

# The Evolution of LifeArc, a Translational Organisation

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Investment Principal, Seed Fund



feArc Not for **Profit** 180+ **Established** employees 2000 MRC >£37m R&D Spend heritage LifeArc **PHARMACEUTICAL ACADEMIC AND BIOTECHNOLOGY NON PROFIT Markets Institutions** Technology Transfer 4 drugs marketed Drug **Funds** Discovery Diagnostics Development

## **Technology Transfer**

 7 Business Managers: identification, protection and commercialisation of IP for the MRC and LSHTM

#### MRC Portfolio:

- 563 IP assets of which 26% are patented
- 67% of the patent portfolio is partnered; Of the remainder, 55% are being actively marketed and 25% have attracted interest from commercial partners
- £22.3m gross income from commercialisation activities

#### - MRC 2018-19:

- 55 new invention disclosures
- 9 patent filings
- 23 new licenses

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## Supporting Charities: Research to Patient

#### **Portfolio Review**

- Identifying, and where feasible, support research outcomes with the potential to deliver patient impact
- Ensuring funded research is protected & progressed for patient benefit

#### **Advisory Service**

- Ts & Cs review
- Update application and reporting forms to capture translational activities
- Revenue sharing guidelines
- Setting up collaborations
- Industry Engagement
- Drug discovery expertise in-house
- Therapeutic due diligence
- Marketing and IP advice

## LifeArc-AUTM Technology Transfer Career Training Fellowships

Aim: to ease entry into the TT profession by providing TT training and practical experience

Who is it for? Life Scientist-Europe based

#### What it provides:

- 12 months technology transfer training program
- Attendance at local and international technology transfer conferences
- Mentor and career support
- Assistance to secure practical experience through an internship (optional)

All 2017-18 candidates secured a permanent TT position by the end of the fellowship

2019-2019 applicants include 5 UK based fellows and 2 EU fellows

Applications for 2019-20 LifeArc-AUTM fellows closed in July

Contact Anji.Miller@lifearc.org for more information; (www.lifearc.org/careers/fellowships)

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## The Centre for Therapeutics Discovery

Bridging the gap between basic research and early drug discovery

Working with industry, charities and universities

A purpose built LifeArc facility opened April 2016

> 90 scientists

State-of-the-art equipment and capabilities

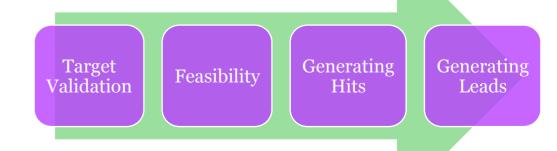
Biology, Chemistry and Biotherapeutics teams in one place offers unique flexibility

Focus on, and collaborations in;

- neuroscience
- antimicrobials
- oncology







## The Centre for Diagnostics Development

- Relocation to a purpose built facility 2017
- A team with significant industry experience in molecular diagnostics
- A regulatory compliant system
  - Translate early stage diagnostic
    opportunities working collaboratively with
    academics, clinicians & industry
    partners to realise opportunities, build
    effective diagnostic tools &
    bring patient benefit





### LifeArc Success in Numbers

#### 70 antibodies humanised over the last 30 years

• Mouse, rat, rabbit, hamster, llama, nanobodies

#### 20 entered in clinical trials

• To our knowledge, none failed for immunogenicity or reasons related to antibody properties

#### 6 antibodies currently in clinical trials

#### 4 humanised antibodies currently on the market

• Tysabri, Actemra, Entyvio and Keytruda

### **Ne are Self-Funded from Revenues**





CD / UC





RA

biogen idec ®





MS



Cancer

### LifeArc's Funds



## LifeArc supports the development of novel therapeutics through its Funds:

#### Seed Fund

- £25 million to invest, over the next four years, in early stage UK therapeutics companies that focus on diseases with high unmet need
- Any financial return will be re-invested to ensure that the fund is sustainable

#### Philanthropic Fund

- Awards grants, either directly to academics or together with rare disease charity partners
- Qualifying projects must show a strong scientific rationale along with a credible development path
- LifeArc will not ask for any financial return or intellectual property (IP) rights

## Seed Fund Mission Statement

- The LifeArc Seed Fund is an early stage investor in biomedical startups, working with the wider LifeArc community and focussed on addressing the funding shortage between innovative science and venture investment in order to better deliver clinical benefit to the patient
- A venture facing, and therefore market and demand-driven fund, thereby fulfilling LifeArc's mission of deliverability to the patient

## **Strategic Context**

- There is a shortage (rather than gap) in the UK funding environment for intelligent institutional capital to bridge from innovative science to venture investment and beyond to the patient
- LifeArc is financially equipped to help ameliorate this funding shortage and open up a new front to fulfil its mission of bringing innovative new medicines and diagnostics to the patient
- LifeArc is well positioned to lever its existing capabilities in this activity deal sourcing, value-adding services, existing relationships, to provide a real USP in the seed space
- The "Philanthropic Fund: Seed Fund: Venture Fund" is a powerful axis addressing market needs for joined up financing from first investment to exit

## Seed Fund Strategy – Basic Parameters

- Scope: therapeutics (possibly also compelling diagnostics)
- Focus: will include but not be limited to; immune oncology,
   neurodegeneration, respiratory, AMR, metabolic and anti-inflammatory
- Business model: focussing on innovation and credible path to approval and patient use
- Geography: UK
- Portfolio size: 10 12. Invested over a four year period
- Investment size: up to £2.5m total per investee
- Early VC endorsement (a proxy for market "pull")

## Typical Attributes of a Potential Investee

- Strong IP position
- Reputable scientists and institution
- Clinical validation of potential deliverables
- Demonstrable market pull via VC, and/or industry/key adopters
- Good quality co-investors (if required)
- An existing company with a business plan
- A commercial champion engaged

## feArc

## Thank you!

**Dr Pauline Stasiak** 

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