

ON eNews





Welcome to our September 2023 eNews

As always, September brings with it that back to school feeling, embedded within most of our annual rhythms from childhood. Whether continuing in a current role or starting something new, moving on from summer often feels like the beginning of a new chapter. Maybe it is the time taken by you and colleagues to reflect on progress to date that stimulates new ideas and plans to achieve success but either way it's an energised time that holds excitement and apprehension in equal measures.



The company goals have likely been in place for months since the start of the new business year and aren't changing, so these mid-year emotions are usually personal, as a focus on achievement thus far or in the months ahead has bedded in. It feels fitting therefore that our September eNews articles focus on some of the people aspects of a life science business and One Nucleus engagement. As well as keeping you updated on key One Nucleus activities, the writing in this month's issue looks at some of our support activities through the employee as well as corporate member lens.

As ever, you can keep up with the news from our members via our website, LinkedIn or <u>Twitter</u> pages. The <u>News stream</u> contains numerous updates from us and our members.

Tony Jones, CEO, One Nucleus

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What is the Importance of Training and Developing Your Workforce?



By Claire Abrams, Director of Events & Communications, One Nucleus

At one time or another, most companies have voiced their belief that their people are their most important asset. Thus, recruiting the best people you can as well as retaining them may well be key to sustained success. With exciting growth projections for the life sciences sector suggesting the competition for great staff is not likely to slow down any time soon, meaning attracting and retaining the best teams will require employers to be mindful of delivering staff satisfaction.

Richard Branson, founder of Virgin Group is often quoted as saying 'Train people well enough so they can leave, treat them well enough, so they don't want to'. This can be a call to action for employers to invest in staff learning and development if they wish to remain competitive amongst their peers. It could also be taken to imply that not investing in employee development could lead to them not being able to leave whilst also not the best team. A trap everyone would surely prefer to avoid.

Do employees care?

In a recent report by Intuition 47% of employees said their extra training and education helped them advance within their current company. Furthermore, 94% of employees believed they would stay with an organisation longer if there was investment in their Learning and Development.



The investment decision:



There are always competing needs at any company when it comes to budget allocation and life science companies are no different. There is always a case to be made, especially in research intensive sectors such as early-stage life sciences R&D, that budgets should be focussed on progressing the science and dealmaking, recruiting staff with the required skills and knowledge as required. To a point that of course

works in such a technical space, but whether that should, or even can be the only route to creating the best team is much less certain unless the company's expectation is short term needs and high staff turnover. Recruitment and induction of new staff is costly if there is an alternative to develop your own employees effectively. Investment in enabling performance and breeding loyalty can be hugely advantageous for any employer seeking to achieve their goals.

What is the Importance of Training and Developing Your Workforce?

What returns to expect

With the resource allocation agreed, what might an employer see by way of return in Learning & Development which should include:

- Increased Productivity Training is important because it represents a great opportunity for employees to grow their knowledge base and improve their job skills to become more effective in the workplace. Prepares employees for higher responsibilities Promoting from within means the new manager is already familiar with the company's core business, procedures and culture saving time and money recruiting and embedding an external candidate. Training helps to prepare employees who are moving into higher roles and taking on more responsibilities within an organisation, enabling them to learn the skills that are required to function effectively in their new positions. It shows employees they are valued An employee's experience with learning and development can play a key role in whether they decide to stay or leave an organisation. Despite the cost of training, the return on investment can be huge if it is consistent.
- **Bottom Line Impact** Staff turnover can be expensive when one considers the true cost of recruitment. the expense of preparing the role description, advertising or agency fees, management time to shortlist and interview and existing staff resources for induction all add up to tens of thousands of pounds depending on the vacancy level. And that is if you can successfully find the right candidates at all.

How can One Nucleus help? With all of this in mind, the One Nucleus training portfolio offers a range of courses, discounted for members, which are designed to facilitate the learning process.



Learn with us!

Whether you're looking to upskill or have a specific compliance need, we can help. From Presentation Skills for Scientist, to an Introduction to Managing Life Science Projects or lab and biosafety requirements, there's something to suit your training needs.

If you'd like to discuss a training requirement contact training@onenucleus.com

Why is Working for a One Nucleus Member

Company Good for You?

