

Biopharma & Healthcare Summit Focuses on Innovation



Karun Rishi, president of the USA-India Chamber of Commerce, addresses the US India Biopharma and Healthcare Summit 2013.

By a Staff Reporter

BOSTON, Mass. — The US India Biopharma and Healthcare Summit 2013, organized by the USA-India Chamber of Commerce and held here June 21, attracted more than 300 people to the annual conference.

The summit, titled “Delivering Affordable Innovation through Global Partnerships,” offered a common platform for global and Indian leaders from industry, academia, government and the investor community to address critical elements of the innovation ecosystem, both globally and in India.

The summit was kicked off by Karun Rishi, president of the USA-India Chamber of Commerce, who highlighted the fundamental objective of this effort as bringing the power of innovation and collaboration to ultimately help the large patient population that is still under-served.

In his keynote speech, Dr. Elias Zerhouni, president of global research and development at Sanofi, highlighted both the need and the opportunity for open innovation in research.

Clearly outlining the goals, objectives and challenges in research as different from development, he highlighted the opportunity of building an ecosystem of collaboration and cross-fertilization in research through closer pre-competitive partnerships, while companies will still need to drive development through discipline, rigor and performance.

He also noted India’s ability to drive “frugal innovation” as a key lever to play an integral role in a globally networked system of innovation that can address critical R&D productivity challenges today.

In his address to the group, Ravinder Kumar Jain, Additional Secretary and Director General – CGHS, highlighted regulatory

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A panel discussion on infectious diseases.

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initiatives taken by the Government of India for drug research and clinical trials to bring transparency, predictability and, above all, protect the rights, well-being and safety of subjects.

The USA-India Chamber of Commerce-commissioned McKinsey & Company's Position Paper titled "Crossing the Next Horizon – Will India Play a Meaningful Role in Biopharma Innovation?" presented a set of facts and myths emphasizing that while India is already contributing more to global biopharma innovation, it's not doing as much as it potentially could.

Fixing and clarifying relevant policies and regulations around

clinical trials and IP, focusing cross border and cross entity collaboration on building talent and infrastructure across clinical trials, PI training and basic research and investing in debunking myths and clarifying success stories related to the true "India advantage" were highlighted as the main imperatives for India.

The day also saw several panel discussions across a range of prominent topics – science and research trends in oncology and infectious diseases, industry-academic partnerships, drug discovery and collaborative research and platforms to foster greater funding for innovation. The panels brought together thought leaders

and industry shapers from respective fields both from the U.S. and India.

Dr. Martin Mackay, global head of R&D at Alexion Pharmaceuticals, highlighted the role that organizations such as Transcelerate can play in bringing together big pharma companies to work together towards accelerating the development of new medicines.

Interactions also addressed the role of regulations and supportive policies to foster greater funding for innovation in India.

"The Indian government is playing a direct role in funding, and we welcome both domestic and global stakeholders to maximize



Dr. William Chin (3rd from right) receiving the Distinguished Service Award from Ravinder Kumar Jain.



A session on research and development.

the potential of these resources," said Dr. G.N. Singh, Drug Controller General of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

The event also honored Dr.

William Chin, executive dean for research at Harvard Medical School, with the Distinguished Service Award, recognizing his efforts in the field.