

Discovery

NEWS, VIEWS AND EVENTS AT QMB

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EDITOR'S WELCOME



Welcome to the latest issue of the QMB Newsletter.

As our domestic politic rages on and we contemplate life outside of the EU, we at QMB are looking to the future with a bit more optimism.

Last month we heard more about the new Whitechapel Life Sciences Initiative, which has the potential to create

thousands of jobs and add billions of pounds to the local and national economy. The event was organised by Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, and showcased the long-term health benefits and research potential for business, researchers and clinicians in east London, despite Brexit.

It's no secret there is a lack of science incubator space in east London, as Professor Simon Gaskell, the Principle of QMUL says, there will be scope to expand the science incubation space on the site, complementing the work at QMB and giving more companies an opportunity to take the next step in their commercial development.

We also caught up with Professor Bill Spence, Interim Director of the Life Sciences Initiative and a member of the Life Sciences Strategy Group, who gave us some insights into QMUL's multi-faculty, multi-disciplinary approach to the Life Sciences project.

Tenants ADC Therapeutics (ADCT) reveal some positive data after conducting successful preliminary Phase I tests in lymphoma patients for two of their Antibody Drug Conjugates (ADCs), while MediWise received £1.2 million in funding from Innovate UK, formerly the Technology Strategy Board and sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, to develop its ground breaking handheld wireless blood glucose monitor, GlucoWise.

Elsewhere, hVIVO tell us about the patents they filed earlier this year for flu and asthma, and Biorelevant.com tell us about a European research project they are supporting, which aims to enhance public understanding of how orally-administered drugs are taken up from the gastrointestinal tract into the body.

We also hear the latest from QMB's sister organisation, Queen Mary Innovation Ltd (QMI), about the success of two of its spin-out companies, as well as exciting news about the new QMUL Enterprise Investment Fund, which gives people the chance to invest in new technologies and innovations developed by the university's academics and students.

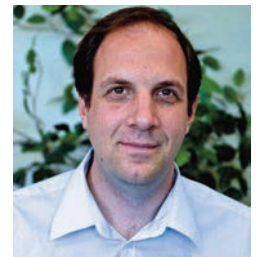
We're eager to hear your perspective too, so please share your feedback in the comments section on our website, or join the conversation on our Twitter page. For more updates and the latest news from QMB, please visit our website.

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 #QMBInnovation

MediWise secures £1.2M funding from Innovate UK

UK medtech MediWise and Kings College London have received £1.2 million in funding from Innovate UK for their non-invasive glucose sensor, GlucoWise.



Themis Kallos

MediWise, pioneers in cutting edge wireless devices in medical diagnostics and monitoring, entered an Innovate UK competition called Biomedical Catalyst 2017 feasibility studies award, which funds innovative solutions to healthcare challenges.

GlucoWise is a first of its kind glucose monitor which safely detects the concentration of glucose in the blood stream without having to draw a blood sample. After successfully conducting human trials last summer using a laboratory prototype, the money will be used to develop a version of the device which is suitable for home use.

The feasibility studies award aimed to explore and evaluate the commercial potential of innovative scientific ideas through reviewing research evidence and identifying possible applications; assessing business opportunities; investigating the intellectual property





position; validating initial concepts or existing pre-clinical work through experimental studies; and identifying areas for further development.

To secure funding, the successful ideas had to look at disease prevention and proactive management of health and chronic conditions; earlier and better detection and diagnosis of disease, leading to better patient outcomes; tailored treatments that either change the underlying disease or offer potential cures.

Today, glucose monitors are practically given away because companies make their money on the test strips. So for someone who is testing themselves four times a day, it costs the health care system, whether it's the individual, NHS, an insurance company or a combination, upwards of £500 a year per person. Over the lifetime of someone with diabetes, that's a significant cost.

By way of comparison, GlucoWise does not require any consumables such as test strips so it can be used as many times a day as the user wants but without the pain factor of inserting a needle and the inconvenience that people with diabetes face when they need to measure their blood glucose levels.

