



European Medicines Agency
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PRESS RELEASE

Committee for Advanced Therapies (CAT) elects chair and vice-chair

The European Medicines Agency's (EMA) new Committee for Advanced Therapies (CAT) has elected Christian Schneider, from Germany, as chair and Paula Salmikangas, from Finland, as vice-chair for a three-year mandate starting on 12 February 2009.

The CAT is a multidisciplinary committee, bringing together some of the best available experts in Europe to assess the quality, safety and efficacy of advanced therapy medicinal products (ATMPs) and to follow scientific developments in the field.

Setting out his priorities for the next three years, Dr Schneider said: "Our common goal is to establish the CAT as a strong and internationally highly recognized independent committee. A committee that fosters innovative medicines, gathers scientific expertise and skills, whilst it collaborates effectively with the other scientific committees at the EMA to perform top-level assessment in the best interest of patients".

Dr Schneider and Dr Salmikangas have contributed to the work of the EMA with their expertise over many years. Dr Schneider is a member of the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP), the Scientific Advice Working Party (SAWP) and he also chairs the Biosimilar Medicinal Products Working Party (BMWP).

Dr Salmikangas is the chair of the EMA's Cell-based Products Working Party (CPWP) and a member of the Biologics Working Party (BWP).

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Notes:

1. Dr Schneider is a physician by training, specialising in immunology and rheumatology. He is currently head of division for EU cooperation/microbiology at the Paul-Ehrlich-Institut (PEI), in Langen, Germany. His areas of expertise include: quality and safety of biological medicines, including ATMP; clinical trials and risk mitigation strategies for first-in-man clinical trials; non-clinical development of biotechnology-derived medicinal products; unwanted immunogenicity of therapeutic proteins; concepts for comparability exercise for biotechnological medicinal products.
2. Dr Salmikangas is a biochemist. She is Senior Researcher, responsible for marketing authorisations of biological medicinal products at the National Agency for Medicines in Finland. She is also Associate Professor in Biochemistry, University of Helsinki. Her area of expertise is focused on cell and molecular biology of various inherited diseases.
3. An overview of the role and responsibilities, membership and other details about the Committee for Advanced Therapies is available here:
<http://www.emea.europa.eu/htms/general/contacts/CAT/CAT.html>
4. More information on the work of the EMA in the area of advanced therapies is available here:
<http://www.emea.europa.eu/htms/human/mes/advancedtherapies.htm>
5. This press release, together with other information on the work of the EMA, can be found on the EMA website: www.emea.europa.eu

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^{*} Dr Salmikangas' first name has been changed.