



ELRIG
The Drug Discovery
Community



EXPLORING
DRUG DISCOVERY
AND DEVELOPMENT

Drug Discovery 2026:

Celebrating 20 Years of Collaboration and Inclusion

20th Anniversary
Souvenir Show Guide

14-15 October 2026
London, UK

#ELRIGDD26

proceedings brought to you by
DRUG DISCOVERY NEWS



Welcome to Drug Discovery 2026

Twenty years ago, ELRIG set out with a simple idea: to create a place where scientists could come together, share ideas openly, and accelerate drug discovery through collaboration. Today, as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of our Drug Discovery conference, it's remarkable to see how that vision has grown into Europe's largest free-to-attend drug discovery event.

On behalf of the ELRIG Board, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to Excel London for Drug Discovery 2026.

Over the past two decades, our science has evolved at an extraordinary pace. We've witnessed the rise of genomics, high-content screening, automation, advanced cellular models, AI and entirely new therapeutic modalities. Yet one thing has remained constant: progress happens when curious people come together to exchange ideas, challenge assumptions and build new collaborations. That's what ELRIG has always been about.

This year's programme reflects both our history and our future. As we celebrate 20 years, we'll look back at the innovations that have transformed drug discovery while exploring the technologies and approaches that will shape the next

twenty. From next-generation biophysics and multi-omics to AI-enabled discovery, microbiology, medicinal chemistry and translational science, there is something here to inspire everyone, whatever stage of your career.

Out on the show floor, we've brought this story to life in new ways. Our Timeline Wall charts the milestones of the past 20 years alongside a look ahead at what's next, while the Breakthrough Zone showcases some of the most exciting emerging science and technology in the field today. Our Learning Zone and Coaching Corner house a space to connect, ask questions and build relationships with other scientists, and our new Consultancy Café gives you the chance to get informal, expert advice on the challenges you're grappling with.

One of the things that makes ELRIG special is that our events remain free to attend and open to all. As a volunteer-led, not-for-profit organisation, we believe that outstanding science should be accessible, inclusive and collaborative. Whether you're joining us from academia, biotech, pharma, a start-up or as an early career scientist, you're part of a community that thrives because people are willing to share knowledge and support one another.

I'd like to thank our Conference Directors, Scientific Committee, track chairs, speakers, media partners, exhibitors, corporate sponsors (GSK, AZ, Pfizer, Capgemini, LifeArc) and, above all, the ELRIG team and volunteers whose enthusiasm and commitment make this event possible. Their dedication over the past 20 years has built something truly special.

Most importantly, thank you for being here. I hope you discover exciting new science, reconnect with old friends, make new connections and leave with fresh ideas that will help shape the next generation of medicines.

Here's to a fantastic conference—and to the next 20 years of ELRIG.

Enjoy the conference!
Del Trezise, ELRIG Chair



Drug Discovery 2026 Corporate Sponsors

AstraZeneca

Capgemini

LifeArc

GSK

Pfizer

Hello From the Conference Directors



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CREDIT: ELRIG

Laura Eghobamien
BLACK MEDICAL SCIENTIFIC NETWORK



CREDIT: ELRIG

Andy Merritt
LIFE ARC



CREDIT: ELRIG

Christian Parker
NOVARTIS



CREDIT: ELRIG

Rupa Shree Appa-Pind
NOVO NORDISK

This is a very special year for ELRIG as we celebrate 20 years of this event. As always, the meeting will be a celebration of ideas, innovation and progress in drug discovery.

This year's agenda gives us the opportunity not only to showcase cutting-edge and transformative technologies, but also to reflect on some of the major scientific milestones that have shaped drug discovery over the past two decades.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our keynote speakers for their time and support:

- Dr Sam Barrell CBE, CEO of LifeArc
- Dr Anne Phelan, SVP Head of Target Discovery at GSK
- Dr Jason Melland, Co-founder and CEO of Otolimmune
- Prof Sir Mene Pangalos, former Executive Vice-President, R&D BioPharmaceuticals at AstraZeneca
- Prof Raghib Ali OBE, who leads "Our Future Health", a 2.7-million-participant

programme focused on improving disease prevention, detection and treatment.

A panel of leaders from across the modern R&D ecosystem, led by Dr Saleha Patel, will present the keynote discussion: 20 Years of Discovery: Lessons from the Past, Blueprints for the Next 20.

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

The dynamic ecosystem of ELRIG Drug Discovery 2026 will also include the Tech Theatre, Breakthrough Zone and Learning Zone. In addition, more than 275 companies scientific suppliers will present their latest technologies and products, highlighting developments that are already influencing research and drug discovery.

Whether you are involved in early drug discovery research or

working to translate a promising therapy into the clinic, we hope you will discover something valuable at this year's event. ELRIG aims to remove as many barriers to conference attendance as possible, and - as with all ELRIG events - the meeting is free-to-attend. A faith room and well-being room will also be available, reflecting our commitment to making inclusivity central to every ELRIG event.

The Conference Directors

Laura Eghobamien (Black Medical Scientific Network), Andy Merritt (Life Arc), Christian Parker (Novartis), Rupa Shree Appa-Pind (Novo Nordisk).



Breakthrough Zone

ELRIG's Breakthrough Zone was created to champion the start-ups and emerging companies driving the future of drug discovery. Bringing together over 40 innovative companies, the zone gives them a platform to showcase their science, technologies and ideas, while connecting with potential customers, collaborators and partners from across the drug discovery community.

Visit the Breakthrough Zone to discover exciting new innovations, meet the teams behind them and see what could be next for drug discovery.

Meet the Breakthrough Zone companies:

Company Name	Website
3D Biotissues	3dbiotissues.com
Alipheron AG	alipheron.com
Axiom Insights GmbH	axiom-insights.com
BioRes	biorespawn.com
Biotryp Therapeutics	biotryp.com
Carcinotech Ltd.	carcinotech.com
Cell Culture Automation	cca.bio
CELLinib GmbH	cellinib.com
CiteAb	citeab.com
Cortex Organics Ltd	cortexorganics.com
Cubase Bio AB	cubasebio.com
Cytely	cytely.io
DaltonTx	daltontx.com
Dataflight Solution Ltd.	dataflight.dev
Deep MedChem	deepmedchem.com
FluoSphera SA	fluosphera.com
ICHORtec GmbH	ichortec.com
iniuva	iniuva.com
Inoviv	inoviv.com
Lab Thread	labthread.com
Labbera Limited	labbera.com
MAGic BioProcessing (Lab-on-a-Bead AB)	magicbioprocessing.com
Medinect Bioservices Ltd	medinect.co.uk
Mitotype Precision Labs	mitotypeprecisionlabs.com
Myomaker Bio	myomakers.com
Northern Light Microscopy	northernlightmicroscopy.com
Nygen	nygen.io
Omivera	omivera.com
Peapod Bio, Inc.	peapodbio.com
Pharmagro Ltd	pharmagro.co.uk

Company Name	Website
picknmixAI	Atomixel
Potato	potato.ai
Prime.io Ltd	primeio.co.uk
Readily3D	readily3d.com
ReceptomiX (InsectSense)	receptomix.com
rodent2human	rodent2human.com
Sarpeda	sarpeda.com
Scandimus GmbH	candimus.com
ScreenIn3D Limited	screenin3d.com
SoftProg Oy (LabHunters)	labhunters.fi
SYNTOPIA	syntopia.bio
X-Genix NewCo Ltd	x-genix.com

Consultancy Café

The Scientific Consultancy Cafe, located on the ELRIG Hub is an exclusive space in the exhibition where you can meet with independent consultants.

Meet your consultants – select the 'Meeting Hub' within the app and drop them a message to arrange a slot.

Consultants	Company Name
Xin Liu	Atomixel
Antonio Serrano	Bioicus Lab
Teja Sirec	Biotheia
Paul Kendall	Cadence Growth Solution
Emma Greateorex	Camrex Consultants
Siddharth Krishnan	Cellvanta
Annelieke Peters	D2 team
Peter Gilmore	D2team
William Stafford	Fulgurite
Sonia Houghton	Houghton Consulting
Avi Saha	KarlBio
Andreas Leidenroth	Larkfields
Nick Moore	Nicholas Moore Pharma Consulting
Ellyn Hughes-Carpanini	Salopian Scientific Ltd
David Cronk	Sighthound Life Science Consulting
Mark Truesdale	Truelife Science Consulting
Daniel Thomas	Twenty24
Peter Ball	Williamson Biotech Solutions

OUR LEGACY: BEYOND THE TWO DAYS

Inspiring people. Advancing science. Building the future.

Drug Discovery is about bringing a community together to share great science - but its impact shouldn't end when the exhibition ends.

From removing barriers to participation and inspiring tomorrow's scientists, to supporting people throughout their careers and championing innovation, sustainability and community contribution, we want Drug Discovery 2026 to create opportunities, connections and inspiration that last well beyond these two days.



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BREAKING BARRIERS BEYOND THE STAGE

£16,000

AWARDED IN TRAVEL BURSARIES

Access to great science, new ideas and valuable connections shouldn't be limited by geography or the cost of getting here.



We offered individual bursaries up to £250 and group bursaries of at least £1,000. The response was overwhelming - and we've awarded £16,000 to help institutes, researchers, universities and Early Career Professionals join us at Drug Discovery 2026.