By Jasmin Bannister, Member Engagement Manager, One Nucleus

The Life Science sector, like the One Nucleus membership, consists of a diverse array of organisations that each play an important role in enabling the success of the ecosystem. At the very core of this, is the people who work within

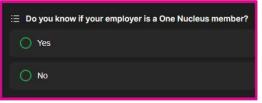
those organisations. People just like you! Here you'll find a summary of how One Nucleus membership can support and benefit you as an individual.

Is your employer telling you everything you should know?

It is often reported, for example by CIPD, how important internal communications are to maximise job satisfaction, employee feedback and overall success of the company. It has raised the question of how well do life science companies of various size and business model within the One Nucleus ecosystem and whether support to improve would be valuable. To explore this, we are taking a simple yes/no example among our readers about whether their employer is communicating its membership status and benefits of its One Nucleus connection throughout the organisation.

This example is to ask whether you are aware if your employer is or is not a member of One Nucleus? <u>Please</u> <u>vote yes or no in this anonymous poll.</u>

Once you have voted, you can find out if your organisation is a member by checking out our membership directory. If your employer is a member, you can download and explore the benefits of membership by downloading our ON Member Employee Benefits infographic on the right.





Stay informed, connected and visible



Photo by Photography for Healthcare and Biotech at ON Helix 2023

Through One Nucleus events and resources, you can gain a holistic view of your role within the ecosystem, empowering you to make meaningful contributions, develop your career, collaborate effectively and reinforce a strong sense of purpose from your work.

Our calendar is buzzing with events throughout the year to keep you busy. These include BioWednesdays, Innovation Seminars, Conferences and socials! Many are free to attend

Why is Working for a One Nucleus Member Company Good for You?

if your employer is a member of One Nucleus. No matter what your role, building your network will lead to long lasting relationships that can provide support or advice to help you thrive.

A number of the One Nucleus events are recorded for <u>on-demand viewing</u> on YouTube, helping you to accommodate your knowledge gathering around your other commitments. Whether new to your role or very experienced there are huge benefits to connecting to potential business partners, filling knowledge gaps to make informed decisions or just conversing with like-minded peers, so being involved is a great move.

Being generous is a great investment:

Sharing your knowledge, expertise and interests with others is a great way to attract new

business and personal development opportunities. Authoring a blog or article disseminated via the One Nucleus website is an excellent way to share your thoughts with the life science community, enhancing your professional visibility whilst making a valuable contribution to the industry that supports the education of others. An example of this was a recently published blog by Guy Kaddish about 'How Planning can Drive Inclusivity in Cambridge During its Life Sciences Boom'.



...and Be Prepared

Prepare yourself for higher responsibilities by attending training courses to improve your skills and knowledge A recent article written by Claire Abrams, Director of Events and Communications at One Nucleus sets out the benefits to you and your employer alongside the One Nucleus portfolio. Whether you are looking to gain experience or have a specific requirement, One Nucleus is here to help.

It's not all about work

In addition to the plentiful benefits that support your professional growth, it is equally important to consider your life outside of work. One Nucleus provides a range of opportunities to make savings you can use both in and out of work to enrich your wellbeing. These include:

- Discounted room rates at Quy Mill Hotel & Spa
- 10% Discount on Health Club Membership at Quy Mill Hotel & Spa
- Access corporate discounts and benefits on UK-US flights with United Airlines
- Discounted taxi fares with <u>Jewels Airport Transfers</u>

Contact Us

If you have any questions about how to access the benefits of membership or would like to have a conversation about applying for membership, please feel free to contact me on jasmin@onenucleus.com.

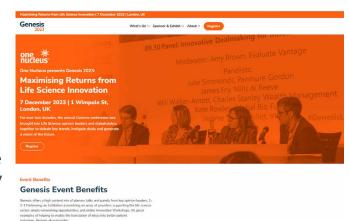
Revitalising Conference Websites: Enhancing Engagement for Life Science Companies



By Natalie Keuroghlian, Marketing Manager, One Nucleus

In the rapidly evolving landscape of life sciences, staying ahead of the curve is essential for success. This applies equally to those, like One Nucleus, delivering support

activities such as conferences as much as it does to the companies in research. For this reason, as we prepare for our upcoming Genesis conference on 7 December 2023, One Nucleus has been busy renewing the conference website. Readers may recognise this is a continuation of a project we activated for our ON Helix conference in July.



