

Speaker #1 | INDUSTRY

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Abstract

The biotech rollercoaster ride to success: what are the essential elements to keep you flying high?

After successfully finalising her PhD in Pharmaceuticals, Cristianne asked herself: what's next? Can I translate these academic, lab findings into patients' evaluation and potentially commercialisation? These thoughts were the trigger for a 15+ year rollercoaster of preparing and establishing a biotech together with Joost Holthuis. After some initial pioneering work still at Utrecht University, a standalone company was established in Maastricht. The bench to bedside translation was successfully done, and only then the real adventure started...

In this contribution, key ingredients for a successful biotech startup will be addressed based on real-life experiences, and supplemented with some wishful thinking. Crucial elements to keep you flying high: always stay positive, creative and persistent!

BIO

Cristianne Rijcken is the founder of Cristal Therapeutics and serves as Chief Scientific Officer of the company and serves as independent consultant to early-stage life science startups.

She is pharmacist by training and holds a PhD degree in Pharmaceuticals from Utrecht University. She is (co-) author of ~ 50 scientific publications.

Cristal Therapeutics was a clinical stage pharmaceutical company developing the next generation nanomedicines based on its proprietary CriPec® platform to treat various diseases, including cancer. CriPec® is suited for the development of customizable (targeted) nanomedicines with superior efficacy and safety profiles. The most advanced product in development has been CriPec® docetaxel for the treatment of solid tumours. Currently, the main focus is to commercially exploit CliCr® as a next generation class of metal-free click reagents.

(see also www.cristaltherapeutics.com).