

LBICnews

From the London BioScience Innovation Centre



MSD establishes base at LBIC

In early October, LBIC welcomed the first members of the MSD Discovery team who are going to be working in newly kitted out laboratories here at the centre. Dr Fiona Marshall, VP Head of Discovery Research at MSD, heads up the group. Fiona is a world-leading expert in her field, who has won numerous awards for innovation and was elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in 2016.

The new team will be using LBIC as an interim base over the next few years while MSD develops a state-of-the-art Discovery Centre here in London. The group consists of scientists with experience from Pharma and Biotech companies as well as those direct from University. Their initial focus will be setting up a cell biology lab where

they can begin studying changes in cell homeostasis, in the context of ageing, that can lead to diseases. The aim will be to identify mechanisms that can be targeted for new drug development for a range of conditions such as Motor Neurone disease, Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease.

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WELCOME

In this issue we look at some of the upcoming developments and projects in the works in our local community here in Camden and the Knowledge Quarter. We hear about a new major initiative from The Francis Crick Institute supporting start-ups, in addition to a range of projects being undertaken by Camden Town Unlimited to enhance the commercial environment for both local businesses and residents.

LBIC is happy to introduce our newest clients, ranging from the internationally established MSD to a new start-up – Actisound – offering a non-invasive treatment option for soft tissue injuries. We also celebrate the achievements of our existing clients with news of recent expansions, innovations and award wins.



Roo Goodwin, Acting Editor

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Unibio open new plant in Russia

Unibio and its partner and licensee Protelux are opening the world's first commercial-scale methane-to-protein plant, put into operation using the novel U-Loop technology.

Russia was selected for the new plant because bacterial protein is historically known in the Russian market, which has a well-developed compound feed industry. In addition, there is access to an abundance of cheap natural gas. While the first plant is now ready for testing and commissioning, this is just the beginning as the licensee has already reserved land for future expansion. The land is situated in an industrial zone holding various international companies and where a lot of the necessary infrastructure is already present to support the project.

Unibio CEO Henrik Busch-Larsen said: "It has been an exciting process working on this project. Hard work is still in front of us in terms of getting the plant commissioned but this is a very important milestone in the Unibio go-to-market strategy."

For more information visit: www.unibio.dk



Unibio CEO Henrik Busch-Larsen by the demonstration scale U-Loop reactor

Fabrican develops reflective spray-on fabric

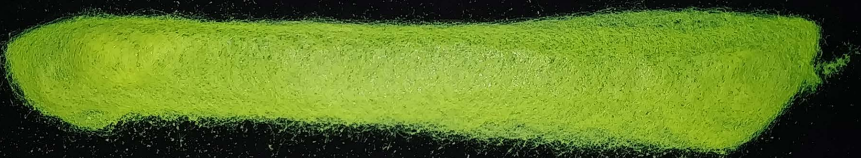
Fabrican has developed a phosphorescent, glow-in-the-dark spray fabric patch that is formulated with highly reflective particles to deliver a dual high-visibility (phosphorescent and light-reflective) effect in darkness. The innovation permits a rapid and flexible means of marking hazards such as trenches or repair sites in a manner much more prominent in darkness than the Day-Glo spray paints that are commonly used.

The product utilises strontium aluminate which, once charged with light, will glow for several hours. In contrast to traditional spray-painted

signage, the spray can be used to mark temporary hazard situations and is resistant to different atmospheric conditions. The glow-in-the-dark patch has up to 150% elongation and a tensile strength in a range of 1MPa.

In addition to health and safety applications, the spray's uses include marking items in construction work, coating pet collars for easy visibility and serving as an improvised high-visibility feature for cyclists. It will also have benefits in home decoration and for personal ornamentation, particularly for clubbers.

For more information visit: www.fabricanltd.com



Fabrican's glow-in-the-dark patch

Innovate UK funds Intract Pharma's Soteria[®] technology for large-scale antibody production

Intract Pharma Ltd has been awarded funding from Innovate UK to develop a scalable manufacturing process for novel oral antibody products using its proprietary Soteria[®] technology. The collaborative industrial research project, totalling over £1.4 million, was secured through the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund for innovative projects in medicines manufacturing.

Soteria[®] transforms painful and inconvenient injectable therapies into safe, simple oral formulations, and allows targeting and concentration of the antibody

at the site of disease in the gut to improve therapeutic efficacy while minimising risk of systemic toxicity.

