



# bionow<sup>®</sup>

*Awards 2022*

## SHORTLIST



# ABOUT THE AWARDS

The prestigious Bionow Awards is a highlight of the life sciences calendar and celebrates the sector's achievements, showcasing the very best in the industry.

With the ceremony again taking place at the iconic Concorde Conference Centre, we invite you to join Bionow in marking this celebration in style, pop open the champagne and take our hats off to the dedicated companies and individuals that excel in this exciting and innovative industry!

Don't miss out and book your tickets or table for the awards event of the year.

**Date:** Thursday, 16th March 2023

**Venue:** Concorde Conference Centre, Altrincham

**Dress code:** Black tie

Enjoy a tour of the Concorde!

[www.bionow.co.uk/event/BIONOW144](http://www.bionow.co.uk/event/BIONOW144)



"I AM A GREAT ADVOCATE OF BIONOW.  
OVER THE YEARS I HAVE SEEN THE  
NETWORK FAMILY GROW AND THIS IS  
GREAT TO BE PART OF."

## Introducing the 2022 Bionow Awards Shortlist

It was another great year for nominations for the Bionow Awards, with two brand-new categories for 2022!

The standard was as high as ever and certainly didn't make the judging panel's job easy! We would like to thank everyone who entered, there were strong contenders across the board.

Geoff Davison, CEO of Bionow said: "The quality of applications has been truly exceptional and it was so difficult to narrow it down. We were also very impressed by the entries for our two new categories, Partnership & Collaboration and Business Growth. We can't wait to see everyone at the awards ceremony on 16th March!"

## **BIONOW BIONOW START UP AWARD**

**SPONSORED BY RSM**



### **RAPID FLUIDICS**

Rapid Fluidics provides microfluidic design, prototyping and manufacturing services using a novel approach to rapidly and accurately produce microfluidic test cards. This offers a much faster iteration cycle through designs, at lower cost, reducing the time and cost of product development.

### **SPOTLIGHT PATHOLOGY**

Spotlight Pathology are a spin-out from The University of Manchester developing a digital diagnostics platform to streamline the diagnosis to blood cancers. Our services aim to allow blood cancer diagnostics services increase their capacity, improve standardisation of diagnosis and reduce turn-around time for patients.

### **VIVECA BIOMED**

Viveca Biomed, a rapidly growing specialist female healthcare business based in Ashington. Focussed on the manufacture and sales of its innovative bladder support Contrelle Activgard which provides sufferers of bladder leakage a new quality of life. The product has recently gained NHS approval and is exported to over 20 countries

# **BIONOW HEALTHCARE PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**SPONSORED BY ENTRUST RESOURCE SOLUTIONS**



**Entrust  
Resource  
Solutions**

## **F2G: NOVEL THERAPY FOR INVASIVE FUNGAL INFECTIONS IN PATIENTS LACKING OPTIONS**

Data from ongoing Phase 2b open-label study of olorofim in 100 patients with invasive fungal infections with limited or no treatment options showed strong efficacy and good tolerability profile, supporting the New Drug Application for olorofim that was accepted by the FDA with PDUFA target action date June 17, 2023.

## **IMMUNDNZ: ASSAY TO ASSESS SUSCEPTIBILITY TO CYTOKINE STORM IN PATIENTS AT RISK**

Cytokine storm is a severe to fatal condition caused by infectious pathogens or drug compounds mediated by immune response, and which was recently also seen in COVID-19 patients. There has been a lack of safe and translational experimental models to predict a tolerance or progression into cytokine storm in asymptomatic patients. The aim of our research is to develop a safe non-interventional in vitro human assay that can be instrumental in assessing this. The developed assay is predictive of cytokine release-associated risk in individuals who may be susceptible to cytokine storm, and can be challenged by mutated viral segments or peptides or drug compounds like CAR-T.

## **UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER: IDENTIFYING NEW TREATMENTS FOR PATIENTS WITH RARE CANCERS (DETERMINE TRIAL)**

The genomics revolution is enabling identification of actionable genetic alterations in patients with rare cancers who have limited treatment options. DETERMINE is an innovative multi-drug pan-cancer platform trial providing access to and evaluating targeted therapies outside their licensed indications, working with the NHS to progress promising drugs to routine access.

