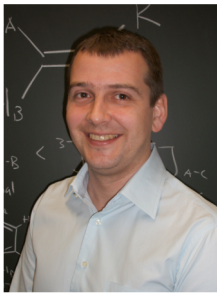


Entrepreneurial ID «venture leaders» 2007



Ulrich Kessler

email: ulrich.kessler@pharma.ethz.ch, phone: +41 79 778 48 84

PiKe Pharma LLC: Drug Discovery Through Innovative Chemistry

Industry: Life Science/Pharmaceuticals

Biography

Ulrich Kessler is co-founder and CEO of Pike Pharma LLC. He has several years of work experience in the life science industry in Switzerland and North America holding positions in R&D management, regulatory affairs, business development and strategic marketing at F. Hoffmann- La Roche Ltd. and Prionics Ltd., a Swiss biotech company. Dr. Kessler started his professional career as an associate in the Boston Consulting Group's health care practice after a postdoctoral research fellowship at Harvard Medical School. He holds a Ph.D. in biochemistry and a M.Sc. degree in pharmaceutical sciences from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich.

Company / project

PiKe Pharma LLC is developing novel antiinfective and anticancer drugs employing a chemogenomic approach based on its proprietary "Chemplexity" platform for the rapid generation of highly diverse compound collections. These libraries cover parts of the chemical space that are out of the scope of standard combinatorial or medicinal chemistry approaches.

Current in-house discovery projects are focusing on therapeutics against respiratory viruses incl. influenza. Collaborations with external industry partners involve the development of novel antibacterial agents and tyrosine kinase inhibitors.

The company was founded in December 2006 and currently employs 4 senior scientists. Research activities are financed by grants from the Swiss Confederation's innovation promotion agency, the Gebert Rűf Foundation and upfront payments deriving from the collaborative projects. The number of staff will be doubled within the next 12-18 months to achieve proof-of-principle in animal models for our most advanced drug candidate before end of 2008.

We are interested in partnerships complementing our portfolio of in-house discovery programmes. In addition, we are looking for investors interested in leading or participating in a first round of financing in 2008 to boost our R&D activities and move to the preclinical phase of drug development.