

acres for Mexico and no net environmental gain since Mexico will produce tomatoes on land fumigated with methyl bromide."

Legislation has been introduced in the House by Rep. Richard Pombo (R-Calif.) that would delay the phaseout of methyl bromide in the United States until 2015. "It's only fair that the United States not lose methyl bromide before our competitors do," said [Adam Sharp](mailto:adams@fb.org), an AFBF director of governmental relations. Sharp said that U.S. growers are "worried and scared" as the phase-out date of 2005 is fast approaching but research has produced no alternatives that are as effective and/or cost-efficient. "If practical and effective alternatives to methyl bromide are not identified, registered and made available to growers soon, the competitive position of U.S. farmers will be further degraded," Loop said. "No one is served by where we are now-not the environment, not consumers and clearly not U.S. growers."

Source: Farm Bureau News, Vol. 79, No. 13, July 17, 2000, <http://www.fb.org/flfb>

3. U.S. Patent Issued for RTP Pharma Innovative Technology

MONTREAL, QUEBEC--RTP Pharma, a biopharmaceutical company specializing in novel formulations of water insoluble drugs, has been granted a patent by the U.S. Patent Office for its new technology allowing for the more efficient delivery of water insoluble drugs using CFC-free propellants.

Currently, pharmaceutical manufacturers are phasing out metered-dose inhalers with CFCs due to their negative impact on the ozone layer. Switching to CFC-free propellants, such as hydrofluoroalkane (HFA), is proving difficult for certain types of drugs including corticosteroids, which are considered a cornerstone of asthma treatment.

RTP Pharma's proprietary technology has been shown to produce stable suspensions of drug particles in the micron to submicron range when using the new CFC-free propellants. In addition, the tailored small particles of drug may also help to increase the bioavailability of drugs, which is the amount of drug that is actually absorbed by the body to produce a therapeutic effect.

"RTP Pharma has developed a very strong expertise in the delivery of water-insoluble drugs. This new patent allows us to further strengthen our position and to develop new partnerships with major pharmaceutical companies for their inhaled products," said Gary W. Pace, Ph.D., President and CEO, RTP Pharma Inc.

Drug insolubility is a common and important challenge in the development of many pharmaceutical products, one which is often inadequately overcome. Several blockbuster drugs are water insoluble or poorly soluble. These include statins (HmG-CoA reductase inhibitors-used to lower cholesterol), corticosteroids and several antifungals and antibiotics, such as itraconazole and ciprofloxacin. As a result, many drugs are marketed in problematic formulations, resulting in poor or erratic bioavailability, with a risk of adverse effects. Other promising compounds never reach the market due to insolubility issues. RTP Pharma's Insoluble Drug Delivery (IDD(TM)) technology platform helps to overcome these problems by enhancing the safety, uptake, transport and distribution of water-insoluble drugs. Using this technology, RTP Pharma currently has several products in various stages of clinical development, including injectable, solid oral, and inhalable dosage forms.

RTP Pharma develops and commercializes novel formulations of drugs that are insoluble or poorly soluble in water. It focuses on carefully selected, currently marketed drugs, which, through the application of its IDD(TM) technology, offer improved medical benefits over existing products as well as strong commercial potential. IDD(TM) technology improves the effectiveness of insoluble drugs and enables new methods of administration. IDD(TM) technology has potential applicability to a broad range of therapeutic classes, including anesthetics, anti-cancer agents and immune suppressants.

A number of these products have been successfully reformulated, including cyclosporine, propofol, fenofibrate and busulfan. RTP Pharma has alliances with Elan Corporation plc, SuperGen, Schering Plough Corporation and IDEXX on drugs formulated using IDD(TM) technology. Further information on RTP Pharma can be found at www.rtppharma.com

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