ECA Academy
Your GMP/GDP Information Source

GMP Certification Programme
Certified Biotech Manager

Speakers

Dr Zulfaquar Ahmad Arfi
Freelance Consultant

Dr Ghazaleh Gouya
Gouya Insights

Markus Haberger
Roche Diagnostics

Dr Andrea Hawe
Coriolis Pharma Research

Stefan Iarusso
ProBioGen

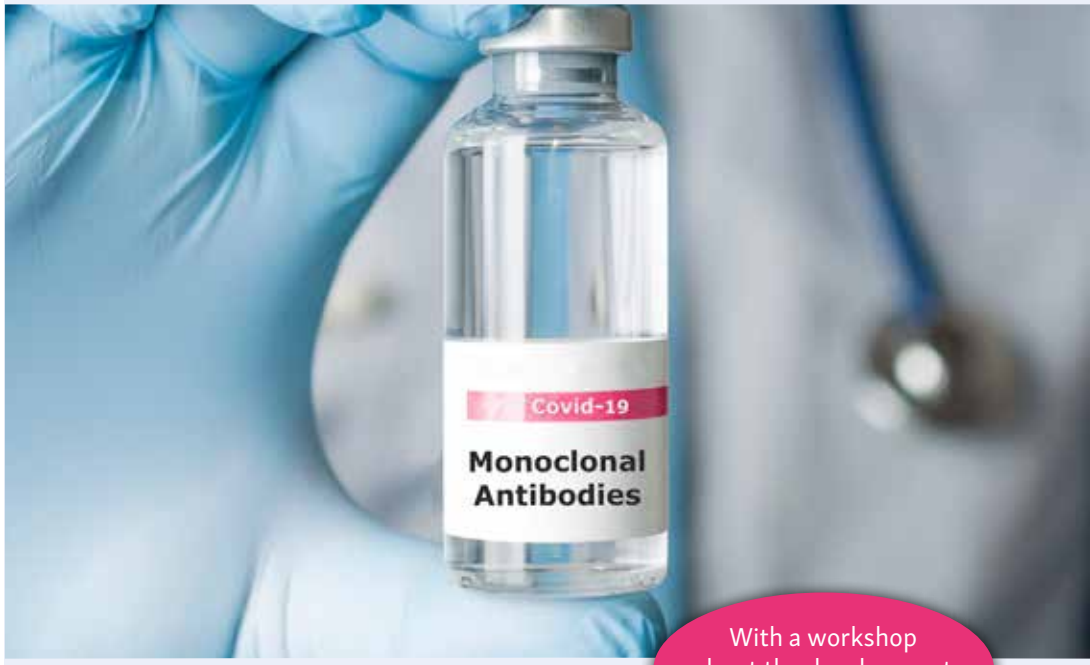
Dr Andreas Nechansky
VelaLabs

Markus Roucka
Tentamus

Monoclonal Antibodies

From Concept to Approval

14/15 April 2026 | Heidelberg, Germany



With a workshop about the development of ADCs

Highlights

- Bacterial vs Mammalian Cell Production
- Antigen Affinity Purification
- Analytical Concepts and Methods for Testing, LCMS and more
- Clinical Development Plan
- ADC & Bi-/Tri-specific Conjugates
- Regulatory Background Information

Objective

At the end of this course, participants will have a comprehensive understanding of monoclonal antibodies (mAbs). From the early development process, through upstream and downstream manufacturing, to different analytical approaches, clinical trials and stability studies. The course is designed to ensure that participants not only understand the theoretical underpinnings of mAb development, but also the practical and regulatory challenges that must be overcome to bring a therapeutic antibody from the laboratory to the clinic and ultimately to the market.

Background

Monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) are increasingly becoming a cornerstone of therapeutic strategies in a wide range of diseases, including oncology, rheumatology and infectious diseases. Their ability to target specific antigens with high precision makes them critical tools in the fight against complex diseases. The global market for monoclonal antibodies is expanding not only because of their efficacy but also because of technological advances in genetic engineering and bioprocessing.

The development of monoclonal antibodies involves a sophisticated and multidisciplinary approach that integrates the fields of molecular biology, genetic engineering, immunology and pharmacology. The complexity of the development process is compounded by the stringent requirements imposed by regulatory authorities to ensure the safety, efficacy and quality of these biopharmaceuticals before they reach the market.

Guidelines from regulatory agencies such as the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the International Council for Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH) provide structured pathways and requirements for the development and approval of monoclonal antibodies. These guidelines include detailed criteria for the manufacturing process, preclinical and clinical testing and submission of regulatory dossiers.