INSPIRING TOMORROW'S SCIENTISTS

**ADVENTURES
FOR TOMORROW'S
SCIENTISTS**

Through Adventures for Tomorrow's Scientists, we invite local schools to experience science in the real world.

We're planting the seeds for future scientists, innovators and entrepreneurs - showing young people that a career in science is exciting, achievable and within their reach.

EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS

Building confidence, connections & careers.

We want ECPs to leave our events with new friends, a support network and excitement about where their career could take them.



Fast, informal, facilitated networking with peers and industry professionals.

CELEBRATING EMERGING TALENT



ECP Kirsty Smitten Award

Recognising outstanding early career Professionals making a meaningful impact in our community.

Day 2, Auditorium 1, 09:20



Best ECP Poster Award

Celebrating the quality and potential impact of research presented by ECP's at Drug Discovery 2026.

Day 2, Auditorium 1, 09:00

MID-CAREER PROFESSIONALS

Helping experienced professionals shape their next chapter.

For professionals 5-25 years into their career, we've created dedicated opportunities to build networks, develop skills and explore what's next.



Mid-Career Meet & Greet

Start your day in the Learning Zone with coffee and pastries, connecting with peers at a similar career stage.



Dedicated Career Content

Sessions tackling the challenges and opportunities that arise at this stage of your career.

- Navigating redundancy
- Getting hired/advancing your career
- Leadership and career growth
- Entrepreneurship and building the enterprise



Connect & Explore

Meet employers in the Career Zone, explore the Breakthrough Zone and expand your professional network.

SUPPORTING INNOVATION AT EVERY STAGE

Giving new ideas and positive change a platform to thrive.



ELRIG Breakthrough Zone

An affordable platform for startups and emerging companies to showcase technologies and research, and connect with the wider community.



ELRIG Innovation Award

Sponsored by Mathys & Squire LLP
Celebrating technologies and approaches with the potential to transform the way drugs are discovered and developed.

Innovation Award

Day 1, Auditorium 1, 10:20

People's Choice Award

Day 1, Breakthrough Zone, 11:15

ELRIG Sustainability Award



Recognising individuals and organisations developing innovative projects, initiatives and approaches that reduce environmental impact within the life science sector.

ELRIG Outstanding Contribution Award



Recognising an individual who has made a significant and lasting contribution to ELRIG and the wider drug discovery community through leadership, collaboration, innovation and community engagement.

Science progresses through people... and ELRIG is built by those who give their time, expertise and energy to support others. This award celebrates those exceptional individuals who go above and beyond to strengthen our community.

DAY 1

Programme at a glance

Wednesday 14th October

Drug Discovery 2026 Corporate Sponsors



Time	Auditorium 1	Auditorium 2	Auditorium 3	Auditorium 4	Exhibition Theatre	ELRIG Tech Theatre	Breakthrough Zone Theatre	Learning Zone & Consultancy Café	Faith Room	Quiet Room	Family Room
08:00-09:00	Registration					Mid Career Meet & Greet: Are you navigating redundancy? Come and connect with others in a similar position to share experiences, support and advice over tea, coffee and pastries.	Innovation Meet & Greet: Breakthrough Zone participants networking opportunity	Early Career Professional (ECP) Meet & Greet: Is it your first in-person or ELRIG conference? Meet fellow ECP members before all the science kicks off, there is tea/coffee and pastries to set you up for the day.	Faith	Quiet	Family
09:00-10:30	ELRIG Yearly Report, Outstanding Contribution to ELRIG Award, ELRIG Innovation Award & Keynote	All content in Auditorium 1 with overspill in 2,3 & 4							Faith	Quiet	Family
10:30-11:15	Refreshment Break				Capgemini Talk	IFL Science Talk		Redundancy Talk	Faith	Quiet	Family
11:15-12:55	Engineering the cell micro-environment: Cell-based models for drug discovery	Integrating experimental design, lab-in-the-loop and AI towards translatable discovery	Targeted potency: Advances in radioligands and bioconjugates	Next-gen biophysics	Translating ideas into therapies - Navigating the challenges	CRISPR/Cas technologies from discovery to therapeutic application	Emerging company presentations	Consultancy Café (09:00-16:00)	Faith	Quiet	Family
12:55-14:00	Refreshment Break - Poster Session (13:30-14:00)					Satellite Applications Catapult Workshop (13:10-13:50)	Promega Workshop (13:10-13:50)	ECP: Flash Poster Presentations during Lunchtime for Day 1 (13:00 - 13:50)	Faith	Quiet	Family
14:00-15:10	Engineering the cell micro-environment: Cell-based models for drug discovery	Integrating experimental design, lab-in-the-loop and AI towards translatable discovery	Targeted potency: Advances in radioligands and bioconjugates	Next-gen biophysics	Translating ideas into therapies - Navigating the challenges	CRISPR/Cas technologies from discovery to therapeutic application	Emerging company presentations	Consultancy Café (09:00-16:00)	Faith	Quiet	Family
15:10-15:45	Refreshment Break							ECP Talk	Faith	Quiet	Family
15:45-17:00	Engineering the cell micro-environment: Cell-based models for drug discovery	Integrating experimental design, lab-in-the-loop and AI towards translatable discovery	Targeted potency: Advances in radioligands and bioconjugates	Next-gen biophysics	Translating ideas into therapies - Navigating the challenges	CRISPR/Cas technologies from discovery to therapeutic application	Emerging company presentations	Consultancy Café (09:00-16:00)	Faith	Quiet	Family
17:00-19:00	Networking Event							ECP: Network Like A Boss	Faith	Quiet	Family

DAY 2

Programme at a glance

Thursday 15th October

Drug Discovery 2026 Corporate Sponsors



Time	Auditorium 1	Auditorium 2	Auditorium 3	Auditorium 4	Exhibition Theatre	ELRIG Tech Theatre	Breakthrough Zone Theatre	Learning Zone & Consultancy Café	Faith Room	Quiet Room	Family Room
08:00-09:00	Registration					Mid Career Meet & Greet: Are you navigating redundancy? Come and connect with others in a similar position to share experiences, support and advice over tea, coffee and pastries.	Registration	Early Career Professional (ECP) Meet & Greet: Is it your first in-person or ELRIG conference? Meet fellow ECP members before all the science kicks off, there is tea/ coffee and pastries to set you up for the day.	Faith	Quiet	Family
09:00-10:15	Keynote Panel, ELRIG Sustainability Award, ELRIG Kirsty Smitten Award & Poster winner announcement	All content in Auditorium 1 with overspill in 2,3 & 4							Faith	Quiet	Family
10:15-10:50	Refreshment Break							Career Talk (10:20-10:50)	Faith	Quiet	Family
10:50-13:10	From multi-omics to clinical outcomes: Insights for drug development	The power of imaging in drug discovery and the clinic	AI in medicinal chemistry	From sample to translation: Solving the practical challenges of modern drug discovery	Inclusive translational approaches to accelerate equitable neuroscience drug development	From microbes to medicines	Bridging the critical gap between discovery and successful commercialisation	Consultancy Café (09:00-16:00)	Faith	Quiet	Family
13:10-14:30	Refreshment Break - poster session (13:30-14:00)					Scienion Workshop (13:25-14:05)	Mathys & Squire Workshop (13:25-14:05)	ECP Talk (13:20 - 14:20)	Faith	Quiet	Family
14:30-16:00	From multi-omics to clinical outcomes: Insights for drug development	The power of imaging in drug discovery and the clinic	AI in medicinal chemistry	From sample to translation: Solving the practical challenges of modern drug discovery	Inclusive translational approaches to accelerate equitable neuroscience drug development	From microbes to medicines	Bridging the critical gap between discovery and successful commercialisation	Consultancy Café (09:00-16:00)	Faith	Quiet	Family

Information for Participants

Conference Code of Conduct

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

Pre-registration for the meeting is essential. At ELRIG we want all our meeting participants to enjoy, participate in and contribute to the event.

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.

Faith Room

Accessed through the grey door next to the S9 entrance on the boulevard.

Quiet Room

Located in Organisers Office 3, lower floor.

Family Room

Next door to S9. Contains sink, toilet, changing mats and space for feeding, microwave and bottle-warming.

Water Refill Stations

Located by the West and East entrances, and halls S4 and S7.

Cloakrooms

Venue cloakrooms are on level 0, stairs are between N4 & S4.

Disabled Toilets

Located back of Hall N4, between halls

Wifi

WiFi network_Excel free Wi-Fi

Sign in or join via LinkedIn, Facebook or X

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 **dd2026** and the PIN in your event confirmation email from ELRIG. You can add the app to your device's home screen.



The ELRIG Hub

At the heart of the Exhibition Hall, the ELRIG Hub is your space to connect, discover, learn and get involved. Drop by to meet the ELRIG team, grab a coffee and find out more about our community, how ELRIG works and the many ways you can get involved - perhaps you'll even be inspired to volunteer.

Discover what's coming in 2027, with information on our programme of 1- and 2-day, conferences, and networking events, whether you're looking to attend, contribute to the scientific programme, exhibit or partner with us.

