



ELRIG

The Drug Discovery
Community



EXPLORING
DRUG DISCOVERY
AND DEVELOPMENT

Drug Discovery 2025

A festival of life science

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

21-22 October 2025

ACC, Liverpool

#ELRIGDD25

proceedings brought to you by
DRUG DISCOVERY NEWS



**Drug
Discovery**
2025



Welcome to Drug Discovery 2025

A Festival of Life Science

Hi Everyone,

On behalf of ELRIG, I'd like to extend a big, warm welcome to this year's Drug Discovery event—our 19th annual gathering—right here in Liverpool. As always, we're here to spotlight the latest science and innovation in drug discovery, and to connect the amazing people driving it forward. It's your chance to learn something new, meet some great people, and hopefully leave inspired. I'm genuinely thrilled we're all able to come together again—it's going to be a fantastic couple of days.

Our Scientific Programme Chairs have put together another incredible agenda, with 12 track sessions and over 300 posters covering just about every hot topic in the field. Much of the track content has been created with partner organisations—Alzheimer's Research UK, the British Pharmacological Society, Cancer Research Horizons, the Protein Society, the Royal Society of Chemistry, and SLAS—we're so grateful for your collaboration and support.

In the Tech Theatre, we'll dive into the fast-evolving worlds of automation,

robotics (in partnership with SiLA), and AI. The Breakthrough Zone is back for its second year—your chance to hear from exciting start-ups working on tomorrow's tech, and to learn how to bring fresh ideas to market. If you're just starting out in your career, don't miss the Learning Zone for Early Career Professionals. It's packed with valuable content—from CV and career advice to flash poster sessions and the ever-popular "Network Like a Boss" speed networking event. And of course, be sure to explore the Exhibition Hall and Consultancy Cafe, where more than 200 of the world's leading technology, tools, and service providers will be showcasing what's new and next.

We'll also be celebrating outstanding quality and achievement through our awards. The Kirsty Smitten Award celebrates Early Career Professionals making an impact, and we'll be recognising exciting innovation and standout posters too. Good luck to all the nominees!

There's a huge amount going on—we couldn't do any of it without our incredible ELRIG volunteers, sponsors,

and exhibitors. A massive thank you to everyone who helped make this event happen: our conference directors, track chairs, speakers, and of course the brilliant ELRIG team working tirelessly behind the scenes. A special thank you goes to outgoing Chair Mel Leveridge and the ELRIG Board members for their leadership and dedication to growing the organisation we're all so proud of.

Most of all, thank you for being here. It's your energy, curiosity, and passion that make these meetings what they are. I can't wait to catch up with familiar faces and meet some new ones too.

Enjoy the conference!
Del Trezise, ELRIG Chair



Drug Discovery 2025 Corporate Sponsors

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Hello From the Conference Directors



ELRIG
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Alex Alderton
ASTRAZENECA



Laura Eghobamien
BLACK MEDICAL SCIENTIFIC NETWORK



Andy Merritt
LIFE ARC



Christian Parker
NOVARTIS



Rupa Shree Appa-Pind
NOVO NORDISK

Welcome to a festival of life science, a celebration of ideas, innovation, and impact across the life sciences. Our programme is a vibrant showcase of cutting-edge models, transformative technologies, and digital tools aimed at making drug discovery more successful, sustainable, and efficient. We also shine a spotlight on two critical therapeutic frontiers: neurodegenerative disease and oncology, inviting fresh perspectives and bold thinking to shape the future of medicine in these areas.

Our keynote speakers, Prof. Heather Pinkett (Associate Professor, Department of Molecular Biosciences, Northwestern

University) and Dr. Dafydd Owen (Senior Scientific Director, Pfizer Medicine Design) will be opening each day of the conference with their insights into the challenges and successes in drug discovery. We extend our thanks for their time and support.

We would also like to thank our partner organisations who are providing science tracks prepared by their community members and our track chairs who have masterminded an engaging and diverse selection of speakers.

And the science doesn't stop there. In the Exhibition Hall, there will be the

Tech Theatre, the Breakthrough Zone, and the Learning Zone, as well as over 200 scientific suppliers, so you can learn about all the latest products and services for your research.

Whether you're involved in early drug discovery research or translating your promising therapy to the clinic, you'll be sure to discover something that can help you at this year's event. ELRIG aims to remove as many barriers to conference attendance as possible, so all events are free to attend. In addition, there is a faith room and a wellbeing room available, ensuring our promise of inclusivity is at the heart of all our events.

Awards

Outstanding Contribution to ELRIG Award

Recognising individuals who have made exceptional and lasting contributions to both ELRIG and the broader drug discovery and life sciences community.

Tuesday 21st October,
10:05-10:20

ELRIG Innovation Award

Celebrating a new technology or therapeutic approach.

Wednesday 22nd October,
08:50-09:05

Kirsty Smitten Award

Recognising the impact achieved by an Early Career Professional within the Life Science Community.

Wednesday 22nd October,
09:05-09:30

ECP Poster Award

Acknowledging the best scientific poster submitted by an Early Career Professional.

Wednesday 22nd October,
09:30-09:35

DAY 1

Programme at a glance

Tuesday 21st October

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Time	Auditorium 1	Auditorium 2	Auditorium 3	Auditorium 4	Viewing Terrace	ELRIG Tech Theatre	Breakthrough Zone Theatre	Learning Zone
08:00-09:00	Registration							Early Career Professional (ECP) Meet & Greet
09:00-09:20	ELRIG Welcome to Liverpool, Annual Review and Conference Director Welcome (Presentations are live in Auditorium 1 and streamed to the other auditoriums)							
09:20-10:05	Keynote presentation - Targeting ABC transporters: Structural prediction and computational strategies against AMR - Heather Pinkett (Northwestern University) (Presentations are live in Auditorium 1 and streamed to the other auditoriums)							
10:05-10:20	Outstanding Contribution to ELRIG Award Introduction (Presentations are live in Auditorium 1 and streamed to the other auditoriums)							
10:20-11:00	Refreshment break						10:30-11:00 Flash company presentations	10:30-11:00 Staying grounded - Leading EDI with purpose amid shifting priorities
11:00-12:45	Advances in robotics and automation for the life sciences, in collaboration with SLAS	<i>In vitro</i> and <i>in silico</i> models for sustainable drug discovery	From bench to brain: hit-finding approaches in neurodegenerative disease therapeutics, in collaboration with Alzheimer's Research UK	Chemical biology and omics for small molecules - technologies, developments, and learnings	What's new in protein sciences in drug discovery, in collaboration with The Protein Society	From sample to insight - how robotics and automation enables the science of discovery		
12:45-14:00	Refreshment break with poster session 13:00-13:45						12:50-14:00 Flash company presentations	13:00-13:50 Early Career Professional (ECP) flash poster presentations
14:00-15:10	Advances in robotics and automation for the life sciences, in collaboration with SLAS	<i>In vitro</i> and <i>in silico</i> models for sustainable drug discovery	From bench to brain: hit-finding approaches in neurodegenerative disease therapeutics, in collaboration with Alzheimer's Research UK	Chemical biology and omics for small molecules - technologies, developments, and learnings	What's new in protein sciences in drug discovery, in collaboration with The Protein Society	From sample to insight - how robotics and automation enables the science of discovery		
15:10-15:45	Refreshment break Meet the ELRIG Sustainability Workgroup - ELRIG Hub						15:20-15:40 Flash company presentations	15:15-15:45 AI at the frontier: Empowering early career professionals in drug discovery
15:45-17:00	Advances in robotics and automation for the life sciences, in collaboration with SLAS	<i>In vitro</i> and <i>in silico</i> models for sustainable drug discovery	From bench to brain: hit-finding approaches in neurodegenerative disease therapeutics, in collaboration with Alzheimer's Research UK	Chemical biology and omics for small molecules - technologies, developments, and learnings	What's new in protein sciences in drug discovery, in collaboration with The Protein Society	From sample to insight - how robotics and automation enables the science of discovery		
17:00-19:00	Networking in The Exhibition Hall							17:30-18:30 Network Like A Boss