Although the One Nucleus primary events are well established, and widely recognised within the life science ecosystem, over time the events evolve and so does the corresponding online presence which serves as a first impression and primary connection to the audience. An outdated website can deter potential participants and hinder engagement. Providing seamless user experience with visual appeal is critical to both enthusing and enabling the ecosystem to engage effectively for the collective good. This has not been overlooked as we embarked upon the journey to revamp our conference websites. Set out below are some of the considerations we made that may help others contemplating their own online window to their business.

In the One Nucleus context, where our motivation is to bring the best support to life science companies, some of the ways in which the revamping strategy translates to benefit for those visiting the site are explained below.

Enhanced User Experience: A user-friendly website is paramount for retaining visitors and converting them into active participants. The updated website needs to boast intuitive navigation, responsive design, and faster load times. This translates to a smoother journey for life science companies as they explore conference details, speaker profiles, and schedule updates. Navigating through the website becomes effortless, allowing them to focus more on extracting valuable insights.

Comprehensive Information Access: Life science companies require access to a wealth of information to make informed decisions. The revamped website provides a centralised hub for conference-related content, from session summaries and programme details, to sponsor and exhibitor profiling. Adding in downloadable resources such as floor plans, topic-related news feed and an easier to navigate FAQ section enables visitors to effortlessly access a plethora of valuable information quickly and easily.

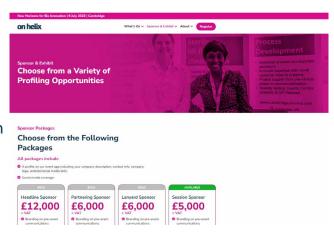


Networking Opportunities: One of the main draws of conferences are the networking potential they offer. The updated Genesis website outlines the process for using the conference app, a key networking platform, enabling life science companies to connect with like-minded professionals, potential partners, and industry leaders. The dynamic app platform encourages meaningful interactions that can lead to collaborations, partnerships, and

Revitalising Conference Websites: Enhancing Engagement for Life Science Companies

business growth. The aim has been to make this more obvious and accessible than on previous versions.

Real-time Updates: The life sciences industry is dynamic, with breakthroughs and developments occurring regularly. The inclusion of a news section to keep attendees informed about the latest news around the conference maintains value in regular revisiting of the website. This ensures visitors can remain current and make their conference plans accordingly.



Post-conference Resources: The commitment to providing value shouldn't end with the conference. Using the updated website to host a repository of post-conference resources, including links to session recordings, presentation slides, and exclusive industry insights, life science companies can revisit and reinforce their learning long after the conference has ended.

We are pleased to announce the comprehensive update to our conference website. In an era where the digital landscape plays an instrumental role in business success, One Nucleus's decision to update the ON Helix and Genesis conference websites underscores our dedication to delivering an unparalleled experience for our network.

We would welcome:

- Submission of news items for that section.
- Case-study articles of those aligning with the conference topics.
- Feedback on any further developments that would add value.
- Your time in engaging with, and adding value to, your peers as mometum builds towards the conference in December.

Through enhanced user experiences, comprehensive information access, focus on networking opportunities, news, and post-conference resources, we are confident that our revamped website will serve as an invaluable tool for companies seeking to thrive in the life sciences industry. As we eagerly anticipate the Genesis 2023 conference, we invite life science companies to explore our updated website and embark on a journey of innovation, learning, and collaboration.

For more information about our conference websites please contact natalie@onenucleus.com



Are You Asking the Right Questions when Assessing Your Next Lab Space?





By **Jasmin Bannister**, Member Engagement Manager, One Nucleus and **Richard Dickinson**, Chief Technical Specialist One Nucleus

The choice of where to locate your life science company R&D is a complex mix of factors including availability of suitable labs; accessibility to (and for) a high quality, labour pool; cost; and by no means least the ecosystem around you in terms of investors, academia, professional services and policymakers. All these factors increase the probability of success when in your favour.' A previous article by Member Engagement Manager, Jasmin Bannister discussed the pros and cons of city vs rural clustering and how that is evolving as major World cities and workforce attitudes evolve.

