Several cases of EU-US collaborations—challenges, obstacles and possible solutions

The World has become too small

Timing is everything!

- •Small Biotech company setup discovery, development and clinical collaboration with a research investigator in Belgium
- Legal paperwork takes forever but we manage to put it in place
- •Clinical trial is ready to start, need IMPD for EMA submission. Why is it not ready?
- •Initial clinical results are positive, recruitment is getting difficult
- •Competitive drug is approved in the EU market. It's impossible to find patients. Trial is on-hold

Cultural differences: can we trust them?

- •Large US medical device company acquires technology company in the EU and would like commercialize it in the US
- •Tech transfer to a US CMO is key and project success depends on that collaboration
- •Tech transfer is painful, EU company does not want to disclose information records, trust is broken.
- •IND filing was delayed by 2+ years

We cannot ship without MTA

- •A university researcher in the EU is excited about technology US biotech company is working on and would like to test it in its biological system
- •This collaboration is very important and adds a lot of value to the biotech portfolio of products
- •No legal contract is in place so samples cannot be shipped soon
- Legal negotiations started and could never be completed

All together on site

- Biotech company hired a CRO in the EU to run their R&D projects
- The project is moving forward OK but full transparency is lacking
- Solution: biotech company opened an office in EU
- •The project was huge success!

An many more...

- •Why are our batch records in French/German, etc?
- •When can you send me samples? Why did it take 9M?
- Shipping: never make JFK as your port of entry
- •We have to pay VAT tax? How can we set up an EU entity?

Who is your favorite biotech company?