BioBeat'25

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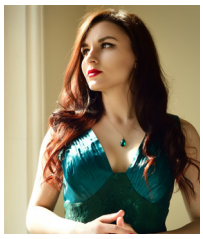
Welcome

We look forward to your joining today's conversations.

At this exciting summit, leaders in life sciences will discuss success in biotech through forward-thinking. Biotech and Partnering Hotspots will explore key areas, where partnerships tend to be struck and the drivers behind such deals. Nailing the Fundraise will discuss the practical side of closing a financing round.

Miranda Weston-Smith
BioBeat Founder

Dr Anne Horgan
Partner
Cambridge Innovation Capital



Dr Alisa Molotova
Start-up Mentor

Agenda

13.30-14.00 Registration

14.00-14.05 Welcomes

Miranda Weston-Smith, Founder, BioBeat

Dr Anne Horgan, Partner, Cambridge Innovation Capital

14.05-14.55 Panel 1: Biotech & partnering hotspots

Chair: Priya Mande, CEO, RNAvate

Dr Khatereh Ahmadi, Head of Search and Evaluation Team, European BD&L Hub, MSD

Dr Sarah Cole, CEO, SENISCA

Dr Rebecca Godfrey, COO, ExpressionEdits

Dr Michelle Jones, COO, Astex

14.55-15.25 Tea & coffee

15.25-16.15 Panel 2: Nailing the fundraise

Chair: Dr Anne Horgan, Partner, Cambridge Innovation Capital

Dr Laura Lane, Vice President, Lilly Ventures (Head of Europe), Eli Lilly

Dr Elena Lovo, Head of Life Sciences EMEA, Innovation Economy, JP Morgan

Dr Annelise Soulier, CSO and Co-founder, Neobe Therapeutics

Dr Nicki Thompson, CEO, TRIMTECH Therapeutics

16.15-16.20 Wrap up & thanks

Miranda Weston-Smith, Founder, BioBeat

16.20-18.00 Networking & drinks

Panel 1

Biotech and partnering hotspots

Priya Mande, CEO, RNAvate (chair)
Priya Mande is a BioPharma CEO with 30 years of Pharma and Biotech experience, including GSK and Pfizer. She is CEO and Board Director of RNAvate, a RNA Therapy company co-founded by nobel laureate Sir Venki Ramakrishnan. She was a founding member of PsiOxus, transforming the academic spin out to an award-winning international company holding roles including COO/CEO, Board Director and President. During the Covid-19 pandemic, she was invited to the UK Government Vaccine Task force as Deputy Director and Advisor. She studied Applied Biochemistry, received her MBA with distinction from London Business School and is a Chartered Director with the UK Institute of Directors.

Dr Khatereh Ahmadi, Head of Search and Evaluation Team, European BD&L Hub, MSD
Khatereh Ahmadi has worked in the industry for 20 years. She currently leads the Search and Evaluation BD team in Europe and ME at MSD and previously lead the oncology BD&L in Europe. Previously, she was a co-founder and CEO of reViral Ltd, an anti-viral company, subsequently acquired by Pfizer. She played a significant role in the spin out of Piramed Ltd, an oncology company, leading BD which culminated in a transformative deal with Genentech and acquisition by Roche. She obtained a PhD in biochemistry and held a post-doctoral position at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research working in the PI 3-kinase field.

Dr Michelle Jones, COO, Astex
Michelle Jones (COO) has been at Astex since 2000, and oversees strategic alignment across business, finance, and science functions alongside the CEO and CSO. A key member of the deal team, she has led R&D collaborations and IP licensing with major pharma companies including MSD, Janssen, and Novartis. A European and Chartered UK Patent Attorney, Michelle previously headed Astex's global IP team. Recognized in IAM Strategy 300 and named a Managing IP Corporate IP Star, she was Chair of the BioIndustry Association IP Advisory Committee and is a CIPA Life Science Committee member. Michelle holds a Ph.D. in Biological Chemistry from the University of Cambridge and a B.Sc. (Hons) in Chemistry from the University of Birmingham.

Dr Rebecca Godfrey, COO, ExpressionEdits
Rebecca is the COO at ExpressionEdits, a Cambridge-based biotechnology company optimizing protein expression using AI and proprietary intronization technology. At ExpressionEdits, Rebecca provides strategic leadership across business, financial, and operational functions, with a particular focus on commercial partnerships.

Rebecca's extensive track record of building highly successful organizations covers all stages of the product lifecycle, across a wide variety of therapeutic modalities and in all regions worldwide. Rebecca has held Director / Global Head level roles at Roche, Eisai and AbbVie and more recently the role of COO at digital health start-up, OKKO Health, and Research Chief of Staff for the clinical-stage gene therapy biotech, Freeline Therapeutics.

Dr Sarah Cole, CEO, SENISCA
Sarah is CEO at SENISCA Ltd., a biotech focused on developing innovative therapeutics for age-related disease. With over 20 years' experience at the forefront of R & D and the venture capital funding of biotech firms, Sarah has established, operationalised, and led early-stage biotechs. With a record of leading on negotiations and successful deal-making, Sarah is a recognised thought-leader in strategic development, pipeline creation and the critical evaluation of potential business opportunities. Sarah holds a Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge.

