

Maximizing Efficiency through Data Management at Chroma Therapeutics – an Interview with Mr Steve Davies, Senior Medicinal Chemist

Chroma Therapeutics (www.chromatherapeutics.com) is a privately-held biotechnology company focused on the discovery and development of novel small molecule drugs based upon chromatin biology and novel cell accumulation approaches.

Chroma Therapeutics is the first company to systematically assemble intellectual property in chromatin biology and has established a strong network of academic collaborators.

Accelrys spoke to Mr Steve Davies, Senior Medicinal Chemist about Chroma Therapeutics' use of Accord Enterprise Informatics (AEI) and Pipeline Pilot to store, manage, mine, and analyze R&D data, enabling the company to increase efficiency.

“As a small biotech company, Chroma Therapeutics uses AEI and Pipeline Pilot to both store and retrieve all chemical and biological data relating to our research projects. The Pipeline Pilot Web Port is particularly useful as it is easily accessible by scientists of all disciplines,” said Mr Davies.

Mr Davies explained the problems and pain points that Chroma Therapeutics were trying to solve with this new integrated system. “A Pipeline Pilot Web Port interface allows everyone to access the database. AEI can be daunting to search if you only require a small bit of information. There is the ‘I’m too scared to use it’ excuse by people,” explained Mr Davies. “The integrated solution solves this problem. We have easily developed templates/forms to help with our assay requesting process and retrieval of data.”

Mr Davies explained the integration itself. “The integration was carried out by our consultant and it proved to be a straightforward process. After a number of protocols were written within Pipeline Pilot we were able to link with the AEI database to get our required results.”

Many companies have found that AEI and Pipeline Pilot complement each other very effectively. The combination of both products provides a richly featured solution for corporate informatics, with AEI providing corporate registration, list management and querying capabilities in combination with Pipeline Pilot's powerful reporting, data manipulation, and calculation capabilities.

Mr Davies explained the advantage of this synergy at Chroma Therapeutics. “At Chroma Therapeutics, AEI and Pipeline Pilot work well together, with Pipeline Pilot allowing the more straightforward searching on the database and AEI allowing the input and more complex interrogation of our data,” said Mr Davies.

“Pipeline Pilot offers a very quick and convenient way of viewing the chemical and biological data stored in our database,” explained Mr Davies. “For example, typing in an ID number will generate all data relating to that compound. This also includes the calculation of physicochemical properties for all retrieved structures. It allows us to retrieve what we want in whatever reporting manner we wish, eg. html, excel.”

“Using these powerful tools together rather than one or the other alone offers many advantages,” continued Mr Davies. “Accessibility is the major advantage. The chemists routinely use AEI but the Pipeline Pilot Web Port means that all members of staff can get hold of data quickly and most importantly, easily.”

“Chroma Therapeutics certainly works more efficiently using AEI and Pipeline Pilot as all our data is in one place and is easily retrieved. In addition, the chemistry registration package ‘Workbench’ is certainly very useful for the chemists for the input of the chemical information,” concluded Mr Davies.