

PROGRAMME

(as of 30 May 2024 – subject to change)

08.30 – 09.00	REGISTRATION WITH TEA/COFFEE
09.00 – 09.05	LES BRITAIN & IRELAND PRESIDENT’S WELCOME – Graham Johnson
09.05 – 09.15	LES INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT’S WELCOME – Sonja London
09.15 – 10.15	<p>SESSION: SEP – The Journey for Startups and the Commercial Realities of the Aggregator World</p> <p><i>1. Standards setting and the creation of SEP patent pools</i> <i>2. Who are the players? Standards committees, large corporates/multinationals, aggregator companies, users of the tech (emphasis on SEPs), tech sectors affected.</i> <i>3. Current legal requirements in UK/Europe - notice and settlement practices, FRAND offers/deals</i> <i>4. Practical advice for SMEs</i></p> <p>Speakers: Giustino de Sanctis, CEO and Founder at Aliante Adrian Howes, Head of IP and Standards at Nokia (IP Policy Group) Robert Pocknell, CEO at N&M Consultancy Limited Uta Schneider, Vice President Government Affairs at Avanci</p> <p>Moderator: Karl Barnfather, Patent Attorney & IP Strategist at Withers & Rogers LLP</p>
10.15 – 10.45	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
10.45 – 11.45	<p>SESSION: Licensing Issues that Surround University Spin-Outs - discussing key issues from the USIT guide and perspectives from across the ecosystem on how we can seek success in the UK</p> <p><i>Drawing from experience in the legal sector, investment world, Tech Transfer and those involved in the commercial process of “spinning out” technology from Universities, this panel will discuss the impact of the original USIT Guide and how this has changed practices. The panellists will also evaluate what else might be done to continue to develop and improve the translation of research from Universities into realised commercial businesses and opportunities.</i></p> <p>Speakers: Uzma Choudry, TechBio, Biotech and Frontier Tech Venture Capitalist Philip Masterson, Associate Director (Business Development & Transactions) at Cancer Research UK (CRUK) Adrian Toutoungi, Life Science and DeepTech Partner at Taylor Wessing Samantha Williams, Licensing Manager at Trinity College Dublin</p> <p>Moderator: Dave Holt, Partner and IP Solicitor at Potter Clarkson</p>
11.45 – 12.45	<p>SESSION: Exploring Strategic Alliances – A Cancer Research Horizons and Deep Science Ventures Case Study</p> <p><i>This panel will discuss the importance of strategic alliances to catalyse innovation in cancer, focusing on a case study involving the strategic alliance between Cancer Research Horizon and Deep Science Venture, which led to the formation of a new spin out company. The Panel members will discuss successes and challenges, experienced through their partnership and how they are addressing joint and individual requirements throughout their ongoing commercialisation journey.</i></p> <p>Speakers: Beatrice Lana, Strategic Alliance Executive at Cancer Research Horizons Loïc Roux, Founder of OligoTune Ltd.</p> <p>Moderator: Samantha Williams, Licensing Manager at Trinity College Dublin</p>
12.45 – 13.30	LUNCH
13.30 - 14.00	<p>KEYNOTE: Practical Guide to IP Strategy</p> <p><i>This presentation will discuss IP strategy and how to align it with business. Why great strategies may win on paper but fail in practice? Why making a great IP strategy is so hard and what to do about it?</i></p> <p>Speaker: Sonja London, LES International President / General Counsel at TactoTek</p>