Visit our Exhibition Hall hosting over 200 companies, open from 08:00-19:00
Family Room 22, Wellbeing Room 23 and Faith Room 24

DAY 2

Programme at a glance

Wednesday 22nd October

Drug Discovery 2025 Corporate Sponsors



Time	Auditorium 1	Auditorium 2	Auditorium 3	Auditorium 4	Viewing Terrace	ELRIG Tech Theatre	Breakthrough Zone Theatre	Learning Zone
08:00-08:45	Registration							Early Career Professional (ECP) Meet & Greet
08:45-08:50	Conference welcome (Presentations are live in Auditorium 1 and streamed to the other auditoriums)							
08:50-09:05	ELRIG Innovation Prize (Presentations are live in Auditorium 1 and streamed to the other auditoriums)							
09:05-09:30	Kirsty Smitten Award (Presentations are live in Auditorium 1 and streamed to the other auditoriums)							
09:30-09:35	Early Career Professional Poster Award (Presentations are live in Auditorium 1 and streamed to the other auditoriums)							
09:35-10:20	Plenary Keynote - Drug discovery during the pandemic: The discovery of a COVID-19 treatment - Dafydd Owen (Pfizer) (Presentations are live in Auditorium 1 and streamed to the other auditoriums)							
10:20-11:00	Refreshment break						10:15-10:45 Refreshment break	10:25-10:55 Bridge the dream gap - Panel discussion with North West Women in STEM
							10:45-12:30 Enabling academic-industry collaboration to unlock next-generational technologies	
11:00-12:50	Accelerating delivery of patient benefit for all cancer patients, in collaboration with Cancer Research Horizons	From concept to clinic: Accelerating the path to life-changing therapies	Sustainable drug development: How can we mitigate environmental impact?	Chemistry and innovations in drug discovery, in collaboration with the Royal Society of Chemistry, with support from the RSC Medicinal Chemistry Journal	Use of novel technologies to enable drug discovery and drug repurposing, in collaboration with the British Pharmacological Society	Making the impossible possible: Using artificial intelligence to tackle challenges in drug discovery		
12:50-14:00	Refreshment break with poster session 13:00-13:45					13:10-13:50 Bio-Rad Workshop 'Introducing the next evolution of ddPCR solutions' - Robert Beal	13:00-13:45 Refreshment break with poster session	12:55-13:55 Drug Discovery 101
							13:45-14:50 Building spinouts and SME capacity and investment readiness	
14:00-15:15	Accelerating delivery of patient benefit for all cancer patients, in collaboration with Cancer Research Horizons	From concept to clinic: Accelerating the path to life-changing therapies	Sustainable drug development: How can we mitigate environmental impact?	Chemistry and innovations in drug discovery in collaboration with the Royal Society of Chemistry, with support from the RSC Medicinal Chemistry Journal	Use of novel technologies to enable drug discovery and drug repurposing, in collaboration with the British Pharmacological Society	Making the impossible possible: Using artificial intelligence to tackle challenges in drug discovery		
15:15-15:45	Refreshment break							
15:45-16:45	Accelerating delivery of patient benefit for all cancer patients, in collaboration with Cancer Research Horizons	From concept to clinic: Accelerating the path to life-changing therapies	Sustainable drug development: How can we mitigate environmental impact?	Chemistry and innovations in drug discovery in collaboration with the Royal Society of Chemistry, with support from the RSC Medicinal Chemistry Journal	Use of novel technologies to enable drug discovery and drug repurposing, in collaboration with the British Pharmacological Society	Making the impossible possible: Using artificial intelligence to tackle challenges in drug discovery		
16:45-17:00	Conference close							

Visit our Exhibition Hall hosting over 200 companies, open from 08:00-17:00
Family Room 22, Wellbeing Room 23 and Faith Room 24

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Information for Participants

Conference Code of Conduct

To help keep a safe space, we require the following from all attendees:

1. Pre-registration for the meeting is essential. At ELRIG we want all our meeting participants to enjoy, participate in, and contribute to the event.
2. ELRIG does not accept harassment or intimidation of ELRIG participants in any form whether verbal, physical, or written (including on social media or by email).

Harassment includes, but is not limited to:

1. Offensive or unwanted conduct on the basis of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation which has the purpose or effect of violating dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, or degrading environment.
2. Use of sexualised or other inappropriate images or unwelcome sexualised content, inappropriate physical contact, unwelcome sexual attention, or stalking.
3. Sustained interruption of speakers or those asking questions.
4. Unwanted photography or filming.

Intimidation includes, but is not limited to:

- Making threats
- Bullying
- Personal attacks

Participants who do not adhere to these rules will be asked to stop and expected to comply immediately. Participants may be removed from any meeting at the discretion of ELRIG's management. If you are being harassed/ intimidated, notice that someone else is being harassed/ intimidated, or have any other concerns, please contact any of the ELRIG management team immediately. They will be able to step in to remove you or others from a chain of communication, if this is the preferred action, and can also facilitate a discussion or mediation. If you wish, you may also nominate someone else to support facilitating any mediation or as an observer to this process.

Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi is freely available throughout the venue and may be found by following the instructions below:

1. Enable the wireless function on your device
2. Connect to the Free_Wifi SSID (wireless network)
3. Your device should automatically prompt you to sign into the network, if it does not or you miss the notification, browse to a web site of your choice e.g., accliverpool.com
4. You will be re-directed to the ACC Liverpool Landing Page

5. Click on the 'FREE WI-FI ACCESS' button

6. The page of your choice will then load

ELRIG Mobile App

Download the free ELRIG app and access all our conference information, programme, and more from your phone or tablet.

- View the event programme
- View presentation and poster abstracts
- View speaker profiles
- View the exhibitor guide
- View the delegate and exhibitor list
- Organise your day with your own favourites list

Share your profile as vCard and QR Code and scan exhibitor QR code information tags.

Network – contact delegates, other exhibitors, and speakers easily through opt-in directories and integration with LinkedIn, X, and Facebook.

Download our app - search for and install The Event App by EventsAir onto your mobile device, then use the Event App Code found in your email. For convenience, you can add the app to your device's home screen.

Faith Room

The faith room is UF24, located on the upper level.

Wellbeing Room

The quiet room is UF23, located on the upper level.

Family Room

The family room is UF22, located on the upper level. Toilets with baby change facilities are next to UF24.

Accessible Parking

Accessible parking is found at the adjacent King's Dock Car Park, with spaces spread over seven floors.

Disabled Toilets

Disabled toilets can be found on the atrium level, in the Exhibition Hall, and on the upper level.

Water Refill Stations

Water refill stations are located in the Exhibition Hall.

