

BIOPHARMACEUTICALS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Ney Ribeiro Leite

Cristália Produtos Químicos e Farmacêuticos, Biotechnology Division – Itapira,
SP – Brazil

Globalization has created a new scenario for world's economy. Business competition between national and imported products has driven the development of products towards enhanced performance, affordability and superior quality. The ever-growing demand of new products, as well as the improvement of the existent ones, has made essential the combined expansion of economic and technologic fields. A direct consequence can be seen, over the past few years, by the large financial and intellectual investment done in the Research and Development (R&D) sectors, both in the public and private initiatives. Cristália Laboratory, which was established in 1972, had its first focus laid on psychiatry, followed by anesthesia and pain treatment areas. A center for R&D was then created in Itapira, SP, in the mid-eighties, aiming the establishment of new grounds for the development of a broader spectrum research on health-related problems. Notable achievements of this center was the creation of pharmaceuticals more efficient and safe action, most of them being patented. Twenty five years after the release of the first human recombinant insulin a new class of pharmaceutical products has attracted the attention of the industries: The "biosimilars". We can define these biopharmaceuticals as drugs obtained through biotechnological process which are capable of retaining similar properties of reference standards with expired patent. Biosimilars represents in Brazil a prominent and strategic market with high growing rate. The national production of biopharmaceuticals brings up the possibility to achieve external independence, for both public and private sectors, having the potential of leading to price reduction, the development of local industry, and others. It was facing this scenario that Cristália Laboratory, since 2005, has been investing on the creation of the R&D in Biotechnology sector intending the production of biopharmaceuticals.

Key Words: Research and development, Biopharmaceuticals, Biotechnology