14.00 – 15.00	<p>PLENARY PANEL: Navigating the IP Maze - IP Strategies for Growing Businesses <i>IP is a crucial asset for many growing businesses across the globe in a wide range of industries (including electronics and life sciences) and yet formulating an IP strategy can be very challenging -and is often not top of management's list of priorities. Taking practical, cost-effective advice in this area can make a huge difference and our panellists have a wide range of experience across many industries which they will share with us. Our panellists will also provide some thoughts as how best to ensure that a company's IP contributes to its success.</i></p> <p>Speakers: Sonja London, LES International President / General Counsel at TactoTek Suzanne Oliver, IP Strategy Director at Scintilla Moderator: Fiona Nicolson, Consultant at Burness Paull</p>
15.00 – 15.30	<p>TEA/COFFEE BREAK</p>
15.30 – 16.00	<p>KEYNOTE: Trouble on the Tracks - from origin to enforcement – a real journey of IP commercialisation <i>James Love will interview Gordon Donald on the successful protection and enforcement of patented technology, including:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A journey through IP protection, commercialisation and enforcement; 2. The value of patents to an SME; 3. How a small Yorkshire company took on a multinational; 4. A client's perspective of High Court patent litigation. <p>Speaker: Gordon Donald, Former Managing Director at Geofabrics Ltd Moderator: James Love, Partner at Womble Bond Dickinson</p>
16.00 – 16.45	<p>SESSION: Ubiquitous AI – The use of IP for maximum advantage <i>AI is changing the game for every sector and raising new questions and possibilities for IP protection and licensing. In this panel, you'll hear from experts with legal, academic, and industrial experience, who'll talk about issues like data licensing, model protection, and AI regulations. Join us to learn their views on how AI and IP will shape the future, where they'll imagine what new business models might arise if 'everything is obvious' because of AI.</i></p> <p>Speakers: Amy Gibson, Vice President of Legal at BenevolentAI Matt Hervey, Head of AI Law & Partner at Gowling WLG Moderator: Harry Strange, Senior Associate at Withers & Rogers</p>
16.45 – 17.30	<p>SESSION: Challenges In Funding/Commercialising Research for Rare Diseases <i>This session brings together experts from the public, private and charity sectors to discuss challenges facing drug development for rare diseases. We will explore why these challenges exist and ways to navigate around the most common hurdles.</i></p> <p>Speakers: Dr. Harriet Holme, Founder of PCD Research Enrico Orlandi, Co-Founder of Eyes on the Future Chris Rockenbach, Managing Director International and Commercial at GOSH Erica Whittaker, VP and Head of UCB Ventures Moderator: Gina Bicknell, Partner at Pinsent Masons</p>
17.30 - 17.35	<p>CLOSING ADDRESS</p>
18.00	<p>DINNER AT PICCOLINO (OPTIONAL)</p>

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

SESSION: SEP – The Journey for Startups and the Commercial Realities of the Aggregator World



KARL BARNFATHER | Patent Attorney & IP Strategist, Withers & Rogers LLP
(moderator)

Karl Barnfather is a senior patent practitioner with the firm Withers & Rogers LLP in Europe. He has many years' experience in protecting software related innovation and more recently in helping companies divine a suitable strategy in machine learning technologies where many innovations can of course be retained as trade secrets. Karl is an advocate for a mixed strategic approach. He has for 8 years now been voted by peers as an IAM 300 IP strategy expert.



GIUSTINO DE SANCTIS | CEO and Founder, Aliante



ADRIAN HOWES | Head of IP and Standards, Nokia (IP Policy Group)

Adrian Howes is Head of IP and Standards in Nokia's IP Policy team and also currently a vice-President of the IP Federation.

Prior to joining Nokia, Adrian worked as a senior litigation counsel at Mylan/Viatris, a legal consultant for Sony Computer Entertainment and an associate in the intellectual property department of the law firm Bird & Bird. He is a qualified solicitor, and studied chemistry and law at the Universities of Durham and Cambridge, respectively.

Adrian's work at Nokia presently encompasses policy and regulation on issues relating to IPR. This includes active involvement in cross-industry and government-level discussions on Standard Essential Patents and software licensing and their place in the next generation of communication and video standards.



ROBERT POCKNELL | CEO, N&M Consultancy Limited

Robert Pocknell is the CEO of N&M, a consultancy that has advised has small, medium and multinational companies on issues relating to standards essential patents (SEPs) for more than 25 years. N&M was a member of ETSI and advised it on the creation and implementation of the 1994 ETSI IPR Policy, and was a founding member of the Fair Standards Alliance, a Brussels based organisation created to advocate for fairer and more transparent SEP licensing. Robert was Chair of the Fair Standards Alliance for 6 years.



