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Focus on Pharmaceuticals: 10 Years in Prison and € 10M for Trade Secret Theft

Spy Snaps: **More in the News**



Focus on Pharmaceuticals: 10 Years in Prison and € 10M for Trade Secret Theft

The pharmaceutical giant Sanofi-Aventis is in the midst of an espionage trial as the company's former research chemist Yuan Li (29) admitted stealing the company's trade secrets. The trial, where she now faces up to a decade in prison when sentenced, is held in Trenton Federal Court in the US.

Whilst working in Sanofi S.A., Li was part of the team developing several compounds for future drugs for which the company had patent applications pending. The accused research scientist worked at the world's fourth largest prescription drug distributor's Bridgewater headquarters in the US from 2006 until June 2011.

Li, a Chinese national, entered her guilty plea last week, additionally admitting selling stolen information through rivaling Abby Pharmatech Inc., the US subsidiary of a Chinese chemicals company, where she held a 50% partnership whilst working at Sanofi.

Whilst in the US Li faces a \$250,000 fine and 10 years in prison, another similar case in the EU resulted with 10 million awarded in damages and one year's imprisonment. The Metropolitan Court in Hungary held the former managers of a local pharmaceutical company liable for breach of trade secrets for sending and selling sensitive files to company rivals. Furthermore, the managers contacted the business partners of their former company and offered the same conditions for manufacturing common products but at a lower price.

This caused the Hungarian pharmaceutical company significant damages as its partners chose the price-competitive offer from the managers' new firm.

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DID YOU KNOW?

The Security for Business Innovation Council (SBIC), which includes Global 1000 enterprises, released its ninth research report – a playbook for corporations and governments to safeguard against advanced threats, such as industrial espionage and cyber attacks.

Source: [The Sacramento Bee](#)



Spy Snaps: More in the News

The Canadian Information and Privacy Commissioner resumed an investigation into a recent case of a lost USB device that contained



confidential personal information of 7,662 people in the Edmonton Public School District. The Commissioner states that the schools violated their own security policy.

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An investigation into the London 2012 espionage case resulted with the arrest of a fourth suspect last week. The Premier League football club Tottenham Hotspurs allegedly spied on Olympic officials.

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A French prosecutor, Philippe Courroye, who is allegedly close to President Nicolas Sarkozy, is under investigation for illegally spying on the reporter who covered the Bettencourt affair in the country's main newspaper Le Monde. The prosecutor faces charges of illegally collecting data of a personal nature by fraudulent means.

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