programs as well as international projects, internship agreements and educational programs of the EU. She was vice-rector for International Relations and Projects at Ankara University since 2019-20. She carried out numerous projects supported by Tübitak and University resources. She is the author of more than 100 scientific articles and many chapters in various books both in Turkey and abroad. She worked as project manager and organized several scientific meetings. She has been a member of the Editorial Board of various scientific journals.

**Josse R Thomas** graduated as a Pharmacist and holds a PhD degree in Medical Sciences (pharmacology) from the University of Leuven. He is also certified as Clinical Pharmacologist and has more than 30 years of experience in



clinical drug development in the pharmaceutical industry. In addition, he holds various academic and consulting positions, including Guest Lecturer at KU Leuven (clinical drug development), member of the Research Ethics Committee of UZ/KU Leuven, member of the Clinical Trials Board of KCE, member of the working group at the FAMHP for the implementation of the EU Clinical Trials Regulation & Medical Devices Regulation in Belgium, and Senior Consultant at PharmaCS. He is also co-author of the book 'Global New Drug Development: An Introduction', published by Wiley-Blackwell, and a reference in its field.



**Daniele D'Ambrosio**, M.D., Ph.D., is Senior Vice President, Head of Clinical Research at Galapagos, a biopharma company focused on developing novel treatments for fibrotic and immune-mediated disorders. In his function, he provides scientific and management leadership to Galapagos clinical programs. Prior to joining Galapagos, Daniele held various R&D positions in leading biotech and pharmaceutical companies including Roche, Novartis, Actelion, J&J.

Daniele earned his M.D. and Ph.D. in Experimental Medicine and Immunology from La Sapienza University, Rome, Italy. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Immunology at the National Jewish Hospital in Denver, has published more than 60 scientific articles, and is inventor on one issued patent. Daniele has served on the Editorial Board of the British Journal of Pharmacology, and has held a Professorship at the School of medical, molecular and cellular biotechnologies at Vita Salute San Raffaele University, Milano, Italy. During his career in the pharmaceutical industry, Daniele contributed to the development of novel therapies such as Ilaris<sup>®</sup> and Jyseleca<sup>®</sup>.

### **Job and career opportunities in the medtech sector**

**Olivier Kerckhove**, Managing Director, Xplore Life Science, London, UK

Olivier will be providing an overview of the current employment landscape in the European Medical Device sector and provide an insight in the current market trends for 2021, influenced by the Global Pandemic and the Regulatory Challenges in the Medical Device World. As a Recruitment expert, Olivier will also be providing an overview on how to get noticed by the Best Companies in the industry as well as the Key Required Soft Skills in order to kick-start your career and increase your chances to success. In a world where VUCA (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity) are at the centre of everybody's attention, he will share his views on how the market will evolve in the next 3 years and how you can build your own future proof personal brand.



Olivier Kerckhove has been in the HR/Recruitment and Consultancy space for almost 20 years. He started his career at a Global Recruitment business where he held multiple international leadership roles, managing and building teams internally and externally for his customers. He is the current MD of Xplore, a Niche Life Science Staffing and Consulting business with Offices in the New York, London and Amsterdam.

### **Career opportunities in Regulatory Affairs**

**by Mónica Serrano Novo Nordisk Pharma S.A, Spain**



**Mónica Serrano** has more than 15 years' experience in the Science and Pharma sector. She is a graduate from Complutense University of Madrid (Spain) where she obtained a Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy. Mónica also has a Master's degree in Clinical Analysis (Complutense University) and a Master's degree in Regulatory Affairs (Official College of Pharmacists of Madrid). She specialised in Pharmacovigilance Affairs and holds a Master's degree of Alcalá University. Mónica joined Novo Nordisk Pharma (Spain) in 2015 as Safety Professional in the Regulatory and Safety department. She currently holds the position of interim Regulatory and Safety Manager. Novo Nordisk is a global healthcare company, founded in 1923 and headquartered just outside Copenhagen, Denmark. The purpose of the company is to drive change to defeat diabetes and other serious chronic diseases such as obesity, and rare blood and rare endocrine diseases.

### **How to start your own company**

by **Lieven Baert**, Jalima Pharma, Belgium

Lieven started his own consultancy company “Jalima Pharma”. He will explain how to start a company, how to make a business plan, how to find clients, how to run a company and how a company works from a financial point of view.



**Lieven Baert** studied at the University of Ghent (Belgium) where he obtained the degrees of Pharmacist, Industrial Pharmacist, Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Technology and Master in Business and Administration. After a post doc at Merck Canada, Lieven worked at Janssen Pharmaceutica for more than 10 years, where he held different positions, such as Manager Clinical Supplies, CM&C leader and Director Formulation group. Thereafter Lieven joined the sister company Tibotec where he became Senior Research Fellow / Vice President Early Development and Innovation. In 2007, Lieven was awarded the Johnson & Johnsons Philip B. Hoffman award for Scientists for his innovation work on novel dosage forms for anti-viral drugs. Lieven is inventor on 22 patents and is Flanders District of Creativity Fellow. Lieven started his own company “Jalima Pharma” in 2010.

### **Thinking beyond science: the creation of a startup as way to exploit scientific results**

**Fabrizio Conicella**,

General Manager, OpenZone SpA, Zcube srl (Italy)

The creation of a startup is one of the way to exploit scientific results. It provide prospective benefits to the society creating value for citizens. This is particularly important in health sector where citizens are also patients affected by specific diseases. There is an ethical aspect in stimulating the development of a solution and an economic aspect creating economic value. Which are the ingredients? Which supports are existing? The example of the Open Accelerator will present one of the possible path to transform a scientific result in a viable business.



**Fabrizio Conicella** has 25 years of experience in the field of innovation and technology transfer in the area of human health and life sciences, covering positions in project management, business development and general management. Vice President of InnovUp Association he was also Vice President of ALISEI - Advanced Life sciences in Italy Association and President of Italian Association of science Park. He currently holds the role of general manager of OpenZone a private science park specialized in life sciences and of Zcube a research venture managing an innovative corporate acceleration program. In the last 20 years he was project manager. Business development manager and general manager of Bioindustry Park Silvano Fumero Spa, a science park focused in life sciences, and for 5 years cluster manager of bioPmed cluster, an innovative clusters of around 100 companies

conceived to boost R&D activities. He also held the role of contract professor in innovation management and business planning at the biotechnology faculties of the University of Turin and the Eastern Piedmont University. Over the years he has gained experience also in supporting different startups in life sciences field, particularly in defining the business model and in growth strategies identification.



**Valentina Menozzi**, CTO and co-founder of Prometheus (<https://www.prometheus3d.com/>), graduated in Medical, Pharmaceutical and Veterinary Biotechnologies at the University of Parma. She worked in R&D departments of public and private institutes: University of Parma, Physiology Department of the University of

Lausanne (CH) and the Pharmacology and Toxicology Preclinical Department of Chiesi Farmaceutici. In 2017 she co-founded the MedTech startup Prometheus with the colleagues Alice Michelangeli (CSO) and Riccardo Della Ragione (CEO), contributing to the development of the product Ematik: a personalized and bioabsorbable patch for wound care. Her main roles concern the technical and scientific validation of the product and the managing of the regulatory pathway for the certification of the medical device.