

SWEDISH-AMERICAN LIFE SCIENCE SUMMIT CELEBRATES ITS 5TH ANNIVERSARY

FOR THE FIFTH time in a row, American investors, members of big pharma and representatives of the Swedish life science scene will gather in Stockholm to network and do business during the intense two day program of the Swedish-American Life Science Summit. With an exclusive invitation-only format, the summit has become a high-level meeting point between Swedish life-science companies seeking capital, and the American private equity and venture capital market. "We wanted to create a platform enabling Swedish-American business in a pleasant environment," says Ms Barbro Ehnborn, Chairman and founder of the summit. And Ms Ehnborn knows what she is talking about. Born in Sweden, she moved to New York after completing studies at the Stockholm School of Economics and established her career on Wall Street and in the US pharmaceutical industry. As a long term member of the Swedish Ameri-

can Chamber of Commerce she has also more than 25 years experience in pairing together Swedish and American industry with each other.

This year's summit, the 5th in a row since the inaugural meeting in 2005, features an impressive list of delegates. The opening of the summit, according to tradition, will be held at the residence of the US Ambassador in Sweden. The keynote speech on the first day will be given by American Congresswoman Mrs Diana DeGette. With a special interest in health care and energy she has been working in the US congress for seven terms with these topics. In particular she has engaged herself in the field of stem cell research and has actively been working to remove the former legislation forbidding research in this area under President Bush.

With the current financial turmoil and the capital markets having dried up, US VC-in-



An important part of the summit is to present Swedish life science companies in various stages and areas right here on their hometurf to this international group of investors.



Laurent Leksell.

In addition to being a high-level business meeting place, the summit has addressed and debated several topics of current interest. "In a way, the summit has also become a think-tank, something that I did not foresee when we started. This has however been very positive for the summit, and is one of the reasons why we see so many of our American participants returning year after year", says Ms. Ehnborn.

And indeed the summit has become its own brand. A regular participant is Dr. William Haseltine, the founder of the human genomics company Human Genome Science. Other distinguished names that have been actively working with the summit include Mr. Frederick Frank, Vice Chairman of Peter J. Solomon Company and previously Vice Chairman of Lehman Brothers, who is official advisor to the summit. Among Swedish luminaries can be mentioned Professor Mathias Uhlén who is the summit's program advisor. Another top-level scientist that will be presenting this year is Dr. Jay Keasling, Professor in Chemical Engineering at the University of California at

Berkeley. One area where deals are actually being made even now is the fast growing field of bio networking where Sweden with its voluminous patient information could do very well, and the up-coming summit will attract experts in this field from the U.S. and Sweden.

According to Ms Ehnborn, a considerable number of partnerships and investments have already been made as a result of the network created by the summit. This positive trend is expected to be further enhanced by the summit. An injection of funding that the Swedish life science industry craves. "In the end, it's all about making deals," Ms Ehnborn concludes. ☐



Mathias Uhlén.



vestments have totally halted. However, the investments in young life science companies have not altogether stopped and the summit aims at pin-pointing the positive signs that can be seen globally. "The only deals being made in the life science industry today are made by big pharma. For this reason we have specifically invited top managers from the leading pharmaceutical companies" Ms Ehnborn explains. The second day's keynote speaker will be Dr. Anders Ekblom, Development Executive Vice President at Astra Zeneca. Other participants from big pharma include executives from Pfizer/Wyeth, GlaxoSmithKline, Amgen, Johnson & Johnson and Abbott.

Berkeley. His various interests span from bacteria producing drugs for malaria to bacterial production of ethanol from cellulose. He was recently named Scientist of the Year by the magazine Discover.

However, the summit's aim is not only to present a magnificent program but to create a flow of capital over the Atlantic. "An important part of the summit is to present Swedish life science companies in various stages and areas right here on their hometurf to this international group of investors" says Ms. Ehnborn. In a new feature this year there will also be a special display of SIX RISING STARS within the industry to further seize the