



Prokarium secures £4.6m from Wellcome to fund vaccine against enteric fever

Ted Fjallman, Prokarium CEO (left) and Daniel Gill, Business Development Associate, Wellcome Trust

Prokarium has received an investment of £4.59 million from the Wellcome Trust to fund two clinical trials of its lead programme, Entervax™, a vaccine against enteric fever.

Enteric fever, primarily caused by *Salmonella enterica* serovars *Typhi* and *Paratyphi A*, is the most common bacterial bloodstream infection in South Asia and causes significant mortality in areas with poor sanitation.

"This is the first new investment Wellcome has made within its new Affordable Innovations for Global Health Flagship", said Sally Nicholas, Partner, the Wellcome Trust. The collaboration shows the joint commitment to develop a novel

bivalent vaccine that has the potential to decrease the use of antimicrobials in the fight against antimicrobial resistance and to provide a significant public health benefit to individuals at risk.

"Funding from a prestigious foundation such as the Wellcome Trust underlines the strength of our approach and provides the support necessary to progress to the clinic," said Ted Fjallman, Ph.D, Chief Executive Officer, Prokarium.

WELCOME

It is good to be back after my maternity leave and see all the exciting updates from our clients. It is wonderful to hear of funding successes and international collaborations, showing that bioscience is still a key sector in the UK economy.

Such successes need publicising. On page 7, Sciad gives us advice on creating the perfect press release.

There have been some departures during my leave as companies outgrow their LBIC space, but this allows us to welcome new clients in their place, most recently leading ophthalmology company Gyroscope, profiled on page 6.

In this issue, we also feature the LBIC team, to give a little insight into who we all are. Turn to pages 4 and 5 if you would like to find out who bakes, who enjoys sea kayaking and who cooks fufu.

L. Gilly

Lucy Garnsworthy, Editor

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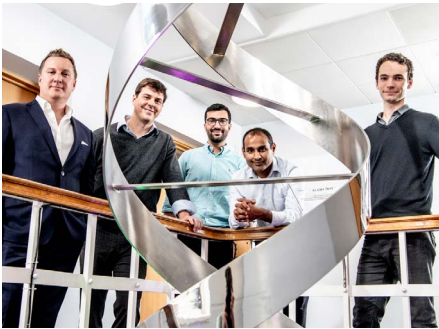
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Client News Round-up

Funding to help Ori manufacture brighter futures

Ori Biotech are very pleased to announce the finalisation of their seed funding round, after making their home at LBIC earlier this year. Ori's disruptive manufacturing technology for cell and gene therapies promises a new way to produce these living medicines and Ori is now fully primed to take on the challenge of the commercial-level scale that the industry needs. Their long-term aim is to enable access for all patients to the hope and promise that cell and gene therapy brings.



The Ori Biotech team

“ We feel at home at LBIC and hope to use our new funding to expand operations as we bring our proprietary cell and gene therapy manufacturing platform to market”

—
CEO of Ori Biotech, Jason Foster

LBIC welcomes these new clients to the Centre:

- Evelobio
- Drive Phase PV
- Scalene
- Freeline Therapeutics
- Gyroscope Therapeutics
- Sporegen



Fabrican's drink seal

Fabrican's spray-on sterile seal for canned drinks

Fabrican has produced a sterile, biodegradable spray-on coating to seal the top of a drinks can. The innovative formula will be sprayed during the packaging process, protecting the can from dust and bacteria so consumers can peel then drink from a sterile surface.

Fabrican aims to minimise packaging waste and improve the convenience of transporting six-pack cans. The coating removes the need for traditional rings that can harm the environment and it degrades in compost or seawater. It can be customised with colour for specific brands and can even be infused with scent.

The formulation is composed of natural fibres, a biodegradable polymeric resin and other additives. The texture of the formula has the feel of a non-woven material and is not limited by can size. This unique application has created much interest in the beverage industry to address the growing environmental concerns of consumers.

www.fabrican.co.uk

Virokine Therapeutics reports preclinical studies with NIH

Virokine Therapeutics Ltd (VTL), a new start-up at LBIC, is excited to report the launch of its preclinical studies of VTL immunotherapeutics with an award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the USA. This is in

collaboration with leading



experts in DNA vaccination at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital and the University of Louisiana Veterinary School.