"We are delighted to have received funding from Innovate UK, which will allow us to develop the prototype for commercial use," said Dr. Themis Kallos.

Once MediWise has developed this new prototype for commercial use, the company will conduct further human trials.



QMI launches QMUL Enterprise Investment Fund



Queen Mary Innovation Ltd (QMI), the research commercialisation arm of Queen Mary University of London (QMUL), are giving people the chance to invest in new technologies developed by the University's academics and students through their new QMUL Enterprise Investment Fund.

The Fund will be managed by Javelin Ventures Limited, an experienced FCA-regulated fund manager with a long history of collaboration with the University. The Fund will also benefit from a highly-experienced Investment Advisory Committee comprising respected entrepreneurs and investors from across technology sectors.

For investors, the Fund offers the chance to get in at the ground floor and invest in a new business venture, as well as offering tax relief for individual investors under the government's tax-efficient Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS) and Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS).

QMI has an active programme of identifying, developing and 'spinning out' new technologies and innovations. Over the years, notable successes include hVIVO, the AIM-listed biopharma company specialising in human viruses like flu and asthma; and BioMin Technologies, which is developing a new re-mineralising toothpaste designed to prevent tooth decay and sensitivity.

Graeme Brown, Director of Technology Transfer at QMUL and Executive Director of QMI, said:

"QMUL has an excellent track record of creating successful spin-out companies from its research base and student population. Some of these companies have not only had a financial impact, producing investment returns that can be reinvested in supporting research, but also have a strong societal impact, enabling new technologies and innovations to be progressed to a level where they can be of benefit to the wider public."

But while the University makes significant annual investment in internal funding schemes to develop commercial projects, there often remains a lack of available funding to take commercial opportunities to the next stage, where they might be attractive to external investors or licensors. Under the new fund, all of the investment opportunities considered by the Fund will be sourced by QMI.

Graeme added: "The aim of the Fund is to bridge that gap by providing initial seed funding to spin-out companies to allow them to demonstrate the commercial applicability of the product or service, and to drive the commercial value of the spin-outs, enabling them to access more substantial funding."

For more information please contact Javelin Ventures:

<http://www.javelin-ventures.com/qmul-enterprise-investment-fund/>



ADC Therapeutics Impressive responses for Lymphoma in Phase I for two ADCs



Dr. Chris Martin, CEO of ADC

ADC Therapeutics recently presented preliminary Phase I data for the treatment of patients with lymphoma using two of its Antibody Drug Conjugates (ADCs), a class of highly potent biopharmaceutical drugs designed as a targeted therapy for the treatment of people with cancer.

The company presented its data on ADCT-402 and ADCT-301, for the treatment of relapsed or refractory non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, at the 14th International Conference on Malignant Lymphoma (ICML) in Lugano, Switzerland.

ADCs are potentially a game changer in how cancer is treated, effectively reducing and in some cases eradicating the need for chemotherapy and its debilitating side effects. Through a complex process of chemical engineering, cytotoxic agents are connected to antibodies using synthetic "linkers" which remain stable in the bloodstream until they are absorbed into tumour cells, at which point the drug is released.

ADCT-402 is an ADC composed of a humanised monoclonal antibody that binds to human CD19, which is present in a wide range of B-cell haematological tumours, including certain forms of lymphomas and leukaemias. CD19 is conjugated to ADCT's highly potent proprietary pyrrolobenzodiazepine (PBD) dimer toxin.

Meanwhile, ADCT-301 is composed of a pyrrolobenzodiazepine (PBD) toxin conjugated to a HuMax-TAC antibody against CD25 licensed, from Genmab. CD25 is a protein mainly expressed on activated T-cells in a wide range of haematological tumours. The results come from an ongoing Phase I trial which aims to determine the maximum tolerated dose (MTD) in 37 patients with lymphoma.

ADC THERAPEUTICS

For ADCT-301, Steven M. Horwitz, the principal investigator and Medical Oncologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, said: "These early findings are very encouraging as they demonstrate a clear clinical benefit even at low doses for patients who failed, or are intolerant to, any established therapy."

