

## Welcome

Welcome to our monthly news update.

Readers of recent issues may recall the developments we have been undertaking in consultation with members and stakeholders in order to engage in the knowledge sharing, connectivity and sustainability across our membership.

This week sees the plans for BIO 2018 come to fruition as we collaborate with our members, stakeholders and international partners to connect our global network. Details of the plans have been highlighted recently in [Business Weekly](#) and a brochure prepared for the [Consul General Boston](#) hosted East of England reception at BIO. The global connectivity was highlighted further with the 'Working with Simcere Pharmaceuticals Group' session at Babraham, the latest in our series of Pharma days offering our members the opportunity to meet and engage with innovation-hungry multinationals.

A major benefit for us and for those joining One Nucleus is the potential to tap into the wealth of knowledge, experience and insight within our network. The first cohort of our [ON Mentors](#), not a traditional mentoring initiative, where other members can get early advice in order to shape their thinking as they commence building their next steps. Irrespective of stage of company life cycle, we all find ourselves doing things for the first time. Good advice when we start to build our decision tree increases the probability of getting steps one and two correct such that the later steps are more likely to be feasible. We are increasingly using consultation with members to shape e.g. the agenda at [ON Helix](#) and [Genesis](#) to ensure the content matches what members wish to discuss.

Finally in my welcome this month, I would like to thank those who have been kind enough to feedback on our developing Training, Skills and Learning & Development offer. Guidance on what students should be aware of in the industry is helping develop our ON Career Track programme, SIP-Cambridge is now a member of One Nucleus and our formal Training Needs Analysis survey is currently live. We are also delighted to be promoting the upcoming Science Apprenticeships event being delivered by CAST and WSC (page 5). A recent event discussing the success of Tech entrepreneurs Ben Towers and Luke Massie provoked me to consider the question 'which comes first, the scientist or the entrepreneur?' Complementing the above, I am delighted we are featuring Form the Future's work in this issue as they engage early in the careers pipeline to nurture our future talent pool.

For our regular features this month we highlight successes from some of our members, F-star and Avacta, the work of the British Skin Foundation, upcoming events, available discounts and an update from DIT.



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# What's ON?

## June

- 15 ON Career Track: Life Science Industry 101 **Register**
- 19 Cambridge New Therapeutics Forum **Register**
- 27 BioWednesday - From the Golden Gate to the Golden Triangle **Register**

- 28 M11 Forum: Genomics Research in the M11 Corridor **Register**

## July

- 3 Partnering to Defeat Cancer **Register**
- 5 Business Intelligence Breakfast: The Ins and Outs of Leases **Register**

- 4 BioWednesday London: Independence Through Collaboration Between the UK and USA Life Science Sectors **Register**

- 10 ON Helix DAY 1 **Register**

- 11 ON Helix DAY 2 **Register**

# ON member news

## F-star Announces Early Exercise by Denali Therapeutics of its Option to Acquire F-star Gamma

The collaboration between F-star and Denali Therapeutics, centred on the application of F-star's Modular Antibody Technology platform in the CNS field was announced in 2016. It was another step in the much admired business model strategy of F-star to create asset-centric vehicles alongside their core business as a means to commercialise arising product areas.

The collaboration between F-star and Denali focusses on developing Fcabs™ (Fc-domains with antigen-binding) against up to three different transporters in the blood-brain barrier (BBB). Fcabs enable delivery of biologic therapies into the central nervous

system (CNS) providing another mechanism by which to address neurodegenerative diseases such as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), Alzheimer's Disease and Parkinson's Disease, that remain some of the largest medical challenges of our time. The financial terms of the deal, that extends the application of F-star's technology in areas other than their own immunology focus, enables the clinical development of their in-house programmes. Early exercise of the Denali option is testament to the confidence in the F-star technology and further highlights this innovative deal-making strategy as a means to scale one of our local stars.



For the full press release see <http://www.f-star.com/media/85399/20180530-F-star-Announces-Early-Exercise-by-Denali-Therapeutics-of-its-Option.pdf>

# Avacta Group plc Announces Successful Outcome of “Gene Delivery” Collaboration with FIT Biotech

The Affimer approach to delivering protein therapeutics being developed by Avacta is a novel approach to addressing the protein production step by using the patient's own capabilities after delivering the required DNA sequence.

This goal of such a delivery route has been long sought. The challenges, including reliable achievement of prolonged, stable and safe protein production at

therapeutic levels have to date proven largely insurmountable however.

