

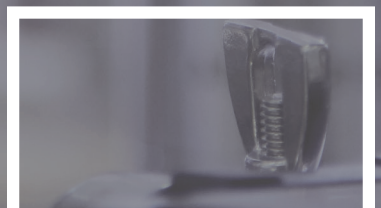
Route scouting for a cost- effective process development



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Thermo Fisher Scientific has spotlighted key but often overlooked steps that significantly enhance early clinical trial stages: recrystallization and polymorph screening.

These steps streamline the transition from the lab to commercial-scale manufacturing by reducing challenges associated with scale-up. Early-stage process development, including route scouting and solid-state research, is vital for ensuring cost-effective drug production while maintaining quality and stability. Integration and collaboration across Thermo Fisher facilities provide a seamless approach to pharmaceutical development, ultimately reducing costs, accelerating timelines, and delivering effective medicines efficiently from discovery to delivery.

Rainer Götz, Senior Manager of Process Research and Development; Dr. Fabian Hörmann, Head of Chemical Process Research; and Matthew Jones, Senior Manager of Crystallization, delved into advanced process development and chemical process optimization. Their expertise illuminates gaps that often impede efficient drug development and scalability, ensuring a smoother pathway from discovery to delivery.

Strategic role of early-stage process development

Early-stage process development is a strategic element crucial for achieving cost-effective drug development, a point underscored by the varied capabilities of different European sites within Thermo Fisher. Each site specializes in distinct aspects of pharmaceutical manufacturing, which range from kilo-lab operations to commercial-scale production. The speakers elaborated on the history and specialization of the Regensburg site, which is particularly noted for its focus on early-phase production. This site has evolved significantly since its establishment in the 1950s, adapting to the growing demands and complexities of pharmaceutical manufacturing.

Advantages of route scouting

Route scouting, a process crucial to early-stage drug development, plays a significant role in optimizing chemical synthesis routes. This methodical approach involves extensive brainstorming sessions, comprehensive literature reviews, and rigorous experimental trials to validate and refine synthesis strategies. By optimizing routes from the outset, pharmaceutical teams ensure feasibility and scalability, ultimately preventing costly revisions and delays in critical later stages of development. Streamlined route scouting improves efficiency and accelerates the pathway from initial discovery to market delivery.

Importance of solid-state research in drug development

Solid-state research plays a crucial role in drug development, particularly in crystallization process development and solid-state characterization. This research helps identify the most suitable physical form of a drug substance, significantly influencing its stability, efficacy, and manufacturability. Methodologies like polymorph screening and advanced technologies such as X-ray diffraction and Raman Spectroscopy are employed to characterize and optimize solid forms. By leveraging these advanced techniques, researchers can identify the optimal solid state of a substance, which is vital for ensuring the quality and performance of the final pharmaceutical product.

Integration and collaboration across facilities

Integration and collaboration across facilities within the Thermo Fisher network are vital for pharmaceutical development. This collaborative network provides a comprehensive and seamless approach, from initial process development to full-scale commercial production. Synergy among different sites enhances innovation capacity and accelerates developmental processes, resulting in more efficient project timelines and reduced costs. Collaborative efforts across geographical and functional areas within the organization exemplify a robust development strategy that supports the complex lifecycle of pharmaceutical products.

In summary

In pharmaceutical manufacturing, early-stage process development and solid-state characterization are pivotal for creating robust, scalable, and cost-effective manufacturing processes. Focusing on these key areas from the outset of drug development ensures that products maintain high quality and efficacy while being delivered efficiently and economically. The collective expertise and resources within the Thermo Fisher network highlight the industry's commitment to innovative and integrated strategies. This approach ultimately ensures timely, affordable delivery of quality pharmaceutical products, benefiting both healthcare providers and patients.

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+1 919 226 3200 • thermofisher.com/patheon • pharmaservices@thermofisher.com
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