Lymphoma is a cancer that begins in cells of the immune system, in particular in the lymph system. The lymph is rich in lymphocytes, a type of white blood cells that help the body fight off infections and other diseases. Lymphoma develops when lymphocytes become cancerous which can occur in both children and adults. The two main types of lymphomas are Hodgkin's lymphoma (HL) and non-Hodgkin's lymphomas (NHL), and are differentiated by the type of lymphocytes affected and their appearance under the microscope.

Commenting on the results for ADCT-402, Dr. Jay Feingold, Chief Medical Officer and Senior Vice President of Clinical Development at ADCT, said: "These clinical data provide additional support for the efficacy and tolerability of ADCT-402, as well as of our ADC technology platform based on PBD-warheads. In preclinical studies the PBD dimer toxin has been shown to be a highly potent killer of cancer cells, even in hard to treat tumours. The presented results confirm the potential role of ADCT-402 in the treatment of relapsed and refractory non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. We believe these findings reflect a strong path forward and we are looking forward to getting further results later this year."

In addition to lymphoma, ADCT-301 and ADCT-402 are also being tested in Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia in another ongoing Phase I trial. In total, ADC Therapeutics has four PBD-based antibody drug conjugates in six ongoing Phase I clinical trials in the USA and in Europe.

Biorelevant.com and the OrBiTo Project



Biorelevant.com, is supporting a European research project, which aims to enhance public understanding of how orally-administered drugs are taken up from the gastrointestinal tract into the body, and apply this knowledge to create new laboratory tests and computer models that will better predict the performance of these drugs in patients.

The €25 million project is funded by the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA), which represents the pharmaceutical industry operating in Europe, and the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI), which is Europe's largest public-private initiative aiming to speed up the development of better and safer medicines for patients.

Biorelevant.com's products test the 'biorelevant' solubility and dissolution of drugs, predicting how they will react in the human body. Their powders simulate the juices in the stomach and small intestine both before and after eating – the so-called fasted and fed states - by replicating very closely what is happening inside the gastrointestinal tract.

The Orbito Project's aim is to improve the development and understanding of oral drugs, which is something Biorelevant.com is very supportive of.

"We are supporting the OrBiTo Project because it's an area that we're intimately involved with. One of our primary aims is to help streamline this oral drug development process. The OrBiTo members have been doing lots of research and publishing lots of data on their findings. We believe in the value of our existing products, but we're a dynamic business that is always looking to improve our offering," said Natalia Santacreu, Head of Technical Marketing.

All of Biorelevant.com products are being used in the project, which regularly updates its website with its findings.

There are nine European universities, one regulatory agency, one non-profit research organisation, four SMEs

and twelve pharmaceutical companies taking part. The project has yielded a wealth of information reflected in approximately 50 scientific papers.

"Biorelevant Media can be part of certain oral biopharmaceutics tools, specifically in vitro, or wet lab tools. This means the information from the project has the potential for influencing how Biorelevant.com moves forward in developing its products," said Natalia.

Natalia added: "We currently have six products available but we are looking to expand our range based on customer demand. We are thrilled to see that our products are being used to produce very interesting research, and look forward to seeing how Biorelevant Media will influence future scientific research."

For more information, go to:
<http://www.orbitoproject.eu/>



 Natalia Santacreu at Biorelevant

hVIVO's notes initiation of Phase I clinical trial for hVIVO/SEEK mosquito-borne disease vaccine

The US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health, in February initiated a Phase I clinical trial of AGS-v, an investigational mosquito-borne disease vaccine devised by hVIVO's joint venture partner, SEEK Group (SEEK).

hVIVO went into joint venture with SEEK in 2016, forming a new company called Imutex Limited (Imutex) to accelerate the development of SEEK's AGS-v vaccine and broad-spectrum influenza vaccine (BIV), FLU-v.

