

News Biomarine Business Convention and Think Tanks profit from MG4U input.
24th & 25th October 2012, Fishmongers' Hall, London.

The Biomarine Business Convention is a marine biotechnology initiative to bring together companies, projects and stakeholders to network and discuss challenges and opportunities faced by the sector. This two days event was held in London with 150 high level attendees from Europe, USA and Canada.



Six think tanks, on marine biotech topics constituted core activities and were held in three parallel sessions on both days. Several representatives of the MG4U team were present, promoting selected knowledge outputs and joining the discussions, with MG4U sponsoring the think tank on biotech for health. More information about the think tanks is available at:

<http://www.biomarine.org/upcoming-events/london-2012/program/>

For the think tank focusing on marine biotech for health applications, several scientists of the Station Biologique de Roscoff (CNRS), John Benzie from UCC and Margarida Rossi from CCMAR joined the different working groups. Several issues were discussed, ranging from supply issues, infrastructures like libraries and culture collections to policy and cooperation issues for improving medical and pharmaceutical uses.

In this think tank, Johanna Wesnigk from EMPA (Bremen, Germany) chaired a group with cluster representatives focussing on the role of public/private partnerships and technological centers to bring industry/academia collaboration forward to promote marine bio-actives to "big pharma".



Johanna Wesnigk also moderated the think tank on marine biotech for the environment, which developed several recommendations in two parallel groups:

- one on industry needs, attended by Philippe Potin from the IdeAlg project,
- and one on scientific output *i.e.* using the new 'Omics techniques to speed up generation of proteins and enzymes harnessing knowledge of natural cycles, evolution and selection. Monique Ras, IdeAlg project manager, took part in this group.

This think tank resulted in several good recommendations, *i.e.* on how to educate the next generation of scientists to embrace entrepreneurship and business plans as elements of their comprehensive education and training, starting with the bachelor phase.



Johanna Wesnigk, leader of the knowledge transfer to industry tasks in MG4U, was chairing two think tanks.

All recommendations are available in the final report, on the [Biomarine Business Convention website](http://www.biomarine.org). Some topics might be interesting for training and a further stakeholder workshop planned within the last year of MG4U.