A shifting demand vs supply dynamic:

The UK, particularly the so-called 'Golden Triangle' has long been admired as a first-class location.

Fundamental to success and growth will be the availability of lab space that is fit for purpose. There appears to be an evolving shift away from hearing about <u>lab space shortages</u> towards ever-increasing square feet of <u>new lab capacity</u> in the pipeline. For example, we have even seen the UK Government supportive of the huge <u>expansion of Cambridge</u> and recently the approval over <u>1.5 million square feet to be developed in Stevenage</u>. Such growth does not



come without challenges, but it also brings opportunity for the experienced and new property and agents seeking to benefit.

Avoiding the more haste less speed trap:

So much enthusiasm to invest is fantastic for a sector that has been under-accommodated for decades. For fast growing life science companies, often led by teams who are understandably not experienced in lab space design and development, the need to secure lab space in a low availability cluster can be hugely stressful, costly and management time intensive. Even more costly, stressful and time consuming if misjudgements are made. Not all life science space is the same, not all existing buildings can be repurposed easily and not all leasing terms are equal. The key message has to be to get good advice early that enables you to ask the best questions of others and yourselves when it comes to meeting your company's needs.

Winning the heart and head buy-in:

Setting out to view potential facilities that may be made suitable for your company, it is often



the case that front of mind questions are slanted towards the people (location, accessibility, aesthetic look) and business (size, cost, availability) headlines. Understandable because everyone starts their search with their desired wish-list and nobody wants to be in the wrong place. The opportunity must meet the heart factors.

Then the head must take over and practicalities begin to factor in – it's always a compromise between the two.

Are You Asking the Right Questions when Assessing Your Next Lab Space?

Setting out on the right path to understand what you are being offered can be key, so here are listed some, but for sure not all, early technical requirements that need meeting and can be asked at or before the first viewing but are often overlooked until much time (and perhaps money) has been spent. The questions are listed to enable readers to feel if they know enough to begin asking questions of their property agent or potential landlord (answers below to maintain the suspense!)



The Questions:



- 1. **Power:** What phase power to the lab building and how much power is sufficient for a lab?
- **2. Ventilation:** What is the minimum number of air changes per hour (ac/hr) you require to run laboratory?
- **3. Heating and Cooling:** How do you install a system that allows you to heat and cool your building at the same time and why would you?
- **4. Drainage:** What are the key differences between office and lab draining needs?
- 5. Lifts: If your labs are anywhere other than ground floor, what size lift will you need?
- **6. Window Sill Heights:** What height should your lab's window sills be?
- 7. Laboratory Benching Heights: Will a standard fridge or freezer fit under your bench?

Who would you call?

You may be worried you need support on finding out what labs are or will soon be available in the market. Equally, when you know already know of space, you may be concerned that you



need some technical facilities support to ensure you have asked the correct feasibility questions, considered the best design and developed the best fit-out project plan for you. That's where a membership group such as One
Nucleus can add significant value from the very start of your lab space search through to your on-going facilities management.

Is it a destination?

Almost every business at some point will utter the phrase 'our people are our greatest asset' or similar. That is of course correct and with competition for the best people very high, and likely to remain so if the exciting sector growth predictions are correct. Employers are thus having to

consider not just the physical specification and aesthetics of the workplace they are creating, but ensuring it's a workplace that great staff want to spend time in. This is a combination of physical design and company culture as we heard in one of the One Nucleus Employer of Choice webinars with The Future of Work Institute.

See answers on the next page!

Are You Asking the Right Questions when Assessing Your Next Lab Space?



