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Brussels in the heart of Europe, delicious Belgian Chocolate, lovely Belgian seafood and delightful coffee and waffles--- all were the enjoyment at the CDISC European Interchange 11-15 April 2011. Let’s not forget the amazing spring flowers of Belgium (do we have a picture that we can upload?)

Over 17 countries were represented at the CDISC European Interchange Conference, including Austria, Belgium, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, India, Japan, Lithuania, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA, Wales. More than 200 people from all over the world attended this CDISC networking and educational event in Brussels, including more than 100 attendees for the training courses on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday. The CDISC Board of Directors also held a productive meeting in Brussels on 11-12 April to discuss CDISC Strategic Aims for the next five years.

Many Excellent presentations ranged from the talk of Dr. Pierre-Yves Lastic, Chair of the European CDISC Coordinating Committee (E3C), who opened the Interchange with a presentation on 10 years of CDISC in Europe to detailed presentations on the CDISC standards. It was great to see the progress CDISC has made in Europe during this past decade. Many thanks for the hard work of the E3C and CDISC Operations.

At the closing joint session of the Interchange, Bron Kisler (CDISC VP, Strategic Initiatives) spoke first. He emphasized the value for patients in adding standards specific to therapeutic areas (efficacy standards) to the base CDISC standards (primarily the safety domains that are relevant to all clinical studies). He spoke of the need for inclusion of clinicians in developing definitions for these standard elements and also the value of having the viewpoint of the regulators who need to review application for new drugs in these areas.

Dr. Steven Hirschfeld, from the NIH National Institute of Child Health and Development (NICHD), is the leader of the U.S. National Children’s Study. He is also a director on the CDISC Board of Directors. Although he was a prominent contributor on Monday and Tuesday in Brussels at the CDISC Board meeting, he was required at meetings in the U.S. on Thursday and partnered with Bron to give his presentation at the Interchange.
Ann Martin of the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) presented “The Role of Standards in Knowledge Management”, beginning with an overview of what IMI is and how they are involved:

- to promote knowledge creation, together with its disclosure and exploitation;
- to achieve fair allocation of rights;
- to reward innovation;
- to provide flexibility for participants to establish the most appropriate agreements serving the project objectives.

Dr. Yoshio Tsukada, leader of the Japan CDISC Coordinating Committee (J3C) congratulated the E3C on their 10th Anniversary. The J3C started one year later, hence they will have their 10th Anniversary next year. Dr. Tsukada was the initial chair of the J3C and is once again the chair at this time; the J3C had an interim chair, Dr. Kiyoteru Takenouchi, who is now on the CDISC Board of Directors. Dr. Tsukada summarized the J3C and JUG (Japan User Group) activities over the past 9 years, including Interchanges and the fact that more than 300 Japanese have taken CDISC training courses on SDTM, ADaM, CDASH and other topics.

Dr. Lastic then read the awards for the Value Survey conducted by Dr. Kush and the winning poster for the CDISC European Interchange, which went to S. Auger and D. Paquin of Dannone.

For more information about the Interchange details, please refer to our recent blogging about the Interchange at [http://www.cdisc.org/cdisc-blog](http://www.cdisc.org/cdisc-blog)

Stay tuned to the next European Interchange blogs! These will be posted over the next two weeks. And get ready for the upcoming CDISC North America Interchange in Baltimore, MD on October 10-14 [http://www.cdisc.org/interchange?a=2437#2437](http://www.cdisc.org/interchange?a=2437#2437)

Please consider a sponsorship or a booth and send in your abstracts; the deadline for submission is Friday, 6 May, 2011 [http://www.cdisc.org/interchange?a=2437#2437](http://www.cdisc.org/interchange?a=2437#2437)

ABOUT CDISC

CDISC is a global, open, multidisciplinary, non-profit organization that has established standards to support the acquisition, exchange, submission and archive of clinical research data and metadata. The CDISC mission is to develop and support global, platform-independent data standards that enable information system interoperability to improve medical research and related areas of healthcare. CDISC standards are vendor-neutral, platform-independent and freely available via the CDISC website. Additional information on CDISC can be found on the CDISC website at [www.cdisc.org](http://www.cdisc.org).

*The CDISC Vision: Informing patient care and safety through higher quality medical research*