



# Office for Life Sciences

## Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 01 March 2024



### **OLS Introduction**

The Office for Life Sciences (OLS) is a joint unit between the Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) and Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT).

This bulletin aims to keep the life sciences sector up to date on the latest government announcements and wider opportunities in policy areas which may be of interest to the sector.

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### **News**

#### **NEW – UK and France to deepen research and AI links following Horizon association**

New funding to boost research collaboration and a new partnership to further global AI safety are part of measures announced by the UK and France.

Read more [here](#).

#### **NEW – NHS England response to new Lancet report on obesity**

Professor Simon Kenny, NHS England's National Clinical Director for Children and Young People, said: "These figures will be as alarming to parents as they are to the NHS – obesity affects every human organ system, and so at a young age can have a major impact on a child's life, increasing their risk of type 2 diabetes, cancer, mental health issues and many other illnesses, which can lead to shorter and unhappier lives."

Read more [here](#).

#### **NEW – NHS fast-tracks new therapy for rare 'graft vs host' disease**

Cancer patients living with a rare disease which attacks the body's own organs following a life-saving stem cell transplant are set to benefit from a pioneering new medicine on the NHS. Belumosudil (Rezurock ®) is an innovative treatment for chronic graft versus host disease, which develops in around a third of patients who have undergone stem cell or bone marrow transplants for blood cancers such as leukaemia and lymphoma.

Read more [here](#).

#### **NEW – Leading VC partnerships to support engineering biology accelerator**

UKRI funded Science Creates Accelerate announces a new partnership with globally recognised venture capitals (VCs) to support engineering biology entrepreneurs. The programme, funded through the UKRI Technology Missions Fund, delivered by Innovate UK, will also count on the support of leading European and US VC firms.

The accelerator programme is open to anyone with an existing engineering biology startup in its very early stages or anyone wishing to launch one.

Read more [here](#).

### **NEW – £11.5m bioinnovation boost set to transform UK manufacturing**

When it comes to manufacturing, the UK is one of the biggest players on the world stage. Spanning a wide variety of sub-sectors, the almost three million strong manufacturing workforce generates a staggering 16.68% of the UK's gross domestic product. UKRI is backing 21 cross-sector collaborations designed to spark innovation, commercialisation and growth in UK sustainable biomanufacturing.

**Read more [here](#).**

### **NEW – MHRA grants first approval via the new International Recognition Procedure in 30 days**

A new formulation for XGEVA (denosumab), a treatment used in adults to prevent serious bone-related complications caused by bone metastasis and to treat giant cell tumour of bone in adults and adolescents, is the first product to be authorised by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency via the new International Recognition Procedure (IRP).

**Read more [here](#).**

### **NEW – MHRA publishes new guidance to help applicants and shorten timeframes for assessment of established medicines**

Process changes for the assessment of established medicines have been published today by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), in new guidance which will come into effect on 01 March 2024. These process changes build on measures already implemented by the agency.

**Read more [here](#).**

### **NEW – MHRA Chief Executive Dame June Raine to step down later this year**

Dr Dame June Raine, MHRA's Chief Executive, will be stepping down in the Autumn following five years in the role. The Department of Health and Social Care will shortly begin recruitment for a new Chief Executive. Dr Dame June will remain in post until the Autumn to ensure a smooth transition to her successor.

**Read more [here](#).**



## **Useful Links**

- The [Office for Life Sciences](#) homepage provides the latest updates and information on the governments work with the life sciences sector.
- Information around Horizon Europe funding can be found [here](#).
- Guidance for businesses on Brexit can be found [here](#).
- Access the 'Check How to Export Goods' tool [here](#) for the information you need to export goods out of the UK market.
- If you're a UK business selling goods or services to Europe, you can contact the UK government [export support team](#) by phone or online.
- Access the 'Check How to Export Goods' tool [here](#) for the information you need to export goods out of the UK market.
- Click [here](#) for more information and advice on exporting.
- In England, [Growth Hubs](#) can advise on local and UK Government business support.
- Register for HMRC's free [Trader Support Service](#) if you are moving goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Click [here](#) to view the latest weekly Trader Support Service (TSS) bulletin.
- The most up-to-date guidance on the [Windsor Framework](#) is on GOV.UK, including information on moving goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland.
- If you need to get in touch with the MHRA, please use the contact details below:
  - Email: [MHRACustomerServices@mhra.gov.uk](mailto:MHRACustomerServices@mhra.gov.uk)
  - Phone: 0203 080 6000