



Cross-Party Group on Life Sciences

Annual Report 2021-2022



Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener

This is the first annual report of the Cross-Party Group on Life Sciences in the Scottish Parliament of the current session.

The Group acts as a channel for communication and information between the Scottish Parliament and people within organisations working in the life sciences sector in Scotland across industry, academia, research, and manufacturing.

The meeting in June 2021, when the Group was re-established, is the first of four covered in this report and I was delighted that, when we met a year later, we were able to do so face-to-face after almost two years online.

Having, as a sector, risen to meet the challenge of COVID-19, the three different but intertwined aspects of Scotland's life sciences sector – pharmaceutical innovation, health technology and the 'triple A' of animal health, agritech and aquaculture – are now contributing to not just meeting the sector's ambition to reach £8 billion of turnover by 2025, but also to making the sector a pillar of Scotland's strategies for NHS recovery and economic transformation and renewal following the pandemic.

We have been very pleased that Ivan McKee MSP, Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise, whose portfolio includes support for life sciences, has been able to join almost all our meetings. He has impressed on us the importance of this sector in delivering many of the Scottish Government's health, enterprise, investment and sustainability ambitions – some of which he touches upon in his report below.

The Cross Party Group has covered a lot of ground in the four meetings. We have heard about the work

being done on dementia and wider brain health in Scotland – from both the perspective of researchers and those working directly with patients – on how Scotland can compete on a global stage through collaboration and the best use of data to attract clinical trials, and the imperative for us as a nation to do this quickly.

I was delighted that the team from DSM Nutritional Products in my own constituency were able to present to us on the game changing nature of their Bovaer animal feed for sustainable farming, and their plans for their site at Dalry.

We also received updates from the Scottish Government on the work to deliver a net zero emissions NHS by 2040, and from GSK presenting details on a ground-breaking solar and wind power development at its factory in Irvine.

We are pleased to work alongside the Life Sciences Scotland Industry Leadership Group (ILG) and to have had an update from them on their priorities as they refresh the ILG's sub-groups to ensure the ILG are supporting the triple helix effectively.

In the year ahead, the challenges facing the sector are likely to be as acute as ever.

As convener, I do not choose what goes on our agenda, but I imagine that environmental sustainability, reaching international markets, recruitment, data, NHS recovery and nurturing innovation will all be part of our discussions and the subject of questions to the Minister.

If there is a subject that you believe we should be looking at in the year ahead, please contact the secretariat.

The Cross-Party Group is a partnership and I thank my fellow MSPs and their staff, the ABPI as our secretariat, our speakers and the great mix of people who are members, for your continuing enthusiasm and support.

Graham Simpson MSP
Deputy Convener



Miles Briggs MSP
Member

Craig Hoy MSP
Member



Fulton MacGregor MSP
Member

Michael Marra MSP
Member



Michelle Thomson MSP
Member

Sue Webber MSP
Member



Alison Culpan, ABPI
Secretariat

2021 - 2022

Scottish Life Sciences Milestones

16 March 2021

The Scottish Government published *Investing with Purpose: global capital investment plan* identifying health and life sciences as a sector likely to drive demand in Scotland's economy.

31 October 2021

The Life Sciences Scotland ILG marked COP26 in Glasgow by committing the sector to minimising the environmental impact from the development, manufacture and delivery of healthcare.

17 December 2021

The Campbell Report set out a roadmap to investment for health innovation life sciences and healthtech, to attract increased levels of private investment in the sector in Scotland.



Ivan McKee MSP

**Minister for Business, Trade,
Tourism and Enterprise**

I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this annual report from the Life Sciences Cross-Party Group.

The Group has discussed and highlighted achievements from across the sector, mainly in human health but also the incredible research and development work in animal health, agritech and aquaculture. As such, the work of the group is of interest across the whole of the Chamber.

One of the aims of the group is to raise the profile of the sector to Scotland's economy.