Intract's CEO, Bill Lindsay, highlighted that the funding will provide a significant boost to both internal and external development programmes using the technology: "Intract has invested significant resource in developing Soteria[®] at laboratory scale – Innovate UK funding is critical at this point to resolve the issues involved in large-scale GMP manufacture of biologic drugs."

LBIC welcomes these new clients to the Centre:

- Norlase
- Intract Pharma
- Double Bioventures
- Actisound

Continued from front page

Most of our readers will likely be familiar with MSD, who have had a presence in the UK for more than 80 years and are among the top five global pharmaceutical companies. Currently they have over six sites in the UK (now rising to seven with the new LBIC lab space) and, alongside producing a number of life-changing medicines and vaccines, they spend around £40m each year on research with the NHS and academic centres. The UK Discovery Centre and interim facilities within LBIC represent MSD's initial expansion of this cross-disciplinary model into Europe. Other Discovery Centres are already underway at MSD Research Labs in the U.S. (San Francisco, CA and Cambridge, MA), all with distinct scientific charters. The London team will be working in close collaboration with their fellow discovery counterparts in MSD's labs in the United States.

It is no surprise that they have chosen London as the location for their new Discovery Centre: we know very well the vibrant life sciences ecosystem that we work within, as well as the rapidly growing opportunities around us to let scientific collaborations flourish.

"The decision to base our research facility and new UK headquarters in London was an easy one" said Dr Marshall. "It is at the heart of the UK scientific community surrounded by leading universities and hospitals. Being close to other scientific centres of excellence, as well as leading researchers, will allow for great cross-fertilisation of ideas, which is essential for early discovery science. The team are very excited about being together in our new lab at LBIC. It's time to get started on the types of discovery projects we are all passionate about, with the hope that one day one of

our ideas could make a real difference to patients."

Dr Ken Larkin, CEO of LBIC, commented: "We are delighted to welcome MSD as they establish a significant presence within LBIC. MSD is a great fit for both LBIC and the Royal Veterinary College and joins a vibrant international business community of over 60 companies from Europe, North America and Asia Pacific. We very much look forward to working in partnership with the MSD Discovery team to support their research activities and further expansion in London."



The new MSD laboratories at LBIC



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- Drafting Patent Applications
- Building, Managing and Monetizing your IP Portfolio
- IP for Commercial Lawyers

LBIC Clients Triumph at OBN Awards

Two companies based at LBIC were winners at the 2018 OBN Awards. The awards ceremony, now in its tenth year, aims to celebrate the best of UK life sciences – from outstanding scientific innovation within biotech, medtech, digital and synthetic biology, to the companies that support the industry and the fundraisers that make it happen.

OBN is a not-for-profit membership organisation with a mission to support and bring together the UK's life sciences companies, corporate partners and investors, through networking, partnering, purchasing, training, advising and advocacy activities. Its aim is to create and develop an environment that supports the emergence and growth of innovative life sciences R&D companies in the UK.

The shortlist for the awards was released in July 2018, with a wide range of experts from industry and academia forming the judging panel. The finalists were revealed at an awards ceremony hosted at the Oxford Examination Schools.

The category of Best Start-up Biotech (sponsored by Novo Nordisk) was won by IGEM Therapeutics. This award aims to recognise a UK-registered start-up biotech company incorporated in the UK on or after 1 June 2016, who the judges feel have made an impact on the industry via significant news flow, with early clinical trial activity and clear evidence of early-stage implementation of a robust business plan.

Dr Tim Wilson, Chief Executive Officer of IGEM, commented: "We are thrilled that IGEM Therapeutics has been awarded "Best Start-up Biotech Company" at this year's prestigious OBN Awards. The award recognises our efforts to treat cancer by developing novel immunoglobulin E antibodies and our significant progress as a company over the last year."

The Outstanding Achievement Award went to GammaDelta Therapeutics. Raj Mehta, Director of IP, Alliance Management & BD at GammaDelta said: "We are grateful to OBN and the judges for recognising GammaDelta Therapeutics for our efforts towards developing innovative treatments for cancer and other serious diseases." The Outstanding Achievement Award is given to the company who is a true inspiration to the rest of the industry, and who the judges feel to be the most innovative, forward-thinking and bold, standing out from their peers.



IGEM Therapeutics receive the award for Best Start-up Biotech

John Harris, CEO of OBN, remarked: "We received an outstanding number of entries this year so competition has been really tough. All our winners and nominees this year are truly innovative and set a great example to the rest of the industry. We have introduced several new categories this year to reflect industry trends. The turn-out and support we have received is a true reflection of how buoyant our industry is and I would like to thank our sponsors and supporters for helping us make the awards such a great success."