UTA SCHNEIDER | Vice President Government Affairs, Avanci

Uta Schneider leads European government and EU relations and public policy strategy for Avanci, working with legislators, elected officials, governmental and other agencies as well as trade organizations and industry groups. Before Avanci, Uta held roles in Brussels for TERMA, a Danish company working in the defense, space, aerospace and security sectors, and with Diehl Group, a global technology and engineering company. With a master's degree in Political Science, Modern History and Governmental Law from the University of Bonn in Germany, Uta speaks German, English and French. She is based in Brussels, Belgium.

SESSION: Licensing Issues that Surround University Spin-Outs - discussing key issues from the USIT guide and perspectives from across the ecosystem on how we can seek success in the UK



UZMA CHOUDRY, PhD | TechBio, Biotech and Frontier Tech Venture Capitalist

Uzma is one of the earliest investors in the European TechBio ecosystem, and a scientist by training with a PhD in Biophysics. More recently, Uzma built out and led on Octopus Ventures' Biotech/TechBio investment vertical, strategy, brand and team. She built the firm's Biotech/TechBio portfolio from scratch, and was on the Board of these ventures (seed, first cheque in - Series B > £100m funding rounds), including Ori Biotech, Biofidelity, CellVoyant Technologies, LabGenius, Pear Bio and others - overseeing and helping these companies navigate organisational set-up (helping the companies spin out), scaling operations and teams and fundraising. During her six-year tenure, Uzma sourced and led 12 investments at the firm and she served on the investment committee which oversaw the management of a \$1.5Bn investment portfolio across early to growth stages, and across multiple sectors (Enterprise Software, Consumer, Fintech, Deep Tech, Health and TechBio). Many of Uzma's investments were spin-outs, and before jumping to Venture Capital she worked on spinning out research with University tech transfer (during her PhD).



DAVE HOLT | Partner, Potter Clarkson (moderator)

Dave is a Partner at Potter Clarkson and responsible for specialist non-contentious IP work in the United Kingdom. Dave's role is mainly focussed on complex transactions relating to life sciences, industrial chemistry and advanced materials and the acquisition, evaluation and exploitation of intellectual property rights in those fields. Dave also leads on the IP Due Diligence work undertaken by Potter Clarkson and has acted on behalf of several European and International Venture Capital companies on IP-focussed projects, including those involving investment in spin-outs from Universities.

Dave has substantial experience in negotiating "spin-out" licensing and assignment arrangements on behalf of those investors and spin-out companies, as well as drafting complex research & development and collaboration agreements for the development of new technologies. Finally, Dave also advises a wide variety of IP-focussed businesses on the development and implementation of commercially focussed IP strategies.



PHILIP MASTERON, PhD | Associate Director (Business Development & Transactions), Cancer Research UK (CRUK)

Phil has a BSc in Cell Biology from the University of Essex, and a PhD in Virology from the University of Cambridge. After a post-doc position at the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) in London, Phil spent a number of years managing R&D programmes in the biotech industry. He moved into technology transfer in 2003 when he joined Cancer Research Horizons (formerly called Cancer Research Technology). Since that time he has built up extensive experience of managing and commercialising healthcare technologies from academic origins. As Head of our Ventures team, Phil leads the creation and support of cutting-edge new start-ups in the oncology sector, from ideation to launch.



ADRIAN TOUTOUNGI | Life Science and DeepTech Partner, Taylor Wessing

Adrian is one of the UK's leading life science licensing lawyers. He has over 20 years' experience in the sector, acting for a diverse range of clients include small-molecule therapeutics, biologics, cell & gene therapy, diagnostics and medical devices.

He is regularly involved in the negotiation and drafting of strategic partnering arrangements and other contracts with a heavy IP/regulatory element in the pharmaceutical sector. These include IP licences, joint ventures, R&D collaborations, clinical trials agreements, API supply, toll manufacturing, and distribution & agency agreements. He relishes supporting his clients to drive their business forward and get their products to market. He has pharmaceutical regulatory experience, including regulatory data exclusivity, routes to marketing approval and

variation, clinical trials regulation, pharmacovigilance and GxP requirements, which ensures his client's commercial arrangements are structured in a compliant way.

