

# WORKING OFF THE SAME PAGE: AN ENTERPRISE ELN IMPROVES COLLABORATION FOR VIRTUAL TEAMS



Economic pressures and the need for greater agility are driving R&D organizations to improve efficiencies by shifting to partnership and outsource strategies with CROs like Kalexsyn. In a recent article in *Scientific Computing* (June 30, 2009) and reprinted in *Lab Manager Magazine* (July 1, 2009), John McCarthy, vice president, product management and strategy, Symyx Software, discusses how an enterprise ELN like Symyx Notebook improves efficiency, facilitates collaboration, and boosts R&D productivity for dynamic virtual teams operating across geographic and business boundaries.

Open communication and information sharing are critical to successful CRO collaborations involving virtual project teams, and the enterprise ELN is the central hub where this workflow coordination and information exchange takes place. After all, the notebook is the focal point of the scientist's work day—the place where design, execution, analysis, reporting, and sharing of experiments takes place. The challenge with CRO collaboration is that numerous scientific disciplines working in different geographic locations and time zones (and often guided by dissimilar business rules) need to work together in designing and executing experiments—and they need to do this seamlessly and efficiently for the partnership to result in productivity gains. Given this critical constraint, paper notebooks and discipline-specific electronic notebooks complicate and confuse the collaborative process.

An enterprise ELN like Symyx Notebook can be used across multiple scientific disciplines and the entire R&D spectrum—from early discovery to late-phase development and on into early manufacturing. This makes it possible for scientists down the hall and around the world to collaborate effectively on multi-stage projects while simultaneously building upon the successful methodologies and collective results of others. Customizable workflows complemented by fine-grained security enable scientists in different organizations to take responsibility for individual parts of an experiment with appropriate regulatory compliance requirements tailored for different organizations. For example, non-regulated departments are not forced to bear regulated compliance burdens.

## **Symyx Notebook: Orchestrating the Multidisciplinary, Virtual Team**

Symyx Notebook improves data quality and enhances collaboration for scientists working in virtual teams. For biologists, the notebook streamlines the capture and re-use of biological protocols and experimental data while integrating with biology software applications and instrumentation. For analytical chemists, the notebook streamlines the capture and re-use of analytical protocols and experimental data while integrating with balances. For synthetic chemists, the notebook accelerates synthesis experimentation with proven chemical representation, compound registration, and molecule/reaction searching capabilities. Symyx Notebook 6.3, released this fall, further extends the enterprise ELN with many new capabilities including support for parallel synthesis, library enumeration, searching of enumerated reactions, and solid-phase organic synthesis. In addition, new "QuickData" capabilities speed information capture with enhanced procedure editing and standard phrase lists for procedural text.

Symyx Notebook's centralized document management, workflow focus, and secure infrastructure significantly increase organizational agility, enabling R&D organizations to adjust resources dynamically, collaborate effectively with global partners and CROs, and accomplish more with less in today's challenging R&D environment. 