

Press information

Reference: 24_004

Date: 5th November 2024

BioAscent awarded prestigious Knowledge Transfer Partnership with Centre for Targeted Protein Degradation at the University of Dundee

New collaboration to develop innovative chemistry for more efficient protein degrader molecules

[Glasgow, UK – 5 November 2024] – BioAscent, a leading provider of integrated drug discovery services, is proud to announce its successful award of a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) with the Centre for Targeted Protein Degradation (CeTPD) at the School of Life Sciences, University of Dundee. This partnership will focus on the development and application of innovative chemistry methods to streamline the synthesis and testing of protein degrader molecules – a revolutionary area of therapeutic discovery.

This collaboration brings together BioAscent’s world-class pre-clinical drug discovery expertise with Dundee’s globally recognised leadership and experience in the field of targeted protein degradation. The initiative is poised to push new boundaries in drug discovery by enabling more efficient development and testing of innovative protein degraders, molecules that offer exciting potential for the treatment of currently untreatable diseases.

Duncan McArthur, Associate Director of Chemistry at BioAscent says: "We are thrilled to be working alongside the world-leading experts at Dundee’s CeTPD to drive the next phase of innovation in protein degradation. The collaboration is an outstanding example of public-private partnership, demonstrating how the world class excellence of Scottish industry and academia can work together to advance novel therapeutic approaches."

Will Farnaby, Principal Investigator at CeTPD says: "We are excited to formalise this new partnership with BioAscent which, together with the support of Innovate UK, will

enable a new degrader discovery platform approach with significant potential for accelerating drug discovery.”

Allesio Ciulli, Director of CeTPD, adds: “This is an exciting newly established industry-academia collaboration that is poised to innovate much needed chemistry and boost our ability to find high-quality molecules more quickly and efficiently.

“I am delighted that our Centre has partnered with BioAscent on this journey, and I look forward to watching the progress and discoveries that will be enabled by this partnership, which will have broad applicability and scope to many of our programmes and the wider field beyond.”

By combining the latest advances in parallel synthesis and protein degrader chemistry, the partnership aims to accelerate the discovery of new treatments that could transform the drug development landscape.

For more information, visit www.bioascent.com

Ends

Photo caption: [L-R] Stuart McElroy (Director of Biosciences, BioAscent), Duncan McArthur (Associate Director of Chemistry, BioAscent), Dr Carolyn Arbuckle (Knowledge Transfer Adviser, Innovate UK Business Connect), David Robinson (Senior Scientist and Biosciences Team Leader, BioAscent), John Robinson (Senior Scientist and Chemistry Team Leader, BioAscent), Matt Parkin (KTP Associate), Dr Will Farnaby (Centre for Targeted Protein Degradation, University of Dundee).

Notes to editors

For more information contact: Sue Carr, sue@vformation.biz, +44 (0)7809 727533

About BioAscent Discovery Ltd.

Founded in 2013, BioAscent is a leading provider of integrated drug discovery services based at the former Organon / MSD R&D site in Newhouse, Scotland, UK.

The company’s drug discovery services include de novo assay development, target analysis and bespoke screening strategies, compound screening (including HTS), medicinal and synthetic chemistry, in silico discovery and compound management, all with access to in-house diversity and fragment libraries.

BioAscent's team of expert scientists has experience of successfully working from assay development through to preclinical and clinical candidates across all biological target classes and major therapeutic indications. As part of its compound management service, BioAscent currently holds and manages over 1.5 million compounds for our customers, in both liquid and solid formats.

Since 2013, the BioAscent team has been responsible for:

- >150 biochemical, biophysical and cellular assays for drug discovery projects, across all key target classes including GPCRs, multiple enzyme classes (including covalent programmes), nuclear receptors, protein-protein, protein-DNA and protein-RNA interactions
- Multiple HTS and fragment screens using multiple libraries of up to 250k in size and triaged the outcomes of over 120 HTS campaigns
- >50 hit validation/characterisation projects
- >30 hit-to-lead campaigns, including successfully driving a project to candidate selection and out licensing to big pharma, and driving a second against an unprecedented target from initial hit finding to in vivo efficacy
- >100,000 screening plates delivered to our global customers/partners

About the Centre for Targeted Protein Degradation and the University of Dundee

- The Centre for Targeted Protein Degradation was founded in 2023 under the Directorship of Professor Alessio Ciulli. The Centre is bolstering the University's world-leading position in the field which takes an entirely new approach to drug discovery by making the treatment of diseases, previously thought to be undruggable, a reality. The Centre employs over 60 scientists and benefits from partnerships with leading global pharmaceutical companies.
- Dundee is the UK's Number 1 University for biological sciences (2014 and 2021 Research Excellence Framework), with scientists translating basic and clinical research to address global health challenges
- Dundee is one of the leading universities in the UK for spinning out and commercialising research, creating companies such as Amphista Therapeutics, a spin-out from the research of Professor Ciulli. The University was recently named Innovative & Entrepreneurial University of the Year in the Triple E Awards for Europe 2024.

About Knowledge Transfer Partnership

The Knowledge Transfer Partnership programme (KTP) has been supporting business growth through innovation and collaboration for nearly 50 years. Funded by Innovate UK, the KTP scheme brings together forward-thinking businesses, world class academic expertise and talented graduates who take on the role of KTP Associate.

KTP projects are designed to benefit each member of the partnership and are unique because each business need, academic team and KTP Associate is different. The aim of a KTP is to embed the new knowledge gained over the course of the project

within the company, to ensure long-term economic sustainability and increase the competitiveness of the UK's industrial and economic base.