VTL is engaging in further *in vitro* studies to complement this work and associated IP with support from a recent round of USA Business Angel Seed investment. New appointments for this work include Research Assistant Laboratory Manager, Sean Briggs, with first class and distinction BSc/MSc degrees in immunology from Newcastle University. The Scientific Advisory Board members are joined by Dr Persephone Borrow, Professor of Viral Immunology at the University of Oxford, Dr Jane Minton, Clinical Consultant and Associate Professor in Infectious Diseases, Trials Leader at NIHR and NHS Hospital University of Leeds, and Dr Ann Kwong, Pharma Consulting LLC, Boston, USA. VTL also welcomes Corporate Finance Director, Michael Martin, experienced investment banker and biotechnology start-up advisor.

VTL has recently joined key biotechnology industry networks as an affiliate of the new Milner Institute at the University of Cambridge and as a member of One Nucleus.



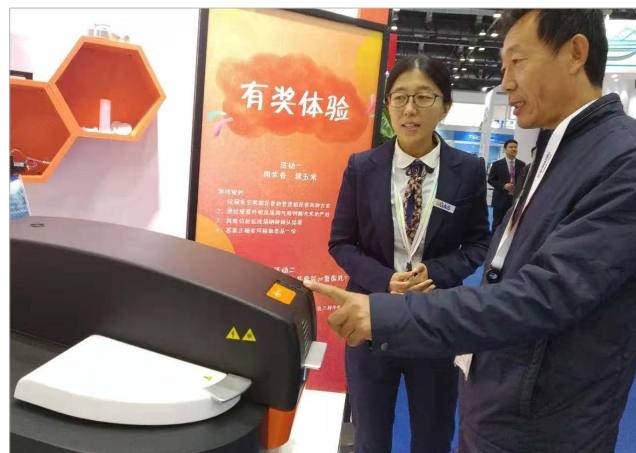
Dr Ursula Gompels, Virokine CEO/CSO, speaking at the Anglonordic Life Science Conference

deltaDOT launch in China

deltaDOT's Capillary Electrophoresis product (known as the HPCE-512) has been launched in China by Hanon Instruments. This product has been manufactured by Hanon with assistance from deltaDOT over the past two years. The version manufactured in China is the same instrument, but with a new colour scheme that reflects the colours in Hanon's logo. Hanon plan to sell the HPCE-512 to clients in the academic, pharmaceutical, biotechnology and manufacturing sectors in China and the Pacific Rim countries. The HPCE-512 analyses a wide range of

molecules and is particularly useful when characterising a complex mixture or quantitating specific analytes (e.g. mAb and vaccine stability studies).

Nigel Stokes, Managing Director of deltaDOT, commented: "It is a great achievement by both our and Hanon's technical teams that this product is now being manufactured and sold in China. We believe that the product will prove very useful for many QA/QC applications."



Launch of deltaDOT's HPCE-512 at a recent trade show in Beijing

Introducing

Drive Phase PV

LBIC welcomes new client Drive Phase PV, experts in pharmacovigilance.

Drive Phase PV provides pharmacovigilance (PV), device-vigilance and auditing services in both clinical and post-marketing settings, with particular expertise in oncology and biologics.

Services include:

- PV system design and optimisation
- Audit and Corrective and Preventative Action management
- Safety database updates and migration
- Safety Data Exchange Agreement preparation and management

- Eudravigilance services
- Risk Management Plans and signal detection
- UK Qualified Person for Pharmacovigilance and deputy services
- Periodic report preparation
- Pharmacovigilance System Masterfile creation and maintenance
- Standard Operating Procedure creation and maintenance

Director Tom Nichols has worked across the full PV spectrum from early-phase clinical trials through to generics. Following a period heading up the PV function at a leading clinical research organisation (CRO), Drive Phase PV was launched with the goal of providing high-quality and



personalised PV support to clients around the world.

Tom is an Honorary Fellow of the Pharmaceutical Information and Pharmacovigilance Association (HonFPIPA) and has served on the committee for several years, collaborating on documents such as guidelines for clinical and post-marketing PV and implementing GDPR requirements for PV departments.

He is also a member of the Alliance for Clinical Research Excellence and Safety (ACRES) working group, developing standards for the outsourcing of PV activities, and co-leads the Drug Information Association (DIA) pre-market safety working group.

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Ken Larkin

CEO

YEAR JOINED: 2009

Ken lives in the East Midlands with his wife, their daughter and two dogs. In his spare time, he enjoys going out on one of his many bikes and clocking up the miles on Strava. Ken is pleased to have a few bakers within the LBIC team, and is always happy to sample the treats that they bring in.

Meet the LBIC Team



Janette Pickles

Operations Manager

YEAR JOINED: 2007

Janette lives in Aylesbury with the love of her life, her seven-year-old Border Collie, Indy. She enjoys nothing more than taking him for long walks come rain or shine. She also enjoys good food and a glass of wine whilst watching a bit of rugby.