## **BIONOW PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**SPONSORED BY WATERS**

# Waters

**THE SCIENCE OF WHAT'S POSSIBLE.™**

### **ALCHEMAB THERAPEUTICS. NOVEL PROTECTIVE 'SELF'-ANTIBODIES FOR DISEASE MODIFICATION IN HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE**

In collaboration with Medicines Discovery Catapult, Alchemab have identified candidate therapeutic antibodies from individuals demonstrating resilience in neurodegenerative disease. The antibodies were discovered using Alchemab's revolutionary platform, which harnesses the power of naturally protective antibodies to develop an understanding of the unique features of the antibody response of resilient individuals.

### **CPI. SOTERIA: DEVELOPMENT OF A SCALABLE MANUFACTURING PROCESS FOR ORAL INFlixIMAB**

This project involved formulation, scale up and manufacture of an oral drug (GMP) for inflammatory bowel disease. Currently, treatment involves intravenous administration in a hospital, being a time consuming and unpleasant process. With this solution, the patient can take the drug at home which will target only the diseased area.

### **UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL. MICROAGE: MICROGRAVITY AS A MODEL FOR ACCELERATED SKELETAL MUSCLE AGEING**

MicroAge experiment on the International Space Station successfully investigated how microgravity mimics ageing-induced muscle loss. An interdisciplinary partnership (University of Liverpool, Kayser Space Ltd & UK Space Agency) developed and miniaturised automated bioreactors to maintain 3D-cultures in space with broad applications in microgravity studies and terrestrial applications in muscle testing.

## **BIONOW PRODUCT OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**SPONSORED BY HEALTH INNOVATION MANCHESTER |  
YORKSHIRE & HUMBER AHSN | THE INNOVATION AGENCY**



### **CREST SOLUTIONS: CXV GLOBAL SMARTFACTORY LINECLEARANCE ASSISTANT™**

CXV Global SmartFactory LineClearance Assistant™ is an innovative solution which digitalises the Pharma/Medical Device Line Clearance process during Packaging Operations and enables clients in regulated industries to deliver compliant products to market with maximum efficiency and quality. It dramatically improves Operational Efficiencies whilst reducing the time taken to complete a line inspection by up to 85%.

### **TECTORES: PELLITEC BLISTER PREVENTION PADS**

PelliTec blister prevention pads stick to the inside of footwear, not the skin. The pads cushion to offload pressure and gel within the pad moves with the foot reducing blister causing friction. A recent study shows the pads stop the recurrence of diabetic foot ulcers in a high risk cohort.

### **TRUPCR EUROPE: TRUPCR BCR-ABL1 TRANSCRIPT SCREENING KIT**

TRUPCR BCR-ABL1 Transcript Screening Kit (v2.0) A CE-IVD certified Real-time PCR kit providing qualitative detection and differentiation of 12 different BCR-ABL1 transcripts: e6a2, e6a3, e8a2, e8a3, e13a2, e13a3, e14a2, e14a3, e1a2, e1a3, e19a2 & e19a3

## **BIONOW TECHNICAL SERVICE AWARD**

**SPONSORED BY SQUARE ONE LAW**

**SQUAREONELAW**

### **AGILITY LIFE SCIENCES: FAST FUTUREPROOF FORMULATIONS**

Agility Life Sciences is an award-winning formulation development CDMO, focussed on accelerating milestones and futureproofing products. Our innovative, "Fast Futureproof Formulations" approach turns badly behaved molecules into successful formulation products, giving them the best chance of success in preclinical studies and enabling them to be accelerated to clinic or commercialisation.

### **CRYSTEC: MSAS® - REVOLUTIONISING THE SPEED AND EFFICIENCY OF BIOMOLECULE PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT**

Biomolecule products are notoriously challenging to develop, and current processes can be complex, costly and inefficient. Crystec's mSAS® technology provides an attractive, single-step, alternative to conventional processes, enabling high levels of retained activity to be achieved whilst simultaneously engineering particle to meet a Target Product Profile.

### **RAPID FLUIDICS: NEXT-DAY TURNAROUND OF RAPID-PROTOTYPE MICROFLUIDIC DEVICES**

Rapid Fluidics provides microfluidic design, prototyping and manufacturing services using a novel approach to rapidly and accurately produce microfluidic test cards. This offers a much faster iteration cycle through designs, at lower cost, reducing the time and cost of product development.



## **BIONOW PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION AWARD**

**SPONSORED BY MILLS & REEVE**

# MILLS & REEVE

### **MEDICINES DISCOVERY CATAPULT: PSYCHIATRY CONSORTIUM**

The Psychiatry Consortium is a strategic collaboration of two leading medical research charities, eight pharmaceutical companies and two contract research organisations focusing on identifying and validating novel drug targets to address the unmet therapeutic needs of people living with mental health conditions.

