

'From Research to Commercialisation'

Health & Food SME Forum

Whiteknights, Reading

Wednesday, 17 February 2016

What is the forum about?

SMEs are at the heart of economic growth and innovation. The role that universities can, and should, play in supporting SME growth - in order to bolster innovation, the local economy and hence job creation - has been highlighted repeatedly.

The Thames Valley has a thriving range of diverse SMEs across the Health and Life Sciences Industries. At the heart of the Thames Valley, the University of Reading is firmly in the top 1% of more than 20,000 universities globally - "the global top 200". We believe that working together, we can help SMEs grow faster and benefit by access to knowledge and leading faculty.

Against this background, and as part of its strategy of building strong links with businesses, the University of Reading is organising this Health & Food business forum for SMEs. The aim is to promote a variety of ways in which SMEs and the University can work together. Presentations from a number of contrasting SMEs will provide insights into their collaborative innovations across their health, food and nutrition businesses, giving an SME perspective on how collaboration with the University of Reading has delivered significant benefit to their businesses.

The Q&A session will provide an opportunity for local businesses to question the speakers on the realities of collaboration with the University of Reading - and the key features that result in successful collaboration.

The SME forum will also afford the opportunity to network and showcase a variety of outward-facing specialist contract facilities and services at the University of Reading available commercially to businesses in the Health and Food Industries.

Registration: [Health&FoodSMEForum](http://www.henley.ac.uk/about-us/how-to-find-us-whiteknights/)

Where:

Lecture Theatre G10
Henley Business School, Whiteknights,
University of Reading RG6 6UD

How to get to us:

<http://www.henley.ac.uk/about-us/how-to-find-us-whiteknights/>

Programme

- 17:30** Arrival & Registration
- 18:00** Welcome and introduction to how Life Sciences at UoR collaborates with businesses
Richard Ellis *Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences*
- 18:10** SME Presentations
Dominic Behan, *VP & CSO, Arena Pharma*
Graham Waters, *CEO, Clasado BioSciences*
Ajay Luthra, *CEO, BioInteractions*
Colin Hill, *MD, Valley Produce*
Al Edwards, *Director & Co-Founder, CFT*
- 19:00** Q&A - Panel 'How does collaboration happen?' moderated by **Jurek Sikorski** *BD Lead and Executive in Residence*
- 19:40** Summary **Richard Ellis**
- 19:45** Close
- 19:50** Refreshments and Networking

How will you benefit

Participants attending the forum will learn how some SMEs have benefited from working with the University. They will be able to explore opportunities for collaboration and how the University might help them commercialise their research.

Participants will also benefit by networking before and after the presentations.

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Dean, Faculty Life Sciences University of Reading



Richard Ellis is Dean of the Faculty of Life Sciences at the University, a position he has held since 2008. Richard oversees and directs research, teaching and collaboration with businesses of a faculty that covers the breadth of the biological-chemical sciences and their application to the real world that includes human well-being across agriculture, horticulture, food and nutrition together with biomedicine and pharmacy. Prior to his role as Dean Richard was Head of the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development. Richard is a long-term member of the University Farms Board (the University's multi-million pound turnover commercial farming business). Richard is actively involved in promoting and building collaboration between businesses and the University in a way that helps translate research into commercial reality.

Speakers



Dominic Behan, Executive Vice President & CSO Arena Pharmaceuticals Inc

Dominic studied at Leeds (BSc Biochemistry) and Reading (PhD Biochemistry) and then began his industrial career at Neurocrine Biosciences directing several drug discovery programmes. In 1997, he co-founded Arena Pharmaceuticals. Dominic is on the PharmaVOICE 100 list of most-inspiring people in the life sciences industry. Dominic was awarded a higher doctorate (DSc) by the University of Reading, where he is Visiting Professor, and is exploring collaborations with the University's Institute for Cardiovascular and Metabolic Research in the areas of thrombosis and cardiovascular disease.



Graham Waters, CEO Clasado Biosciences

Graham has more than 30 years experience in the Healthcare sector working for pharmaceutical organisations including Warner Lambert, Mundipharma and Pharmacia Consumer Healthcare. Since establishing Clasado in 2005 he has built the company into an internationally recognised force in the field of Prebiotics and the management of gut-related health disorders. Clasado has enjoyed a long and successful relationship with the University of Reading collaborating on a number of successful clinical studies as well as researching new product development opportunities.



Ajay Luthra, CEO BioInteractions

Ajay co-founded the company in 1991. Dr Luthra and his team have developed and commercialised the technology of which he is a co-inventor of 10 patents. The most notable achievements of the company are licensing and supply agreements with Medtronic, Covidien, and B Braun. His responsibility includes all patent filing and maintenance, business development and negotiation of contracts for leading edge biomaterials that deliver the best in patient care by greatly limiting tissue responses and bacterial infections.



Colin Hill, Managing Director Valley Produce

Colin has been involved in commercial horticulture for 40 years. He established Valley Produce Ltd 26 years ago and the company specialises in the outdoor production of herbs and Chinese vegetables. Colin grows approximately 250 hectares of crops producing 1,500 tonnes of fresh produce per year. He farms on three sites in Berkshire, Hampshire and West Sussex. During the Winter season, to maintain continuity of supply to key customers, the company imports produce from Spain, Israel, India and Morocco. Valley Produce Ltd has been involved in a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) with the University of Reading for the last two years.



Al Edwards, Director Capillary Film Technology

Al co-founded CFT, a small but rapidly-growing company developing affordable microfluidics technology. Al is an academic in the University of Reading's Pharmacy School. CFT's first product will be a highly-sensitive test at the patient's bedside in A&E departments, for acute cardiac disease diagnostics, developed for the NHS with funding from the SBRI Healthcare scheme. During this early start-up phase, CFT needs expertise and research capacity in activities ranging from the biochemical to the clinical, and being embedded within the University of Reading has been vital to meeting CFT's technical, medical and business needs.

Panel Moderator



Jurek Sikorski, Business Development Lead and Executive in Residence Henley Business School

Jurek is chairman of several start-up and small businesses and specialist in healthcare. He has over 30 years' experience in the pharmaceutical, medical devices, in vitro diagnostics and biotechnology industries working for SMEs and multi-national corporations. This includes senior roles in general management as Chief Executive of SRS Technology Group Plc which he led to an IPO, Cantab Pharmaceuticals Plc and Proteus International Plc and Sales & Marketing Director at Smith & Nephew Medical, a FSTE 100 medical devices company.

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