

Linking Life Science Data: Design to Implementation, and Beyond

February 18-19, 2016
Vienna, Austria

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Background

The Open PHACTS Project

Traditionally, pharmaceutical companies have expended significant and duplicated efforts integrating internal information with public data sources. The lack of interoperability among these data sources has become a major bottleneck, hindering the uptake of computational approaches to drug discovery.

The Open Pharmacological Concepts Triple Store (Open PHACTS) began as an Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) project to address the growing need for access to integrated, interoperable pharmacological data to aid in the drug discovery process. The project's aim was to design and build an open pharmacological information system, bringing together multiple public and pre-competitive data resources into one freely accessible, fully integrated platform.

Over the past five years the Open PHACTS project has succeeded in building the Open PHACTS Discovery Platform, a freely available infrastructure which integrates publicly available pharmacological data from a variety of information resources. The Platform specifically targets pharmacology data in order to reduce the barriers to drug discovery in industry and academia.

This project will be completed in February 2016, after which the newly-created Open PHACTS Foundation, a charitable membership organisation, will carry on to ensure the sustainability of the project's achievements.

To celebrate this milestone we are organising a conference in Vienna, Austria, about linking data in the domain of life sciences. The conference will give participants a clear understanding of what Open PHACTS has achieved, what the Open PHACTS Discovery Platform can do right now, and what challenges will need to be addressed in the future of linked data. Participants will also have opportunities to meet leading scientists in the field of linked life science data, key contributors to the Open PHACTS project, and to explore the benefits of becoming a member of the Open PHACTS Foundation.

For further background information about Open PHACTS, please [visit our website](#) or take a look at the following open access publications about the project's outcomes:

- [Scientific competency questions as the basis for semantically enriched open pharmacological space development](#) (Azzaoui et al., 2013)
- [Drug discovery FAQs: workflows for answering multidomain drug discovery questions](#) (Chichester et al., 2014)

Agenda

Thursday, 18 February: What has been achieved so far?

09:30 – 10:00 **Registration and coffee**

10:00 – 10:15 **Welcome**

10:15 – 11:30 **How to succeed in public-private partnerships**

How has Open PHACTS achieved its goals? Key stakeholders will discuss the history of this successful public-private partnership.

11:30 – 12:30 **Changes in the life sciences landscape**

The last five years have seen significant changes in the life sciences domain, many of which have been driven by advances in linked data, including the work of the Open PHACTS project. These keynote presentations will give an overview of what's changed, and how.

12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch**

13:30 – 14:30 **The platform today**

What can be done with the Open PHACTS Discovery Platform? These presentations will outline what datasets are included, what domains are covered, and how data is made available.

14:30 – 16:00 **Using Open PHACTS**

A series of short presentations will demonstrate different ways of integrating the Open PHACTS Discovery Platform into real research workflows.

16:00 – 17:30 **Poster session and coffee**

Poster submissions will show further examples of how the linked data in the Open PHACTS Discovery Platform creates concrete benefits for life science research.

17:30 – 18:00 **Handover ceremony**

To officially mark the end of the Open PHACTS project, representatives will hand over the reins to the Open PHACTS Foundation, making Open PHACTS the first IMI project to transition to a successor organisation.

18:00 – 19:30 **Break**

19:30 **Dinner**

Open PHACTS is pleased to invite all attendees to a networking dinner at [Augustinerkeller](#).

Agenda

Friday, 19 February: Where do we go from here?

09:30 – 10:00 **Welcome and coffee**

10:00 – 11:00 **The future of linked data**

How will linked data continue to change the way research is carried out in life sciences and other domains? These keynote presentations will give an overview of what might be to come.

11:00 – 12:00 **How big pharma is using linked data**

Representatives of pharmaceutical companies will explain how linked data is becoming crucial to their drug discovery workflows in this global industry.

12:00 – 12:30 **The role of the Open PHACTS Foundation**

The Open PHACTS Foundation will carry on the legacy of the Open PHACTS project. What concrete steps will the Foundation take to contribute to ongoing and future linked data projects?

12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch**

13:30 – 14:15 **What challenges still need to be met?**

The move towards linking data still faces significant challenges, in the life sciences domain and beyond. This keynote presentation will introduce topics and ideas for discussion in the following session.

14:15 – 14:30 **Discussion break**

Participants are encouraged to consider and discuss the issues raised in the previous session, in preparation for the following session.

14:30 – 15:30 **Where do we go from here?**

What steps can we take to continue to maximise the benefits of linked data? This panel discussion will be open to audience participation, and we encourage attendees to share their thoughts and ideas.

15:30 – 16:00 **How to stay involved**

A wrap-up of the conference events, including information about ways in which attendees can continue to participate in discussions with others interested in the future of linked life science data.