GammaDelta Therapeutics receive the Outstanding Achievement Award



RVC to build new Veterinary Vaccinology and Cell Therapy Hub

The Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has recently awarded LBIC's parent company, the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), a £7 million grant from the Single Local Growth Fund to support the creation of a state-of-the-art Veterinary Vaccinology and Cell Therapy Hub on its Hawkshead campus.



Artist's impression of the entrance to the Hub

Welcoming the announcement of the award in October, RVC Principal Professor Stuart Reid CBE said: "We are delighted to have secured such a significant grant from Hertfordshire LEP. It will make a huge difference to what we can achieve in the next phase of development of our

Hawkshead Campus, supporting the College's research mission to contribute globally in a One Health context to some of the most significant challenges facing society."

The Hub will bring together top veterinary and human medical science researchers to advance the 'One Health' approach. The work conducted at this facility, in Brookman's Park near Potters Bar, will accelerate the development of next-generation vaccines and cell therapies that will fight key animal infections and ultimately protect humans.

Planned to open in the summer of 2020, the Hub will contain specialist facilities, such as laboratories, animal housing facilities and an incubator for small businesses, and is part of a multi-million-pound redevelopment plan for the RVC's Hawkshead campus.

Professor Jonathan Elliott, Vice Principal for Research and Innovation at the RVC, commented: "This is an exciting development for the RVC which will impact its future success as a research-led higher education institute. With the support of



The modern interior envisaged for the new Hub

Hertfordshire LEP, the RVC will be able to create a Hub of research activity in this region that brings together academia and business to develop new vaccines, diagnostic tools and cell therapies."

Nitin Dahad, Chair, Enterprise and Innovation Board, Hertfordshire LEP, said: "We are very keen to facilitate greater collaboration between research institutions and business to advance next-generation healthcare. The amount awarded demonstrates the importance we attach to this project and strengthens Hertfordshire's position as a potential global leader for vaccine and cell therapy research."

Introducing Actisound

LBIC welcomes Actisound, from Guided Therapy Systems, a world leader in ultrasonic therapy and imaging technologies, and their development partner Ardent Sound.

Actisound's Intense Therapeutic Ultrasound (ITU) acts like an invisible scalpel – working beneath the surface of the skin – precisely delivering small thermal ablations to tendons, ligaments and other soft tissue to stimulate collagen growth and the regeneration of connective tissue. Unlike other energy sources such as laser, microwave and radio frequency, ultrasound



Heel treatment using Actisound Intense Therapeutic Ultrasound

is the only energy source that can penetrate safely through intervening tissue and be focused to a specific point and shape within the body. This allows physicians the unique ability to deliver

treatments directly at the point of injury – up to depths of 15 mm – without ever opening the patient.

Three multi-centre clinical studies have shown that more than 80% of chronic patients (with length of persisting pain averaging 15.7 months) enjoyed a significant reduction in pain combined with increased function and mobility, compared to traditional methods. Actisound is now available for clinical and professional use and is currently the only non-invasive, ablative treatment for pain relief associated with the repair of musculoskeletal injuries.

Camden Town Unlimited

Enhancing the area for local businesses and residents

LBIC's CEO Ken Larkin is proud to serve on the board of Camden Town Unlimited (CTU), an organisation whose fundamental purpose is to enhance the commercial environment, creating a robust and sustainable economy capable of supporting businesses of all sizes. They implement community projects that bridge the gap between major companies, start-ups and residents.

Previous successes of the group include achieving an increased police presence in the area, and essentially saving the market by helping to stop the HS1 – HS2 link through Camden.

The organisation is working on a number of projects at present, including:

The Camden Highline

This project is aiming to transform the disused railway into a sustainable green space and transport link that is open for and used by everyone. They plan to take the existing space and reimagine what it means for Camden. They hope it will become a new “green artery” for London.

CTU is working together with Transport for London, Camden Council, the Greater London Authority, the Department for Transport, Network Rail and various politicians, landowners, resident and business groups, architects, engineers and consultants to achieve the funding and

permissions needed to make the Highline happen.

Regular walking tours are run by the group that discuss the history, design and funding of the project. Visitors are able to



Map showing the area covered by CTU's initiatives

come and meet the team, view the model and hear the latest progress.

The Major of London said: “This innovative project has the potential to become a real asset for Camden and is a

great example of a local community taking an idea and garnering support in order to make it a reality. I look forward to seeing it develop.”