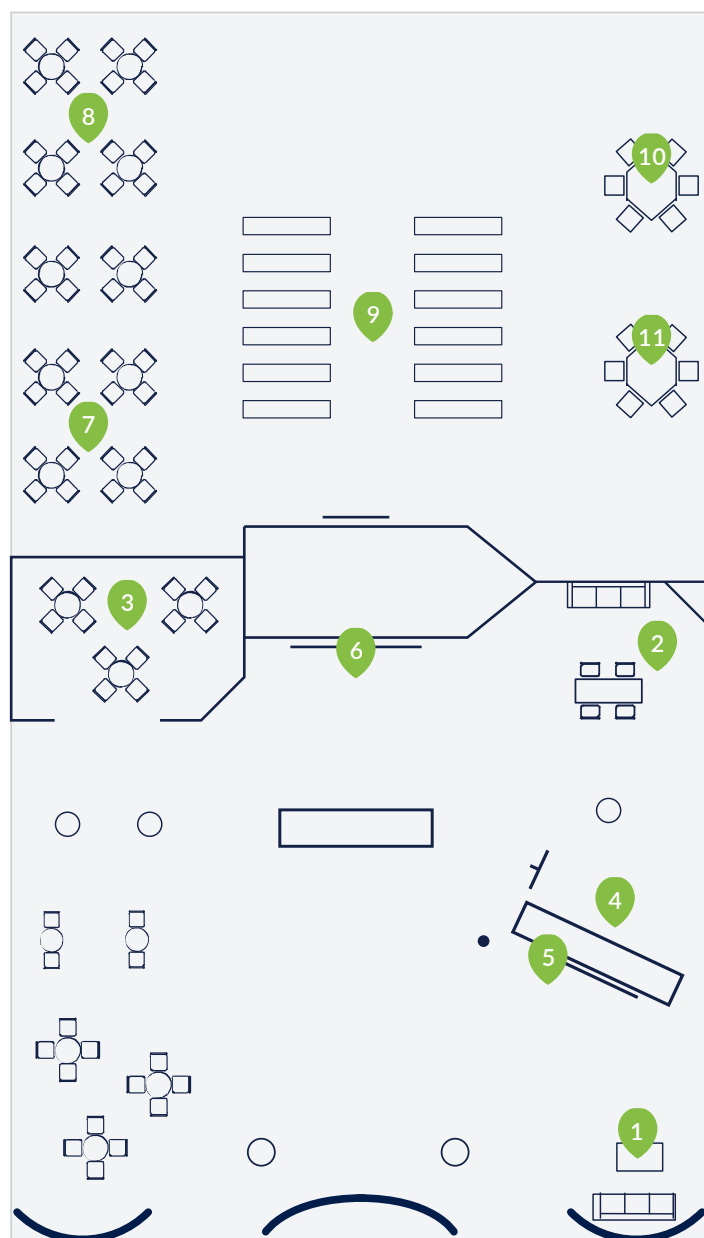
Planning ahead? Visit our Sales Office area to speak to the team about opportunities for 2027 and reserve your exhibition space

or sponsorship package for next year's events.

There's plenty happening on the Hub, visit the Learning Zone, listen to the talks, pop by the Career Zone, make new connections and network, or chat to one of our experts in the Consultancy Cafe or Coaching Corner!

Help us celebrate 20 Years of Drug Discovery at our Timeline Wall, grab a photo at the Selfie Spot and share your DD26 experience on the Digital Wonderwall.

And... if you need any help during DD26, look out for ELRIG's volunteer team in their distinctive red T-shirts - they'll be happy to help.



- 1 Media Lounge
- 2 Speaker Ready Room
- 3 Sales Office
- 4 Drug Discovery Timeline Wall
- 5 Selfie Wall
- 6 Digital Wonderwall
- 7 Coaching Corner
- 8 Consultancy Cafe
- 9 Learning Zone
- 10 Career Zone
- 11 Community Connections
- 12 Interview Area



DAY 1 | Wednesday 14th October

Engineering the cell microenvironment: Cell-based models for drug discovery

Auditorium 1

Drug discovery is entering a new era where physiological relevance, scalability, and mechanistic depth are no longer competing priorities but essential, integrated expectations. This cell-based assays track explores how the field is redefining experimental systems by engineering the cellular microenvironment—bringing together 3D biology, microfluidics, immune-competent models, and real-time functional readouts to close the gap between in vitro assays and clinical outcomes.

Track Sponsor:



Track Chairs



Amro Ahmed-Ebbiary



Blessing Airhihen

TIME - BST	Auditorium 1
08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:20	ELRIG Welcome - 20 years of community and inclusion - Del Trezise (ELRIG Chair)
09:20-09:25	Conference Director Welcome & Keynote Introduction
09:25-10:10	Plenary Keynote - Where need meets momentum: The next 20 years - Sam Barrell (LifeArc)
10:10-10:20	Award presentation - ELRIG Outstanding Contribution Award
10:20-10:30	Award presentation - ELRIG Innovation Award
10:30-11:15	Refreshment break
11:15-11:20	Track Chair Welcome - Engineering the cell microenvironment: Cell-based models for drug discovery - Amro Ahmed-Ebbiary (GSK) & Blessing Airhihen (Nottingham Trent University)
11:20-11:50	Biodiversity at scale - Ana Amélia Sanchez Iacia (CNPEM)
11:50-12:05	Industry Insider - SPT Labtech
12:05-12:20	Industry Insider - Evotec (Cypotex)
12:20-12:50	Novel therapeutic targets in cancer: Translating RAGE and calpain biology into therapeutics, biomarkers, and patient benefit - Danielle Harper (Swansea University)
12:50-12:55	Technology Spotlight - EditCo
12:55-14:00	Refreshment break - with poster session 13:30-14:00
14:00-14:30	Sarcoma patient derived 3D cell culture models for drug discovery and prediction of the clinical trials outcome - Juergen Loskutov (GSK)
14:30-14:35	Technology Spotlight - Cell Signaling
14:35-14:40	Technology Spotlight - bit.bio
14:40-15:10	Patient-derived intestinal organoids: Advancing gut complexity for drug discovery and development - Andrea Gamir Moralla (GSK)
15:10-15:45	Refreshment break
15:45-16:15	Decoding how immune receptors and extracellular vesicles build lymphocyte networks using synthetic cells, lymphoid organoids, and tumoroids - Pablo Cespedes (University of Oxford)
16:15-16:30	Industry Insider - Promega UK Ltd
16:30-17:00	Panel session - In vitro Models - the future
17:00-19:00	Networking in The Exhibition Hall/Network Like A Boss (17:30-18:30 in the Learning Zone)

The future of drug discovery isn't just about breakthroughs - it's about delivery

Over the last 20 years, advances in drug discovery have transformed lives and redrawn the boundaries of medicine. From cancer immunotherapies to precision treatments for conditions once considered untreatable, scientific progress is creating possibilities that would have been unimaginable a generation ago. ELRIG has been an important part of that journey, providing a forum where scientists, innovators and industry leaders can connect, collaborate and share emerging ideas.

And while the benefits of these advances are being felt across healthcare, they carry particular significance for people living with rare diseases.

For many people living with a rare condition, progress has historically been slow or fragmented. Too few conditions have approved treatments, and too many families still face long diagnostic journeys with limited options at the end. But greater understanding of disease biology, alongside advances in genomic medicine, is opening new routes to treatment and, in some cases, the potential for lasting

benefit where none existed before.

This is where LifeArc focuses its efforts. We are a self-funded medical research organisation working to turn promising science into patient impact. Our role is to help bridge the gap between early discovery and the stage at which new treatments can start making a difference for patients, particularly in areas of high need where commercial incentives may be limited. That includes rare diseases and drug-resistant infections where progress depends on collaboration, patient insight and a clear path from laboratory research to clinical development.

The next 20 years will bring even greater potential. Advances in drug modalities opening new therapeutic opportunities, artificial intelligence and better use of health data will accelerate drug discovery, improve diagnosis and bring progress in precision and personalised medicine to more people. Yet scientific advances only make a difference when they can be translated into real-world

benefits for patients. Slow, fragmented systems can prevent discoveries reaching patients, with barriers across funding, regulation, data sharing and clinical development delaying life-changing treatments.

At LifeArc, we close the distance between what science makes possible and what patients experience. That will require a collective effort from researchers, charities, industry, governments, regulators, healthcare systems and patient communities. Together, we need to go beyond the breakthrough itself, removing the barriers between discovery and delivery to reach people faster, more fairly and with greater impact.

Meeting that challenge will require the expertise, curiosity and collaboration represented throughout the ELRIG community. Together, we can help ensure that scientific breakthroughs become medicines that reach patients faster.

The challenge ahead is not simply to discover more. It is to deliver more.

Sam Barrell, CEO Life Arc

Sam is the Chief Executive Officer of LifeArc - an innovative, self-funded medical research organisation with one clear purpose: transforming the lives of people with rare diseases and drug-resistant infections. Prior to this she was the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Francis Crick Institute - a world-leading biomedical research organisation which she joined from a career in the NHS as a noted healthcare leader. Sam was CEO of the Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust and before that, established and led the South Devon and Torbay CCG.

Sam was a past National Advisory Council Member of the King's Fund and a Non-Executive Director of Assura. She is currently a Non-Executive Director of Nuffield Health Trust and York Health Economics Consortium, as well as sitting on the innovation advisory board of British Land.

She was awarded the CBE in 2014 for services to healthcare.