### **STERLING PHARMA SOLUTIONS: STERLING PHARMA SOLUTIONS/NORTHUMBRIA UNIVERSITY BIOCATALYSIS KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER PARTNERSHIPS**

To innovate in sustainable technology, Sterling Pharma Solutions established a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) with Northumbria University to introduce science-led, commercially viable capability. The KTP (graded Outstanding by Innovate UK) created a new biocatalysis capability, laboratory, customer propositions, and fostered continued collaboration to further embed biotechnology through a second KTP.

### **UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER: IDENTIFYING NEW TREATMENTS FOR PATIENTS WITH RARE CANCERS -(DETERMINE TRIAL)**

DETERMINE is the first UK national multi-drug pan-cancer precision medicine (PM) trial in rare cancers for children and adults, providing access to and evaluating targeted therapies outside their licensed indications. DETERMINE has been made possible by a substantive collaboration between patient groups, academia, industry, charity, NHS and European partners.

## **BIONOW RISING STAR AWARD**

**SPONSORED BY CSL SEQIRUS**

# **CSL Seqirus**

### **LAURA AJRAM, MEDICINES DISCOVERY CATAPULT**

Laura Ajram is Partnership Lead for Neuroscience at Medicines Discovery Catapult. Through her drug discovery expertise and understanding of industry-academic collaborations, Laura has developed industry-standard academic drug discovery projects that have been funded collaboratively by pharmaceutical companies. Laura drives and supports pharmacological research, accelerating delivery of patient-focused medicines R&D.

### **MICHAEL EYRES, MEDICINES DISCOVERY CATAPULT**

Dr Michael Eyres, Senior Scientist – Spatial Biomarkers, Medicines Discovery Catapult, has brought transformational biomarker analysis capabilities to MDC, allowing the deep exploration of biology to better understand drugs and get medicines to patients faster. His ground-breaking studies have led to him being internationally recognised as an expert in this field..

### **JOHN FORSEY, PHARMARON BIOLOGICS (UK)**

John Forsey has launched a new service offering for Pharmaron's adeno-associated virus (AAV) analytical platform through implementation of gold standard GMP Analytical Ultra-Centrifugation (AUC) Empty:Full capsid ratio analysis. Validation of previous AUC software packages posed extreme challenges; however, John overcame these difficulties with UltraScan implementation, following his successful software qualification

### **KIMBERLY ROCKLEY, APCONIX**

Following completion of her PhD at Durham University, Dr Kimberly Rockley joined Apconix to develop novel human-based in vitro assays for early detection of seizure liability. Kim has won several awards for her research, which has resulted in commercial launch of an innovative approach to seizure detection.

## **BIONOW INVESTMENT DEAL OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**SPONSORED BY QIAGEN**



### **F2G: F2G AND SHIONOGI COLLABORATE TO BRING NEW ANTIFUNGAL TO EUROPE**

LF2G and Shionogi partnered to develop and commercialize a new antifungal agent, olorofim, for invasive fungal infections in Europe and Asia. The deal includes \$100 million upfront payment, shared development costs, commitment of up to \$380 million in regulatory and commercial milestones, plus double-digit royalties on net sales from Shionogi.

### **QV BIOELECTRONICS: PRE-SERIES A**

QV Bioelectronics, creators of implanted Electric Field Therapy for the treatment of brain tumours –has secured £2m in Pre-Series A funding from new and existing leading deep-tech investors. The round was led by the Science Angel Syndicate and Fink Family Office with participation from Northern Gritstone, SOSV and Catapult Ventures

### **DARESBUY PROTEINS: INVESTMENT FROM LYVA LABS, THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION'S INNOVATION COMMERCIALISATION ORGANISATION**

250,000 investment by LYVA Labs from their Health and Life Science Challenge fund into Daresbury Proteins enables the development of their proprietary recombinant technology for difficult-to-express biotherapeutics and position it for out-licencing to Big Pharma. The investment has created new jobs with further expansion planned in the next five years.

## **BIONOW BUSINESS GROWTH AWARD**

**SPONSORED BY SRG**



### **SAI LIFE SCIENCES**

Born during the COVID era, Sai Life Sciences, UK grew from a 1-person temp-office to a 70-strong scientific team with comprehensive lab infrastructure delivering value to pharma innovators globally. With an ability to attract and retain top talent, stellar project delivery and a growing demand, it is well-poised to sustain this momentum.