AGS-v is intended to provide broad protection against a range of mosquito-transmitted diseases, such as Zika, malaria, West Nile fever and dengue fever, and to hinder the ability of mosquitoes to transmit such infections.

SEEK, through its parent company PepTcell Limited, has a clinical trial agreement with NIAID to conduct the Phase I study at the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland under the direction of Matthew J. Memoli, M.D., Director of the Clinical Studies Unit in NIAID's Laboratory of Infectious Diseases.

Up to 60 healthy adults aged 18-50 years will take part in the trials to test the safety of the investigational vaccine, as well as its ability to prompt an immune response in human subjects.

Unlike other vaccines targeting specific mosquito-borne diseases, AGS-v is designed to trigger an immune response to mosquito saliva rather than a specific virus or parasite carried by mosquitoes. The test vaccine contains four synthetic proteins from mosquito salivary glands.

Such vaccines are key public health priorities identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the NIH, and other international health authorities.

Kym Denny, CEO of hVIVO, commented: "This vaccine has the potential to shift the balance of power in the fight against mosquito-borne disease, and is an excellent example of the UK's ability to translate insightful science into a potentially ground-breaking product. We are excited to commence the Phase I study with our partners at SEEK under the excellent stewardship of the team at NIAID, and I look forward to reporting progress on the trial in the coming year."



➔ Kym Denny, CEO, hVIVO



hVIVO files patents for flu and asthma predictor tools

hVIVO, specialty biopharma company with discovery and clinical testing capabilities, has filed two patents to predict the contagiousness of flu and asthma, and help to identify a molecular signature for predicting who will develop the most severe case of these diseases.

The patents arose as a result of hVIVO's data mining of their time-course, disease in motion samples to reveal patterns and meaningful correlations between clinical, cellular and molecular data. The goal is subsequently to identify molecular signatures and biological algorithms that can serve as predictor tools and patient stratification guides.

For asthma, the patent has enormous potential for both precision drug development as well as precision diagnostics while, as a development tool, the asthma worsening predictor can help select patients for enrolment into clinical trials. As a diagnostic or digital health tool, it could help patients at risk to proactively seek or avoid therapeutic interventions, thereby preventing serious exacerbations and morbidity for patients and substantially reducing healthcare costs.

For flu, hVIVO identified a candidate invention to distinguish who is contagious well in advance of showing symptoms and they are currently working to identify a molecular signature for predicting who will develop severe flu.

"Qualification of these discoveries is ongoing in 2017, and we continue to mine our existing discovery data sets with the goal of deriving additional commercially viable inventions," said CEO Kym Denny.

The flu contagiousness patent application was filed in February 2017, while the asthma patent was filed in April 2017.

QMB INTERVIEW

Professor Bill Spence

Vice Principal for Research and Interim Director of the QMUL Life Sciences Initiative



Queen Mary University of London (QMUL), together with Barts Health Trust (BHT), earlier this year released a joint statement of intent to build a major new Centre for Life Sciences in Whitechapel.

This is a massive regeneration project around the Royal London Hospital, Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry, that will provide opportunities for research, education and residential space in and around Whitechapel, creating thousands of jobs in the process.

As Interim Director of the Life Sciences Initiative and a member of the Life Sciences Strategy Group, Professor Bill Spence plays an important role in this major cross-disciplinary and multi-partner initiative. QMB caught up with Bill to ask him about what the next steps are and what the vision is for the Life Sciences Centre.

Q Can you give us a rough timeline for the development of the Centre for Life Sciences in Whitechapel, when is it going to break ground and what happens next?

We are in detailed, final-stage discussions with Barts Health Trust on the agreed provision of 40,000 square metres of space for Life Sciences in Whitechapel, adjacent to both the Royal London and key parts of QMUL's Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry. We are expecting agreement within weeks on the precise areas of land involved and the financial commitment. Ground should be broken this year and the first buildings completed in 3-4 years. Scientific activity is, of course, already building up.

