



FARMIGEA[®]

Background

In 1946, Antonio Federighi bought four ground floor properties in the ancient centre of Pisa and a very small business that produced chemicals and cosmetics.

His aim was to set up a pharmaceutical industry together with his sons. This became feasible thanks to contacts in Pisa and Bologna universities, which supplied them with what is now termed know-how.

The Farmigea Istituto Chimico Farmaceutico Sperimentale (Farmigea Experimental Chemical- Pharmaceutical Institute) was therefore established and began manufacturing. In the beginning, the firm produced a wide range of generic products, like health tonics in syrup form, extracts, dermatological creams and ointments and even its first eye-drops.

Farmigea gradually expanded and increased its range of products for the market, but even in those days its principal development was in ophthalmic and gynaecological spheres.

The period of world-wide economical crisis in the 1960s found the firm in too many areas of the pharmaceutical market; competition from multinational companies was becoming a threat in Italy as well and, as a consequence, courage had to be used in making choices if development was to continue.

Farmigea was transformed into a company limited by shares and a fourth partner joined the three Federighi brothers. They decided to discontinue a great number of the products previously manufactured to concentrate on patent medicines to be used in ophthalmic and gynaecological fields.



In spite of the fact that this decision entailed several years of sacrifice for Farmigea, it was undoubtedly a wise choice. From that moment on the firm slowly but incessantly expanded under the leadership of Leopoldo Federighi. After his death, one of the projects to which he had fervently dedicated himself began taking shape: a new production plant in the Ospedaletto industrial estate – completed in the year 1997.

With the advent of the new millennium and the increasing need for specific research and new targets, Farmigea began a new chapter distinguished by investments and a great desire for further development.

In fact, Federigo and Mario Federighi have now taken over from the previous group and hold the main equity capital of Farmigea.

The important process of transformation of the company was fully accomplished after this take-over; when the old headquarters were finally abandoned and the offices were set up in the premises of the new production plant. Today, a dynamic and motivated determination to pursue research and innovation represents the spirit of Farmigea, establishing it as one of the most technologically advanced companies in the specific field. At the beginning of 2004, aiming at further confirming this mission, Farmigea decided to allot part of the company's shares to a second stakeholder; thus Alfa Wassermann, one of the most important Italian groups in the pharmaceutical and diagnostic areas, made the acquisition of 35% stake.



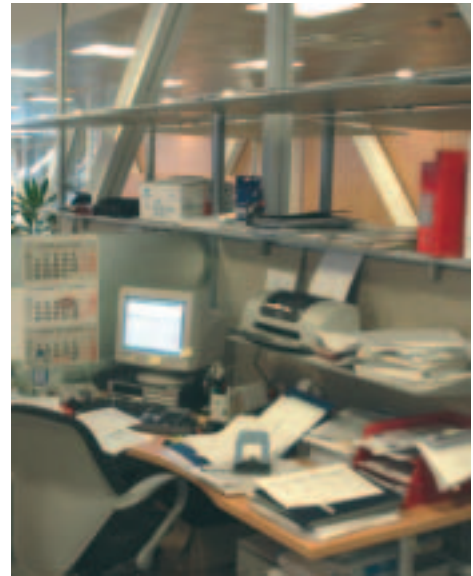
Farmigea today

Well-being and health have always been Farmigea's prime concern. To achieve this, Farmigea has created an agile, complete and modern company that corresponds to the high standards required in the Italian pharmaceutical industry.

The company now manages and oversees all the various steps involved in the manufacture of its products: from research to production, from the issue of information to physicians to distribution of the preparations.

On the strength of its longstanding experience and know-how, accumulated and developed throughout its over fifty years of research and success, everything about Farmigea is now new: its production plant, its offices, its company image.

And this means that innovative products are being produced continuously. The keywords that symbolise the spirit of Farmigea are therefore research and innovation – generated by enthusiasm and experience.



