

**Lecture Title:**  
**Integrated Drug Discovery within CRO Network**

**Abstract:** Luc Van Hijfte will present the current transformation in Pharmaceutical R&D, based on an increased open innovation mindset, where we do see a growing role of biotech, academia and CRO companies. MercachemSyncom has developed its activities within the Integrated Drug Discovery space by setting up preferred partnerships with companies offering complementary services such as biology, biophysical technologies and advanced ADME testing, as a service proposed to numerous clients worldwide. One such partnerships will be briefly highlighted

**Biosketch:** Dr Van Hijfte holds a PhD degree in Chemistry from Gent University (1984, Belgium) with Prof M Vandewalle, and finalized his academic training by a two-year post-doctoral stay at UCSB with Prof RD Little. He started his industrial career as a medicinal chemist at Merrell Dow in 1986 in Strasbourg, France, where he progressed to head of the medicinal chemistry by the time the site had become part of Sanofi in 1998. In 2002 he moved to Janssen, J&J, first as Research Director of their R&D site in Val de Reuil, France, before taking on the role of Senior Director, Head of Medicinal Chemistry EU, at Janssen Research & Development, with responsibility for European-based medicinal chemistry, analytical technologies, and ADMET. During this tenure, Luc was privileged to contribute to several successful projects, with numerous programs entering into clinical development in the areas of neurosciences, oncology, and infectious diseases. In 2012 Dr Van Hijfte became CSO of NovAliX, Illkirch, France, before moving in 2017 to his actual position of Sr VP Medicinal Chemistry at Mercachem-Syncom, where he oversees a team of approx. 80 chemists executing medicinal chemistry activities for clients worldwide.

Dr Van Hijfte has been the Vice-President of the French Medicinal Chemistry Society (SCT) in 2015-16, President of the SCT 2017-18, and is currently member of the Executive Committee of the EFMC. In 2018, he has been elected and named member of the "Académie Nationale de Pharmacie" in France, for his multiple contributions to pharmaceutical developments.