DAY 1 | Wednesday 14th October

Integrating experimental design, lab-in-the-loop and AI towards translatable discovery

Auditorium 2

The success of drug discovery, and more broadly translational research, depends on robust experimental design, high-quality data and model predictivity. Lab-in-the-loop approaches increasingly combine automation, design of experiments and AI to strengthen assay performance and the predictive value of translational models. This session will explore how these elements can be integrated across laboratory workflows to optimise assay and model development.

Conference Partner:

nuclera

Track Sponsor:

instem
Discover. Accelerate. Advance.

Track Chairs



Augustin Amour



Markus Gershater

TIME - BST	Auditorium 2
08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-10:30	All content streamed from Auditorium 1
10:30-11:15	Refreshment break
11:15 - 11:20	Track Chair Welcome - Integrating experimental design, lab-in-the-loop and AI towards translatable discovery - Augustin Amour (Amour Scientific Consulting) & Markus Gershater (Synthace)
11:20-11:50	From design space to data space: An AI-driven approach to better cell models and smarter assays - Samantha Barichievy (AstraZeneca)
11:50-12:20	Conference Partner - Closing the AI antibody DBTL loop with cell-free screening - Ryan Nelson (Nuclera)
12:20-12:50	Optimising and miniaturising translational assays to enable AI-driven drug discovery, harnessing modern laboratory automation and design of experiments - Sarah Martin (IQVIA)
12:50-12:55	Technology Spotlight - Genedata
12:45-14:00	Refreshment break with poster session 13:30-14:00
14:00-14:30	Designing smarter experiments: Connecting DoE, laboratory automation and AI in a translational discovery workflow - Tim Ashlin (GSK)
14:30-14:35	Technology Spotlight - Instem
14:35-14:40	Technology Spotlight - Anivance
14:40-15:10	Engineering end-to-end multi-modal workflows in 3D cell cultures - Olivier Frey (InSphero AG)
15:10-15:45	Refreshment break
15:45-16:15	TwinCell: Large causal cell model for reliable and interpretable therapeutic target prioritisation - Yann Abraham (Deeplife)
16:15-16:30	Industry Insider - Collaborative Drug Discovery Inc
16:30-17:00	Panel session - The future of AI and design of experiments in drug discovery
17:00-19:00	Networking in The Exhibition Hall/Network Like A Boss (17:30-18:30 in the Learning Zone)

DAY 1 | Wednesday 14th October

Targeted potency: Advances in radioligands and bioconjugates

Auditorium 3

With rapid advances in radioligand therapies and bioconjugate platforms, targeted oncology treatments are entering a new phase of precision and potency. This track will highlight innovative strategies that enhance specificity, tune therapeutic windows, and improve the safety of cytotoxic delivery. By bringing together leaders in ligand design, payload engineering, and conjugation technologies, the session will showcase how these next-generation modalities are opening doors to treating cancers once considered out of reach.

Content Partner:



Conference Partner:



Track Chairs



Stuart Haynes



Nick Tribble

TIME - BST	Auditorium 3
08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-10:30	All content streamed from Auditorium 1
10:30-11:15	Refreshment break
11:15-11:20	Track Chair Welcome - Targeted potency: Advances in radioligands and bioconjugates - Nick Tribble (Cancer Research Horizons) and Stuart Haynes (Cancer Research Horizons)
11:10-11:40	Precision guided radiotherapeutics: Bicycle® radionuclide conjugates (BRC®) as next generation treatment options for solid tumours - Alonso Haysom-Rodriguez (Bicycle Therapeutics)
11:50-12:20	Conference Partner - Integrated discovery of targeted delivery ligands for oligonucleotide therapeutics - Bin Liu (WuXi AppTec UK Ltd)
12:20-12:50	Lonza's GlycoConnect® technology for best-in-class ADCs: Emerging clinical insights - Remon van Geel (Lonza/Synaffix)
12:50-12:55	Technology Spotlight
12:55-14:00	Refreshment break with poster session 13:30-14:00
14:00-14:30	Development of ADCs with enhanced therapeutic potential - Justyna Mysliwy (Iksuda Therapeutics)
14:30-14:40	Technology Spotlight - WuXi AppTec UK Ltd
14:40-15:10	Transforming targeted therapeutics: Innovation in ADC bioconjugation and radioligands - Balakumar Vijayakrishnan (AstraZeneca)
15:10-15:45	Refreshment break
15:45-16:15	Characterization of pre CISION®-Peptide drug conjugates delivering single and dual cytotoxic payloads to the tumor microenvironment following FAP cleavage - Manuel Pinto (Avacta Therapeutics)
16:15-16:30	Industry Insider - Medicines Discovery Catapult
16:30-17:00	Discovery and characterisation of ADCs with a novel DDRi payload - Owen Davis (Artios Pharma)
17:00-19:00	Networking in The Exhibition Hall/Network Like A Boss (17:30-18:30 in the Learning Zone)

Next-gen biophysics

Auditorium 4

Over the past four decades, biophysics has become integral to drug discovery, linking molecular interactions to measurable, decision-driving data. Its influence spans from target validation and hit finding to lead optimisation and beyond, shaping both mechanistic understanding and practical outcomes. This track will revisit key milestones, spotlighting frontier approaches that are accelerating success whilst providing actionable insights for deploying next-generation biophysics in modern discovery programs.

Track Chairs



Nadine Myers



Jarrod Walsh

TIME - BST	Auditorium 4
08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-10:30	All content streamed from Auditorium 1
10:30-11:15	Refreshment break
11:15-11:20	Track Chair Welcome - Next-gen biophysics - Jarrod Walsh (AstraZeneca) & Nadine Myers (Domainex)
11:20-11:50	Biophysics: A look back at changing tools and changing questions - Chun-wa Chung (GSK)
11:50-12:20	Conference Partner - Carterra
12:20-12:50	Finding small molecule tools in compound pools using surface plasmon resonance - Göran Dahl (AstraZeneca)
12:50-12:55	Technology Spotlight - Bruker Biosensors
12:45-14:00	Refreshment break with poster session 13:30-14:00
14:00-14:30	In situ HDX-MS of membrane proteins for drug discovery - Argyris Politis (University of Manchester)
14:30-14:35	Technology Spotlight - Cube Biotech
14:35-14:40	Technology Spotlight
14:40-15:10	In-cell NMR: a powerful approach for drug discovery - Lucia Banci (University Of Florence)
15:10-15:45	Refreshment break
15:45-16:15	Macrocytic peptides achieving antibody-like potency and selectivity with oral delivery: A focus on biophysical techniques for highly potent compounds - Josh Schwachert (Unnatural Products)
16:15-16:30	Industry Insider - Evotec International GmbH
16:30-17:00	Combining high throughput native MS screening with synthetic biology to target intricate proteins - Idir Liko (EIT)
17:00-19:00	Networking in The Exhibition Hall/Network Like A Boss (17:30-18:30 in the Learning Zone)

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BRA-0926-1

DAY 1 | Wednesday 14th October

Translating ideas into therapies - Navigating the challenges

Exhibition Theatre

Bringing new drugs to customers and patients presents unique challenges including a long, expensive and highly regulated path before entering the market. In this session, emerging entrepreneurs and inventors will gain insights from diverse perspectives in early and late stage drug development on how to navigate the hurdles with securing funding, resources and evaluating feasibility to market strategies. To wrap up the session, the speakers will join a panel where they dive deeper into how they sharpened their ability to evolve from just an innovative concept.

Conference Partner:

HAMILTON

Track Chairs



Hitesh Sanganeer



Arran Willmo

TIME - BST	Exhibition Theatre
10:30-11:15	From Attrition to Autonomy: Rearchitecting Scientific Intelligence for the Agentic AI Era - Capgemini
11:15-11:20	Track Chair Welcome - Translating ideas into therapies - Navigating the challenges - Hitesh Sanganeer (Future Bio Consulting) & Arran Willmott (Ignota Labs)
11:20-11:50	Targeting the GI tract by design, from inception to the clinic - Wendy Winchester (Nxera Pharma)
11:50-12:20	Conference Partner - Automating in vivo antibody discovery - Ben Dugan (Hamilton)
12:20-12:50	Introns: From nature to design - Kärt Tomberg (Expression Edits)
12:50-12:55	Technology Spotlight - Maxcyte
12:55-14:00	Refreshment break with poster session 13:30-14:00
14:00-14:30	Intratarget Microdosing in the human lung to accelerate therapeutic development - Kev Dhaliwal (University of Edinburgh)
14:30-14:35	Technology Spotlight - Domainex
14:35-14:40	Technology Spotlight - Green Elephant
14:40-15:10	From idea to clinic: Lessons from Apollo - Darren Cawkill (Apollo Therapeutics Ltd)
15:10-15:45	Refreshment break
15:45-16:15	Development of CAL1021 - a humanized monoclonal antibody targeting S100A4 to inhibit proinflammatory and profibrotic signaling in chronic fibrotic diseases - Signe Vedel Borchert (Calluna Pharma As)
16:15-16:30	Industry Insider - Sartorius UK Ltd
16:30-17:00	The pharmacology of orforglipron, an orally bioavailable, non-peptide agonist of the GLP-1 receptor - Matthew Coghlan (Eli Lilly And Company)
17:00-19:00	Networking in The Exhibition Hall/Network Like A Boss (17:30-18:30 in the Learning Zone)

DAY 1 | Wednesday 14th October

CRISPR/Cas technologies from discovery to therapeutic application

Tech Theatre

The CRISPR technology has emerged as one of the most transformative scientific advances of the past two decades, enabling precise genome editing that is reshaping both basic research and therapeutic development. CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing is accelerating target discovery and functional genomics, while powering the engineering of cell and gene therapies now entering clinical practice to treat previously intractable diseases. This session will bring together speakers that showcase applications spanning target discovery to clinical applications, and will explore possible next applications of the revolutionary technology.