Lucy Garnsworthy

Communications Manager

YEAR JOINED: 2010

Lucy lives in London with a French man and their baby girl, born in 2018. Lucy used to work as an archaeologist excavating building sites all over southeast England, and excavated on Dartmoor and in Honduras during her studies at UCL. She sings with a rock and pop choir based in Camden and enjoys eating good food at home and in restaurants as often as possible.



Roo Goodwin

Administration Manager

YEAR JOINED: 2018

Roo lives in Bedfordshire with her husband, two miniature schnauzers Sprocket and Doozer, cat Hershel and rabbit Nutkin. She enjoys running (slowly) with her local club, listening to podcasts, frequently going to see her favourite band play live and baking cakes and cookies, which usually find their way in to the LBIC office.



Mariane Meyer

Administrator

YEAR JOINED: 2005

Outside of the office, Mariane loves to read and listen to music. When she can, she heads home to South Africa to see her children and grandchildren. She recently met the new man in her life, little grandson Benjamin, who has just turned one. Her birthplace of Scotland is also always calling so she makes frequent trips up over the border.



Adam Rasmussen Arda

Sterilisation Suite Technician

YEAR JOINED: 2019

Adam joined the LBIC team at the start of September this year after four years at Newcastle University where he first graduated in Biology, BSc and then Industrial and Commercial Biotechnology, MSc. He spends most of his weekends playing hockey and catching up with friends.



Lindy Brand-Dalozé

Receptionist

YEAR JOINED: 2016

Hailing from tropical North Queensland, Lindy has six grown-up children and four grandchildren. She moved to Brussels in 2009 for love, and later lived in France prior to moving to London five years ago. Lindy loves travelling, supporting her Australian Rules football team, and vegetarian cooking.



Ellen Carrick

Receptionist

YEAR JOINED: 2019

Ellen is the newest member of the LBIC team and is looking forward to getting stuck into her new role. When not at work, Ellen can usually be found with her two gorgeous girls, ferrying them around between their various acting and gymnastic clubs or at a park with them somewhere! In her spare time, she enjoys a spot of aqua aerobics and planning holidays!

LBIC is also supported by team members from the RVC



Soumen Bhowmik

IT Infrastructure Engineer

YEAR JOINED: 2002

Soumen lives with his wife and two beautiful daughters who keep him on his toes. He enjoys sailing and kayaking in the coastal waters of Alentejo (Portugal) and riding his motorbike. Soumen always returns from his annual visits to Spain and Portugal full of tales to entertain the team.



Yvonne Mercer

Management Accountant

YEAR JOINED: 2013

Yvonne was born and raised in Ghana, and her African name is Maame Yacoba. She loves spicy food (and enjoys cooking African foods), namely jollof rice, palm nut soup with fufu, fried yams and shito (spicy shrimp sauce). Yvonne is a mother of one, and enjoys spending time with her daughter.



Bevan McWilliam

Client Relationship Manager

YEAR JOINED: 2013

Originally from New Zealand, Bevan has spent the past decade in London, now living in the Docklands. Bevan uses this as a base to explore Europe with his partner Wynter and his tiny dog Milly. Bevan plays the bagpipes (badly) and enjoys baking (with adequate results), but his favourite moments are spent in London pubs, telling outrageous lies to his friends.

Gyroscope Therapeutics expands to LBIC

Ophthalmology company Gyroscope Therapeutics is establishing a new base at LBIC.

Gyroscope is working to build something special – a company to preserve people's sight and fight the devastating impact of blindness around the world. Its gene therapies and surgical devices may offer people the chance to see what they otherwise would have missed.

Gyroscope is developing gene therapy beyond rare disease and using it to treat a leading cause of blindness: dry age-related macular degeneration (dry-AMD). Dry-AMD is the leading cause of permanent vision

impairment for people aged 65 and older and there are no approved treatments.

Research suggests that when a part of the immune system – the complement system – is overactive, it leads to inflammation that damages healthy eye tissues. Gyroscope's lead investigational gene therapy, GT005, is designed to restore balance to the complement system. The goal is to slow, or possibly stop, the progression of dry-AMD. Patients in the company's ongoing Phase I/II clinical trial, known as the FOCUS study, receive a single dose of the therapy through an injection below their retina.

Gyroscope is also developing surgical devices and procedures designed to safely, precisely and consistently deliver therapies into the eye. The Orbit Subretinal Delivery System (Orbit SDS) is designed to allow



surgeons to access an area of the eye called the subretinal space without needing to remove the vitreous (the gel-like substance that fills the eye) or make a hole

in the retina. This is important as it may increase the likelihood of treatment success by delivering therapies to critical target tissues while keeping the vitreous and retina intact.

