

Curriculum Vitae – Jac Wijkmans

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Work experience

INNREST Consultancy BV, Oss (2014–present)

Owner/Senior Consultant

Clients:

- *uniQure Biopharma, Amsterdam*: Global Development Project Leader a.i. leading the clinical development (Phase I/II) of gene therapy products for the treatment of the rare orphan neurodegenerative disorders Huntington’s disease and Sanfilippo B. Previously, ad interim project lead for hemophilia B gene therapy development.
- *Center for Open Innovation in Lead Discovery (COILED), Nijmegen*: Project leader, business developer and investor. In 2016, COILED was awarded a 4.4 M€ EFRO grant to valorize the breakthrough academic research of Spinoza laureate Prof. Mihai Netea (Radboudumc, Nijmegen). COILED partners are Radboud University Nijmegen, Radboudumc, Pivot Park Screening Centre, BioAxis Research, Inntrest and Pansynth.
- *Kenniscentrum Plantenstoffen, Leiden*: Business development/project management focused on developing new business concepts and revenue models for the Dutch horticulture sector. Initiatives are centered on the production of high-value plant components and their use in non-traditional markets such as pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, agrochemicals, fragrance and flavors.
- *Radboud Universiteit, Nijmegen*: Conducting feasibility study, drafting business plan and raising funds for new drug discovery center. This center presents a system innovation in pharmaceutical research in which a non-profit, open innovation drug discovery platform is provided to unlock and translate breakthrough academic research towards the development of drug candidates suited for clinical studies.
- *PAO Farmacie, Zeist*: Medicinal chemistry section post-graduate course ‘Quality Management’.

Griffin Discoveries, Amsterdam (2013-2014)

A ‘Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam’ spin-off company focused on R&D of histamine receptor ligands. GD136 is lead compound with a dual mode-of-action for treating the early and late-stage phases of ocular allergy.

Chief Scientific Officer

- Project and operational management of R&D portfolio.
- Prepare and present Griffin’s value proposition to investors and initiate activities to generate strong supporting data.
- Raise venture capital to conduct (pre)clinical development of GD136 and follow-up program for treatment of allergic diseases including ocular allergy, allergic rhinitis and atopic dermatitis.
- Identify and initiate collaborations with academia and pharmaceutical industry

Curriculum Vitae – Jac Wijkmans

- Direct and manage the transition of academic spin-off towards a fully operational pharmaceutical SME.

Results: Prepared business proposition and plan; led discussions and presentations with venture capital firms; raised 100 k€ PoC grant from VU Amsterdam.

Self-employed, New Business Development (2012)

Developing new business opportunities in the life-science arena. Initial plan based on the repositioning of two Phase I clinical candidates for bone remodeling through an in-licensing deal with MSD. This plan evolved into an innovative drug discovery concept founded on a symbiosis of academic biomedical research and industrial medicinal chemistry called GreenLite and later dubbed COILED (see INNTREST Consultancy BV).

Results: Conducted market research; consulted stakeholders; potential strategic collaborators and projects identified; finished business plan.

MSD (previously Schering-Plough, Organon), Oss, The Netherlands (2002-2011)

Senior Director Medicinal Chemistry (2007-2011, Director 2004-2007)

Responsibilities included:

- Head Medicinal Chemistry Section of 30+ medicinal and analytical chemists (PhD, BSc) dedicated to the design, synthesis and analytical characterization of new candidate drugs for the treatment of osteoporosis, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis and cancer.
- Lead osteoporosis research team (45 FTE) focused on identifying a ‘Best-in-Class’ back-up of Merck’s Phase III clinical candidate odanacatib for the treatment of post-menopausal osteoporosis.
- Project leader T cell immunology focused on the optimization and selection of drug candidates for clinical evaluation in humans for psoriasis, multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis.
- Operational site lead for a range of Public Private Partnerships including TI Pharma projects.
- Project leader research alliance with Pharmacoepia (Princeton, NJ, US) to develop novel therapeutics in the area of inflammatory and autoimmune diseases.
- Proof-of-Concept Team member kinase rheumatoid arthritis program.
- Member Joint Patent Committee of R&D collaboration between Organon and Palau Pharma (Barcelona, Spain).
- Leading technology transfer across different R&D sites.
- Plan and implement departmental policy and investment strategies on (automated) synthesis and direct team committed to the maintenance and day-to-day running of the machinery.

Results: Optimized and selected 7 drug candidates and obtained approval for subsequent pre-clinical safety studies; introduced alternative research process for accelerated identification of new drug candidates; initiated two successful new kinase inhibitor projects (BTK, BRAF) which resulted in the identification of selective kinase inhibitor Acalabrutinib for the treatment of leukemia (currently in Phase III clinical trials); successfully led department through major organizational reorganizations.