Given the rigorous and detailed nature of these guidelines, professionals involved in mAb development must have a deep understanding of both the scientific and regulatory landscape. It is essential that these professionals are familiar with critical guidelines such as ICH Q6B, which details test procedures and acceptance criteria for biotechnology and biological products, or ICH Q8(R2), which provides guidance on pharmaceutical development.

Target Audience

The programme is aimed at those working in research and clinical trials, as well as anyone interested in monoclonal antibody development and project planning. By targeting this wide range of professionals, the training aims to create a knowledgeable and skilled workforce capable of advancing the field of monoclonal antibodies from the research phase through to clinical use and successful market entry.

Programme

World of mAbs: Introduction and Overview – From Idea to Product

- What are monoclonal antibodies (mAbs)?
- Conception to market – developing effective mAbs
- Areas of application: therapeutic applications, diagnostics, research

Analytical Concept for Fc and Fab

- Antibody structures: Fc and Fab analysis
- Ligand Binding Assay (LBA) and other techniques
- Bioassay validation

Production Processes of mAbs: From Upstream to Downstream

- Regulatory aspects
- Techniques and technologies
- Challenges and solutions in scale-up
- Case studies

Production Processes of mAbs: Choosing the right Expression System

- Exploring platforms for mAbs production
- Weighing the pros and cons: strategies for monoclonal antibody production
- Optimizing outcomes: evaluating hosts for efficiency and quality

Purification Methods: Antigen Affinity Purification (Downstream)

- Principles of antigen affinity purification: selectivity and specificity
- Technological advances in affinity media and ligand design
- Integration into downstream processing: purity, yield and scalability
- Optimization of purification processes for mAbs

Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (LCMS)

- LC-MS in mAbs characterization: sensitivity, specificity and throughput
- Comparative analysis: when to use LBA vs. LC-MS
- Glycosylation and its effect

Lyophilization of Monoclonal Antibodies

- Basic information on lyophilization – why and how?
- Challenges and opportunities of lyophilization of mAbs
- Development of lyophilized formulations and required analytical methods
- Lyophilization process development, including QbD and lyomodelling

Clinical Development Plan

- Blueprint for success: mapping the clinical trial journey
- Critical strategies for effective clinical development
- Navigating clinical development stages – Phase I - III

Formulation Strategies and Stability Testing for mAbs

- Developability assessment and early formulation screenings
- Phase appropriate formulation strategies for mAbs
- Conducting stability studies: protocols, parameters and analytical methods

ADC (Antibody Drug Conjugates) - Design, Development, and Application

- The anatomy of ADCs: linkers, drugs and antibodies
- Clinical applications of ADCs: successes and lessons learned
- Formulation and analytics for ADCs
- Future directions: innovations in linker chemistry and targeted delivery

Bi- and tri-specific Conjugates - Potential and Challenges

- Designing bi- and tri-specific antibodies: concepts and constructs
- Therapeutic potential: targeting complex diseases with multifunctional antibodies
- Overcoming development challenges: manufacturing, stability and efficacy

Interactive Workshop about the Key Components in the Development of ADCs

This workshop provides a comprehensive introduction to the critical parameters that influence the efficacy and safety of ADCs.

Participants will learn more about the following subjects:

- How to choose the right target antigen to maximise selectivity?
- Which properties of the antibody are crucial for optimal binding and stability?

In this workshop participants also have the opportunity to learn and discuss topics such as the selection of the right linker, payload and conjugation method and much more.

Speakers

Dr Zulfaquar Ahmad Arfi, Freelance Consultant

Dr Zulfaquar A. Arfi, Freelance Consultant, brings over 15 years of global biopharmaceutical industry experience. His expertise in process development, CMC strategy, and technology transfer, demonstrated through significant contributions at LenioBio GmbH and BSV Bioscience GmbH, drives innovation in biopharmaceutical manufacturing. His has led GMP-compliant commercialization and managing cross-functional teams, including successful EU HORIZON 2020 projects.

Dr Ghazaleh Gouya, Gouya Insights GmbH

Founder

As the founder of Gouya Insights GmbH & Co KG, Ghazaleh Gouya Lechner provides strategic clinical development leadership to biotechnology, pharmaceutical, and medical device companies, addressing the complexities of clinical product development and regulatory compliance. Ghazaleh Gouya Lechner brings over 20 years of clinical research experience.

Markus Haberger, Roche Diagnostics GmbH

Group Leader, Development Characterization Analytics

Since 2004, Markus has been with Roche in the Development Analytics Extended Characterization department. His expertise is in mass spectrometry, focusing on the identification and quantification of post-translational modifications. He specializes in intact mass analysis and has explored size exclusion, ion exchange, and affinity mass spectrometry to study the complex structures and functions of therapeutic proteins.