Panel 2

Nailing the fundraise

Dr Anne Horgan, Partner, Cambridge Innovation Capital (chair)
Anne Horgan is a Partner focusing on Life Sciences investments.
Prior to joining CIC Anne was a Partner at Advent France Biotechnology (now AdBio Partners), a Paris-based venture capital firm specialising in seed investments and company creation, and Senior Associate at Sofinnova Partners.
Anne started her career as a Senior Medicinal Chemist at Cambridge Biotechnology Ltd (now part of Benevolent AI) before joining Cancer Research Technology (now Cancer Research Horizons) as Business Development Executive.
Anne brings over 20 years' experience, spanning across all aspects of Life Sciences innovation from drug discovery, technology transfer and business development to equity financing.
Anne carried out postdoctoral research at Yale University after her PhD in synthetic organic chemistry from the University of Bristol. She holds a diplôme d'ingénieur (Chemistry) from the Institut National des Sciences Appliquées de Rouen, authored several peer-reviewed papers and is an inventor on eight patent families.

Dr Annelise Soulier, CSO and Co-founder, Neobe Therapeutics
Annelise Soulier, co-founder CSO, is a microbiologist and molecular biologist with 15 years' experience in both academic and industry settings. Formerly at Prokarium, with over 7 years' experience in the engineering and development of bacterial therapeutic products for different disease indications, she's co-inventor of an oral vaccine against enteric fever tested in clinical trial. In 2021, she co-founded Neobe Therapeutics with Dr Pedro Correa de Sampaio and she designed a synthetic biology platform to engineer first in class microbial vectors to produce extracellular matrix remodelling enzymes only within the solid tumour microenvironment to enable immunotherapies efficacy in non-responders patients.

Dr Elena Lovo, Head of Life Sciences EMEA, Innovation Economy, JP Morgan
Elena Lovo is the Head of Life Sciences for the EMEA region within the JPM Commercial Bank, Innovation Economy.
Prior to joining the Commercial Bank, Elena was on the Healthcare Investment Banking team at JPM for five years, where she worked with biotech companies in EMEA, helping her clients on strategic transactions and with their capital formation execution.
Elena also worked on Morgan Stanley's Investment Banking Healthcare coverage team prior to joining the firm.
Before Elena began her banking career, she worked in consulting at Decision Resources and Pharmaventures, supporting pharma, medtech, health tech and biotech clients on a broad spectrum of strategic projects, and on licensing and sell-side transactions.
Elena holds a PhD in Immunologv. as well as a master's degree in Medical Biotechnologies and a bachelor's degree in Cellular and Molecular Biotechnologies and worked in Baltimore, US, with Prof. Gallo on HIV research during her academic career.

Dr Laura Lane, Vice President, Lilly Ventures (Head of Europe), Eli Lilly
Laura Lane, PhD, is VP and European Head of Lilly Ventures at Eli Lilly & Company, leading the firm's venture capital strategy in Europe. She manages direct biotech investments, fund-of-fund relationships, and broader external innovation initiatives. A PhD-trained scientist, Laura brings experience across venture capital, tech transfer, start-ups, consulting, and pharma. Before Lilly, she was with Advent Life Sciences, where she contributed to investments such as MiroBio (acquired by Gilead), Highlight Therapeutics, and PIC Therapeutics. At Lilly, she has led investments in NanoSyrinx, Augustine Therapeutics, Trimtech, and Maxion Therapeutics. Laura previously held executive roles in UK biotech start-ups and earned her master's and PhD from the University of Cambridge. She also serves on the boards of 3CCorona CIC and the UK BioIndustry Association.

Dr Nicki Thompson, CEO, TRIMTECH Therapeutics
Nicki has over 25 years' experience in pharmaceutical and biotechnology R&D in a variety of senior scientific and leadership roles. She is CEO of Cambridge-based TRIMTECH Therapeutics (an MRC LMB/UK DRI spin-out), which focuses on a novel targeted protein degradation (TPD) approach to treat neurodegenerative diseases. Nicki led TRIMTECH through its recent $31M seed financing. Nicki was also founding CEO of Amphista Therapeutics. She was previously VP and Global Head of External Drug Discovery at F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd and prior to that, Senior Director, Business Development for GSK's external drug discovery and external innovation groups. Nicki's Biotech experience also include her roles as CBO, then Chair of the Board for Nanna Therapeutics Ltd (acquired by Astellas Pharma Inc.) and Chair of the Board for Camena Bioscience. She holds a PhD in Cell Biology from University College London

Upcoming events that may be of interest to the BioBeat community

Appleyard Lees
Intellectual property law

Appleyard Lees, Intellectual Property Law Specialists: Building a strong IP strategy

Intellectual property often plays a critical role in attracting investment, selling assets or licensing them. What is the best approach to forming a robust IP strategy? What are the questions an investor might ask?

Join Appleyard Lees for an insightful, in-person workshop with practical tips on the best way to prepare for IP due diligence.

Wednesday 21 May 2025, 08.30-10.30
Clayton Hotel, 27-29 Station Road,
Cambridge, CB1 2FB
To register click here.

COVINGTON

Covington & Burling LLP, Life Sciences Legal Specialists - Key legal considerations for early-stage life sciences companies

What are the key legal considerations that you need to be aware of as you scale your business and develop your products? Join our Entrepreneur Hour to learn more about how regulatory, IP/commercial and corporate matters could impact your business. We will host a workshop with practical tips to address the evolving regulatory landscape, considerations on a spin-out/investment as well as licensing and other partnering arrangements.

Tuesday 10 June 2025, 9.30-11.30
22 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4BQ
Please contact Alex Williams at Covington
(awilliams@cov.com) for further details

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