Security

CTU has hired a security team in Camden to address community concerns around safety, the drug trade and anti-social behaviour.

The additional security will be funded from a number of sources including the

Late Night Levy (made up from contributions from late-night establishments serving alcohol), match funding from the police and contributions from Market Tech as well as CTU.

A dedicated team of security personnel will be patrolling the Camden Town area to provide support and reassurance to local businesses.

Clean air

CTU is using funds awarded from the Mayor's Air Quality Fund to enhance the area's stretch of the Regents Canal, encouraging

pedestrians to use this lower-exposure route between Camden Town and Kings Cross.

This project will include: a new lighting strategy that makes the bridges more



The canal running through Camden

appealing to walk under but also avoids disturbing local wildlife; reed beds and planting schemes that bring the natural world to life; and towpath improvements and widening where possible to allow better access for pedestrians and cyclists.

Other green initiatives include encouraging businesses to cut back on the use of plastic straws and helping businesses to find more ecologically

friendly solutions for deliveries and recycling.

With these initiatives and various other ongoing projects, the group will continue to work to improve and enhance the area for local businesses and residents. You can find out more about what CTU is working on and the various events they hold throughout the year by visiting www.camdentownunlimited.com



An aerial view of the Camden Highline

New accelerator programme for Kings Cross

Innovate UK is investing £400,000 to launch KQ Labs, an accelerator programme supporting start-ups working at the interface between biomedical and data science.

KQ Labs is a major initiative, delivered by The Francis Crick Institute with collaboration from the Knowledge Quarter, Health Data Research UK and Genomics England, which aims to bring together a powerful eco-system in support of data-driven health start-ups. The programme will provide up to ten start-up companies with £40,000 each to validate their proposals before seeking significant investment.

Providing critical support to early-stage



The Francis Crick Institute, Kings Cross

data-driven health science start-ups, KQ Labs will offer a customised framework with a 16-week accelerator programme. The programme will also include workshops to inspire and nurture the next generation of start-ups and training in transferable skills to create future digital health leaders.

Tailored support after the accelerator programme will

help start-ups to access further funding and investment, while events will bring together data scientists, biomedical scientists and entrepreneurs. This will build on existing event programmes at the Crick, including the monthly DeepTech Mondays and HealthQuake series.

The focus will initially include a broad spectrum of digital health activities, from drug discovery through genomics applications, patient stratification tools, imaging analysis and any other relevant biomedical applications.



Virtual tenancy offers flexible London base

£600
for the first six months*

For companies looking to establish a London base, it is easy to think that a physical office is required. However, many companies find it simpler to take on a 'virtual' tenancy at LBIC, giving access to meeting room space when needed for important face-to-face meetings, but without the commitment and setup required with dedicated office space.

LBIC's experienced team has developed the virtual package to suit the varied needs of life science companies of all sizes.

Benefits of an LBIC Virtual tenancy

- **A Central London address** less than 10 minutes' walk from the international transport links of St Pancras International station
- **One-year complimentary Gold membership** of One Nucleus, the international membership organisation for life science and healthcare companies
- **Discounted client rates** on meeting rooms, catering and video conferencing facilities
- **A dedicated telephone line** answered in the client's name and redirected as needed
- **Post collection** and redirection
- **Courier bookings** at client rates
- **Business Support Network** to assist with doing business in the UK
- **Access to RVC equipment** and facilities, including the stunning Lightwell café
- **Visible profile within LBIC** and through our marketing and communications
- **Option to cancel at any time**, with just one month's notice period

The set-up process is quick and straightforward

Contact us at lbic@rvc.ac.uk or call +44 (0) 20 7691 1122 today to enquire about becoming a Virtual client.

* Additional charges may apply for certain services. A full list of charges can be supplied on request. Prospective clients will be subject to due diligence checks by LBIC management. Introductory rate is excluding VAT.

Would you like to feature in our newsletter?

If you would like to contribute to a future issue of LBIC News, contact the **Communications Manager** on +44 (0) 20 7691 0982 or email lbic@rvc.ac.uk

Contact us

LBIC has been supporting life sciences companies since 2001. Today we host more than 60 companies, ranging from entrepreneurial start-ups to more established UK companies and overseas subsidiaries from Europe, North America and Asia Pacific. The Centre is owned and operated by the prestigious Royal Veterinary College, one of the independent Colleges of the University of London.

The Centre is a 10-minute walk from St Pancras International for Eurostar services and The Francis Crick Institute.



Our management team comprises:

Dr Ken Larkin
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