Scotland's Life Sciences sector responded quickly and fully to the COVID-19 crisis. The Scottish Government continues to recognise the importance of supporting the sector to grow and thrive, ensuring the innovations and world leading research undertaken in Scotland reaches its full potential at home and abroad.

The sector remains central to our wider international ambitions including our export growth and inward investment plans. Sustainable economic growth is central to the National Strategy for Economic Transformation and the forthcoming Innovation Strategy. We are determined to unlock Scotland's assets to succeed in building the fastest-growing health innovation life science cluster in Europe.

I am also committed to reinforcing our reputation as a global centre of excellence in entrepreneurship and innovation where ideas, often originating from world-class universities and research centres, are industrialised and commercialised, attracting investment and creating new jobs and opportunities for the people of Scotland.

It is essential our research and innovations improve people's lives, which is why I am pleased to see the development of the Accelerated National Innovation Adoption (ANIA) pathway to improve collaboration with partners to translate Scottish innovations and technology into improved healthcare. There is now a strong partnership between economy and health in government to achieve both health and wealth priorities.

My role as co-chair of the Life Sciences Scotland Industry Leadership Group provides the opportunity to enact our triple helix approach, bringing together ministerial colleagues and representatives from a broad cross-section of the life sciences sector to drive forward our Life Sciences Strategy. Collaboration is fundamental to translating innovation into treatments and solutions for people who need them. This group provides valuable insight and opportunity for varied discussion and is important for government to understand challenges and opportunities across the sector.

Finally, I believe the Scottish life sciences sector, be it in health technologies, pharmaceuticals, genomics, or agritech, has a role to play in our advances towards ambitious net zero targets.

With all we have accomplished so far, I look forward to the year ahead.

31 January 2022

Mark Cook became Chair and Gary White Deputy Chair of the Life Sciences Scotland Industry Leadership Group.

1 March 2022

The life sciences sector was cited as a 'foundation for success' and an area of new market opportunities in Scotland's *National Strategy for Economic Transformation*.

20 April 2022

Animal Health, Agritech and Aquaculture: Improving Awareness and Links for Innovation Capacity in Scotland was published by SEFARI, the ILG AAA subgroup and HIE.

21 June 2022

The *Accelerated National Innovation Adoption (ANIA) pathway* was unveiled, to be led by the national Centre for Sustainable Delivery as part of a new ANIA Collaborative.

The 2021 to 2022 Meetings

Wednesday 15 June 2021

(Remote online meeting)

This was the first meeting in this session. The group was re-established and office bearers elected.

The meeting looked at dementia and brain health research in Scotland.

Ministerial update

Ivan McKee MSP, Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise.

Scottish Brain Health and Dementia Research Strategy

Professor Craig Ritchie, Chair Scottish Dementia Research Consortium.

Dementia Care Research

Professor Debbie Tolson, Alzheimer Scotland Professor of Dementia;

Susan Holland, Alzheimer Scotland Dementia Nurse Consultant, NHS Ayrshire and Arran.



Tuesday 16 November 2021

(Remote online meeting)

This meeting focused on environmental sustainability, and on clinical research.

Ministerial update

Ivan McKee MSP, Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise.

Solar and wind power development at GSK's Irvine facility

Jim Miller, Engineering Director, GSK Irvine site.

Scottish Government NHS Sustainability

Phillip McLean, Head, Capital Planning & NHS Facilities, Scottish Government.

IQVIA's footprint & investment in Scotland

Gary White, Senior Director, Strategic Site Solutions, IQVIA.

Tuesday 22 February 2022

(Remote online meeting)

This meeting focused on Animal Health, Agritech and Aquaculture (AAA).

Animal Health, Agritech & Aquaculture in Scotland

John Mackenzie, Roslin Innovation Centre (Co-chair AAA ILG);

Andrea McColl, Highlands, and Islands Enterprise (Co-chair AAA ILG);

Dr Jenna Bowen, SRUC.