Track Chairs



Michael Howell



Ming Jiang



Ulrike Künzel

TIME - BST	Tech Theatre
08:00-09:00	Mid-Career meet & greet session
10:30-11:15	Breaking through the noise: Why science communication is important in a distracted world - Russell Moul (IFL Science)
11:15-11:20	Track Chair Welcome - CRISPR/Cas technologies from discovery to therapeutic application - Ulrike Künzel (AstraZeneca), Michael Howell (The Francis Crick Institute) & Ming Jiang (The Francis Crick Institute)
11:20-11:50	The drugs are in the details: A microscopy-based CRISPR screen reveals unexpected vulnerabilities of a neglected parasitic disease - Bishara Marzook (The Francis Crick Institute/Gulbenkian Institute of Molecular Medicine)
11:50-12:20	Conference Partner
12:20-12:50	Application of CRISPR screens for therapeutic target identification and validation in cancer drug discovery - Lovely Paul Solomon Devakumar (Functional Genomics Centre)
12:50-12:55	Technology Spotlight - Partition Bio
12:55-14:00	Refreshment break - Beyond the lab: Expanding biopharma R&D into new environments - Satellite Applications Catapult Workshop (13:10-13:50)
14:00-14:30	A CRISPR way to understand neurodegeneration - Andrew Bassett (Wellcome Sanger Institute)
14:30-14:35	Technology Spotlight - Myllia
14:35-14:40	Technology Spotlight
14:40-15:10	CRISPR screening in patient-derived intestinal organoids for inflammatory bowel disease target discovery at the FGSL - Antigoni Gogolou (Milner Therapeutics Institute)
15:10-15:45	Refreshment break
15:45-16:15	Therapeutic application of "ready-made" base-edited CAR T-cells in leukaemia - Christos Georgiadis (UCL, GOS Institute Of Child Health)
16:15-16:30	Industry Insider - Trince
16:30-17:00	Rewriting disease-causing variants: Templated editing in vivo - Marcello Maresca (AstraZeneca)
17:00-19:00	Networking in The Exhibition Hall/Network Like A Boss (17:30-18:30 in the Learning Zone)

DAY 1 | Wednesday 14th October

Innovation in action

Breakthrough Zone Theatre

The Breakthrough Zone Theatre will host the People's Choice Innovation Award Presentation and then flash presentations from Breakthrough Zone companies highlighting their technologies.

The Learning Zone

Take some time out to learn something new, develop your skills and pick up practical advice from experts across the ELRIG community. With bite-sized sessions covering a range of topics, the Learning Zone is designed to help you build knowledge and take useful insights back to your role.



We are glad to welcome the following 'bosses':

Melvyn Ansell - Secerna

John Blackwood - Scripta Therapeutics

Joanna Brookfield - Cancer Research Horizons

Roger Clark - IQVIA laboratories

Matthew Coghlan - Eli Lilly

Victoria Ford - Drug Discovery Solutions

Frances Hall - instem

Zahra Jawad - CREASALLIS

Mel Leveridge - Astrazeneca

Ruth Massey - University College Cork

Niga Sirwan Nawroly - Agilent Technologies

Laura Parton - CHARM therapeutics

Rachel Pearce - Chemify

Anne Phelan - GSK

Manuel Pinto - Avacta

Hitesh Sanganeer - Venture Partner at Octopus Ventures and Independent Advisor

Marcus Schindler - Naviment

Bhuvaneish Selvaraj - University of Edinburgh

TIME - BST	Breakthrough Zone Theatre
08:00-09:00	Breakthrough Zone Meet & Greet Session
11:15-11:30	Award presentation - ELRIG People's Choice Innovation Award
11:30-12:55	Flash company presentations covering: Advanced biological models & tissue engineering Imaging, microscopy & spatial biology Novel therapeutics & targeted disease programmes
12:55-14:00	Refreshment break - Promega Workshop - Endogenous biology at scale: HiBiT knock-in screening for challenging targets at Recursion (13:10-13:50)
14:00-15:10	Flash company presentations covering: AI-driven drug design & cheminformatics Synthesis & medicinal chemistry Assay development, screening & biophysics Lab automation
15:10-15:45	Refreshment break
15:45-17:00	Flash company presentations covering: Omics, genomics & molecular biology Informatics & AI platforms
17:00-19:00	Networking in The Exhibition Hall/Network Like A Boss (17:30-18:30 in the Learning Zone)

TIME - BST	The Learning Zone
08:00-09:00	Early Career Professional (ECP) Meet & Greet
10:40-11:15	Building your next chapter: Stories from beyond redundancy Chaired by Ricky Martin (Hyper Recruitment Solutions)
12:55-14:00	Early Career Professional (ECP) Flash Poster Presentations Chaired by Jasmine Trigg (Sartorius), Millie Tyler (AstraZeneca) & Ewan Wallace (Chemify)
15:15-15:45	To PhD or not to PhD? Navigating Life Sciences careers as an ECP Chaired by Millie Tyler (AstraZeneca)
17:30-18:30	Network Like A Boss - Chaired by Alexander Kingdon (Liverpool School Of Tropical Medicine) & Diane Smith (GSK)

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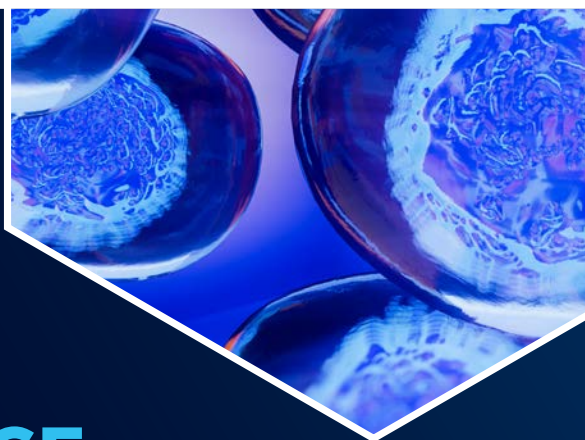


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AND DEVELOPMENT

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- The technologies, modalities and trends defining the field today
- The outlook from leading researchers and developers

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How millions of Our Future health participants can power a new era of drug discovery

The past 20 years of drug discovery have marked an era of astonishing progress. Enter a healthcare setting today and you might encounter prescriptions for GLP-1 drugs for diabetes, or cancer patients receiving the latest generation of immunotherapy treatments, or one-off gene therapies for rare diseases that we once struggled to treat.

But it's not just the medicines themselves that have changed – it's also the speed at which researchers are able to work. Drug discovery is moving at a pace we would never have thought possible just 20 years ago. I saw firsthand the positive impact of this rapid new development pathway as an A&E doctor during the COVID-19 pandemic, when mRNA technology delivered effective vaccines in under a year – a pace previously considered impossible.

Yet the biggest advances may still lie ahead. Large-scale and representative data sets, like the Our Future Health

cohort, will lead to a further acceleration in new treatments entering healthcare. Almost 3 million people from across the UK have already joined our programme, sharing their health information so that researchers can make new breakthroughs. This vast genetic resource will make it possible to identify and validate new drug targets, while linked biosamples and multi-modal data will be incredibly valuable in biomarker discovery. We will also learn more about how integrated genomic and phenotypic data can support precision medicine and patient stratification.

Crucially, these discoveries will benefit everyone. Our Future Health is already the most diverse large-scale research programme in the UK, by age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, and geography. We're committed to building a cohort that truly represents the UK population, so researchers can learn more about how diseases begin and progress in people from different backgrounds. With this diverse dataset, we can move

from one-size-fits-all drugs to more accurate, precision healthcare.

Discoveries only improve lives when they reach patients. That's why we've launched our Clinical Research Recruitment Service, which enables faster and more efficient recruitment into clinical trials across disease prevention, early detection and treatment. Researchers can work with us to send targeted invitations to potential participants based on phenotype, genotype, demographics and location. The service helps bridge the gap between discovery research and clinical studies. I look forward to seeing its impact on the wider drug discovery field in the coming years.

The next 20 years of drug discovery won't simply be defined by better medicines. They'll be defined by better data, faster translation and a deeper understanding of human biology – made possible by millions of people choosing to take part in research.

Raghib Ali

CEO, Chief Medical Officer & Chief Investigator, Our Future Health

Professor Raghib Ali is the CEO, Chief Investigator and Chief Medical Officer of Our Future Health; the largest health research programme of its kind in the world with over 2.5 million participants, focussed on discovering new ways to prevent, detect, and treat disease.

He is Clinical Epidemiologist at the University Of Cambridge; a Consultant in Acute Medicine at the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust; and Honorary Consultant with the Office for Health Disparities and Improvement.