Senior Research Scientist/Group Leader (2002-2003)

- Lead drug research optimization project in the area of immunology.

Curriculum Vitae – Jac Wijkmans

- Direct medicinal chemistry efforts within lead optimization project focusing on new treatments for hormone replacement therapy.
- Member of the QUASAR working party committed to enhance research productivity by maximizing speed and quality of research.

Results: Stopped long lasting, non-delivering research project based on scientific arguments.

OSI Pharmaceuticals (OSIP), Oxford, UK (2001)

A leading US biotechnology company focused on the discovery, development and commercialization of innovative oncology drugs. In 2000, OSIP took over the research facilities including staff from British Biotech. In 2010, OSIP was acquired by Astellas Pharma.

Research Leader Medicinal Chemistry

- Line manager discovery chemistry team.
- Project leader exploratory drug discovery in oncology.

British Biotech, Oxford, UK (1999-2000)

UK Biotechnology Company, merged in 2003 with Vernalis Group plc and today known as Vernalis. Research at British Biotech focused on metalloenzymes as drug targets for treatment of cancer, inflammation and serious bacterial infections.

Group Leader Combinatorial Chemistry

- Establish a Combinatorial Chemistry team within the department of Medicinal Chemistry dedicated to develop new technologies for the parallel synthesis of drug-like compounds and production of a proprietary collection of inhibitor compounds.
- In charge of early-stage research aimed at developing new antibiotic drug leads.
- Project leader 'hit-2-lead' anti-infectives discovery projects and co-lead oncology program.
- Member Joint Steering Committee of strategic collaboration with DeNovo Pharmaceuticals (Cambridge, UK) targeting the identification of new anti-bacterial drugs and corresponding IP.
- Industrial supervisor PhD students from Oxford University and University College London.
- Participating and leading organizational changes after lay-offs.

Results: Devised and implemented logistic and operational procedures for rapid follow-up of high-throughput screening campaigns; created a diverse project and patent portfolio, which formed the basis of new strategic alliances; compiled data packages for out-licensing antibiotic program.

Oxford Asymmetry Int. (OAI), Abingdon, UK (1996-1998)

Contract research organization providing drug discovery and development services for pharmaceutical and biotech companies. In 2000, OAI merged with EVOTEC BioSystems and is currently known as Evotec.

Senior Scientist/Project Leader

- Chemistry liaison and leader of large compound library production deal with Bayer (Dortmund, Germany). Responsibilities included leading team dedicated to design, route scouting, validation and planning of library production, maintain intense contact and mediate between Bayer's leading scientists and OAI.
- Lead small chemistry team improving the anti-apoptotic properties of a natural phospholipid for LXR Biotechnology (Richmond, CA, US).

Curriculum Vitae – Jac Wijkmans

- Design and prepare synthetic analogues of a natural fungicide for Zeneca Agrochemicals (UK).
- Establish production of a phosphopeptide library for the identification of inhibitors of key (de)-phosphorylation events that underlie human disease.

Results: Fulfilled customers' requests in a timely fashion and high quality; selected a drug candidate with increased anti-apoptotic activity and novel IP; identified new class of compounds with anti-fungal properties.

Additional experience

- Secretary of the Medicinal Chemistry Section of the Royal Dutch Chemical Society KNCV (2007-2012)
- Board Member of Platform 'Farmacochemie' (2008-2012)
- Member of Jury 'Farmacochemieprijs' 2007-2008 and KNCV Golden Master Award 2009-2012
- Member organizing committee FIGON Dutch Medicine Days (2008) and Medicinal Chemistry Spring Symposia (2009-2012)
- Member editorial council 'C2W Medicines' (2010-2013)

Education/Courses

PhD Bio-organic Chemistry, University Leiden (1991-1995)

MSc Organic Chemistry, University Utrecht (1988-1991)

BSc Chemistry, Laboratory School Larenstein, Wageningen (1983-1987)

Secondary school (VWO), Monseigneur Frencken College, Oosterhout (1983-1977)

Financial Management, MKB Cursus & Training (2012)

Health, Safety & Environment (HSE) Leadership, Schering-Plough Shared Services (2009)

The Successful Negotiator, Asherman Associates (2007)

Mentoring training, Schouten&Nelissen/Organon Trainingscenter (2006)

R&D Project Management, Project Services Naarden (2004)

Professional Certificate in Business Management, Open University Business School (2000-2002)

Chemical Development & Scale-Up in Fine Chemical & Pharmaceutical Industries, Scientific Update (1998)

Additional information

Military Service, Oirschot, The Netherlands (1987-1988)

Author of >35 patents and peer-reviewed publications

Fluency in English, German, Dutch; basic skills in French

Interests: Long distance running