Cloakrooms

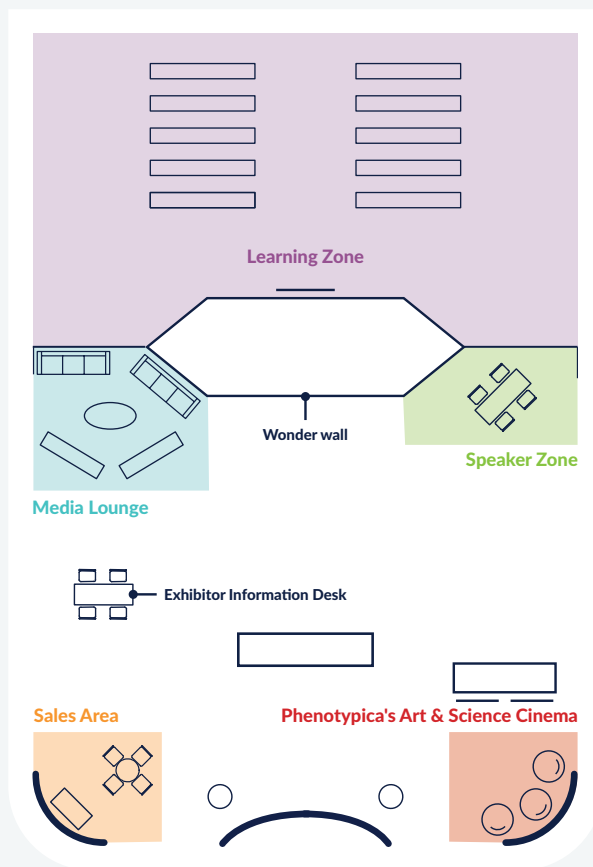
The cloakrooms are found in the atrium and are free to use. The cloakrooms are open during the open hours of the conference.

The ELRIG Hub

Located in the middle of the Exhibition Hall, the ELRIG Hub is a place to meet the ELRIG operational team for a coffee, find out more about how ELRIG works, our governance, and perhaps you may be inspired to volunteer.

Find out about events in 2026. Whether you are a delegate wishing to attend or a scientific vendor wishing to exhibit, we will have information on the conferences, forums, and networking events for your 2026 calendar.

ELRIG volunteer staff are wearing distinctive red t-shirts, if you need any assistance, please ask them.



Sustainable drug development: How can we mitigate environmental impact?

Why is ELRIG running a sustainability track?

ELRIG has 'sustainability' as one of its core strategic pillars, aiming for environmental and economic sustainability in its events business model, so it was an obvious choice to talk about sustainability in labs too. Last year we had the track Tech Theatre and it was very well received, so we have moved into one of the main auditoriums this year.

Why should we look at sustainability in the lab?

We all have a responsibility to consider the environmental impact of what we do, but often we've found as a side effect these initiatives actually reduce cost too, an added bonus if you are working in contract research or have a smaller budget.

Can the 3Rs (reduce, re-use, recycle) work in the average life science lab?

Yes, if you think them through carefully. For example for reduce, you can use different liquid handling techniques that miniaturise both the volumes needed and the dead volumes within the system. Also, you can move away from 'virgin' plastics and use consumables that have been produced from recycled materials.

But what about cross-contamination or issues like these?

When you consider all factors carefully, generally we find that assay robustness improves, so not only are you saving the planet, you are also saving time on repeat analyses.

To learn more about the various ways that drug discovery can be made more sustainable, come and listen to the presentations on Wednesday 22nd October in Auditorium 3. Meet the members of the Sustainability Workgroup on the ELRIG Hub during the afternoon break on Tuesday 21st October.

Day 1 - Tuesday 21st October

Advances in robotics and automation for the life sciences, in collaboration with the Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening

Auditorium 1

Life sciences, and drug discovery in particular, has seen an explosion of novel ways to manipulate and modulate biological systems. These systems have become increasingly complex, including multiple cell types, physical environments, changing conditions, and multi-dimensional readouts. These advances are creating the need for new solutions to automate the use of such biological systems at scale. This track aims to present the latest innovations in laboratory automation and their application to life sciences, diagnostics, and drug discovery.

Content Partner:



Conference Partner:



Track Sponsor:



Track Chairs



Manuela Beil-Peter
SLAS



Jonathan Wingfield
TTP Plc

TIME - BST	TITLE
08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:15	ELRIG – Welcome to Liverpool and Annual Review Del Trezise (ELRIG Chair) , Cllr Liam Robinson (Leader, Liverpool City Council)
09:15-09:20	Conference Director Welcome & Keynote Introduction
09:20-10:05	Keynote presentation - Targeting ABC transporters: Structural prediction and computational strategies against AMR – Heather Pinkett (Northwestern University)
10:05-10:20	Outstanding Contribution to ELRIG Award Introduction and Presentation
10:20-11:00	Refreshment break
11:00-11:10	Track Chair Introduction – Manuela Beil-Peter (SLAS) & Jonathan Wingfield (TTP Plc)
11:10-11:40	Automation at work, data that delivers – Sinead Knight (Sygnature Discovery)
11:40-12:10	Conference Partner – Accelerating innovation: Growth of an automation team and the impact on laboratory automation systems - Maximillian Dalglish (Hamilton Bonaduz AG)
12:10-12:40	Tailoring automation for T Cell engager discovery – Caroline Colley (Immunocore)
12:40-12:45	Technology Spotlight – INTEGRA Biosciences
12:45-14:00	Refreshment break with poster session 13:00-13:45
14:00-14:30	Searching chemical space with chemputation for the design, discovery and synthesis of complex molecules for applications in drug discovery – Lee Cronin (University of Glasgow)
14:30-14:35	Technology Spotlight – Thermo Electron LED GmbH
14:35-14:40	Technology Spotlight – Analytik Jena UK Ltd
14:40-15:10	Bridging AI and automation: Accelerating precision medicine discovery - Abbi Abdel Rehim (University of Cambridge)
15:10-15:45	Refreshment break
15:45-16:15	From bench to bot: Scaling assays for automated high-throughput screening (HTS) – Katie Hansel (Novo Nordisk)
16:15-16:30	Industry Insider – Cenevo
16:30-17:00	Bridging the channel: Complementing ion channel kinetics screening with orthogonal automated patch clamp – Alessio Perotti (Axxam SpA)
17:00-19:00	Networking in The Exhibition Hall

ATP-binding cassette (ABC) transporters – a new target to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

ATP-binding cassette (ABC) transporters work to actively transfer molecules in and out of cells. ABC transporters are found in all organisms and are generally well conserved. The vast majority of ABC transporters in humans are exporters, while bacterial pathogens have both import and export transporters; so import ABC transporters can be potential targets for therapeutics, giving new approaches to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Bacteria import molecules for several reasons, including molecules needed by the cell (e.g., a specific nutrient) or to selectively remove harmful molecules by importing and directing them into a degradative pathway.¹

As bacteria are living in an ever-changing environment, they need to scavenge essential nutrients to survive within the host or environment.² Additionally,

bacteria have duplicate (or redundant) systems allowing for transport of the same substrate/compound but can have different regulatory mechanisms that allow for homeostasis or maintenance of a certain level of a nutrient. Therefore, if we block one of the nutrient-specific ABC transporters, we ‘starve’ the bacteria and it dies.

Similarly, if we block an importer that is removing harmful molecules, then the concentration of that toxin builds up and the bacteria dies. Host organisms often produce molecules which are part of their defence mechanism to infection, one example is antimicrobial peptides (AMPs),¹ which target pathogen cell membranes and disrupt membrane integrity. Pathogenic bacteria have developed selective transporters to import the AMPs, preventing the concentration rising outside the cell and causing membrane damage.

ABC importers exclusive to bacterial cells may provide a target of interest, allowing for the inhibition of bacterial systems without impacting human transport mechanisms. By identifying preferential ABC importers utilized by pathogenic bacteria and disrupting function—either through out-competing the molecule (competitive inhibition of substrate mimic) or by preventing the transporter formation³—we can specifically target the pathogenic bacteria and minimise the effect on the friendly bacteria that form our microbiome, thus also minimising off-target effects.

Prof. Heather Pinkett will be discussing the work of her research group at Northwestern University into the structure, function, and regulation of ABC transporters. Her group focuses on understanding the transport mechanisms, so they can be disrupted or inhibited and how the ABC transporter is used in host-pathogen interactions to avoid host immune defences, enabling ABC transporter targets to be exploited in drug discovery.

