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 : *tests for production in insect cells*

2.6.21. Nucleic acid amplification techniques : *guideline on B19 virus testing*

5.2.3. Cell substrates for the production of vaccines for human use : *requirements for insect cells*

Benzyl alcohol (0256) : *related substances*

Buserelin (1077) : *related substances*

Butcher's broom / Rusci rhizoma (1847) : assay (*preparation of a test solution)*

Equisetum stem / Equiseti herba (1825) : *identification and test for other Equisetum species and hybrids*

Hard fat (0462) : *identification*

Herbal drug preparations / Plantae medicinales praeparatae (1434) : *definition*

Herbal drugs / Plantae medicinales (1433) : *definition*

Human normal immunoglobulin for intravenous administration (0918) : *alternative in vitro test to replace pyrogens test*

Lavender oil / Lavandulae aetheroleum (1338) : *harmonisation with monograph on Spike lavender oil (2419)*

Methotrexate (0560) : *assay*

Nicergoline (1998) : *related substances* (addition of 2 specified impurities)

Pyrrolidone (2180) : *limit for γ-butyrolactone*

Senna leaf / Sennae folium (0206) - Senna pods, Alexandrian / Sennae fructus acutifoliae (0207) - Senna pods, Tinnevelly / Sennae fructus angustifoliae (0208) : *assay*

Sodium starch glycolate (type A) (0983) : *assay*

Sumatriptan succinate (1573) : *related substances (response factor of impurity A)*

Valerian root / Valerianae radix (0453) : *definition*

NEW MONOGRAPHS

Avian salmonella enteritidis vaccine (live) (2520)

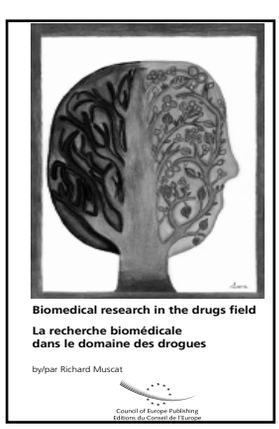
Avian salmonella typhimurium vaccine (live) (2521)

Human coagulation factor IX (rDNA) (2522)

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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