In addition to developing the Orbit SDS for delivery of its proprietary therapies, Gyroscope is partnering and licensing the technology to other gene and cell therapy companies worldwide.

Gyroscope is funded by Syncona and Cambridge Innovation Capital, with bases in London, Stevenage and in the US.

Gyroscope's Research Team will be based at LBIC and they look forward to meeting other LBIC tenants. For more information visit gyroscoptx.com

Protein from methane brings further funding success and new partnerships for Unibio

Unibio has completed a USD 15m (GBP 12.4m) financing round led by West Hill Capital and enabling a global rollout of Unibio's patented protein-from-methane production technology through full-scale commercial projects around the world.

Unibio is a world-leading alternate protein company with core competences in microbial fermentation technologies that owns the rights to the unique U-Loop® technology. The technology allows the sustainable production of affordable,

high-quality protein, sold under the brand name of Uniprotein®. This decouples protein production from farming and fishing and helps to address one of the key challenges of today's world: how to feed the soon-to-be 10 billion people worldwide without further exploiting depleted fish stocks or converting ever more land to intensive agriculture.

Unibio and Core Protein LLC have begun preparation for the establishment of a sustainable protein production plant in Texas utilising the U-Loop® technology, and a master licence agreement has been executed.

Unibio and its local partner Edhafat have signed an MOU with SAGIA, the General Investment Authority of Saudi Arabia, beginning the preparations for the



establishment of a protein production plant in this region.

Unibio is part of SDG Accelerator for SMEs 2019. SDG Accelerator is a United Nations Development Programme initiative aspiring to accelerate business solutions for its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For more information, please contact: Henrik Busch-Larsen, Unibio Group CEO
Phone: +45 6310 4040
E-mail: hbl@unibiogroup.com
www.unibiogroup.com

Create a perfect press release

10 quick and easy rules

BY MARIA PATEY FROM BUSINESS SUPPORT NETWORK PROVIDER SCIAD

Most professionals outside of the PR world expect pitching to media to be a breeze. Why wouldn't the Editor-in-Chief at Nature be interested in how your proprietary drug delivery technology could improve life in the future for thousands of patients? Or why wouldn't the FT want to include you in its centre pages as the next company to watch since your latest partnership deal was your biggest to date, and your executive board has added several new industry leaders? The fact is, the editors and journalists of every media outlet have a job to do, and

that job is to cut through a huge volume of noise and cherry-pick the stories that they feel will be of most interest to their readers. If you think you have a newsworthy story, then a well-written press release will land your news on the desks of the editors who will decide on whether or not it makes the cut.

TOP 10 RULES

- 1** Craft a strong headline including keywords that appeal to the audience you intend to reach (think about the words people are most likely to search for online and reverse engineer this into your headline)
- 2** Start with a brief description of your announcement in plain English, without industry jargon! Be very clear about your message and why it matters to the audience you're communicating to
- 3** Include a short, compelling quote from a company representative related to the news (anecdotes and facts are most memorable)
- 4** Create an additional paragraph providing more details about the announcement: try to respond to all relevant W-questions (where, what, why, when and who)
- 5** Have one killer stat/number to show why your story is important
- 6** Include a call to action and a URL address where your customers can find more information about the story
- 7** Add a relevant image (online media outlets appreciate these – but use owned images only)
- 8** Provide contact information and links to the specific destination page on your company website where you intend readers of the release to be directed (note: this could be your e-commerce page rather than your home page if you intend to sell products)
- 9** Distribute wisely: select and send the release only to relevant publications/ media platforms with a strong presence among the audience you're targeting
- 10** Stay motivated and excited about your story! For maximum impact and optimum results, promote the news on all of your media channels, i.e. the company website, LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, etc. Re-post any pick-ups and respond quickly to all enquiries

If you are looking to increase your company profile among key customers and improve your reputation, then Sciad are offering all LBIC clients a free 30-minute consultation. Whether you need strategic advice on a communications challenge, help

understanding your Google Analytics, or how to improve SEO, we will respond to your specific need. Please contact Deborah Cockerill (deborah@sciad.com) or Maria Patey (maria@sciad.com) for further details.

Good luck with your news! For targeted distribution, check out Sciad's tailor-made science and technology newswire: www.sciadnewswire.com

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 **Lucy Garnsworthy** 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 50 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
Chief Executive

Janette Pickles
Operations Manager

Lucy Garnsworthy
Communications Manager

Roo Goodwin
Administration Manager

For further information, or to enquire about our services, contact:

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