He is an internationally recognised leader in population health whose research is distinguished by methodological rigour, scale, and policy relevance. His research is helping to transform our understanding of the aetiology and prevention of non-communicable diseases, particularly in under-represented populations – in the UK and globally.

He was awarded an OBE in 2022 for services to the NHS and the Covid-19 response and elected as an Honorary Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health in 2023.



DAY 2 | Thursday 15th October

From multi-omics to clinical outcomes: Insights for drug development

Auditorium 1

As 'omics datasets grow in dimensionality and complexity, key questions remain: how much data is enough, how many participants are required, and which signals can be trusted as biologically and clinically meaningful differences? We address methodological and statistical considerations for interpreting multi-omics readouts in small, early-phase studies, alongside challenges in reproducibility, standardisation, and cross-platform harmonisation. We will examine the role of digitalisation, automation, and AI-driven analytics in enabling scalable, auditable, and decision-ready data integration.

Conference Partner:



Track Chairs



Ane Ogbe



Alexandra Sevko

TIME - BST	Auditorium 1
08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:10	Conference Director Welcome & Poster Award presentation
09:10-09:20	Award presentation - ELRIG Sustainability Award
09:20-09:30	Award presentation - ELRIG Kirsty Smitten Award
09:30-10:15	Plenary Keynote panel - 20 years of discovery: Lessons from the past, blueprints for the next 20 - Chair Saleha Patel (Constructive Bio). Panel members - Menelas Pangalos (Omega Funds), Raghbir Ali (Our Future Health), Jason Mellad (Otoimmune) & Anne Phelan (GSK)
10:15-10:50	Refreshment break
10:50-10:55	Track Chair Welcome - From multi-omics to clinical outcomes: Insights for drug development - Ane Ogbe (Moderna Therapeutics), Alexandra Sevko (Amphista),
10:55-11:25	Integrating omics and clinical data to elucidate the outcomes Phase 1 trials of DARPin therapeutics - Ana-Maria Florescu (Molecular Partners AG)
11:25-11:55	Conference Partner - The biology is only as good as the workflow: Multiomics strategies for biomarker discovery and utilisation in precision medicine - Guido Cimoli (Tecan)
11:55-12:25	Beyond protein expression: Single-cell spatial protein organization in autoimmune disease - Aman Mebrahtu (Imperial College London)
12:25-12:40	Industry Insider - Bio-Rad Laboratories Ltd
12:40-12:55	Industry Insider - Olink
12:55-13:00	Technology Spotlight - ReproCELL
13:00-14:30	Refreshment break - with poster session 13:30-14:00
14:30-15:00	Pathology as a strategic partner in drug development and precision medicine - Olubummi Martindale-Sheldon (Diagnexia UK Limited)
15:00-15:30	Bridging the translation gap: How core facilities turn high-dimensional cytometry into clinically meaningful outcomes - Yanping Guo (UCL Cancer Institute)
15:30-16:00	Spatial omics at scale: Integrating automation, AI and governance for clinical drug development - Kelly Hunter (Propath UK)
16:00	Conference Close

DAY 2 | Thursday 15th October

The power of imaging in drug discovery and the clinic

Auditorium 2

Imaging has long been central to clinical decision-making, enabling accurate diagnosis, treatment monitoring, and patient stratification. In the past decade advancements in this field also powerfully translate into drug discovery. Advances in high-content imaging, multiplexed microscopy, spatial biology, and 3D in vivo imaging provide deep, quantitative insight into complex biological systems and therapeutic responses. This session highlights emerging imaging innovations and AI-driven analytics showcasing how we can drive faster, more predictive drug discovery in target validation and translational prediction.

Content Partner:



Conference Partner:



Track Sponsor:



Track Chairs



Rajarshi Banerjee



Magdalena Otrocka

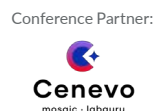
TIME - BST	Auditorium 2
08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-10:15	All content streamed from Auditorium 1
10:15-10:50	Refreshment break
10:50-10:55	Track Chair Welcome - The power of imaging in drug discovery and the clinic - Rajarshi Banerjee (Independent) & Magdalena Otrocka (Ardigen)
10:55-11:25	Harnessing cardioids for drug discovery: High-throughput production, quality control and screening of an advanced human-relevant cardiac organoid model - Florian Fuchs (HeartBeat.bio)
11:25-11:55	Conference Partner - From gene perturbation to phenotype: Integrating cell painting and transcriptomics in human iPSC-derived motor neurons - Fernanda Ricci (Axxam SpA)
11:55-12:25	From mechanism to evidence: Cardiovascular imaging biomarkers and surrogate endpoints in drug development - Gosia Wamil (Deep Medicine, University Of Oxford)
12:25-12:40	Industry Insider - Zeiss
12:40-12:55	Industry Insider - Ramona Optics
12:55-13:00	Technology Spotlight - Nikon
13:00-13:05	Technology Spotlight - Sai Life
13:05-14:30	Refreshment break - with poster session 13:30-14:00
14:30-15:00	Beyond viability: Advanced disease models for functional discovery in ovarian cancer - Brinton Seashore-Ludlow (Karolinska Institute)
15:00-15:30	Integrative spatial biology: harnessing multimodal whole brain imaging, dedicated analysis pipelines and a virtual brain data viewer for CNS drug discovery - Johanna Perens (Vibraint Aps)
15:30-16:00	Imaging powered drug discovery in metabolic disease: multi organ MRI to decode organ health and fat distribution - Anna Verpik (Perspectum)
16:00	Conference Close

DAY 2 | Thursday 15th October

AI in medicinal chemistry

Auditorium 3

This track will highlight how AI and data driven methods are reshaping drug discovery. Topics include compound quality, the integration of machine learning with experimental validation, and emerging AI tools. The track is organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry's Biological and Medicinal Chemistry Sector and RSC Medicinal Chemistry.



Track Chairs



A. Ganesan



Martin Swarbrick



Grace Thoburn

TIME - BST	Auditorium 3
08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-10:15	All content streamed from Auditorium 1
10:15-10:50	Refreshment break
10:50-10:55	Track Chair Welcome - AI in medicinal chemistry - Grace Thoburn (Royal Society Of Chemistry), Martin Swarbrick (Pharmaron) & A. Ganesan (IUPAC)
10:55-11:25	Compound quality. From the rule of 5 to the AI age - Paul Leeson (Paul Leeson Consulting Ltd)
11:25-11:55	Conference Partner - Rethinking sample management in the age of AI - Alan Parkin (Cenevo)
11:55-12:25	Flash Poster Presentations
12:25-12:40	Industry Insider - Fusion Antibodies PLC.
12:40-13:10	Giving failed drugs a second chance with AI - Layla Hosseini-Gerami (Ignota Labs)
13:10-14:30	Refreshment break with poster session 13:30-14:00
14:30-15:00	Automated molecular design in BRADSHAW: Application to GSK Projects - Ian Wall (GSK)
15:00-15:30	Deep machine learning on chemical synthesis - Emma King-Smith (University of Edinburgh)
15:30-16:00	AI straZeneca: Case Studies in the Integration of Machine Learning and Medicinal Chemistry - Jason Shields (AstraZeneca)
16:00	Conference Close

DAY 2 | Thursday 15th October

From sample to translation: Solving the practical challenges of modern drug discovery

Auditorium 4

Biological samples are fundamental to drug discovery, yet their management is often underestimated despite its influence on data quality, translational success and patient outcomes. This session explores the practical challenges of modern sample management, from access to high-quality patient material and complex biological models to logistics, historical sample cohorts, automation and AI. Through case studies and panel discussions, speakers will consider how sample management must evolve to support robust science and effective translation.



Track Sponsor:



Track Chairs



Manuela Beil-Peter



Sonia Houghton

TIME - BST	Auditorium 4
08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-10:15	All content streamed from Auditorium 1
10:15-10:50	Refreshment break
10:50-10:55	Track Chair Welcome - From sample to translation: Solving the practical challenges of modern drug discovery - Manuela Beil-Peter (SLAS) & Sonia Houghton (Sonia Houghton Consulting Ltd)
10:55-11:25	Building a tumour-derived organoid biobank: logistics and technology for multi-omic and functional screening at scale - Carmen Herranz-Ors (Wellcome Sanger Institute)
11:25-11:55	Conference Partner - Tony Cox (UK Biocentre)
11:55-12:25	Building a tissue platform for drug discovery: when clinical and biological sciences meet in endometriosis - Léa Wenger (Cyclana Bio)
12:25-12:40	Industry Insider - FairJourneyBio
12:40-13:10	The AstraZeneca global cell bank: Powering consistent and compliant drug discovery - Juhi Sardana (AstraZeneca)
13:10-14:30	Refreshment break with poster session 13:30-14:00
14:30-15:00	Mind the gap: Maximising sample value from collection to translation - A new route to unlock the translational potential of human biological samples - Regine Anderson (Medicines Discovery Catapult)
15:00-15:30	From population studies to clinical impact: enabling translational research through samples, data, and recall - Heather Ramsay (NIHR BioResource)
15:30-16:00	Panel session - Celebrating ELRIG's 20th Anniversary: Are today's sample infrastructures ready for tomorrow's medicine?
16:00	Conference Close

DAY 2 | Thursday 15th October

Inclusive translational approaches to accelerate equitable neuroscience drug development

Exhibition Theatre

Clinical trials for neurological therapeutics present distinct challenges, including complex disease heterogeneity, limited biomarkers, and high attrition rates. This track will examine key considerations for successfully advancing clinical candidates through the development pipeline toward regulatory approval and commercial viability. Topics will include optimising trial design, patient stratification strategies, and the integration of diverse and representative populations to improve clinical validity and generalisability. Attendees will also gain insight into regulatory expectations, risk mitigation strategies, and common causes of trial failure. Case studies of successful neurological drug development programmes will be presented to highlight best practices and translational impact.



