



The European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products
Directorate

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PRESS RELEASE

EMEA announces appointment of new Head of Unit for human medicines

Thomas Lönngren, EMEA Executive Director, today announced the appointment of Patrick Le Courtois as the new Head of Unit for the Pre-authorisation evaluation of medicines for human use with effect from 1 March 2001. Dr Le Courtois is currently Head of Sector for scientific advice and orphan drugs at the EMEA.

The position was created following the creation of two operational units: one dealing with pre-approval aspects of medicines and the other with post-marketing issues. The Head of Unit for post-marketing evaluation of medicines for human use is Noël Wathion, who was appointed with effect from 1 September 2000.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

- Dr Patrick Le Courtois is a French national and was born on 9 August 1950. He qualified as a medical doctor from the University of Paris. He holds a PhD in public health from the University of Bordeaux and post-graduate degrees in tropical medicine, clinical research and epidemiology.
- From 1977 to 1986, Dr Le Courtois worked as a general practitioner and as director of a medical centre in Paris. In 1986 he joined the University of Bordeaux and was involved in research areas in public health including epidemiology, clinical research, pharmacovigilance, tropical and infectious diseases, health economy and education. In 1990, he joined the Pharmacy Directorate of the French Ministry of Health and in 1993 the French Medicines Agency as CPMP rapporteur, Head of Unit of European Procedures and from January 1995 as a French CPMP delegate.
- He joined the EMEA in September 1997. He was appointed as Head of Sector for new chemical substances in June 1998 and Head of Sector for orphan drugs and scientific advice in January 2001.

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