

UPDATED WORK PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN PHARMACOPOEIA

(June 2007)

The following items have recently been added to the work programme of the European Pharmacopoeia. Interested parties are invited to contact the EDQM (lynn.kelso-eleuterio@edqm.eu) with a view to participating in the work on items of interest.

TEXTS TO BE REVISED

2.6.16. Test for extraneous agents in viral vaccines for human use : <i>tests for production in insect cells</i>	Human normal immunoglobulin for intravenous administration (0918) : <i>alternative in vitro test to replace pyrogens test</i>
2.6.21. Nucleic acid amplification techniques : <i>guideline on B19 virus testing</i>	Lavender oil / Lavandulae aetheroleum (1338) : <i>harmonisation with monograph on Spike lavender oil (2419)</i>
5.2.3. Cell substrates for the production of vaccines for human use : <i>requirements for insect cells</i>	Methotrexate (0560) : <i>assay</i>
Benzyl alcohol (0256) : <i>related substances</i>	Nicergoline (1998) : <i>related substances</i> (addition of 2 specified impurities)
Buserelin (1077) : <i>related substances</i>	Pyrrolidone (2180) : <i>limit for γ-butyrolactone</i>
Butcher's broom / Rusci rhizoma (1847) : <i>assay (preparation of a test solution)</i>	Senna leaf / Sennae folium (0206) - Senna pods, Alexandrian / Sennae fructus acutifoliae (0207) - Senna pods, Tinnevely / Sennae fructus angustifoliae (0208) : <i>assay</i>
Equisetum stem / Equiseti herba (1825) : <i>identification and test for other Equisetum species and hybrids</i>	Sodium starch glycolate (type A) (0983) : <i>assay</i>
Hard fat (0462) : <i>identification</i>	Sumatriptan succinate (1573) : <i>related substances (response factor of impurity A)</i>
Herbal drug preparations / Plantae medicinales praeparatae (1434) : <i>definition</i>	Valerian root / Valerianae radix (0453) : <i>definition</i>
Herbal drugs / Plantae medicinales (1433) : <i>definition</i>	

NEW MONOGRAPHS

Avian salmonella enteritidis vaccine (live) (2520)	Human coagulation factor IX (rDNA) (2522)
Avian salmonella typhimurium vaccine (live) (2521)	Macrogol poly(vinyl alcohol) grafted copolymer (2523)

BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH IN THE DRUGS FIELD (2006)

What is the current status of biomedical research in the field of drug abuse? Why is it that certain people abuse drugs in the first place and then why do some become dependent following repeated use whilst others do not? What are the possible implications of the current state of affairs of research from a biomedical or more aptly put, a Neuroscience perspective, including an ethical point of view? It is to these questions that Richard Muscat, Professor in Behavioural Neuroscience, Department of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Malta and co-ordinator of the Pompidou Group Research platform attempts to reply.

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