

PharmaLegacy

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PharmaLegacy Opens a New Era in Chinese Pharmaceutical Outsourcing

PharmaLegacy is a new company postured to play a progressive role in China's fast-growing pharmaceutical contract resource industry.

By opening its doors in October 2008, PharmaLegacy — a China-based company created to address the pharmaceutical and biotech industries' need for cost-efficient, high-quality preclinical services — has increased the complexity of China's booming contract-outsourcing industry. While the industry in China has traditionally fixed upon providing chemistry services and the bulk manufacture of specialty ingredients to the pharmaceutical industry, PharmaLegacy is geared to be a resource when a company or academic department is either at the stage of exploring the therapeutic potential of a treatment or intervention (e.g., medical device), or attempting to move a treatment or intervention into to Phase I. In other words, PharmaLegacy now adds a collection of pharmacology, pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamic and other biology-based preclinical services to the Chinese pharmaceutical outsourcing menu.

PharmaLegacy launched their state-of-the-art facility — 45,000 square feet for laboratories and animal housing — at the Shanghai Zhangjiang High Tech Park, a technology park located in the heart of China's pharmaceutical and biotechnology cluster. Several large pharmaceutical R&D centers (i.e., Roche, Novartis, AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline, Eli Lilly, and Johnson & Johnson) can be found just down the road.

While economic pressures have been credited with motivating many companies to outsource to Asia, Dr Darren Ji, CEO of PharmaLegacy explains: "Cost-efficiency is only one attractive aspect of doing business with our company." He goes on to say: "PharmaLegacy does not compete simply on cost because it is only of value when quality is held as a constant." To insure quality is consistent, all of PharmaLegacy's operations and the company's Quality Assurance systems adhere to, and the staff are trained in, the international standard for good laboratory practice (GLP). Also, video systems built into the new facility allow remote monitoring in all major laboratories and surgical suites from anywhere in the world.

PharmaLegacy can supply efficacy studies, *in vitro* and *in vivo* pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic assays, as well as preliminary toxicology screening. The company's core business offerings are built on ground breaking research and experience with methods for validating the pharmacological effects of drug candidates and testing medical devices for biocompatibility. Dr Webster Jee, an eminent bone biologist, is among the company's founders. Jee dedicated his long research career (50 years) to developing and standardizing methods for studying bone science as well as for new drug development.

PharmaLegacy's oncology expertise comes from Dr Jeff Duan (General Manager of PharmaLegacy). As the former head of pharmacology at Hutchison Medipharma, Duan set up the company's oncology and inflammation research platforms that proved instrumental in enabling the delivery of multiple clinical candidates and R&D



Darren Ji, CEO of PharmaLegacy, stands at the entrance of the company's state-of-the-art facility that opened in October.

collaborations with multinational pharmaceutical companies such as Eli Lilly.

Prior to co-founding the company Ji served as Director of Bioscience Business Development at Procter and Gamble, and earlier managed several of the company's pharmaceutical R&D projects. Ji explains that he intends to keep the PharmaLegacy's expertise and resources focused on three major disease areas: oncology, bone and inflammation/immune diseases. By keeping the company focused, Ji hopes to reduce or inject more efficiency into the preclinical development timeline for the company's clients. "We seek to lead the change in advancing pharmaceutical/biotech R&D efficiencies." Ji emphasizes.

Also, PharmaLegacy is the first biotech company in China to use BioBook, a pharmacology database management system developed by the software company IDBS. The database is FDA Part 11 compliant and allows real-time capture of experimental data electronically. BioBook can also generate the reports compliant with the FDA's guidelines in a timely manner.

The appearance of PharmaLegacy upon the Shanghai landscape marks a shift in what China has to offer the pharmaceutical and biotech industry. The shift comes at time when the global industry is in flux. "Today the declining productivity and increasing cost in global R&D pose stark challenges to the overall pharmaceutical/biotech industry," describes Ji. "We are all seeking solutions for increased productivity. Collaboration and partnership with established platforms through CRO [contract research organization] services is providing one of such solutions." Ji can easily back up his statement as PharmaLegacy stands in a position to help companies scale the regulatory hurdles (safety, proof of concept) on the way to clinic, offering not just cost-efficiency, but quality, service and the determination to reduce the development timelines.

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