Q It's undoubtedly going to be transformative for the area, which has a younger population. Is it going to be similar to Imperial White City, which "brings together world-class researchers, businesses and partners from academia to work, share ideas and turn cutting-edge research into benefits for society." What's the flavour going to be?

In general terms, yes, we will of course be bringing together world-class researchers, businesses and partners to share ideas and turn research into societal benefits. There are particular strengths at QMUL and in the Trust and we will be building on these – the work in Trauma, for example, is world-leading, and this will be one of the key areas we will be seeking to expand further and support. Population Health is an essential component, as there is a critical need to provide health benefits for the population served by the Trust. But note that these health needs are common to many areas of the UK, and world-wide, and this work will have international impact. Finally, inflammation is a third key area – covering a variety of very common health conditions.

The research strengths at QMUL will be essential to all of this. For example, our work in genomics. We host Genomics England, the national programme for sequencing 100,000 genomes for specific diseases, and East London Genes and Health, a complementary project focussing on the local population and ethnic groups, where our broad connections with the community play a key role. These provide basic data that will be analysed and linked with health data to find out the genetic basis for illnesses and new ways to identify and treat them via personalised medicine. We will need our computational colleagues here to process and understand the huge amounts of data involved.

Other examples are our research on new medical devices and digital health, and our expertise understanding the social context of health. These are in our Faculties of Science and Engineering and Humanities and Social Sciences, respectively. More widely, we have world-leading cardiovascular and cancer research and translational work nearby at Charterhouse Square and Barts.

Q Can you tell us who the other stakeholders are?

We are naturally talking to the obvious large companies with interests in these areas, in the pharmaceutical, informatics and devices sectors for example, and SMEs. Other partners are major charities and other universities, and public and patient engagement will feature strongly, as it does within QMUL and the Trust. We will not have any trouble filling the available space.

Q What is the breakdown of the partnership - is it going to be 50%-50% between QMUL and Barts NHS, or is it going to be sliced up differently?

The proposal is for a Life Sciences campus with a range of activities, from curiosity-driven research through to translational work, spinouts and clinical trials. There will be educational and public engagement space and key worker and student accommodation, and support services such as cafes. The mix of QMUL, Barts, East London Foundation Trust and other NHS, and partners in different areas will naturally differ. While the initiative will be QMUL led in general, the partnership with Barts is absolutely critical.

Q Where does QMB fit into the overall plan? Is there a wealth generation aspect to the initiative and do you have any job targets?

Expanding incubator space is an essential element – our bio-incubator QMB is fully occupied, as you know, and enquiries from potential tenants are continual. A second incubator within the development overall is highly likely and would naturally be focused on wealth generation. Alongside this will come job creation, and we know that QMB have generated over 400 jobs. But this is only one part of the wealth generation – such a large new development will bring many people to the area, generating economic activity through their presence and work. Based on the overall scope of the development, professional assessments are that it will have an impact of over £11bn over a thirty year period, with over 11,000 full-time jobs created.

Q Where do you see the development positioned in 10-20 years? What's the vision?

The vision is an urban Life Sciences campus, with an open structure, that fosters the interactions of people working in different areas in order to generate new collaborations and ideas. The focus is on excellence and on the value of the work to society. The underpinning

areas of key activity, such as genomics and healthcare data, are those that are already rapidly rising to become the drivers of the most rapid improvements in healthcare. This will bring to the campus the best and the brightest, and the most benefits to people. In twenty years this development will be a central hub in a dramatically changed and vibrant part of London. We are looking also to the “post-genomics” era, when genome sequence data will be supplemented by profiling of proteins, metabolites, etc. – posing huge informatics challenges but permitting personalised medicine with still greater precision.

Q Is there central government / City Hall financial commitment to the initiative?

We have been in close discussions at the most senior level of national and local government, and there is strong support for this project.

Q Who is taking on the capital costs and long-term running costs?

As there are a number of different plots of land and a range of possible activities on these, the capital and running costs will vary but we expect to be responsible for much of this. Partners occupying space will naturally pay rent.

