

Pharma VOICE

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JUAN MANTELLE

The Art and Heart of Transdermal Development

Juan Mantelle's career epitomizes the history of innovation in transdermal patches. Described as a transdermal genius, his approach to transdermal drug delivery is unique and innovative. Colleagues call Mr. Mantelle, chief operating officer at ProSolus, the guru of the transdermal drug delivery arena.

Mr. Mantelle has devoted the past three decades to perfecting transdermal drug development and delivery, and he openly passes his knowledge along to the next generation of scientists. His strong passion for his work and the positive impact his innovations bring to patients inspires countless others to continue to develop this unique combination of art and science delivery.

Those who have worked with him say that transdermal development and formulation is truly an art and he is a skilled artist. The product designs he comes up with require both a creative mind and the scientific ability to turn an idea into a unique and effective

transdermal delivery product. To figure out how to deliver just the right amount and level of drug through the skin, a natural protective barrier to the body, to treat the patient in a positive way takes this skill, and he uses his creativity to improve the wearability of patches, creating more desirable, smaller sizes that stay in place even while the patient is exercising, bathing, or swimming.

For example, transdermal patches need great adhesion without skin irritation. The product must also wear well for the full duration of therapy and not lose skin contact halfway through treatment. Mr. Mantelle can create patches that accomplish these goals all while meeting the stringent regulatory requirements. Few individuals or formulation teams in the transdermal world can do what Mr. Mantelle can, according to colleagues.

A chemical engineer by training, he doesn't just formulate a patch; he thinks about everything, especially patients, when developing a new and better product. He's not just a scientist, he is also a marketer and applies this to the art of patch design.

As ProSolus has grown over the past five years, Mr. Mantelle wears many hats; business partners say he near-singlehandedly and successfully manages all of the business processes — human resources, accounting, etc. — while simultaneously leading his R&D team to develop generic and over-the-counter (OTC) transdermal products. Showing sharp business acumen, he adjusted the company's direction, realizing that expanding into manufacturing was a very real source of income. For example, the company's Miami facility doubled its expansion into manufacturing. Recently, Mission Pharmacal Company acquired ProSolus, and Mr. Mantelle was able to return to his passion: the development of products with unique market potential and great therapeutic value.

As a recognized innovator and leader,

Driven to innovate by

CURIOSITY

Mr. Mantelle has more than 20 patents to his credit and is a sought-after speaker at symposia and conferences worldwide. Two examples of his success include Daytrana (methylphenidate transdermal system, Noven Pharmaceuticals), and CombiPatch (estradiol/norethindrone acetate transdermal system, Noven).

The six-foot, four-inch baritone of Belgian and French descent is a passionate yet pragmatic, artistic and theoretical leader who is loyal to his team. Mr. Mantelle leads a growing team of 20 — up from 12 just a year ago — from 30,000 feet, yet understands all of the minor details.

He's equally at home at his laboratory bench as he is in front of the packaging line. He does all this with honesty, commitment, and heart. **PV**

Getting to know...

Juan Mantelle

TITLE: Chief Operating Officer

COMPANY: ProSolus Inc.

EDUCATION: BS, Chemical Engineering, University of Florida

FAMILY: Wife Angela; daughters Michelle and Nichole

HOBBIES: Golf, basketball, and traveling

BUCKET LIST: Experience the way other societies deal with life's challenges

AWARDS/HONORS: Twenty-three patents and several special recognitions for bringing facilities and projects to fruition

ASSOCIATIONS: AAPS, CRS, AIChE

SOCIAL MEDIA:  

Curious. Perseverant.

Juan Mantelle is considered a guru in the transdermal drug delivery arena as he continually creates patches with novelty and creativity.