He has a wealth of experience in handling the IP and commercial aspects of many major corporate transactions spin-outs, start-ups, venture capital investments, trade sales and IPOs in the sector, including for FTSE 100 and Fortune 500 corporations.

Adrian has a degree in BioPhysics from the University of Oxford. He is a board member of the Pharmaceutical Licensing Group UK and sits on the Cell & Gene Therapy committee of the BIA. He was previously the General Counsel (on secondment) for the UK Cell & Gene Therapy Catapult and. He is an associate member of the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys and a member of the invitation- only European Patent Lawyers Association.

He advised the joint VC/TTO drafting committee on the legal aspects of the TenU University Spin-out Investment ("USIT") Guide, which was launched in 2023 and was well-received in the market, and also on the follow-on USIT for Software guide launched in May 2024. He was also the only legal member of the advisory board to the independent Tracey-Williamson review into University spin-outs which was commissioned by HM Treasury and which reported in November 2023.



SAMANTHA WILLIAMS, PhD | Licensing Manager, Trinity College Dublin

Dr Samantha Williams has a D.Phil. in Biochemistry from the University of Oxford and then worked in industry as a research scientist with Unilever Research in the United Kingdom for four years. She then joined the Medical Research Council's Technology Transfer Group based in London and has since then pursued a career in technology transfer, with over 20 years' experience in both the UK and Ireland in the successful commercialisation of intellectual property arising in the academic sector. Her current role is Licensing Manager at Trinity College Dublin, and she is responsible for Trinity's Intellectual Property licence agreements to established companies and to new Trinity spin-out companies. She is also currently Chair of the Irish Chapter of LES Britain & Ireland and a Director of LES Britain & Ireland Ltd.

SESSION: Exploring Strategic Alliances – A Cancer Research Horizons and Deep Science Ventures Case Study



BEATRICE LANA, PhD, CA-AM | Strategic Alliance Executive, Cancer Research Horizon

Beatrice is a Strategic Alliance Executive at Cancer Research Horizons (CRH), the innovation and commercialization engine of Cancer Research UK, the world's largest charitable funder of cancer research. She joined the CRH team in 2018 to provide best-in-class alliance management to drive, support and expand CRUK's innovative portfolio of strategic commercial alliances. Beatrice has played a key role in establishing, maintaining and progressing key alliances of the CHR portfolio, including the CRH-iOnctura alliance and currently the CRH-AstraZeneca Functional Genomic Centre alliance. Before that, Beatrice worked as Commercialisation Executive at Queen Mary Innovation, where she acquired expertise in opportunity sourcing and business development, leading on the translation of early-stage research projects into therapeutic, diagnostic and

research development technologies.



LOÏC ROUX, PhD | Founder, OligoTune Ltd.

Dr. Loïc Roux received his PhD in Medicinal Chemistry from Aix-Marseille University in France. His work focused on the development of new nucleotides pro-drugs against HIV focusing on the phosphorus chemistry. He joined Prof. Khvorova's lab (UMass Med School, MA, USA) in 2018 working on the stabilization and delivery of fully chemically modified oligonucleotides and then Prof. Wood's lab (University of Oxford, UK) working on peptide-oligonucleotides conjugates for muscular degenerative diseases. After a position as principal scientist at PepGen Limited promoting a peptide delivery platform for nucleic acid delivery, he contributed to building and establishing NATA, a new UKRI initiative aiming to promote the development of nucleic acid therapeutics. He moved back to industry as Director of Lead Development in Ochrebio, a Phenomics-led RNA medicines company developing the next-generation of RNA therapeutics for chronic liver diseases. After joining the venture studio Deep Science Venture, he builds OligoTune, a company aiming to revolutionise cancer treatment with RNA technology, acting as Founder and Chief Technology Officer.