Production of the Bovaer cattle feed at Dalry

Dennis Rijnders, Commercial Director Bovaer, EMEA, DSM;

Rob de Hooge, Site Director at DSM Nutritional Products.



Wednesday 8 June 2022

(The Scottish Parliament)

The AGM of the Cross Party Group was held at the start of this meeting.

Thereafter the meeting discussed the priorities and future directions of the life sciences sector in Scotland.

Ministerial update

Ivan McKee MSP, Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise.

The Future of the Life Sciences Scotland Industry Leadership Group

Gary White, Deputy Chair Life Sciences Scotland ILG.

'Reimagining the Future of Life Sciences 2030' with a focusing on clinical trials

Scott Cooke, General Manager, UK & Ireland, Bristol Myers Squibb.

We thank the following organisations for their continued support of the Cross-Party Group on Life Sciences

3D Communications	Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine	Organon
AbbVie	Genomic Health	Orion Pharma
Accenture	GSK	Pfizer
Advanz Pharma	Healthcare Improvement Scotland	PPD
Albany	Healthcare Public Affairs	Roche
Alexion	Heriot Watt University	Roslin Innovation Centre and Roslin BioCentre
Amgen	Hologic	Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow
Antibody Analytics	Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre	Royal Pharmaceutical Society
Association of British HealthTech Industries (ABHI)	InnoScot Health	Sanofi
Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI)	Intusurg	Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI)
Astellas	Ipsen	Scottish Enterprise
AstraZeneca	IQVIA	Scottish Government
Axis Consulting	Janssen	Scottish Lifesciences Association
Bayer	KTN	Scottish Universities Life Sciences Alliance (SULSA)
Bioascent	Kyowa Kirin	Shionogi Europe
BioCity	Leo Pharma	Skills Development Scotland
Biogen	Life Sciences Scotland ILG	SRUC Scotland's Rural College
Blue Yonder	LifeArc	SSERC
Boehringer-Ingelheim	Lilly	Stratified Medicines Scotland
Bristol-Myers Squibb	Lundbeck	Teva UK
British Heart Foundation	MAP Patient Access Limited	The ALLIANCE
British Lung Foundation	Medtronic	The Data Lab
Cancer Research UK	Merck	The Pioneer Group
Canon Medical	Moredun Foundation	Thermo Fisher
Celgene	MS Society Scotland	UCB Pharma
Cheisi	MSD	University of Dundee
Clovisoncology	Mydex	University of Edinburgh
College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine	Napp Pharmaceuticals	University of Glasgow
Community Pharmacy Scotland	NHS National Services Scotland	University of St Andrews
Diabetes UK	NHS Research Scotland	University of Strathclyde
Epidarex	NovaBiotics	University of the West of Scotland
Ettrickburn	Novartis	VQC Analytics Ltd
European Lead Factory	Novo Nordisk	Weber Shandwick
Exact Sciences	NRS	
	ODX Innovations	

The year ahead

Our November meeting will focus on Scotland's anti-microbial resistance policy, and the work being done by the Scottish Government, clinicians and the pharmaceutical industry to reduce over-prescribing of antibiotics and encourage research into new solutions to treating infection.

Another issue that has been suggested for a future meeting is to examine how Scotland promotes working in the life sciences sector – be it people choosing life sciences early in their careers, retaining the talent and experience we have here in Scotland or attracting new people from other countries to join our growing sector.

We will continue to devote time to the main pillars of our sector: pharmaceutical innovation, health technologies and the 3As: animal, agritech & aquaculture – examining how the triple helix of the public sector, academia and industry can work in partnership to provide solutions that benefit the health and wealth of Scotland.

The choice of what we focus on at Cross-Party Group meetings is down to everyone who gets involved. We encourage anyone with an idea for an issue we should focus on to get in touch with Alison, Helen and Claire at our secretariat to tell us why it's important and suggest who the Group should invite to speak.

Contacting the Secretariat

The secretariat of the Cross-Party Group is provided by
ABPI Scotland

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