**Prof. Heather Pinkett is presenting the Plenary Keynote
“Targeting ABC Transporters: Structural Prediction and
Computational Strategies Against AMR” at Drug Discovery
2025, 09:20 on Tuesday 21st October.**



1. Rivera K.G *et al*, (2024) ‘Antimicrobial Peptide Recognition Motif of the Substrate Binding Protein SapA from Nontypeable Haemophilus influenzae’ *Biochemistry*, 63, 3, pp294–311 <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.biochem.3c00562>

2. Tanaka K.J. *et al*, (2018) ‘Selective substrate uptake: The role of ATP-binding cassette (ABC) importers in pathogenesis’, *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta (BBA) - Biomembranes*, 1860, 4, pp868–877 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbamem.2017.08.011>

3. Pinkett H.W., (2025) ‘The evolution of ABC importers’ *J. Mol. Biol.* 437, 169082 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmb.2025.169082>

Day 1 - Tuesday 21st October

In vitro and *in silico* models for sustainable drug discovery

Auditorium 2

This track will discuss sustainable practices in drug discovery, focusing on advanced cell and *in silico* models. These models have the potential to reduce reliance on animal testing, enhancing sustainability and delivering human-specific data for better translational success. By encouraging cross-disciplinary dialogue, the session aims to advance actionable solutions for a more sustainable future in drug research.

Conference Partner:

nuclera

Track Sponsor:

RoukenBio

Track Chairs



Anthony Holmes
NC3Rs



Aurélie Thomas
AstraZeneca

TIME - BST	TITLE
08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-10:20	All content streamed from Auditorium 1
10:20-11:00	Refreshment break
11:00-11:10	Track Chair Introduction - Anthony Holmes (NC3Rs) & Aurélie Thomas (AstraZeneca)
11:10-11:40	Modular open-source solutions for drug discovery and development: integrating <i>in vitro</i> , AI, and mechanistic modeling - Marco Siccardi (ESQ Labs)
11:40-12:10	Conference Partner - Sustainable protein production in 48 hours for structural biology and drug discovery - Kundan Sharma (Nuclera)
12:10-12:40	Imaging & spatial omics: Transforming drug development with next-generation insight and precision - Stewart Jones (AstraZeneca)
12:40-12:45	Technology Spotlight - Myllia Biotechnology GmbH
12:45-14:00	Refreshment break with poster session 13:00-13:45
14:00-14:30	Can AI deliver a new era of medicine? - Miles Congreve (Isomorphic Labs)
14:30-14:35	Technology Spotlight - ReproCELL
14:35-14:40	Technology Spotlight - Sai Life Sciences Ltd
14:40-15:10	Unlocking immune-relevant biology in drug discovery with 3D spheroid models - Madhu Nag (Inspiro)
15:10-15:45	Refreshment break
15:45-16:15	Genotoxicity testing in the <i>In Vitro</i> Micronucleus (IVMN) assay using serum free media - Ewelina Hoffman (ImmuONE)
16:15-16:30	Industry Insider - pixlbio
16:30-17:00	A developers journey towards regulatory qualification of a drug discovery tool - Asli Akidil (Emulate)
17:00-19:00	Networking in The Exhibition Hall

Day 1 - Tuesday 21st October

From bench to brain: hit-finding approaches in neurodegenerative disease therapeutics, in collaboration with Alzheimer's Research UK

Auditorium 3

The impact of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease is getting more prominent as the public health cost increases due to the aging population. Despite the recent approval of disease modifying biologics, the discovery of new therapeutics against neurodegenerative diseases remains challenging. This session focuses on various strategies to identify and validate hits from screening campaigns against targets associated with neurodegenerative pathogenesis and methods to elucidate their mechanism of action. Additionally, the session will look into the breadth of biological models used in screening campaigns, the variety of modalities being investigated, and the application of automation and high-throughput screening concepts.

Content Partner:



Conference Partner:



Track Partner:



Track Chairs



Emma Armstrong
ARUK



Andrew Lim
The ALBORADA
Drug Discovery Institute



Fiona Jeganathan
ARUK



Emma Murphy
University of Oxford

TIME - BST	TITLE
08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-10:20	All content streamed from Auditorium 1
10:20-11:00	Refreshment break
11:00-11:10	Track Chair Introduction - Emma Armstrong (ARUK), Andrew Lim (The ALBORADA Drug Discovery Institute) & Emma Murphy (University of Oxford)
11:10-11:40	Detecting and tracking β -amyloid oligomeric forms and dynamics <i>in vitro</i> by a high-sensitivity fluorescent-based assay - Yanyan Zhao (University of Cambridge)
11:40-12:10	Conference Partner - Harnessing iPSC technology to enable disease-relevant assays for neurodegenerative drug discovery - Silvia Cainarca (Axxam SpA)
12:10-12:40	Rapid, high-throughput end-to-end automated human iPSC-derived models for CNS drug discovery - James Henderson (Arctoris)
12:40-12:45	Technology Spotlight - Axion Biosystems
12:45-14:00	Refreshment break with poster session 13:00-13:45
14:00-14:30	Targeting mitochondrial dysfunction in neurodegenerative disease - The advent of potent and selective USP30 inhibitors - Darragh O'Brien (University of Oxford)
14:30-14:35	Technology Spotlight
14:35-14:40	Technology Spotlight
14:40-15:10	The use of patient derived cells in compound screening for neurodegenerative diseases - Heather Mortiboys (University of Sheffield)
15:10-15:45	Refreshment break
15:45-16:15	Targeting mismatch repair with small molecules for trinucleotide repeat expansion diseases - Caroline Benn (Loqus23 Therapeutics)
16:15-16:30	Industry Insider - Zeiss
16:30-17:00	Targeting tau RNA with small molecules: An innovative screening cascade for identifying therapeutic tau-lowering agents - Liz Roberts (AstraZeneca)
17:00-19:00	Networking in The Exhibition Hall

Day 1 - Tuesday 21st October

Chemical biology and omics for small molecules – technologies, developments and learnings

Auditorium 4

Small molecule discovery and translation continues to underpin the development of innovative new medicines for patient benefit, and it is driven by an array of innovative technologies and workflows. Recent progress in the fields of chemical biology and omics speaks to significant ongoing opportunities in an increasingly diverse small molecule landscape. We draw together the strategies in these fields, highlight experience and lessons learned in development and application, and provide insights on areas for future consideration by contemporary drug discoverers.

Conference Partner:



Track Sponsor:



Track Chairs



Jon Large
LifeArc



Matthias Trost
Newcastle University

TIME - BST	TITLE
08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-10:20	All content streamed from Auditorium 1
10:20-11:00	Refreshment break
11:00-11:10	Track Chair Introduction - Jon Large (LifeArc) & Matthias Trost (Newcastle University)
11:10-11:40	Expanding the reach of small molecules: Lessons from AI-driven small molecule discovery - Sarah Kidd (PharmEnable Therapies)
11:40-12:10	Conference Partner - Envisia: Advancing antibody discovery with single-cell function-focused profiling - Paul Wylie (Lightcast Discovery)
12:10-12:40	Chemical rewiring of E3 ubiquitin ligases - Ferran José (IRB Barcelona)
12:40-12:45	Technology Spotlight - Altheome Limited
12:45-14:00	Refreshment break with poster session 13:00-13:45
14:00-14:30	Expanding the measurable proteome: chemoproteomics for target identification and biological insights - Jack Houghton (Imperial College London)
14:30-14:35	Technology Spotlight - Pelago Bioscience AB
14:35-14:40	Technology Spotlight - Alithea Genomics
14:40-15:10	Robust proteome profiling of cysteine-reactive fragments using label-free chemoproteomics - Mark Skehel (The Francis Crick Institute)
15:10-15:45	Refreshment break
15:45-16:15	MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry and proteomics as phenotypic screening tools for anti-inflammatory drugs - Leonie Müller (Newcastle University)
16:15-16:30	Industry Insider - Selvita Ltd
16:30-17:00	Elucidating the degradable kinome - Nicola Berner (TU Munich)
17:00-19:00	Networking in The Exhibition Hall

Day 1 - Tuesday 21st October

What's new in protein sciences in drug discovery, in collaboration with The Protein Society

The Viewing Terrace

The 2025 ELRIG 'What's new in Protein Sciences in Drug Discovery' track is organised in partnership with the Protein Society (www.proteinsociety.org). The interactive day will comprise two sessions that focus on the application of emerging areas of Protein Science to address challenges in modern drug discovery. The first session will cover AI/ML methods for protein design and novel target discovery. The second session will build on the first session and also cover novel biophysical and chemical characterization techniques to elucidate protein function in disease and facilitate therapeutic approaches.