Track Chairs



Sophia Amenyah



Chris Ugbo

TIME - BST	Exhibition Theatre
10:50-10:55	Track Chair Welcome - Inclusive translational approaches to accelerate equitable neuroscience drug development - Sophia Amenyah (Northumbria University) & Chris Ugbo (UK DRI)
10:55-11:25	From high throughput phenotypic drug screening to clinical trials: Advancing ALS/MND therapeutics - Bhuvaneish Selvaraj (UK DRI Edinburgh)
11:25-11:55	Conference Partner - A CNS-focused approach to selective PARP1 drug discovery - Elnaz Gozalpour & Tammy Ladduwahetty (Pharmaron UK Limited)
11:55-12:25	Development of drugs for neurological diseases: science, medical needs and regulatory requirements - Maria Beatrice Panico (Scendea)
12:25-12:40	Industry Insider - Revvity
12:40-13:10	Mindful conversations: Building trust with black communities as a foundation for inclusive dementia research - Nathasia Muwanigwa (UCL)
13:10-14:30	Refreshment break with poster session 13:30-14:00
14:30-15:00	Co-producing representative clinical trials: lessons from Parkinson's research in Africa - Natasha Fothergill-Misbah (Newcastle University)
15:00-15:30	Developing a drug pipeline for a multi-arm multi-stage platform trial in clinical Alzheimer's disease - Paresh Malhotra (Imperial College/UK Dementia Research Institute)
15:30-16:00	Panel session - Who gets to benefit? Making neuroscience drug development truly equitable.
16:00	Conference Close

From microbes to medicines

Tech Theatre

Microbes represent a rich reservoir of untapped bioactive potential, delivering new frameworks and scaffolds for drug development. Parallel advances in the disciplines of microbiology, engineering, and computational biology have enabled high throughput and guided discovery of human therapeutics from the previously inaccessible 99% of microbes that are unculturable. This session will present significant successes in the utilisation of microbiology for discovery and development of novel drugs, addressing key gaps in the chemotherapeutic space, as challenges posed by resistance and target heterogeneity increasingly hamper the clinical management of disease in the 21st century. Speakers will also address the importance of greater collaboration in the chemical-biological sphere, whereby gaps in understanding of microbial and cellular physiology can result in failure to translate promising leads to viable therapeutics. The broad potential of microbiology will be presented, encompassing bacterial, fungal, viral and parasitic biology.

Content Partner:



Track Chairs



Chris Cooper



Jerry Reen

TIME - BST	Tech Theatre
08:00-09:00	Mid-Career Meet & Greet Session
10:50-10:55	Track Chair Welcome - From microbes to medicines - Christopher Cooper (University of Huddersfield/Surrey) & Jerry Reen (University College Cork)
10:55-11:25	Exploiting stem cell systems in drug screens, vaccines and as therapies - Gordon Dougan (Microbiology Society)
11:25-11:55	Conference Partner
11:55-12:25	Bringing phenotyping and genomic approaches together to identify new targets for antimicrobial development - Ruth Massey (University College Cork)
12:25-12:40	Industry Insider
12:40-13:10	Beyond the natamycin: Rethinking drug discovery for fungal keratitis - Can Zhao (Manchester Metropolitan University)
13:10-14:30	Refreshment Break - Scienion workshop (13:25 - 14.05)
14:30-15:00	Microbiome-derived antimicrobial peptides for resensitising drug-resistant fungi - Linda Oyama (Queen's University Belfast)
15:00-15:30	Targeted and armed: Re-purposing adenovirus for in situ cancer immunotherapy - Alan Parker (Cardiff University)
15:30-16:00	Panel session - From targets to therapeutics: The microbiology-drug discovery partnership
16:00	Conference Close

DAY 2 | Thursday 15th October

Bridging the critical gap between discovery and successful commercialisation

Breakthrough Zone Theatre

This track tackles the critical transition from scientific discovery to commercial success. The morning session focuses on building momentum for growth, with a panel of expert venture capital representatives and funding bodies on 'Navigating the funding landscape for early-stage life sciences'; industry experts covering 'Translatability from early discovery to commercialisation' and 'Portfolio strategy and ideation to commercialisation'. The session concludes with an interactive chaired discussion tackling current industry pressures, common pitfalls, and projections for future growth. The afternoon shifts to real-world experience, with founders sharing their journeys from idea to successful venture, including the missteps and hard lessons alongside the wins. The day closes with an open panel where the audience can put their questions directly to the speakers.

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ZONE

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Learning Zone

Track Chairs



Madhurima Dey



Farah Patell

TIME - BST	Breakthrough Zone Theatre
10:50-10:55	Track Chair Welcome - Bridging the critical gap between discovery and successful commercialisation - Farah Patell-Socha (Amilon Bio) & Madhurima Dey (Isomorphic Labs)
10:55-11:25	What makes technology translate - Lessons from scaling science into a company - Emmanouil Metzakopian (CellCodex)
11:25-11:55	Portfolio strategy - Turning a scientific platform into a prioritised commercial product pipeline - Jana Voigt (Cam Innovations)
11:55-12:25	How to become an AI-native company: operating models for the agentic era - Yacine Dahman (Gris Noir)
12:25-13:10	Backing the breakthrough: Navigating the funding landscape for early-stage life sciences
13:10-14:30	Refreshment Break - Mathys & Squire Workshop - From innovation to investment: Building an investable IP strategy (13:25-14:05)
14:30-15:00	Essentials for founders: Getting started, financing, product development and early market engagement - Antoine Espinet (MFX)
15:00-15:30	No entry required: How I broke into building a biotech when antibodies couldn't break into tumours - Zahra Javad (Creasallis Ltd)
15:30-16:00	Panel session - Beyond the pitch: Navigating the highs and lows of entrepreneurship.
16:00	Conference Close

TIME - BST	The Learning Zone
08:00-09:00	Early Career Professional (ECP) Meet & Greet
10:15-10:50	How to position yourself to get hired - Chaired by Ricky Martin (Hyper Recruitment Solutions)
13:10-14:30	Drug Discovery 101 - 20 Years of Progress - Chaired by Katherine Jones & Roger Clark (IQVIA Laboratories)
16:00	Conference Close

Twenty Years On, and the Best Is Yet to Come

Article from Keynote Panellist Dr Jason Melland

When I entered this field two decades ago, drug discovery was still largely an exercise in educated trial and error. We screened vast libraries, chased single targets, and treated patient populations as broadly homogeneous. The tools were powerful, but the philosophy was blunt. We were, in effect, designing medicines for the average patient, a person who does not exist.

The last twenty years changed that. The genomics revolution turned sequencing from a moonshot into a commodity. Immuno-oncology showed us that mobilising the body's own defences could achieve what decades of cytotoxic chemistry could not. Biologics matured, cell and gene therapies moved from the fringe to the clinic, and CRISPR handed

us the ability to edit the code of life itself. Perhaps most importantly, we learned to stratify. Oncology led the way, redefining cancers not by the organ they occupy but by the molecular lesions that drive them. Diagnosis and treatment became two halves of the same conversation.

Yet progress has been uneven. For every triumph in oncology, whole disease areas have been left waiting. Autoimmune and autoinflammatory conditions, which affect one in ten of us, are still too often diagnosed late, treated empirically, and managed rather than resolved. The precision revolution has not yet reached the patients I care about most.

That is where I believe the next twenty years will be won. I expect the coming

decades to bring to immunology what the last two brought to cancer: molecular stratification, predictive biomarkers, and therapies matched to the individual rather than the label. Artificial intelligence will move from a supporting tool to a native part of the discovery engine, learning from multi-omic data at a scale no human team could hold in its head. The distance between a patient's biology and the right intervention will shrink from years to weeks.

The work ahead is not merely technical. It is about closing the gap between what is possible and who gets to benefit. If we get that right, we will look back on the next twenty years as the moment precision medicine finally became medicine for everyone.

Dr Jason Melland

Co-founder and CEO of Otolimmune

Dr Jason Melland is Co-founder and CEO of Otolimmune, a precision immunology company focused on revolutionising the early detection, management and treatment of autoimmune and other immune-mediated inflammatory diseases. Previously he was CEO of life science venture builder fund Start Codon and epigenomic biomarker discovery pioneer Cambridge Epigenetix (now Biomodal). Jason holds a PhD in Medicine from the University of Cambridge.



Career Zone

Thinking about your next career move? Visit the Career Zone in the ELRIG Hub to meet and chat with representatives from leading life science organisations including AstraZeneca, GSK and LifeArc, and discover the breadth of career opportunities available across the sector.

Whether you're taking your first steps or considering your next move, come along for advice, ask questions and explore how your career could contribute to cutting-edge science and the development of medicines and technologies that can transform people's lives.