SAMANTHA WILLIAMS, PhD | Licensing Manager, Trinity College Dublin (moderator) – see page 5

KEYNOTE: Practical Guide to IP Strategy



SONJA LONDON | General Counsel & Licensing Executive, TactoTek

Sonja London is General Counsel and Licensing Executive in TactoTek, world-leading innovator in the field of smart surfaces and structural electronics. Sonja has global responsibility of TactoTek's IP, licensing and standardization strategies as well as overall legal and compliance matters. Before joining TactoTek, she worked with Nokia Patent Business for 14 years in various roles, in her latest position leading Nokia's Consumer Electronics licensing globally. Sonja has been deeply involved in licensing of various technologies for automotive, consumer electronics, mobile devices and infrastructure products. Her experience covers also patent pools, joint licensing, patent transactions as well as digitalizing and managing licensing business.

Sonja serves as President of Licensing Executives Society International (LESI) for 2024-2025 and she is also a past President of Licensing Executives Society (LES) Scandinavia. In addition, Sonja is involved in several technology and growth companies as board member, investor and advisor on patents, licensing business models and IP commercialization. She serves in the board of Kesla Oyj, a forestry and material handling technology company, Berggren Oy, an IP powerhouse and SolidComp Oy, an industrial digital twin company. Sonja holds a Master of Laws from University of Helsinki and Executive MBA from Aalto University, Finland. She is ranked in IAM Strategy 300 as one of the world top IP Strategists.

PLENARY PANEL: Navigating the IP Maze - IP Strategies for Growing Businesses

SONJA LONDON | General Counsel & Licensing Executive, TactoTek – see above



FIONA NICOLSON | Consultant, Burness Paull (moderator)

Fiona is an experienced transactional IP solicitor and is currently a consultant with UK law firm Burness Paull where she heads their life sciences team. She spent over 10 years in London as a partner at a leading city firm before returning to Scotland. Fiona has worked with clients in a wide range of industries and also with research institutes and public bodies. She has also served on the boards of a number of for profit and not for profit organisations as a non-executive director. Fiona is currently treasurer of CLP a US headquartered licensing accreditation body and served on the board of Vertical Future Ltd a fast-growing UK SME until very recently. Fiona is also a recent Past President of the Licensing Executives Society International and chairs the Law Society of Scotland's IP accreditation panel.



SUZANNE OLIVER | IP Strategy Director, Scintilla

Suzanne is a dual qualified UK and European Patent Attorney and has recently joined the Scintilla team as Director, IP Strategy. Prior to her career in Intellectual Property, she spent a number of years working as an engineer in R&D within a large global telecommunications company. Previously, to Scintilla she was responsible for Operations, Legal, and IP at SeeChange Technologies, a wholly owned subsidiary and subsequent spin out of ARM Ltd. Prior to her work with SeeChange Technologies, Suzanne managed ARM's global patent and trademark prosecution teams supporting a diverse portfolio of IP strategy, policy and development matters for ARM. In addition to her impressive professional credentials, she holds several NED and Board positions, most recently as the President of the UK IP Federation. This role saw her advise the UK government in the field of innovation and IP. Suzanne has championed women in STEM, inclusion and diversity throughout her career, being named as an IAM 'World Leading IP Strategist' for 2017, and as a Managing IP 'Corporate IP Star' in 2018 & 2019. She was a national award winner for her Corporate Diversity and Inclusion Leadership work in 2018.

KEYNOTE: Trouble on the Tracks – from origin to enforcement – a real journey of IP commercialisation



GORDON DONALD | Former Managing Director, Geofabrics Ltd

After over 30 years of leading technical manufacturing businesses across the UK, Europe, USA and Asia, Gordon Donald has recently retired as Managing Director of Geofabrics, a Leeds based manufacturer renowned for innovative class leading technical textiles used in heavy construction sectors.

Gordon has extensive experience in the creation and implementation of Intellectual Property strategies particularly in Patents and Licensing.

In 2022, Gordon led Geofabrics to a successful prosecution of a Patent breach by a member of a US owned group of companies. This case was resolved in the High Court and resulted in the award of record damages.