Content Partner:



Track Chairs



Lovisa Holmberg-Schiavone
AstraZeneca



Laura Itzhaki
University of Cambridge



Kate Smith
GSK

TIME - BST	TITLE
08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-10:20	All content streamed from Auditorium 1
10:20-11:00	Refreshment break
11:00-11:10	Track Chair Introduction - Lovisa Holmberg-Schiavone (AstraZeneca), Laura Itzhaki (University of Cambridge) & Kate Smith (GSK)
11:10-11:40	Towards a motif map of the human proteome - Ylva Ivarsson (Uppsala University)
11:40-11:55	Industry Insider - Eurofins
11:55-12:10	Industry Insider - Thermo Fisher FEI
12:10-12:40	Inhibiting and reprogramming CBL ubiquitin ligase with a novel peptide tool — Danny Huang (Cancer Research UK Scotland Institute)
12:40-12:45	Technology Spotlight - Genedata AG
12:45-14:00	Refreshment break with poster session 13:00-13:45
14:00-14:30	The in-tissue structures and architectures of Alzheimer's pathology - Madeleine Gilbert (University of Leeds)
14:30-14:35	Technology Spotlight - Analytik Jena UK Ltd
14:35-14:40	Technology Spotlight - Sphere Bio
14:40-15:10	Accelerating antibiotic discovery AI - César De La Fuente (University of Pennsylvania)
15:10-15:45	Refreshment break
15:45-16:15	The EVA™ platform: integrating high-throughput antibody generation and machine learning to generate multispecific T cell engager antibodies with desirable therapeutic properties - Michael Mullin (LabGenius Therapeutics)
16:15-16:30	Industry Insider - Nicoya
16:30-17:00	Library design and screening for antibody alternatives - Anna Hine (Aston University)
17:00-19:00	Networking in The Exhibition Hall

Day 1 - Tuesday 21st October

From sample to data to insight –
how robotics and automation
enables the science of discovery, in
partnership with SiLA.

Tech Theatre

Robotics and automation tools to span the drug discovery cycle—from sample handling and workflow automation to data handling and analysis. With keynote talks followed by panel discussions to answer all your questions.

Content Partner:

SiLA

Track Chairs



Patrick Courtney
SiLA



Burkhard Schaefer
Splashlake

TIME - BST	TITLE
08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-10:20	All content streamed from Auditorium 1
10:20-11:00	Refreshment break
11:00-11:10	Track Chair Introduction - Patrick Courtney (SiLA) & Burkhard Schaefer (Splashlake)
11:10-11:30	Transforming lab automation with intelligent robotic scientists - Gabriella Pizzuto (University of Liverpool)
11:30-11:45	Industry Insider - Hooke Bio
11:45-12:05	Developing end-to-end automation for chemistry - Ian Riley (Labman Automation Ltd)
12:05-12:20	Industry Insider - Singleron
12:20-12:40	Robust, hassle-free assay development and transfer, across multiple locations and automation platforms, using design of experiments - Gareth Langley (Charles River Laboratories)
12:40-12:45	Technology Spotlight - IMCS
12:45-14:00	Refreshment break with poster session 13:00-13:45
14:00-14:05	Welcome - Patrick Courtney (SiLA)
14:05-14:25	Solution finding and connected processes in workflow development - David McClymont (Revvity)
14:25-14:45	The Open Reaction Database: Translating lab workflows to reaction data and enabling new insights - Benjamin Deadman (Open Reaction Database)
14:45-15:05	Scaling automation in drug discovery: Leveraging SiLA for seamless, unified instrument integration - Patrick Courtney (SiLA)
15:05-15:10	Technology Spotlight - Cellenion
15:10-15:45	Refreshment break
15:45-15:50	Welcome - Burkhard Schaefer (Splashlake)
15:50-16:10	Modern lab architecture: OT and IT - Andy Mitchell (Unilever)
16:10-16:25	Industry Insider - SPT Labtech
16:25-16:45	FAIR data for AI: Laying the foundation for intelligent drug discovery with the AnIML format - Burkhard Schaefer (Splashlake)
16:45-16:50	Technology Spotlight - Cube Biotech
17:00-19:00	Networking in The Exhibition Hall

Day 1 - Tuesday 21st October

Breakthrough Zone Theatre & Learning Zone

Network like a boss

A networking session like no other! Designed especially for early career professionals. Meet with industry experts, forge new connections, listen to their tips to the top, and understand strategies to help your career. Just turn up to join in this speedy, buzzy networking event.



We are glad to welcome the following 'bosses':

Christian Parker - Novartis
Marta Helena Lesko - Merck KGaA
Steve Rees - AstraZeneca
Adam Lodge - Iksuda Therapeutics
Patrick Courtney - SiLA
Katie Lim - Royal Society of Chemistry
Sinead Knight - Sygnature Discovery
Darragh O'Brien - University of Oxford
Emma Shepherd - Aston University
Tom Fleming - Arctoris
Charlotte Watkins - Secerna
Lisa O'Fee - Institute of Cancer Research
Laura Burzynski - Start-up
Nicola McCarthy - Milner Therapeutics Institute
Tim Ashlin - GSK
Laura Lemel - Domainex

TIME - BST	Breakthrough Zone Theatre	Learning Zone
08:00-09:00	Registration	Early Career Professionals Meet & Greet Breakfast
09:00-10:20	All content in auditorium	All content in auditorium
10:20-11:00	10:30-10:55 Flash Company Presentations Track Chairs - William Lee	10:30-11:00 Staying grounded - Leading EDI with purpose amid shifting priorities - Daniel Similaki (ACCSN)
	CS Genetics Biophys Ltd Wasteless Bio Northern Light Microscopy Ledidi AS	
12:45-14:00	12:50-14:00 Flash Company Presentations Track Chairs - Louise Affleck (Revvity) & Alicia Overall (Domainex)	13:00-13:50 Early Career Professional (ECP) Flash Poster Presentations
	Laverock Therapeutics Myomaker Bio Frontier Space ZOMP mo:re GmbH Nanoworx B.V. PartitionBio Biomim X Dataflight Skyang Bio LLC Z7 Biotech Ltd Dominion Biotech SPOC Proteomics Syntopia	
15:15-15:45	15:20-15:40 Flash Company Presentations Track Chairs - Jeeven Singh (Arctoris)	15:15-15:45 AI at the frontier: Empowering early career professionals in drug discovery
	Impulsonics Precisemed Ltd Epigenica Verinnogen	
17:00-19:00	Networking in The Exhibition Hall	17:30-18:30 Network like a boss

Day 2 - Wednesday 22nd October

Accelerating delivery of patient benefit for all cancer patients, in collaboration with Cancer Research Horizons

Auditorium 1

Cancer research is undergoing a transformative era, driven by groundbreaking advancements in molecular biology, genetic engineering, and therapeutic technologies. These innovations are expanding the boundaries of drug discovery and enabling the development of highly targeted and effective cancer treatments. This track will showcase the latest cutting-edge approaches in oncology, highlighting their potential to transform patient treatment and improve outcomes for all cancer patients.

