

Press information

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BioAscent appoints Vice President of Alliance Management

The newly created role will support BioAscent's continued growth and cross-functional synergies

[Glasgow, UK – 6 May 2025] – BioAscent, a leading provider of integrated drug discovery and compound management services, has appointed life sciences executive leader James Hitchin as Vice President of Alliance Management.

With a PhD in Synthetic Chemistry from the University of Liverpool, James brings a strong scientific background as a medicinal chemist combined with multiple years of strategic leadership experience. He joins BioAscent from Charnwood Discovery, where he was Chief Operating Officer and led the expansion and integration of the company's bioscience, chemistry, and ADME teams. Prior to this role, he was responsible for the Chemistry Business Unit at the company and led the growth of its scientific teams. He also spent seven years as a Principal Chemist at Cancer Research UK's Manchester Institute, managing internal oncology projects.

In his role at BioAscent, James will build relationships internally across functions as well as externally, fostering strategic partnerships with new clients. He will also work with the senior leadership team to develop a differentiated value proposition that helps to drive further market expansion.

Commenting on his appointment, James says: "I am thrilled to be joining BioAscent. Despite challenging market conditions, BioAscent has achieved consistent growth, which is testament to its resilience and adaptability. Indeed, BioAscent's range of services, breadth of expertise, and scientific talent and strength are highly impressive and provide strong foundations for further growth. In my new role, I'm looking forward to working with all stakeholders across the business to unlock talent, identify new

opportunities, and build teams that deliver innovative solutions to accelerate drug discovery and improve patient outcomes.”

Dr Mike Piper, Chief Commercial Officer at BioAscent, comments: “With a strong track record for building high-performing scientific teams and scaling drug discovery businesses, James is the ideal fit as we look to build on BioAscent’s strong growth performance. His communication skills and ability to form long-lasting relationships across functions, along with his scientific expertise and deep understanding of the drug discovery process, will be an invaluable addition. We look forward to working with James to ensure BioAscent is positioned as the provider of choice for drug discovery and compound management services and to accelerate our growth plans in the US and Europe.”

For more information, visit www.bioascent.com

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Photo caption: James Hitchin joins BioAscent as Vice President of Alliance Management.

Notes to editors

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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 preclinical candidate nomination
- >100,000 screening plates delivered to our global customers/partners

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