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29

The next 20 years must be more than faster

Panel Chair Saleha Patel

For two decades, drug discovery has celebrated acceleration: faster screening, faster sequencing, faster development and, more recently, faster computational design. But speed alone is not progress. If we can discover medicines more quickly without identifying the right patients, predicting who will respond or ensuring that discoveries reach those patients, we are simply becoming more efficient at solving the wrong problem.

The past 20 years delivered extraordinary advances. Genomics became routine. Biologics matured. Immuno-oncology transformed cancer care. Cell and gene therapies moved from scientific frontier to clinical reality, while mRNA demonstrated that a previously improbable development timeline could become achievable under pressure. Yet these successes have also made the remaining gaps harder to ignore. Too many diseases are still diagnosed late, treated empirically and managed rather than fundamentally altered. Precision

medicine has transformed parts of oncology, but it has not yet become medicine for everyone.

So what should the next 20 years be about?

Not simply more data, more platforms or more powerful AI. The real challenge is to connect these capabilities into a discovery system that starts and ends with human biology. That means representative population-scale datasets, deeper molecular phenotyping, predictive biomarkers and clinical studies designed around the biology of patients rather than the convenience of categories. It means treating diagnosis and treatment as two halves of the same conversation, and making sure that the people represented in our datasets are also able to benefit from the medicines they help make possible.

The provocative question for this panel is whether the industry is ready to change not just its tools, but its

assumptions. Are we still designing medicines for an imaginary “average” patient? Are we measuring innovation by the number of targets, programmes and platforms, or by the number of patients whose outcomes genuinely improve?

With perspectives spanning pharmaceutical R&D, target discovery, venture creation, AI-enabled biology and population-scale health data, this panel will ask what must be unlearned as well as what must be built. The next era will belong to organisations that can move seamlessly between computation and experiment, engineered biology and clinical reality, discovery and delivery.

The ambition should be clear: not just to discover medicines faster, but to make precision medicine more predictive, more inclusive and more consequential. If we achieve that, the next 20 years will not merely produce better tools. They will redefine what patients can expect from drug discovery.

Saleha Patel

Chair & Moderator Constructive Bio

Over the past two decades, drug discovery has evolved through seismic shifts in biology, technology, and collaboration; from the rise of high-throughput screening and biologics to the dawn of AI-driven design and data-rich predictive science. As we stand at this critical inflection point, what lessons can we take from the past 20 years to shape the next 20?



About ELRIG

Who are ELRIG?

ELRIG are proud to be a leading European not-for-profit organisation dedicated to uplifting the life science and drug discovery community. Our mission is to foster open access to modern research and innovation. Bringing together our vibrant community of over 12,000 life science professionals from academia and biopharma to connect, collaborate and encourage curiosity.

Originally rooted in automation, robotics, and instrumentation, we've evolved to address the most pressing challenges in modern drug discovery. From forums & conferences exploring revolutionary breakthroughs to networking meetings designed to connect the brightest minds, we provide a platform for progress.

We're passionate about driving the industry through inclusion and accessibility. We are actively working to bring more speakers from the global majority to our stages. Aiming to ensure our delegates are inspired by a broad range of perspectives and experiences, reflecting the global nature of scientific discovery. We are committed to providing free-to-attend events and lowering the barrier to access for all.

We believe in a future where:

- Scientific and domain knowledge flows freely across disciplines and geographies
- Innovation is amplified and cultivated through collaboration and inclusivity
- The next generation of leaders and innovators are nurtured
- All voices are represented and connected

Our Values

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

Our Purpose

Promote open access to cutting-edge research and innovation by connecting life science professionals through inclusive, free-to-attend scientific conferences and networking events.

Strategic Priorities



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

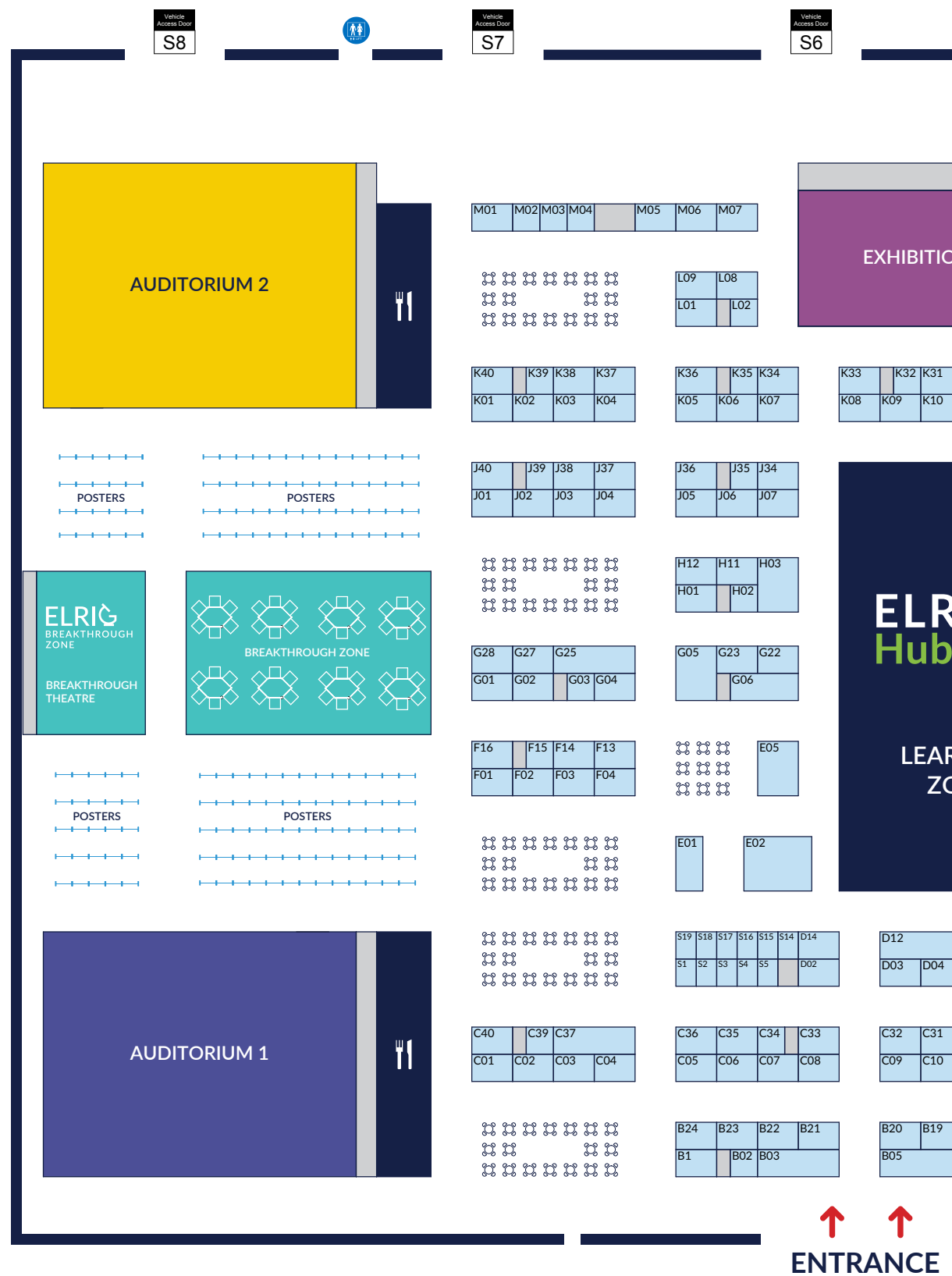


Amplify scientific innovation, sector impact, and professional development by championing great science and people through platforms, recognition, and awards.



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

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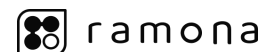
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Dates and time of events, presentations or sessions I don't want to miss:

Important terms & definitions:

Personal reflections:

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Find the Drug Discovery 2026 pinned competition post and get involved for your chance to win £100 Amazon voucher.



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Ask questions and get input from the community



Exclusive content from ELRIG's General Committee members



Share and promote relevant events



An engaged community that shows up, comments and connects



Start discussions on the topics you're passionate about



2027 Event Diary

FEBRUARY

Expanding the landscape of membrane-bound targets, GPCRs and beyond

11 Feb | Berlin, DE

MARCH

Early discovery for next generation antibody drug conjugates

17 March | GSK
Stevenage, UK

APRIL

Reprogramming biology: Engineering the next generation of therapeutics

20 April | Coventry, UK

Radiopharmaceuticals, discovery and translation

27 April | Manchester, UK

MAY

The NAMs Horizon: Digital, in vitro, in silico

12-13 May | AstraZeneca
Gothenburg, SE

JUNE

Drug Discovery - USA ELRIG Conference

June 2027 | Boston, US

Macrocyclic peptide discovery

30 June | AstraZeneca
Cambridge, UK

SEPTEMBER

From noise to molecule: Artificial Intelligence reshaping the drug discovery pipeline

15 Sept | AstraZeneca
Barcelona, ES

OCTOBER

Drug Discovery 2027

ELRIG Conference
19-20 Oct | Liverpool, UK

NOVEMBER

High-content imaging & flow cytometry in drug discovery 2027

ELRIG Conference
15-16 Nov | Cambridge, UK
Innovations in drug discovery and translational science

2 Nov | London, UK

DECEMBER

ELRIG - SLAS Networking

ELRIG SLAS Networking
Dec | London, UK