Content Partner:



Conference Partner:



Track Chairs



Kevin Doyle

Cancer Research Horizons



Craig MacKay

Cancer Research Horizons

TIME - BST	TITLE
08:00-08:45	Registration
08:45-08:50	ELRIG and Conference Director Welcome - Sanj Kumar (ELRIG CEO)
08:50-09:05	ELRIG Innovation Prize Introduction and Presentation
09:05-09:30	Kirsty Smitten Award Introduction and Presentation
09:30-09:35	Poster Award
09:35-10:20	Plenary Keynote - Drug discovery during the pandemic: The discovery of a COVID-19 treatment - Dafydd Owen (Pfizer)
10:20-11:00	Refreshment break
11:00-11:05	Track Chair Introduction - Kevin Doyle & Craig MacKay (Cancer Research Horizons)
11:05-11:35	Discovery of small molecule modulators of oncogenic RNA targets - Reece Gardner (RevoNA Bio)
11:35-12:05	Conference Partner - <i>In vitro</i> biology characterization of two novel inhibitors targeting the different domains of DNA polymerase theta (Polθ) - Omar Loss (Pharmaron)
12:05-12:35	Designing best in class antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs) for the treatment of cancer - Adam Lodge (Iksuda Therapeutics)
12:35-12:50	Industry Insider - Cell Signaling Technology Europe B.V.
12:45-14:00	Refreshment break with poster session 13:00-13:45
14:00-14:30	Hijacking protein complexes: induced chemical ubiquitination of 14-3-3 complexes enables targeting of non-ligandable proteins - Peter Cossar (Centre for Targeted Protein Degradation, University Of Dundee)
14:30-14:35	Technology Spotlight - LIDE Biotech
14:35-14:40	Technology Spotlight - RoukenBio
14:40-14:45	Technology Spotlight
14:45-15:15	Genome-wide CRISPRi screening in patient-derived glioblastoma tumourspheres reveals genetic vulnerabilities - Liisi Laaniste (CoSyne Therapeutics)
15:15-15:45	Refreshment break
15:45-16:15	Identifying new treatments for underserved patient populations - David Jenkinson (C-Further)
16:15-16:45	Accelerating oncology drug discovery through functional genomics - Jennifer Hillis (Cancer Research Horizons)
16:45-17:00	Conference Close

Day 2 - Wednesday 22nd October

From concept to clinic: Accelerating the path to life-changing therapies

Auditorium 2

Navigating the healthcare market presents unique challenges, including stringent regulatory hurdles. Emerging entrepreneurs and inventors will gain insights to secrets of success from diverse companies. Learn how they secured funding, resources, and feasibility to market strategies. To wrap up the session, speakers join a panel diving deeper into questions on how they overcame hurdles and sharpened their ability to evolve from innovative concepts to sustainable, profitable entities.

Conference Partner:



Track Chairs



Hitesh Sanganee
Future Bio Consulting



Rupa Shree Appa-Pind
Novo Nordisk

TIME - BST	TITLE
08:00-08:45	Registration
08:45-10:20	All content streamed from Auditorium 1
10:20-11:00	Refreshment break
11:00-11:05	Track Chair Introduction - Hitesh Sanganee (Future Bio Consulting) & Rupa Shree Appa-Pind (Novo Nordisk)
11:05-11:35	Creating exceptional medicines with structure and ReSOLVE; the evolution of Ventus Therapeutics - Mike Crackower (Ventus Therapeutics)
11:35-12:05	Conference Partner - IndEx-2: An inducible cell line platform to evaluate the impact of target antigen density on immunotherapeutics - Emilio Cosimo (RoukenBio)
12:05-12:35	The power of antibodies: Advances in antibody design and therapeutics - Mihriban Tuna (Immutrin)
12:35-12:50	Industry Insider - CytoTronics, Inc.
12:50-14:00	Refreshment break with poster session 13:00-13:45
14:00-14:30	New approaches to extending healthy lifespan - Richard Marshall (Juvenescence Ltd)
14:30-14:35	Technology Spotlight
14:35-14:40	Technology Spotlight
14:40-14:45	Technology Spotlight
14:45-15:15	Bench to bedside in rare disease and psychiatry: Patient-driven drug development - Nick Sireau (Serenatis Bio)
15:15-15:45	Refreshment break
15:45-16:15	Developing first-in-class, disease-modifying therapeutics for endometriosis: Building a start-up to address a critical women's health need - Maj Hedtjärn (GynQura Therapeutics)
16:15-16:45	Speaker Panel
16:45-17:00	Conference Close

Day 2 - Wednesday 22nd October

Sustainable drug development: How can we mitigate environmental impact?

Auditorium 3

Explore the cutting-edge efforts made towards the unique sustainability challenges facing biotech and pharma industries today. This track will highlight how organisations are evolving their research through innovative practices to prioritise environmental and societal needs while ensuring advancements in healthcare that also protect our planet. Learn more from the ELRIG Sustainability working group and the panel discussion on challenges and opportunities in sustainability.

Track Chairs



Kelly Gray
Bionevix Ltd



Rob Howes
Charles River Laboratories

TIME - BST	TITLE
08:00-08:45	Registration
08:45-10:20	All content streamed from Auditorium 1
10:20-11:00	Refreshment break
11:00-11:05	Track Chair Introduction - Kelly Gray (Bionevix Ltd) & Rob Howes (Charles River Laboratories)
11:05-11:35	Smarter experiments, greener outcomes: Reducing waste and environmental impact in drug discovery with Synthace - Ross Kent (Synthace Ltd)
11:35-12:05	Conference Partner
12:05-12:35	Reviving drugs: The ultimate goal in drug discovery sustainability? - Jordan Lane (Ignota Labs)
12:35-12:50	Industry Insider - CYTENA
12:50-14:00	Refreshment break with poster session 13:00-13:45
14:00-14:30	Tackling greenwashing: From global regulations to lab implementations - Pernilla Sörme (My Green Lab)
14:30-14:35	Technology Spotlight - Atelerix
14:35-14:40	Technology Spotlight
14:40-14:45	Technology Spotlight
14:45-15:15	PHARMECO - Advancing safe and sustainable by design practices in pharmaceutical manufacturing - Christian Schoenau (Sanofi)
15:15-15:45	Refreshment break
15:45-16:15	Towards sustainable API development and manufacture: Empowering scientists through LCA tools - Miriam Turner (AstraZeneca)
16:15-16:30	Practical understanding of what sustainability initiatives look like in a corporate environment - Calum Wright (SPT Labtech)
16:45-17:00	Conference Close

Day 2 - Wednesday 22nd October

Chemistry and innovations in drug discovery, in collaboration with the Royal Society of Chemistry, with support from the RSC Medicinal Chemistry Journal

Auditorium 4

The track will feature the drug discovery process from early stage emerging technologies to clinical candidate selection. Topics include high-throughput lead discovery, protein degradation as a drug modality, and lead optimisation of natural products. The track is organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry's Biological and Medicinal Chemistry Sector.