Q Do you see the other developments in London as competitors or allies? For example, White City and Kings Cross?

There will be some competition amongst the different incubators, but demand is projected to continue to exceed capacity. The developments elsewhere in London are in fact a boost to our plans – the higher the level of excellence in these fields in London, the more attractive London is, and Whitechapel will be as part of that. But your question is wider than incubator space. Competition is welcome and fosters excellence; at the same time it creates opportunities for alliances and collaborations. There are also differences with other developments – Whitechapel will be more focused on translating discoveries through to clinical practice, whereas the Crick Institute for example, has more of a fundamental science nature.

Professor Spence joined QMUL in 1994. His research interests are in theoretical physics, in the structures underlying quantum field theory and gravity, most recently studying new ways to formulate particle scattering amplitudes, such as those needed to analyse results at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC).

QMI ROUNDUP



 Graeme Brown, Director of Technology Transfer at QMUL

Queen Mary Innovation (QMI) Ltd is the wholly owned technology transfer arm of Queen Mary University of London (QMUL). We caught up with Graeme Brown, Director of Technology Transfer at QMUL and Executive Director at QMI, to talk about some of the highlights so far this year.

QMUL spin-out's role is recognised in award for innovative CCTV solution

A revolutionary solution to reviewing CCTV footage, developed using software from a QMUL spin-out, has won a major award at the annual ADS Security Innovation Awards, which identifies and celebrates innovation across the UK's security industry.

The SeeQuestor system was developed incorporating Vision Semantics Ltd (VSL) video analytics technology which is based on the research of QMUL's School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science Computer Vision Group. The technology quickly scans hours of CCTV footage to identify critical leads for criminal investigations, significantly reducing man hours. The software was developed with input from leading British police teams who review video data 24-7, and can deliver results up to 100 times faster than current technology methods.

SeeQuestor works as a powerful analytical tool set, enabling officers to sift through footage much more effectively, detecting faces, bodies, clothing and movement as well as providing geo-location information on a dynamic map, and a motion detection filter.

Commenting on the award, Shaogang Gong, Chief Scientist at Vision Semantics Ltd and Professor of Visual Computation at QMUL, said:

"We are delighted by this news. In winning this award in a very competitive market, the commercial system built on Vision Semantics' patented video analytics technology beats some world-leading products including QinetiQ's latest SPO-NX system built for the US Transport Security Administration. This consolidates the rapidly gained reputation of this video analytics technology among end-users in the US, UK, Australia and India. We are very excited by the future prospects."

Tristram Riley-Smith, Chairman of SeeQuestor, said:

"SeeQuestor was created to answer a critical need of law enforcement agencies: to improve the costly and time-consuming process of reviewing video footage. We deliver radically faster video intelligence. Our platform is built on cutting-edge British research, and we will continue to push the boundaries of what is possible through the use of machine learning to develop new analytical tools."

Earlier this year, VSL won the 2017 Queen Mary Academic Commercial Enterprise Award.

QMI and Barts Health NHS Trust raise funds for clinical evaluation of ValGo device to treat Supraventricular Tachycardia

QMI and Barts Health NHS Trust helped inventors Dr Johann Grundlingh and Dr Alicia Refson, both Emergency Medicine consultants, successfully secure seed funding to develop their ValGo device, which will help in the treatment of Supraventricular Tachycardia (SVT).

SVT is an abnormally fast heart rhythm arising from improper electrical activity in the upper part of the heart, resulting in the heart going from beating at a normal resting pulse of around 70 beats per minute to over 100 beats per minute (and up to around 200 beats per minute).

SVT is a fairly common heart rhythm disorder. Thousands of people in the UK will have suffered SVT at some stage and it is one of the most frequent causes of emergency department and physician office visits.

Dr Grundlingh and Dr Refson, QMI and Barts Health NHS Trust, successfully completed a crowdfunding campaign to raise funds for the evaluation of the device in patients. In fact the fundraising was so successful, the minimum target of £8,000 was exceeded by £2,400 and the funds totalled £10,400. These funds will enable the team to test the device in patients in a phase I clinical study.