### **SEDA PHARMACEUTICAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

Consistent delivery of value to clients has led to exceptional growth in revenue (averaged at 81% per year) along with the associated profit and headcount growth. This has enabled a significant financial investment (~£4M) in new facilities to enhance our capabilities, capacity and working environment for our team.

### **STERLING PHARMA SOLUTIONS**

Sterling Pharma Solutions has grown its revenue and EBITDA by over 20% year on year. Its headcount has grown from 270 across two sites in 2019, to 1,350 across five sites today (+381%). Sterling has invested £50m across its global facilities; fast becoming a well-known, respected player in the industry.

## **BIONOW EXPORT AWARD**

**SPONSORED BY DLA PIPER**



### **CSL SEQIRUS**

CSL Seqirus has continued to innovate its seasonal influenza vaccine offering that improves public health outcomes for at risk populations such as those over 65 years of age and in so doing, has increased export revenues to nearly \$1b annually during the pandemic.

### **FIBROFIND**

FibroFind designed and patented proprietary human fibrosis bioassays that provide a pre-clinical service platform for determining the efficacy of medicines that prevent or treat fibrosis. Fibrofind services have achieved international recognition as a 'gold standard' in the field that are successfully exported to 134 companies in the pharmaceutical/biotechnology sector worldwide.

### **SEDA PHARMACEUTICAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

Integrated application of pharmaceutical development and clinical pharmacology has positioned us well to exploit the development requirements of the increasingly challenging molecules from the biotech community. Focussed marketing efforts and in-person visits to global biotech hotspots e.g. Boston, USA, have enabled us to build a substantial international client network.

## **BIONOW COMPANY OF THE YEAR**

**SPONSORED BY ASTRAZENECA**



### **CSL SEQIRUS**

CSL Seqirus, are driven by just one goal - to lessen the severity and impact of influenza, which can reach epidemic or even pandemic proportions with life-threatening consequences. Every year our influenza vaccines help protect millions of people. We find solutions to big, complex, challenging problems, and we see the results in the world around us. Then we do it all over again the following year.

CSL Seqirus is one of the world's largest influenza vaccine companies. We were created when CSL Limited, acquired the Novartis influenza vaccine business and combined it with vaccine subsidiary, bioCSL.

### **STERLING PHARMA SOLUTIONS**

Sterling Pharma Solutions has over 50 years' experience serving the global pharmaceutical industry. Sterling is a Partnership Development and Manufacturing Organisation collaborating with companies on everything from small molecules, API development and pre-clinical ADC R&D.

### **F2G**

F2G is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery and development of novel therapies to treat life-threatening invasive fungal infections. F2G has discovered and developed a completely new class of antifungal agents called the orotomides. The orotomides have a distinct mechanism of action, selectively targeting fungal dihydroorotate dehydrogenase (DHODH), a key enzyme in the de novo pyrimidine biosynthesis pathway. This differentiates the orotomides from the currently marketed antifungal agents. Olorofim (formerly F901318) is F2G's leading candidate from this class and has fungicidal activity against a broad range of mould infections including a variety of rare and resistant moulds that cause life-threatening infections for which current therapies have limitations or are ineffective.

## BIONOW OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION

SPONSORED BY SCI-TECH DARESBUY | SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY FACILITIES COUNCIL



Science and  
Technology  
Facilities Council



TO BE ANNOUNCED ON THE EVENING

**bionow**<sup>®</sup>

"The venue was an excellent choice, the dinner itself was delicious and the service was well executed. It was really great for me to meet up face to face with my clients under such great circumstances."

**Attendee,  
The 2021 Bionow Awards Dinner**



# THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

CSL Seqirus

MILLS & REEVE



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Waters  
THE SCIENCE OF WHAT'S POSSIBLE.™

Appleyard Lees<sup>®</sup>

bruntwood  
SciTech





A large British Airways airplane is suspended from the ceiling of a dimly lit event space. The words "BRITISH AIRWAYS" are clearly visible on the side of the fuselage. Below the plane, a large crowd of people is seated at tables, many of whom are wearing formal attire like tuxedos and dresses. The scene is illuminated with warm, low-key lighting, creating a sophisticated and celebratory atmosphere. In the foreground, a man in a tuxedo and a woman in a dark dress are looking towards the camera. The background shows more guests and stage lighting rigs with spotlights.

**BOOK YOUR TICKETS TODAY!**