



Office for Life Sciences

Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 19 April 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.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please email:
sonia.davies@officeforlifesciences.gov.uk



News

NEW – UK Biobank: new fund launched for researchers in developing countries

UK Biobank has launched a new Global Researcher Access Fund that covers application costs of approved researchers at institutes from low-and-middle-income-countries and aims to further democratise worldwide access to this biomedical database.

Read more [here](#).

EVENT – Webinar: MedTech Strategy One Year On publication & the MedTech Innovation Classification Framework

The DHSC Medical Technologies Directorate is delighted to host a webinar on Monday 22nd April 2024 at 1-2pm, to provide further information about the newly published [MedTech Strategy: One Year On](#) and [MedTech Innovation Classification Framework](#), followed by a Q&A session.

To register for the webinar, [click here](#). Please note that the joining link to the webinar will be issued 24 hours in advance of the event.

NEW – Innovate UK and British Business Bank sign MoU

Innovate UK and the British Business Bank have further strengthened their collaboration by signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU). The heightened collaboration aims to help create new pathways for business investment and promote growth through innovation.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – NHS Confederation publish ‘Collaborate to innovate’ in partnership with the ABPI

This report explores how cross-sector collaboration in research and innovation can deliver better outcomes for patients. In collaboration with industry, health charities and members, the report identified five practical actions to build a collaborative research and innovation culture in health.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – Government review to create a more open healthcare system

A new call for evidence launched on Wednesday 16 April aims to capture and consider views about how the duty of candour is honoured, monitored and enforced.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – Record NHS cancer checks top three million in one year

NHS cancer checks have topped three million in a year for the first time – more than doubling in the last decade. New analysis shows that there were 3,035,698 urgent cancer referrals for patients in the last year (March 2023- Feb 2024), compared to 1,335,350 in the same period ten years ago. (March 2013- Feb 2024).

Read more [here](#).

NEW – Specific nasal cells protect against COVID-19 in children

A study funded by UK Research and Innovation, the National Institute for Health and Care Research, Great Ormond Street Hospital Biomedical Research Centre, Wellcome and the Chan Zuckerberg Foundation finds differences in how young and elderly people's nasal cells respond to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which may explain why children typically experience milder COVID-19 symptoms.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – Potential new treatment strategy for aggressive leukaemia

Research funded by the MRC, Cancer Research UK and the Barts Charity has found a potential treatment strategy for an aggressive type of leukaemia by targeting enzymes used by cells to sense and adapt to oxygen levels. In findings published in [Nature Cancer](#), researchers revealed that blocking these oxygen-sensing enzymes can significantly halt AML in mice and patient samples without affecting normal production of blood cells.

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
 - Phone: 0203 080 6000