JAMES LOVE | Partner, Womble Bond Dickinson (moderator)

James is a partner in the law firm Womble Bond Dickinson, with offices across the UK and USA. He heads up their UK Intellectual Property Team, and also sits on their Global Board.

He has top level experience, spanning more than 30 years, of patent litigation, including disputes in the Supreme Court. Assisted by a Cambridge University science degree, James is also a solicitor- advocate, giving him full rights of audience in the higher courts. James' reputation as a fierce practitioner in IP disputes is in addition to extensive experience of IP rich commercial transactions. Independent commentators have described him as "widely-admired" (Legal 500) and as having a "stunning reputation" acting "for high-profile clients on a national and international scale" being "instructed directly by organisations who require the very highest levels of expertise" (Chambers Directory). His views have also been sought on national television

and radio, as well as being quoted in the national and international press such as the FT and the South China Morning Post. Committee roles include 10 years sitting on the Law Society Intellectual Property Law Committee which promotes and lobbies for improvements in intellectual property law nationally and internationally, on the Law Society International Committee and on various UK Intellectual Property Office working groups.

James represented Geofabrics Ltd in their successful patent dispute, involving two High Court trials, a Court of Appeal judgment and a record damages award, across a period of about 5 years.

SESSION: Ubiquitous AI – The use of IP for maximum advantage



AMY GIBSON | VP of Legal, BenevolentAI

Amy Gibson is VP of Legal at BenevolentAI based in London specialising in commercial and IP matters. Her career has taken her from city law firm to Abbey Road and on to data science, animal genetics and now drug discovery and AI. She is a founding trustee of IHES Trust UK.



MATT HERVEY | Head of AI Law & Partner, Gowling WLG

Matt is General Editor The Law of Artificial Intelligence (Sweet & Maxwell), head of Artificial Intelligence Law at Gowling WLG and co-chair of AIPLA's AI subcommittee. He has been recognized as "one of the leading global experts in AI and IP" by the UN's World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 2022 for leadership in the field of AI. Matt is included in Chambers & Partners as a Global Market Leader for AI and in IAM Strategy 300 (the World's Leading IP Strategists), IAM Strategy 300 Global Leaders and in IAM 1000 as "a recognised authority on AI and all SEP/FRAND issues" and for trade secrets. Matt has been described by Legal 500 as "stand out" and "absolutely superb" for patent disputes and by JUVE Patent as a "leading individual" for patent litigation. Matt coordinates advice on all legal and regulatory aspects of AI across all sectors. He is an authority on Generative AI, advising governments, inter-governmental entities and house-hold name clients. His work includes advising on AI policies, procurement, training and fine-tuning AI models, vetting datasets, international divergences in the law and technical, practical, ethical and legal mitigations against the risks of unlawful and inappropriate outputs. His guidelines on Generative AI for WIPO have been downloaded over twenty thousand times.



HARRY STRANGE, PhD | Senior Associate, Withers & Rogers LLP (moderator)

Dr Harry Strange is a Senior Associate at Withers & Rogers and specialises in drafting and prosecuting patent applications directed to AI and machine learning. He leads the firm's AI group and regularly advises clients from across a range of technology sectors on how to build an effective IP portfolio for AI and machine learning innovations. Prior to joining the patent profession, Harry worked in academia as a researcher and lecturer having obtained his PhD in machine learning in 2011.

SESSION: Challenges In Funding/Commercialising Research for Rare Diseases



GINA BICKNELL | Partner, Pinsent Masons (moderator)

Gina is a Partner in Pinsent Masons' transactional IP team in London, where she handles a wide range of IP, data (including digital health) and commercial issues. Gina's clients appreciate her calm approach and her ability to find commercial solutions to complex legal issues. She has significant experience in major licensing deals, international corporate M&As, restructurings and joint ventures, as well as R&D collaborations and other life sciences commercial agreements. With a degree in Biological Sciences, Gina has a technical background as well as legal expertise, being both UK and US qualified as an English solicitor, US attorney-at-law (Illinois) and registered US patent attorney.