Content Partner:



Conference Partner:



Track Sponsor:



Track Chairs



A Ganesan

University of East Anglia



Katie Lim

Royal Society of Chemistry



Martin Swarbrick

Independent Scientific Advisor

TIME - BST	TITLE
08:00-08:45	Registration
08:45-10:20	All content streamed from Auditorium 1
10:20-11:00	Refreshment break
11:00-11:05	Track Chair Introduction - A Ganesan (University of East Anglia), Katie Lim (Royal Society of Chemistry) & Martin Swarbrick (Independent Scientific Advisor)
11:05-11:35	Synthetic manipulation of the cereblon surface using sulfonyl exchange chemical biology - Lyn Jones (Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School)
11:35-12:05	Conference Partner - Discovery and characterization of PROTAC harnessing novel E3 ligase - Peichuan Zhang (WuXi AppTec UK Ltd)
12:05-12:35	Short presentations selected from poster abstracts
12:35-12:50	Industry Insider - Evotec International GmbH
12:50-14:00	Refreshment break with poster session 13:00-13:45
14:00-14:30	Beyond chemistry and DMPK: Development of a biocatalytic toolkit for fragment-based drug discovery (FBDD) - Jessie Stow (Astex Pharmaceuticals)
14:30-14:40	Technology Spotlight - Revvity
14:40-14:45	Technology Spotlight - Promega UK Ltd
14:45-15:15	Versatile detection of membrane protein modulators via affinity selection mass spectrometry - Renaud Prudent (EDELIRIS)
15:15-15:45	Refreshment break
15:45-16:15	A "Nature and Nurturing" strategy: Discovery of topoisomerase II and tubulin targeting new anticancer agents - Sankar Guchhait (NIPER Mohali)
16:15-16:45	Engineered biosynthesis and molecular editing - Rebecca Goss (University of St.Andrews / X-Genix)
16:45-17:00	Conference Close

Day 2 - Wednesday 22nd October

Use of novel technologies to enable drug discovery and drug repurposing, in collaboration with the British Pharmacological Society

The Viewing Terrace

Drug discovery and development remains an expensive process, beset with many failures. Drug repurposing also has its challenges. It is therefore important to develop or refine novel methodologies and technologies to improve success rates in drug discovery and drug repurposing. We live in an age where this is now possible. This track will focus on technologies such as genomics, proteomics and AI, and how they are being employed for drug discovery and drug repurposing, with the talks being given by world-leading researchers from different professional backgrounds.

Content Partner:



Conference Partner:



Track Sponsor:



Track Chairs



Munir Pirmohamed
University of Liverpool



Reecha Sofat
University of Liverpool

TIME - BST	TITLE
08:00-08:45	Registration
08:45-10:20	All content streamed from Auditorium 1
10:20-11:00	Refreshment break
11:00-11:05	Track Chair Introduction - Munir Pirmohamed & Reecha Sofat (University of Liverpool)
11:05-11:35	Population-scale proteomics in health and disease: relevance for drug discovery - Benjamin Sun (BMS)
11:35-12:05	Conference Partner - Pushing the envelope: Droplet digital PCR and antibodies to accelerate drug discovery - Robert Beal (Bio-Rad)
12:05-12:35	Using observational evidence for drug discovery and repurposing - Reecha Sofat (University of Liverpool)
12:35-12:50	Industry Insider - Cellecta
12:50-14:00	Refreshment break with poster session 13:00-13:45
14:00-14:30	Unlocking African genomes for drug discovery and development - Segun Fatumo (Queen Mary University)
14:30-14:35	Technology Spotlight - Promega UK Ltd
14:35-14:40	Technology Spotlight - Importmed OÜ
14:40-14:45	Technology Spotlight - Bruker BioSpin
14:45-15:15	Precision medicine approaches for novel drug discovery, repositioning and repurposing in complex diseases - Steve Gardner (PrecisionLife Ltd)
15:15-15:45	Refreshment break
15:45-16:15	How do we successfully improve drug discovery efficiency with technology? - Anthony Bradley (University of Liverpool)
16:15-16:45	Our lives happen in 4D. Why doesn't drug discovery? - Chris Bakal (Institute of Cancer Research)
16:45-17:00	Conference Close

Day 2 - Wednesday 22nd October

Making the impossible possible: Using artificial intelligence to tackle challenges in drug discovery

Tech Theatre

Recent developments in large scale technologies, from whole organisms to single cell, generate an ever-greater need for the exploitation of artificial intelligence and machine learning methods to fully analyse, visualise, and explain these ever-growing data sets. The insights have the potential to identify new targets, new biomarkers and shed a new light on disease mechanisms, leading to better therapies for patients. In this track you will hear about the latest innovations in artificial intelligence and their applications to solve drug discovery challenges.

Conference Partner:



Track Chairs



Yann Abraham
DeepLife



Augustin Amour
Kuano

TIME - BST	TITLE
08:00-08:45	Registration
08:45-10:20	All content streamed from Auditorium 1
10:20-11:00	Refreshment break
11:00-11:05	Track Chair Introduction - Yann Abraham (DeepLife) & Augustin Amour (Kuano)
11:05-11:35	Leveraging the UK Biobank resource for accelerated drug discovery - Lucy Burkitt-Gray (UK Biobank)
11:35-12:05	Conference Partner - Practical patterns for AI: workcell synergy in drug discovery - Luke Pendergrass (Automata)
12:05-12:35	Revealing the unseen: AI's role in novel target discovery for high unmet needs areas through multi-omics integration - Namshik Han (University of Cambridge)
12:35-12:50	Industry Insider - Ginkgo Bioworks
12:50-14:00	Refreshment break with poster session 13:00-13:45
14:00-14:30	Advanced quantum methods for next-gen drug design: Unlocking challenging enzymes and covalent reactivity - Vid Stojevic (Kuano)
14:30-14:35	Technology Spotlight - Analytik Jena UK Ltd
14:35-14:45	Technology Spotlight - Collaborative Drug Discovery
14:45-15:15	Harnessing large-scale data and thoughtful data strategies in drug discovery - Dorota Herma (Johnson & Johnson)
15:15-15:45	Refreshment break
15:45-16:15	Leveraging machine learning and artificial intelligence to enhance our ability to deliver drug candidates - Natalie van Zuydam (AstraZeneca)
16:15-16:45	From single analytes to multi-modal insights: AI-powered biomarker discovery for precision medicine at scale - Lisa Schmunk (Hurdle.bio)
16:45-17:00	Conference Close

Day 2 - Wednesday 22nd October

Breakthrough Zone Theatre & Learning Zone

TIME - BST	Breakthrough Zone Theatre	Learning Zone
08:00-09:00	Registration	Early Career Professionals Meet & Greet Breakfast
09:00-10:20	All content in auditoriums	All content in auditoriums
10:20-11:00	Refreshment break	10:25-10:55 - ECP Talk - "Bridge the Dream Gap" Panel Discussion - NWWIS (NorthWest Women in STEM)
10:40-10:45	Track chair introduction - Enabling academic-industry collaboration to unlock next-generational technologies - Lisa Mohamet (GSK)	
10:45-11:05	UKRI funding - biomedical catalyst success stories – what makes a winning application? - Aline Miller (University of Manchester)	
11:05-11:35	Driving drug discovery through academic-SME partnerships - Johnny Habchi (Medicines Discovery Catapult)	
11:35-11:55	Bridging the gap – building sustainable partnerships between universities and SMEs, the role of Innovate UK - Grace Ford (Innovate UK)	
11:55-12:30	Panel discussion chaired by Lorna Green (LYVA labs) with Matt Reed (University of Liverpool Innovation Factory), Grace Ford (Innovate UK) & Johnny Habchi (Medicines Discovery Catapult)	
12:50-14:00	Refreshment break	12:55-13:55 - Drug Discovery 101
13:45-13:50	Track chair introduction - Building spinout and SME capacity and investment readiness - Lisa Mohamet (GSK)	
13:50-14:05	Title to be confirmed - Tim Craggs (Exciting Instruments)	
14:05-14:20	Scaling innovation – Supporting early-stage biotechs post-grant - Ranvir Singh (GC Angels)	
14:20-14:50	Panel discussion chaired by Lucy Buckley (University of Manchester, Entrepreneur in Residence) with Melvyn Ansell (Secerna), Chris Church (AstraZeneca), Lorna Cuddon (Zyme), & Stuart Rose (OBN)	
15:15-15:45	Refreshment break	Refreshment break
16:45-17:00	Conference close	Conference close

Innovation Workgroup

ELRIG's Innovation Workgroup aims to make the wider life science and drug discovery community accessible to scientific entrepreneurs and newly emerging young life science start-ups & spinouts. The Breakthrough Zone at ELRIG's Drug Discovery 2025 conference is a dedicated space where technologies can be presented to some of the 3,000+ audience, ideas honed, and collaborations born. The Breakthrough Zone also supports ELRIG's philosophy of making science accessible, as for many new companies, the cost of exhibiting at a conference this size would be beyond reach. Many of us in the ELRIG community have direct experience of the challenges from translating a novel technology into building a new business; from being unsure on how to protect your intellectual property, to what funding is accessible, and how to find the appropriate lab/offices. This is where the value of networking really comes to play.