The Answers:

- 1. You require 3-phase power to the building and sufficient power to the building to support laboratories at 65W/m2 (note: this compares to 25W/m2 for an office if a conversion project is being considered).
- 2. Laboratories require a minimum of 6 air changes per hour (ac/hr) (note: offices require 3 air changes per hour (ac/hr) and have windows that can open to help with ventilation and cooling.
- 3. Labs require you to be able to heat and cool at the same time (e.g. a freezer room would need cooling most of the time while the lab would be heating or cooling depending on the outside temperature. For that reason labs need individual air conditioning units or a 3-pipe system (note: offices can have radiators for heating and windows for cooling or fan coil units which either heat or cool but not both at once (a 2-pipe system).
- 4. Offices mainly only have drainage in the core area/toilets, labs will require draining in far more areas.
- 5. Lifts must be big enough to take laboratory equipment eg. -80C freezer 1000mm(w) x 950mm(d) x 1981mm,(h); -150C freezer 1730mm x 765mm x 1010mm; or a large class II safety cabinet 1800mm x 800mm x 1520mm.
- 6. Window sill height needs to be at least 1150mm from the floor to the window sill, any lower than this and you will see the back of the electrical dado and you will have a potential dust trap.
- 7. To put fridges and freezers under the benches the gap from the floor to the underside of the benching supporting bar needs to be at least 860mm. This often means the bench height is @930 950mm from the floor to the top of bench.



Richard Dickinson, Chief Technical Specialist, One Nucleus has over 25 years' experience as a Facilities Manager and has worked for more than 35 years in the life science sector. Richard provides project management for office and laboratory fit-outs and can help with laboratory service contracts, maintenance contracts, cleaning contracts, utility bills, insurance, purchasing and budgeting.

In answer to the above question 'Who would you call?', then Richard is the go-to font of knowledge and <u>ready to receive your enquiry</u>.

New Horizons in Genetic Screening

By Alicia Gailliez, Business Development Manager, One Nucleus

Our opening panel for ON Helix 2023 focused on genetic screening, one of the most pivotal technologies of our modern scientific age. Advances in these technologies are enabling researchers to discover more effective, precisely tailored treatments, leading to improved patient outcomes. The rapid advances being made in genetic screening was the focus of the conversation among the panel selected for their diverse technological and patient engagement backgrounds. Moderated by Priya Kalia, Managing Director at SciTribe, the panel consisted of Debora Lucarelli, Enhanc3D Genomics; Kate Harvey, Genomics England; Kerry Thompson, BC Platforms and Edyta Wojtowicz, Earlham Institute. Unfortunately, Hannah Stark, NIHR BioResource was invited to participate but was unable to make it on the day.

The first part of the discussion addressed the role and feasibility of rolling out genetic screening across the lifespan. Starting from early years, it was exciting to hear from Kate that widespread newborn screening may not be far away. Building on the principles of Genomic England's Newborn <u>Screening Programme</u>, the Generation Study aims to sequence the genomes of 100,000 newborns in the UK for rare genetic diseases. The intention is to launch the study by the end of 2023, followed by an assessment of its potential for expansion to wider populations. It is encouraging to consider how initiatives like the Generation Study could lay the foundations for earlier detection of diseases that impact Photo credit PHandB.com individuals of all ages.



Addressing Priya's initial question about the feasibility of lifelong screening, Debora commented from a technology perspective that significant achievements have been made over the last 15-20 years in screening technology. However, Edyta highlighted that typical screening studies usually involve limited patient cohorts. Expanding screening initiatives to be accessible through the NHS for the public introduces challenges, namely cost considerations that still need to be overcome. Edyta commented that such 'narrow studies' were also increasing our knowledge of biomarkers and that biomarker testing that could be applied to identify early indicators of a specific diseases. There is a clear need for platforms that can help translate genetic data into clinical practice. Biobanks housing rich patient data are powerful tools to enable this. Yet biobanks are in relative

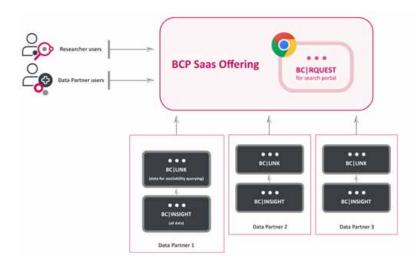
infancy, but progress is being made. Only earlier this year, the UK Biobank, the world's most significant source of data and biological samples for health research, was awarded £127.6m to fund a move to Manchester Science Park. The funding is a testament to the significant value that the UK Biobank represents as a resource.