The announcement by Avacta and FIT Biotech of Finland describes in vivo proof of concept that combining the Affimer proteins with FIT's gtGTU gene delivery technology offers fresh optimism. This may open immensely exciting opportunities in the biologic therapeutic field that is predicted to be worth up to £480 Billion by 2024.



See the full press release at <http://www.onenucleus.com/news?id=7998>

## ON team talk

### Aline, Head of Business Development

Another busy month here at One Nucleus as well as in the network including members hitting international news, exciting community support like the accelerate@babraham start-up competition and our own **ON Mentors** launch.

But your devoted biotech servants are also working hard on what concentrates the best of our support in terms of profiling, networking and learning – our conferences.

You probably noticed that **ON Helix** (10, 11 July) is coming along nicely with an exceptional sponsors and speakers line-up. Don't forget to book your place, they're filling up quickly!

I'm also delighted to let you know that **Genesis** (13 December) is progressing very well. We're pleased to welcome on board three partners to support us in the parallel streams. Pharma Intelligence for the 'Convergence Through Deals', Cambridge Wireless for the 'Digital Bio-Convergence' and Pharma Licensing Group for the 'Convergence of Academia and Business'. If you're wondering why you're reading 'Convergence' three times in the same sentence it's because it will be the overarching topic of Genesis 18. We believe the sector's future sits in convergence and as we're seeing a lot of it already starting to redefine technology use, investment trends, even therapeutic areas, we thought it should reflect strongly on this year programme.

You can see the latest updates [here](#). And of course we always welcome comments and ideas so feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss them.

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# ON Community Interest

## Form the Future

Form the Future aims to open students' eyes to a wide range of possibilities and challenge them to think broadly and divergently about their futures. This will help every young person in the Greater Cambridge area to move from education into a rewarding and successful career.

To do this, it connects schools and businesses so that students can learn about employment opportunities and potential pathways from real-life role models. The students are also able to develop the necessary skills and experience that they will need to

succeed in their chosen careers.

Form the Future offers a diverse range of activities and programmes, which include careers inspiration and employability skills events, 1-to-1 mentoring, a careers advice service, STEM outreach and support with work experience and apprenticeships. They work with all ages from primary school to sixth form, with both state and independent schools. Could you provide the spark that inspires a lifetime of ambition? Visit its website to see how you and your business can get involved. Whether you would like to volunteer at one



of its events, are looking to take on a work experience student or would like to make a financial contribution.

<https://www.formthefuture.org.uk/>

## Accelerate@Babraham - WIN access to the Babraham Research Campus' bioincubator and life science accelerator

Life science start-ups are invited to apply for the chance to WIN access to the Babraham Research Campus' bioincubator and life science accelerator and a three-month bespoke programme of training, guidance and support.

It's a boom time for start-up programmes in the UK. The UK acceleration and incubation ecosystem has experienced massive growth over the last decade, becoming a popular way to support early stage ventures. Nesta research, published last year by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), reported that the number of accelerators and incubators has expanded significantly to over 160 accelerators and 200 incubators. It also came as no surprise that the vast majority of them are located within the Golden Triangle, or more specifically the Golden 'V' - if we consider a train connection between Cambridge - London - Oxford.

Interestingly, the majority of these initiatives have either a broad focus on digital technologies or no specific sectoral preference. Unfortunately, there is still a distinct lack of support for early stage life sciences ventures. Having co-launched the OneStart Competition in Cambridge (UK) in 2013 and since worked with young entrepreneurs in life sciences, both in the UK and globally, I have seen this first hand. The truth is that young biotech/ life sciences entrepreneurs still look primarily to the US for support via acceleration programmes such as Y Combinator or IndieBio, before considering the UK.

Looking closer to home I believe we have an equally strong proposition to support life science start-ups here at the Babraham Research Campus, right at the heart of the Cambridge Cluster. Our new bioincubator and life science accelerator, Accelerate@Babraham, is our latest exciting and we believe, distinct offering.



Our objective is to support the development of science concepts and the creation of new life science companies by providing access to equipped communal laboratories (including Cat 1 & Cat 2), bespoke training sessions, guidance from mentors and introductions to investors. The initiative complements our ongoing support of the Cambridge life science cluster, through the provision of access to the campus community and infrastructure without the need to be an established occupier on site. From our position as one of the top Bioincubators in Europe,

the addition of the Accelerate@ Babraham initiative enables the Babraham Research Campus to add a world-class acceleration programme into the mix of opportunities and activities already taking place here.