The Workgroup wanted to do more than just provide a space for them, so on Tuesday 21st October all of the companies will be giving a flash presentation in the Breakthrough Zone Theatre. Wednesday 22nd October sees an educational programme with speakers covering topics that all start-ups need to know; spinning out from academia, UK funding options, intellectual property questions, and developing collaborations.

"As an ECP (early career professional) representative within the Innovation workgroup, I especially value the wisdom and technical expertise that our speakers are able to bestow via their engaging talks followed by dynamic panel discussions revolving around the key strategies that turn innovative ideas into viable companies. I vehemently believe that fellow ECPs as well as more experienced researchers, whether they are currently considering taking the leap to launch a company or not, will greatly develop their commercial

acumen by attending and interacting with these initiatives." - Jeeven Singh, Arctoris

Finally, there is the ELRIG Innovation Award – open to all Breakthrough Zone companies, with the winner giving a presentation on Tuesday 21st October immediately after the Plenary Keynote to the entire conference audience, made up of key stakeholders fostering scientific entrepreneurship in the UK and beyond. Including government innovation bodies /seed funders, VCs/angels, IP experts, property developers, pharma and biotech representatives – what a way to start the event, but even better, what a way to get your new idea and company the awareness it needs to grow! Not to mention the kudos of winning the ELRIG Innovation Award!

ELRIG wishes to encourage and help the next science revolution. Make sure you visit the Breakthrough Zone during your time at Drug Discovery 2025.



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Conference Floorplan



HALL
B

HALL
C

Vehicle
Access Door
B

Vehicle
Access Door
C



ERS ZONE

ING ZONE



J09 J10 J11 J12

J13 J14 J15 J16 J17

H12 H11b H11 H10 H09
H05 H06 H07 H08

SEATING

G23 G22 G21 G20
G09 G10 G12

G19 G18 G17 G16
G13 G14 G15

F09 F22 F21 F20
F10 F11 F12

F19 F18 F17
F13 F14 F15

E12 E11 E10 E09
E05 E06 E07 E08

SEATING

D08 D22 D21 D20 D19
D10 D11 D12

D18 D17 D16
D13 D14 D15

C18 C17 C16
C07 C08 C09

C15 C11
C10

SEATING

B26 B12
B10/11

B24 B23 B22
B13 B14 B15

B21 B20 B19
B16 B17A B17B B18

CATERING

AUDITORIUM 4

POSTERS

TECH
THEATRE
FORUM

CATERING

AUDITORIUM 3

PRANCE

POSTERS

POSTERS

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H07



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H13



Aixtron
H16



Alamar Biosciences and Element
J05



Alithea Genomics
C02



Alpha Laboratories Ltd
H04



Animal Free Research
J06b



AMS Biotechnology (Europe) Ltd
D16



Analytik Jena UK Ltd
E08



Araceli Biosciences
B13



Astech Projects
B15



AstraZeneca
CZ01



Atelerix
G28



Aurora Microplates
B36



Automata
B12



Axion BioSystems
F17



Axxam SpA
F05



Azenta
H02



AzoNetwork
G22



Beckman Coulter GmbH
G10



Benevolent AI
A05



BigOmics Analytics SA
G14



Bio Molecular Systems Ltd
B21



Bionow
H10



BioTechniques
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BioAscent Discovery Ltd
A08



BioAuxilium Research
B17a



bioBUBBLE
D30



BioDuro
C08



Biofortuna
F10



Biognosys AG
F14



BiomimX
BZ08



Biophys Ltd
BZ06



Bio-Rad Laboratories
D08



BioSistemika
B32



Bio-Techne EMEA
C22



Bitesize Bio
MEDIA PARTNER



Black Medical Scientific Network
H14



BlueCatBio
F01



BMG LABTECH
D03



BrainXell
C09



British Neuroscience Association
H15b



British Pharmacological Society
G21



Biosensors
Bruker BioSpin
A13



Calibre Scientific
D20



Caltag Medsystems Ltd
C24



Cambridge Bioscience
D15



Cancer Research Horizons
H15



CancerTools
B30



Caron Scientific
G25



Carterra
E04



Cell Signaling Technology
Europe B.V
G23



Cellecta, Inc.
G27



Cellenion
B03



CELLINK
B02



Cenevo
C15



Cephla
F22



Chemaxon
A02



ChemPartner
C05



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B01b



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About ELRIG

Who we are

ELRIG is a world-leading, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to advancing the drug discovery community. Our mission is to promote open access to cutting-edge research and innovation by connecting life science professionals through inclusive, free-to-attend scientific conferences and networking events.

With a dynamic community of over 25,000 members, we provide a platform for learning, collaboration, and progress on the most pressing challenges in life sciences. We are passionate about fostering diversity, inclusion, and accessibility—ensuring our events reflect a wide range of global perspectives and experiences that inspire scientific discovery and drive the industry forward.

ELRIG's Vision

To be the premier champion and enabler of an open, connected, diverse, and sustainable drug discovery and life science community.

Strategic Priorities



Enable drug discovery by improved connections between stakeholders, through an extended, sustainable, and ongoing program of best-in-class, open-access, science-based events and digital products.



Amplify scientific innovation, sector impact, and professional development by championing great science and people through platforms, recognition, and awards.



Demonstrate sector leadership in best practice for sustainability, inclusivity, representation, equality, and diversity for our teams, delegates, and target patient cohorts.

Notes:

Contacts:

Dates and Times of Key Events, Presentations, or Sessions:

Important Terms & Definitions:

Personal Reflections:



2026 Event Diary

FEBRUARY

WORD+ 2026*

Conference supported by ELRIG
4-5 Feb | Cambridge, UK

Advances In Cardiometabolic Disease Research Through Innovative Tools

ELRIG Forum
Feb | Copenhagen, Denmark

MARCH

Cell & Gene Therapy

ELRIG Conference
9-10 March | Cambridge, UK

APRIL

Innovations In Translational Models: Replacing *In Vivo* Models With Complex Cellular Systems

ELRIG Forum
April | UK

MAY

Advances In Cell-Based Screening In Drug Discovery

ELRIG Conference
6-7 May | Gothenburg, Sweden

JUNE

Target Innovation & Novel Screening Technologies

15 June | Berlin, Germany

Drug Discovery USA 2026

16-17 June | Boston, USA

JULY

ELRIG Summer Social

1 July | Cambridge, UK

SEPTEMBER

Precision Medicine & Biomarker Discovery

ELRIG Forum
1 Sept | Belfast, UK

Translational Medicine For Women's Health

ELRIG Forum
Sept | Edinburgh, UK

OCTOBER

Drug Discovery 2026

ELRIG Conference
14-15 Oct | London, UK

NOVEMBER

Protein Sciences In Drug Discovery 2026

ELRIG Conference
17-18 Nov | Stevenage, UK

Next Gen Omics & Imaging: Single Cell And Spatial Biology

ELRIG Forum
Nov | Paris, France

DECEMBER

Meet up

ELRIG SLAS Networking
Dec | London, UK