



Collaborative Sourcing

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5 Key Biotech Takeaways from ON Helix 2025

ON Helix 2025 was a fantastic deep dive into the cutting edge of biotech. Beyond the buzz, several themes truly resonated, highlighting the dynamic forces shaping drug discovery, development, and patient impact.

Here are our top 5 takeaways:

1 The Unpredictable Power of Serendipity in R&D:

Simon Cook, Director of **The Babraham Institute**, reminded us that groundbreaking discoveries often emerge from unexpected results. Cultivating environments that embrace and explore scientific serendipity, rather than rigidly adhering to initial hypotheses, is crucial for unlocking truly novel therapies. It's about being open to where the science leads you.

2 Harnessing Human Resilience for Future Therapies:

Alchemab Therapeutics Ltd's fascinating work showcased the immense potential in exploring the human body's natural defenses. By understanding why some individuals are resilient to certain illnesses, Alchemab is pioneering an approach to unlock therapies for hard-to-treat diseases, turning inherent human immunity into a blueprint for future medicines.

3 Simple Innovations, Profound Patient Impact:

The **East Anglian Air Ambulance**'s research on traumatic brain injury (TBI) underscored how even seemingly simple, early diagnostic tests can dramatically improve survival outcomes. This highlights a powerful truth: innovation isn't always complex; sometimes, it's about applying smart thinking to critical, unmet needs for immediate, life-saving impact.

4 Navigating the AI Hype Cycle for Real Drug Discovery:

Kinga Bercsenyi, PhD from **Arctoris** provided a pragmatic view on AI's role in drug discovery. While the hype is undeniable, the real value lies in pushing through the hype cycle to identify and implement AI applications that deliver genuine, reproducible insights and accelerate the discovery process. It's about intelligent application, not just adoption.

5 Collaboration & Fortitude: The Bridge from Invention to Industrialisation:

A recurring theme for biotech startups aiming to develop, identify targets, and secure funding in challenging times. Getting from a brilliant invention to industrialisation and market impact demands more than just scientific genius. It requires unwavering fortitude, deep collaboration (no one can do it all!), a crystal-clear vision for the company, robust data demonstrating true proof of concept, and diligently building credibility with investors. It's a collective journey requiring immense resilience.

These insights reinforce the collaborative and relentless spirit driving progress in biotech.

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PROGRESS THROUGH COLLABORATION

5 key biotech
takeaways
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2025





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From Invention to Impact: Reflections from ON Helix 2025
Insights for life science leaders navigating complexity, scale – and opportunity.

Innovation. Invention. Industrialisation. Inspiration.
ON Helix 2025 reminded us that science isn't just about molecules – it's about momentum.





From molecular signalling to emergency trauma care 10,000 feet in the air, the message was clear: scaling impact across life sciences demands resilience, creativity, and connection.

 [Simon Cook](#) reminded us that no biological target is an island. Proteostasis and signalling networks are beautifully complex – and just when we think we understand them, nature reminds us we don't.





 Dr James Price, emergency physician and air ambulance doctor, took us far from the partnering floor into real-world chaos – no medicine, extreme temperatures, limited equipment. It's a sobering reminder that our innovations must work in the real world, not just the lab. Rapid, resilient diagnostics aren't optional – they're essential.

 [Miles Congreve](#) showed how AI has already redefined drug discovery. From AlphaFold to AlphaGenome, tools once considered revolutionary are now table stakes. What took a year now takes seconds.

But, as Bono might say, we still haven't found what we're looking for...

-  When will capital start flowing again?
-  Platform or asset – what's the better model?
-  The science is brilliant – but who's going to pay?
-  When will Eroom's Law finally reverse?

And yet – there are reasons to be optimistic:

-  Disruption – [Isomorphic Labs](#) and others are reshaping the game
-  Innovation – [Kuano](#)'s quantum, probabilistic models hold promise
-  Resilience – [David Cook](#)'s story of persistence after investor setbacks
-  Connection – Innovation flows from interdisciplinarity, iteration, and human collaboration

A final thought triggered by [Jake Galson](#) from [Alchemab Therapeutics Ltd](#):

If they can find survivors – people who defy disease and live long, healthy lives – can we learn from their biology? Maybe we can do the same at the company level: survive the tough cycles, beat the odds, and emerge stronger.

ON Helix wasn't just a conference. It was a call to action.

Thank you to [Tony Jones](#), [Alicia Gailliez](#) and the fantastic [One Nucleus](#) team.

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🚁 We weren't expecting #helicopters at the One Nucleus On Helix conference last week, but the excellent presentation on “#biomarkers & plasma therapy in hyper-acute traumatic brain injury” by James Price from the East Anglian Air Ambulance, all about reducing diagnostic uncertainty in pre-hospital emergency medicine, sure added a lot of buzz!

This year's theme, 'New Horizons for Bio Innovation', held at the beautiful Babraham Research Campus, had a carefully curated and wide-ranging program with something for everyone, adroitly orchestrated by Alicia Gailliez. With so much to choose from across many insightful presentations, here are three more that we enjoyed:

Alchemab Therapeutics Ltd's Jake Galson's case study on how the company is inspired by individuals with extraordinary resilience to disease.

An inspirational keynote by BioNavix's Johannes Stanta about getting clinic ready, which was full of valuable advice. Including the key point that “drug development is not a to-do list: It is a decision space.”

Start-up Dotplot's Shefali Bohra innovative AI-powered at home breast health monitoring technology in the form of a bijoux handheld ultrasound device and mobile app that takes the confusion out of self-checks.

Also always great to catch-up in person with Ro Gardner, Pierre-Emmanuel PEOTTA, Lynne Trowbridge, and Victoria English. Oh, and those amusing owls below too. 🦉🦉

Early shout out for Genesis on 3 December: Don't delay, register today!

<https://lnkd.in/eQvTWuEv>

#ONHelix25 #biotech #research #medtech #innovation #networking #science #cancer

