

EDITORIAL



BioValley – The Trinational Life Sciences Cluster

In the name of the BioValley Central Association, I wish to thank CHIMIA for the opportunity to present the BioValley Network with selected topics which do not claim to fully cover this whole life sciences cluster. They are intended to give an overview of some aspects currently relevant for the trinational BioValley Initiative.

The presentation of BioValley in a renowned journal for chemistry is a logical move. The chemical and pharmaceutical industries today provide equal cornerstones to the life sciences as biotechnology. The linking of the sciences is as much a prerequisite for future technologies as the collaboration of different industries. BioValley is the network of small and medium enterprises

offering innovation and synergies to Big Pharma in our region. Novartis, Roche, Syngenta, and Sanofi-Synthelabo are as much part of the BioValley Cluster as the scientific landscape represented by the Universities of Basel, Freiburg, Mulhouse, and Strasbourg, the Universities for Applied Sciences and a number of other important research institutions.

With these diverse relationships the BioValley is one of the three most important Biotech regions of Europe in addition to the Scandinavian Medicion Valley and the region of London/Cambridge according to new studies. BioValley owes this status to the globally leading pharmaceutical, agricultural, and medical enterprises which are headquartered here and are very important assets to BioValley.

BioValley is an established network of about 300 biotech enterprises and over 150 academic, private and public institutions. It connects science, technology transfer, capital, and markets. By actively supporting the network, BioValley creates the preconditions for the foundation of new and the development of existing biotech, medtech and life sciences enterprises.

The region of BioValley has a high degree of 'core competences'. In particular these include the areas of immunology, agro/food, oncology, haematology, cardiovascular diseases, neurosciences, infectious diseases, and drug delivery. Leading roles are being played in future sciences such as systems biology and nanosciences.

Of particular importance are the technoparks where young companies find the creative environment and synergies which they need to prosper. To name a few, these include in South Baden the BioTechPark in Freiburg i. Br., Innocel, the innovation center in Lörrach, the Innovation Centre Allschwil in Northwestern Switzerland, and the Technology Centre Witterswil, TZW, and in the Alsace the Technopole in Mulhouse and the Parc d'Innovation in Illkirch/Strasbourg.

BioValley has succeeded in integrating science and economy privately, economically as well as politically. This successful mixture provides the key to success for a dynamic cluster. Thanks to the efforts of many players, BioValley is a thriving bioregion in Europe. The BioValley trademark and logo have been promoted throughout the world and are now very well known. Simultaneously, a BioValley culture emerged which has been nurtured by cross-border collaboration for decades. Thus, BioValley has become a model for cross-border cooperation. Although being proud of its achievements, there remains much to do, and the BioValley community looks to the future with confidence.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernd Dallmann". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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