There was consensus that challenges exist on the path of advancing precision medicine. Priya highlighted the significant amount of data required and access to such data which can really help to move the field forward. BC Platforms as a software provider, provides an example

New Horizons in Genetic Screening

solution via BC|RQUEST and BC|LINK, which helps to provide access to real world data for drug development to address the scalability, access and security challenges. Kerry explained the potential of federated data access. Such a platform means that different data custodians will be able to share data into, and access data from, a single database whilst the data itself does not move. Such federation of data sets ensures data security because the data never leaves the original environment.



The discussion moved to focus on the role of the NHS and data ethics. The NHS has an ambitious genomics strategy as detailed in the report <u>Accelerating</u> genomic medicine in the NHS. Released in Oct 2022, the report details four priority areas to be delivered over the next five years. This includes delivering genomics testing for equitable and improved healthcare for patients.

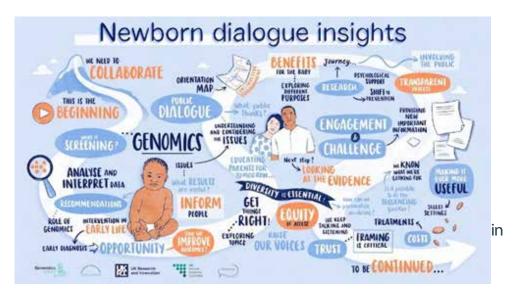


Highlighting the good progress being made in the NHS-Galleri trial, investigating a form of pan cancer screen, Debora drew from her personal experiences to discuss the Enhanc3D Genomics platform as a diagnostics tool, including the challenges involved in creating a product suitable for clinical use. Diagnostics tools are often perceived as a high-risk endeavour, primarily due to demanding financial resource requirements and uncertainty about the products' future trajectory. As a result, diagnostic manufactures may form partnership deals with pharmaceutical companies, thereby addressing challenges that the diagnostic manufacture may encounter with resources to take the project forward. Additionally, Debora reinforced the role of the patient community in gathering the essential data to determine which individuals will benefit from which therapies.

Data ethics is perhaps a topic that does not get talked about as much as it should. It was very enlightening to hear the panel feedback their concerns and how it can be possible to foster a more ethical approach moving forwards. Kate covered the principle of co-design, which is the process of involving patients in the design of clinical studies. This approach is working very well with the Generation Study, where participants will be approached at week 20 of their pregnancy for feedback on the research process so far.

New Horizons in Genetic Screening

The need for more support to bridge the gap between early preclinical studies and translation into approved products that can help patients was the next topic. Debora drew comparisons between the UK and the US, noting that the financial environment is more favourable the latter. Another challenge for the integration of new technologies into clinical practice involves addressing



the need for proper clinical training. Edyta talked about how dialogue exchanges between researchers at the Earlham Institute and clinicians from the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital were helping to refine research hypotheses' by focusing on specific patient types and diseases of interest. This collaborative approach can help to save time and resource.

Priya guided the discussion towards transparency and impact across the life course. Kate highlighted the results of the Genomics England public consultation on the <u>use of whole genome sequencing in newborn screening</u>. The implication that the results of the screening could impact the entire life course of a participant, illustrating that bringing patients into the design process is crucial. The consultation was important for establishing an accessible forum communicated in simple terms, aiming to understand the feelings that people have on the subject.

There is a required balance between data sharing and maintaining privacy. If individuals hold their own genetic data, it implies that they might be aware of carrying a gene associated with a potential disease. However, there is also the counter side in terms of who else who might have access to this information and how will it be used, which may create anxiety for individuals.

In summary, the ON Helix 2023 panel acknowledged genetic screening's evolving landscape, highlighting potential patient benefits as well as ongoing challenges. The panel touched upon the significance of the NHS, federated data access, the potential of biobanks and collaboration with patients which is very key. Moving towards a future where we can use genetic screening across the life course to change disease management is clearly contingent on collaboration, consideration of ethics and patient engagement. Initiatives such as the Generation Study are a testament to this, as well as a promising stride towards earlier detection of disease.

We would like to extend our thanks to all panellists and moderator for their valuable contributions.

<u>Click here to see the recording</u> of Priya Kalia's reflections on the key messages to come out of the discussion.

Click <u>here</u> to watch the full session recording from 6 July 2023.