Pharmaceutical research

Italy is one of the foremost markets in Europe as regards pharmaceuticals and its tradition is appreciable in bio-medical spheres; in this respect, Farmigea demonstrates its ability to occupy slots in the market by using its resources to the utmost.

The Research and Development department of Farmigea is now dedicated to the preparation of topical drugs for use in ophthalmology, gynaecology and dermatology.

Farmigea's target for the near future rivets on the development of new technologies for the delivery of pharmaceuticals through topic administration, to achieve:

- *Reduced toxicity and increased efficacy in the treatment of particular categories of patients;*
- *Greater efficacy and a significant decrease in undesirable side-effects compared with similar drugs already on the market;*
- *Better bio-dispersion with prolonged duration and protracted contact of the product in the desired site of action.*

For Farmigea, 'innovation' does not mean merely the production of new active principles but also the manufacture of pharmaceuticals and preparations that are safe and capable of exerting important clinical effects.



Products

Farmigea was originally established as a producer of generic pharmaceuticals but it very soon made ophthalmological patent medicines its prime concern. These cover about 80% of all the products and not only allow the company to occupy an important share of the entire ophthalmic market in Italy but also make Farmigea the second Italian industry in this field.

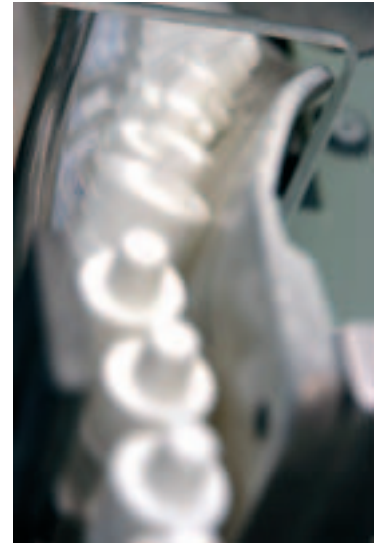
The most recently devised ophthalmic products are innovative in their excellent physio-chemical and therapeutic properties, and high quality is their common denominator.

Another of Farmigea's specialistic fields is gynaecology; even though these products are a minor part of the company's production they nevertheless represent an equally important part of the pharmaceutical business.

The Farmigea gynaecological preparations are the result of continuous and constantly increasing research and are produced with the same conscientiousness and following the same philosophy that has always distinguished Farmigea products.

This philosophy, a mixture of principles, quality, efficiency and safety, are embodied in the DNA of the company.

After Alfa Wassermann entered into Farmigea's share capital, the marketing activities of the entire gynaecological line was taken over directly by Alfa Wassermann, so that Farmigea can devote all its efforts toward ophthalmology.



Ato

'Aggiornamenti di Terapia Oftalmologica' (ATO – Update in Ophthalmological Therapy) has been the feather in Farmigea's cap since 1949.

This four-monthly scientific journal is published exclusively for ophthalmologists and has a circulation of 7,500 copies. ATO is distributed personally by Farmigea's representatives and without any charge to eye specialists and post-graduate physicians specialising in ophthalmology; it is also mailed to other specialists whose fields are associated with ophthalmology, to veterinary surgeons and to the most important national and international ophthalmology libraries.

Recently completely restyled, the journal is highly esteemed by eye specialists who particularly appreciate the up-to-date topics and the scientific precision of its contents.

ATO contains:

- an editorial column,
- scientific papers which either present new data or are the fruit of substantial experience, even if not entirely original, in particular areas,
- a Case Report, with comments by an opinion leader;
- a chapter called 'at the limits of ophthalmology' in which articles dealing with ophthalmology, though written by specialists in other fields, are printed,

- critical reviews of papers published in the most important national and international ophthalmologic journals. The purpose of ATO, therefore, is to supply eye specialists with continuous, updated information as well as to offer them the possibility of collaboration by submitting scientific papers; these papers, which undergo meticulous selection by a scientific team, are published free of charge.

To receive a copy of the Journal, submit a scientific paper, insert publicity or request further information, please contact:

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