Announced at BIC 2018, the Babraham Research Campus' annual investor conference on May 22nd, the **Accelerate@Babraham Start-ups Competition** takes the concept one step further, to give new ventures the chance to win one of up to five spaces on the Accelerate@ Babraham programme for three months, starting from September 2018.

Life science start-ups are invited to apply for one of up to five prizes to win access to Accelerate@ Babraham's bio-incubator facilities, including communal equipped laboratory space, flexible workspace within the Babraham Research Campus' stimulating and supportive environment and access to its

community hub which includes office, meeting and social spaces.

In addition, each finalist will receive:

- £20K non-dilutive funding per venture
- 1-2-1 mentoring from world-class science and business experts
- Access to the Babraham Research Campus' highly experienced life science, healthcare, business and investor networks
- Access to Accelerate@ Babraham's top quality acceleration programme, bespoke training sessions and final Demo Day – all run by practitioner experts in life science and bio-innovation

The competition is open to early stage start-ups (who are yet to raise their first £1m funding/investment) with a life science sector focus, e.g.: therapeutics, synthetic biology, life science tools & technologies,

diagnostics or any transformative healthcare solutions. Applicants must be a team of at least two members and available to move to Cambridge (UK) for the entire acceleration programme. A passion for life science, healthcare and entrepreneurship is critical!

Ventures wishing to apply to take part in **Accelerate@Babraham's Start-ups Competition** should download the competition application form [here](#) and email it to [accelerate@babraham.co.uk](mailto:accelerate@babraham.co.uk) by midnight on 17 June 2018.

Shortlisted applicants will be notified on 21 June and will be invited to pitch in mid-July where a judging panel of business leaders will choose up to five successful finalists.

To discover more about Accelerate@ Babraham please visit [www.babraham.com/accelerate-babraham/](http://www.babraham.com/accelerate-babraham/)  
**Written by Karolina Zapadka (BBT)**



WSC in partnership with Cambridge Academy for Science and Technology



## INFORMATION EVENT FOR SCIENCE APPRENTICESHIPS

Cambridge Academy for Science and Technology, Robinson Way, Cambridge CB2 0SZ

**Wednesday 13th June 2018**

**3:45pm - 5:30pm**

Come along to

- See the facilities at Cambridge Academy
- Learn how science Apprenticeships can work for you
- Gain advice from our passionate team about the structure of training
- Hear about Level 3, Level 5, and Degree Apprenticeships

Please contact Richard Stittle to book

- [richard.stittle@wsc.ac.uk](mailto:richard.stittle@wsc.ac.uk) - 01284 716388 -



# ON charity of the month

## The British Skin Foundation (BSF)

Established in 1996, the British Skin Foundation (BSF) was set up to raise money for research into skin disease and skin cancer. Its mission is to find cures and better treatments for all skin conditions. It receives no statutory funding, so fundraising is crucial to its work and has helped it to give out £16,000,000 in grants to top quality skin research over the past 21 years.

Professor David Gawkrödger, Consultant Dermatologist & British Skin Foundation Trustee explains the outcome of just one of the studies we have funded recently.

The tumeric spice derivative, 'Compound X', offers hope for topical use in psoriasis

Dr Kehinde Ross, Liverpool John Moores University; Inhibiting MicroRNA-21 Expression in Psoriasis with a Curcumin Analogue

Dr Ross's team examined chemical compounds derived from curcumin, the principal chemical in the spice turmeric. Inflammation in the skin of people with psoriasis is medicated by small molecules known as microRNA-21. The researchers looked at the effect of curcumin-derived chemicals on microRNA-21 produced from keratinocyte skin cells grown in the laboratory. They found that a molecule that they have called 'compound X' which, unlike the cosmetically unacceptable orange-coloured curcumin, is colourless, reduced levels of microRNA-21. The inference



is that this action could reduce inflammation if applied to areas of psoriasis. The researchers are looking at how this discovery might be tested in people with psoriasis and perhaps eventually made available for use as a treatment.

[www.britishskinfoundation.org.uk](http://www.britishskinfoundation.org.uk)

# ON member discounts

**Start up Essentials for Life Sciences: 7 June - [view more](#)**

**The Journey Of Biopharmaceutical Innovation: 8 June - [view more](#)**

**MediWales Connects: 20 June 2018 [view more](#)**

**MedFIT: 26 - 27 June - [view more](#)**

**IoT Solutions World Congress: 16-18 October - [view more](#)**

**BioFIT: 4-5 December 2018 - [view more](#)**

# ON links

**Taylor Wessing Synapse - [view](#)**

**One Nucleus Blog - [view](#)**