QMB HOSTS WHITECHAPEL LIFE SCIENCES EVENT

QMB recently hosted the Whitechapel Life Sciences Event, which showcased the long-term health benefits and research potential of the new Life Sciences Initiative in east London.

The initiative proposes the creation of a thriving Life Sciences Centre at the heart of a vibrant cluster hosting business, clinicians and academics, which aims to create thousands of jobs and add billions of pounds to the local and national economy.

Delegates heard about the medical challenges currently facing clinicians and residents in Tower Hamlets, and the benefits to the local population of having a world class integrated Life Sciences cluster in the borough, one of the poorest and most deprived areas in the country.

The guest speakers at the event included Prof Rakesh Uppal, Director of Life Sciences, Barts Health NHS Trust, Dr Somen Banerjee, Director of Public Health, London Borough of Tower Hamlets and Professor Simon Gaskell, Principal, Queen Mary University of London (QMUL). The event was anchored by Dr David Parry, the CEO of organisers SEHTA, delivered together with QMUL, the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Barts Health NHS Trust, and supported by the Mayor of London.

Dr Somen Banerjee outlined the scale of the health challenge in Tower Hamlets, which has the second lowest life expectancy in London for both men and women. The Borough also has, by some distance, some of the highest levels of childhood poverty in the country and one of the highest prevalence of chronic diseases like diabetes.

The initiative's plans, drawn up by Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) and Barts Health NHS Trust, the biggest NHS Trust in the UK, are seeking to develop under-used land which was left over after the completion of the new state-of-the-art Royal London Hospital in 2012. These proposals continue to be developed in discussion with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

The Life Sciences Centre will sit next door to the Royal London Hospital, one of London's top teaching hospitals, and provide a cutting edge facility with experts working together to bring new treatments to patients faster.

QMUL and the Trust are already working together on the innovative East London Genes and Health programme,

which aims to understand the relationship between genetic characteristics and disease among thousands of volunteers of South Asian origin, who are five times more susceptible to diabetes and other chronic diseases.

The clinicians at QMUL and Barts NHS Trust are undertaking research that will not only bring immediate health benefits, but also bring potential commercial applications.

Professor Simon Gaskell said the vision for the Life Sciences Centre is complementary to everything else that is going on in London, like The Frances Crick Institute, the biomedical discovery institute that is dedicated to understanding the fundamental biology underlying health and disease.

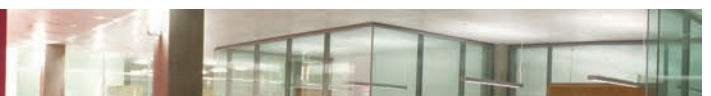
"People often ask what is so different to what is going on at The Crick? The Crick is a wonderful national initiative but it doesn't aspire to do 'translational' medicine. It aspires to do 'translatable' medicine but not translational medicine. In other words, they're not where clinical discoveries will be taken through into commercial outcomes or clinical practice," said Professor Gaskell.

Translational medicine is a rapidly growing discipline in biomedical research and aims to expedite the discovery of new diagnostic tools and treatments by advocating a multi-disciplinary, highly collaborative, "bench-to-bedside" approach.

Professor Gaskell added: "The vision behind this initiative is to go from discovery science through to clinical delivery on the same site. We're going to see a progression from translation into clinical practice, and translation into commercial outcomes."

Professor Gaskell also said there is scope to expand the business incubation space on the site, complementing the work at QMB and giving more companies an opportunity to take the next step in their commercial development.

"There's a long waiting list for companies to move into QMB. It's possible to join the virtual community but there's a long list for those who want to rent space in this building, so we need extra space for those activities and part of our vision is to increase incubator space on the site," said Prof Gaskell.





PLEASE CONTACT OUR MANAGEMENT TEAM WITH ANY FEEDBACK OR NEWS STORY IDEAS:



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