Dr Andrea Hawe, Coriolis Pharma Research GmbH

Chief Scientific Officer

Andrea Hawe is Co-Founder and Chief Scientific Officer of Coriolis Pharma, supporting drug product development of biopharmaceuticals with focus on drug product development, formulation development, lyophilization technologies, and analytics (GMP and non-GMP). She is an expert for protein formulation and protein characterization and has published more than 60 articles in peer-reviewed journals.

Stefan Iarusso, ProBioGen

Director Project Management Office

Since joining ProBioGen AG in 2007, Stefan has developed extensive expertise in biopharmaceutical process development, GMP-compliant manufacturing and organizational leadership. Over the years, he has progressed through roles focused on the development and scale-up of therapeutic proteins and monoclonal antibodies, culminating in his current position as Director of PMO.

Dr Andreas Nechansky, VelaLabs GmbH

Managing Director, QP

Dr Nechansky has over 20 years of professional experience in many different positions and companies such as Igeneon GmbH, VelaLabs, Eden Biologics, ABF Pharmaceutical Services. Since 2023 he is now Managing Director at VelaLabs GmbH. He has many years of experience in the field of antibody characterisation.

Markus Roucka, Tentamus

Head of Business Development

Markus started his career in the biotechnical laboratories of Biomin GmbH. Later he studied medical and pharmaceutical biotechnology at the University of Applied Science IMC Krems. He joined VelaLabs in 2008. Since than he had many stages starting from Head Laboratory to COO. His current position is Head of Business Development at Tentamus Group since July 2023.

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GERMANY

Reservation Form (Please complete in full)

Monoclonal Antibodies – From Concept to Approval
14/15 April 2026, Heidelberg, Germany

Title, first name, surname

Department | Company

Important: Please indicate your company's VAT ID Number | Purchase Order Number, if applicable

City | ZIP Code | Country

Phone / Fax

E-Mail (Please fill in)

General terms and conditions
If you cannot attend the conference you have two options:
1. We are happy to welcome a substitute colleague at any time.
2. If you have to cancel entirely we must charge the following processing fees:
- Cancellation until 4 weeks prior to the conference 10 %,
- Cancellation until 3 weeks prior to the conference 25 %,
- Cancellation until 2 weeks prior to the conference 50 %,
- Cancellation within 2 weeks prior to the conference 100 %.

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Terms of payment: Payable without deductions within 10 days after receipt of invoice.
Important: This is a binding registration and above fees are due in case of cancellation or non-appearance. If you cannot take part, you have to inform us in writing. The cancellation fee will then be calculated according to the point of time at which we receive your message.
In case you do not appear at the event without having informed us, you will have to pay the full registration fee, even if you have not made the payment yet. Only after we have received your payment, you are entitled to participate in the conference (receipt of payment will not be confirmed)! (As of January 2012).
German law shall apply. Court of jurisdiction is Heidelberg.

Privacy Policy: By registering for this event, I accept the processing of my Personal Data. Concept Heidelberg will use my data for the processing of this order, for which I hereby declare to agree that my personal data is stored and processed. Concept Heidelberg will only send me information in relation with this order or similar ones. My personal data will not be disclosed to third parties (see also the privacy policy at http://www.gmp-compliance.org/eca_privacy.html). I note that I can ask for the modification, correction or deletion of my data at any time via the contact form on this website.

Date
Tuesday, 14 April 2026, 09.00 h – 17.00 h
(Registration and Coffee 08.30 h – 09.00 h)
Wednesday, 15 April 2026, 09.00 h – 15.30 h

Venue
Intercity Hotel Heidelberg
Kurfürsten-Anlage 81
69115 Heidelberg, Germany
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Email heidelberg@intercityhotel.com

Fees (per delegate, plus VAT)
ECA Members € 1,890
APIC Members € 1,990
Non-ECA Members € 2,090
EU GMP Inspectorates € 1,045
The conference fee is payable in advance after receipt of invoice and includes dinner on the first day, lunch on both days and all refreshments. VAT is reclaimable.

Registration
Via the attached reservation form, by e-mail or by fax – or search and register directly at www.gmp-compliance.org under the number 22477. To avoid incorrect information, please give us the exact address and full name of the participant.

Presentations/Certificate
The presentations will be made available to you prior to the Live Online Training as PDF files. After the event, you will automatically receive your certificate of participation.

Conference language
The official conference language will be English.

Social Event

On Tuesday evening, you are cordially invited to a social event. This is an excellent opportunity to share your experiences with colleagues from other companies in a relaxed atmosphere.

Organisation and Contact
ECA has entrusted Concept Heidelberg with the organisation of this event.

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