

Global Practitioners attend SSPC's Continuous Manufacturing of Pharmaceuticals Workshop in Ireland



Members of the CM2017 Steering Committee (L-R): Pat Frawley, UL, Brian Glennon, UCD/APC Ltd., Mark Barrett, APC Ltd., Paul C. Collins, (Lilly) US, Joanne Conroy, SSPC, Jon O'Halloran, SSPC, Nick Lee (HPRA), Humphrey Moynihan, (Lilly) Ireland and (front) Joe Hannon, Scale-Up Systems.

Tuesday, March 7, 2017: The Synthesis and Solid State Pharmaceutical Centre (SSPC), in association with American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), Institute of Chemical Engineers (IChemE), Institute of Engineers of Ireland (IEI), International Society for Pharmaceutical Engineering (ISPE), Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Technology Centre (PMTC) and Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), recently hosted an international Continuous Manufacturing Workshop in Druids Glen, Co. Wicklow.

Speaking after the event, SSPC General Manager Jon O'Halloran, said:

“SSPC were delighted to bring a conference of this scale to Ireland, the support from our partners has been exceptional and we are looking forward to building further connections into the future.”

The two-day workshop chaired by Joe Hannon, CEO of Scale-Up Systems, Dublin 4 and Mark Barrett CEO and co-founder of APC Ltd, in Cherrywood Business Park, Dublin aimed

to demonstrate rapid progress in the field in recent years, showing a high technology readiness level, how perceived barriers have been overcome and discussing the practicalities and benefits of adoption. The first day began with opening remarks from Ruth Freeman, Director of Strategy & Communications, (SFI) and Barry Heavey, Head of Life Sciences, Engineering and Industrial Tech (IDA).

Joanne Conroy, Industry Liaison Officer, SSPC, and steering committee member, added:

“Current pharmaceutical manufacturing processes will change in favour of flexible, more efficient continuous manufacturing therefore discussing the practicalities and benefits of adoption are key conversations at the moment. The workshop was well informed by the international regulatory community and it was encouraging to receive such strong support for continuous processing for pharmaceutical manufacturing from the FDA.”

There were outstanding presentations from industry with Sarah O’Keeffe (Eli Lilly) speaking on the elements of a successful control strategy for continuous API production. Malcolm Berry (GSK, UK), spoke about designing the control strategy for a continuous API manufacturing process. Ayman Allian, (Amgen US), delivered an informative presentation on continuous manufacturing development and Peter McDonnell, (Sanofi Genzyme, UK) spoke about key learnings from 10-years of continuous API production and about the critical role of kinetic models in developing a control strategy for continuous manufacturing of APIs. Representatives from regulatory bodies, the U.S Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and the UK’s Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), spoke on their experiences on inspecting and regulating in the area.

Day two followed with opening comments from SSPC representatives, General Manager, Jon O’Halloran, Scientific Director, Prof. Kieran Hodnett, Prof. Anita Maguire and Prof. Brian Glennon. This was followed by talks from leading international academics in continuous processing; Prof. Zoltan Naggy, Purdue University, Isabella Aigner, RCPE GmbH, Prof. Andreas Bommarius, Georgia Tech and Chris Price, University of Strathclyde (UK). Delegates had the unique opportunity to take part in a live continuous manufacturing lab tour in the state-of-the-art facility at APC Ltd., and take part in structured focus-group discussions to help define, clarify and discuss the practicalities and benefits of adoption.

In an era of precision medicine, we are seeing a growing number of pharmaceutical companies designing continuous manufacturing into their processes. Continuous

manufacturing is a major step towards improved process reliability, product quality and the reduction of development and manufacturing costs. Advances in manufacturing will help deliver higher quality and affordable medicines in both developed and developing nations.

This national workshop would not have been made possible without the input from the CM2017 steering team with representatives from the FDA, Eli Lilly, SSPC, ISPE, Janssen, University of Limerick, University College Dublin, APC Ltd., Scale-up Systems, HPRA and Pfizer.

End

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Notes to the Editor:

[Further information CM2017](#)

About the Synthesis and Solid State Pharmaceutical Centre (SSPC)

The Synthesis and Solid State Pharmaceutical Centre (SSPC) is a Global Hub of Pharmaceutical Process Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing, funded by Science Foundation Ireland through its Research Centres programme and the Pharmaceutical industry. The centre based at the University of Limerick, is a unique collaboration between 22 industry partners, 9 research-performing organisations and 12 international academic collaborators. The SSPC comprises over 150 active researchers and has funding of over 40 Million Euro for 6 years from mid-2013. This large research collaboration has particular skills in active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) synthesis, purification and crystallization.