HARRIET HOLME MA Cantab MBBS MRCPCH (2009) PhD | Founder, PCD Research

After reading medicine at Cambridge University, Harriet worked in the NHS as a NIHR academic paediatrician in London for nearly a decade, ultimately specialising in paediatric oncology, where precision medicine is transformative. Harriet completed her PhD on cancer drivers and potential novel therapeutic targets in osteosarcoma at University College London and the Institute of Cancer Research, in Professor Alan Ashworth’s laboratory.

Harriet is a Drug Development Clinician at Weatherden, assisting biotechs with strategy, asset and indication selection, and clinical trial design. Through experience in Harriet’s career, she understands the route from bench to clinic for the development of novel therapies.

As a parent of a child with a rare disease, she was shocked by the lack of evidence-based treatments and the absence of clinical trials to improve outcomes. Determined to change this, she founded and Chairs PCD Research.

Harriet is passionate about improving the outcomes for people with rare diseases, in particular primary ciliary dyskinesia (PCD), and ensuring access to a molecular diagnosis for all, access to disease modifying therapeutics and evidence-based, risk stratified management.



ENRICO ORLANDI | Co-Founder, Eyes on the Future

Together with his wife, Enrico has founded Eyes on the Future (EotF) a charity which aims to accelerate Inherited Retinal Dystrophies (IRD) research. IRD causes progressive sight loss in children. Enrico’s 10-year-old daughter, Vicky, was diagnosed with an untreatable form of IRD driven by gene RDH12 and is, unfortunately, slowly going blind. Since the diagnosis, Enrico has been actively advocating and fundraising to support research into RDH12 IRD, raising over \$5.0 Million. EotF work has led to multiple scientific publications and, most importantly, to concrete advancement across several therapeutics approaches from drug repurposing to gene therapy. Enrico is also a structured finance and portfolio credit investment professional, having spent almost 20 years in the field.



CHRISTOPHER ROCKENBACH | Managing Director International & Commercial, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust (GOSH)

Chris is responsible for the strategic direction of the International and Private Care service at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust (GOSH), alongside leading the generation and review of commercial opportunities across a wide portfolio including: Education and Training; Digital and Innovation; and Clinical support services (specialist laboratories and cell and gene therapy).

Prior to his current role of Managing Director International and Commercial, Chris was appointed as the first Commercial Director at GOSH in December 2019 and has completed over 50 agreements with associated commercial income of more than £20m and a pipeline of a further 25 agreements.

Chris has operated at a senior level within International and Private Care service for more than ten years, ensuring the highest standards of quality and safety for patients receiving care at GOSH. He facilitated the establishment of many new treatments and therapies at GOSH including CAR T-cell therapy for leukaemia and Laser interstitial thermal therapy for epilepsy. Through this focus on clinical excellence and working with many World-leading clinicians, the International and Private Care service at GOSH has grown three-fold, with ambitions for further capacity growth to facilitate the increased patient demand.

Chris is a qualified Accountant who has worked in the NHS since 1994 and at GOSH since 2000. His exposure to public and industry partners in the UK and Internationally, has facilitated the development of a unique skill set and knowledge within his field.



ERICA WHITTAKER, PhD MBA | VP & Head, UCB Ventures

Erica is Vice President & Head of UCB Ventures, an evergreen strategic corporate venture fund which was set up in 2017 to invest in innovative, early-stage therapeutic opportunities beyond UCB's current focus areas. She is on the Board of Directors of five UCB Ventures portfolio companies: Rinri Therapeutics, ExeVir, Neurona, Splice Bio, and EsoBiotec. Erica began her career at UCB in 2010 initially in Strategy roles, and later as Head of Market Access and Pricing for EMEA Commercial Operations. Prior to joining UCB, Erica spent 10 years as a top-ranked biotechnology equity analyst for Merrill Lynch in London (1999-2009). Erica received BA degrees in Biology and in Comparative Literature from Brown University (Rhode Island USA). She obtained a PhD in Molecular Biology from the University of Edinburgh, and

later an MBA from Heriot-Watt University Business School in Edinburgh. She enjoys running, cycling & family holidays.

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