Breakthroughs and transformations in health and life sciences happen because of the inspirational and motivated professionals working tirelessly behind the scenes. 50 Movers and Shakers in BioBusiness 2016 is a well-deserved celebration of the dedicated women who are changing the face and future of healthcare.

At a time when our industry has reported challenges in recruiting key positions due to skills gaps, it is hugely encouraging to see ambitious and intellectually curious women determined to help keep the UK at the forefront of developing innovative medicines and treatments for patients. While there are now medicines to treat many diseases, we know there is more we can do if we are to continue to improve patient care and women are making a difference.

The advances in research, funding models, technology and drug development that these women are pursuing and delivering give a glimpse of what could be achieved. The following pages highlight incredible examples of scientific innovation across a diverse range of disease areas, including cancer, dementia, and sepsis.

We know there is a need for female role models in this industry and these women are an inspiration for the next generation of Life Science leaders. Each of them are working towards a brighter, healthier future, committed to making the greatest difference to people’s lives – through improving their health.

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**John Kearney**
President, Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry

**Miranda Weston-Smith**
BioBeat Founder

Here is fresh inspiration for making the world healthy: In this time of flux, the women in this report are transforming today’s challenges into tomorrow’s opportunities. They are the pioneers who are setting the pace in laboratories, healthcare, entrepreneurial companies, established Pharma, finance, advice and policy.

There are 24 Rising Stars alongside more senior colleagues, and they all share a common characteristic: they are all extraordinary leaders. They are making an impact in a wide range of areas, such as genomic research, patient health outcomes, new biomaterials to improve disease models, tackling antibacterial resistance, cancer and Alzheimer’s disease, and the development of new funding models.

And what are the trends to watch? This year, for the first time, the report also includes a selection of views from key opinion leaders.

This is not a definitive list but the women are magnetic in their creativity and openness to change. And with this they are re-writing the boundaries and connections throughout the spectrum of life sciences and health.

Come and join the community!

Looking ahead… If you would like to make a nomination for 2017, please email Miranda@mws-consulting.co.uk

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**John Kearney**
President, Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry

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**Miranda Weston-Smith**
BioBeat Founder

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**Foreward**

**Professor Stephen G Davies**, University of Oxford

**Dr Darrin Doley**, Horizon Discovery plc

**Dr Simon Kerr**, Cypralis

**Dr Julia Wilson**, Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute

**Dr Clare Wilson**, Royal Society of Chemistry

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**Introduction**

**Partners**

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**Acknowledgments**

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The Rising Star signifies Movers and Shakers who are under 40

Jelena Aleksic, CEO and Co-founder, GeneAdviser
A geneticist by training, Jelena co-founded GeneAdviser to foster the access of genomic medicine, supporting the needs of clinicians and leading to faster diagnosis for patients. Shortly after launch in January 2016, the company raised £350,000 in equity investment. The online marketplace provides clinicians worldwide with access to technical, scientific and clinical expertise in genetic testing, and has partnered with world-leading genetic laboratories within the NHS in the UK.

Jelena is passionate about facilitating access to genomic medicine, and advocates for a more open sharing of genomic data and expertise for the benefit of science and patients.

Liz Ashall-Payne, Founder and CEO, ORCHA
Liz founded ORCHA, the Organisation for the Review of Care and Health Applications, in 2015. She is bringing the benefits of apps to patient and public health and care, as well as organisational efficiencies, as part of patient-centred health. Aided by investment from Sir Terry Leahy and Bill Currie, ORCHA offers impartial reviews of health and care apps and guidance to developers. ORCHA licences web-based platforms for public and healthcare professionals that make it easier to find, compare and recommend the best apps for public, patient and organisational outcomes.

Initially a Speech and Language Therapist, Liz has almost 20 years of NHS experience.

Professor Sabin Bahn, Chair in Neurotechnology and Director, Cambridge Centre for Neuropsychiatric Research, University of Cambridge
As a practising psychiatrist, Sabine’s main research interests are to understand the molecular basis of neuropsychiatric disorders, with a focus on schizophrenia and mood disorders. In 2015 she co-founded PsyOmics, together with Dan Cowell. PsyOmics is developing combined digital and blood based biomarker diagnostics to facilitate earlier and improved diagnosis of key mental health disorders. In 2005, Sabine co-founded Psynova Neurotech, which has launched the first blood test aiding the early diagnosis of schizophrenia.

Professor Sabin Bahn is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology.

Tania Villares Balsa, Investment Manager, Cambridge Enterprise
Tania joined Cambridge Enterprise in 2015 and led the recent investment into Healthera, a provider of next-generation, pharmacy-integrated personal health management solutions. She transformed the business model and helped structure the team and is now a Non Executive Director. Last year, Tania headed the establishment of a business plan competition to encourage postdoc entrepreneurship in the University of Cambridge.

Earlier Tania worked in venture capital in Spain investing in spin outs from universities. She holds an MBA from Cambridge Judge Business School and degrees in Finance and Economics from the University of Santiago de Compostela.

Sonia Benhamida, VP, Business Development R&D, Ipsen
Within Ipsen, Sonia is responsible for executing partnerships in oncology, neurology and endocrinology from discovery to phase 1 with a particular interest in late research/early development of antibiotics, toxins and small molecules. Rather than considering biotech companies as a source of assets, she sees an ecosystem of people who can together generate innovation for patients. In her current and past experiences as a group leader in mathematical modelling applied to biological systems, or as an investment banker using scientific literature to value opportunities in M&A deals, she believes in multidisciplinary interfaces.

Sonia graduated in corporate finance from HEC and then pursued studies in biology through a PhD in gene therapy.

Eva-Lotta Allan, CBO, Immunocore
Since joining Immunocore in May 2013, Eva-Lotta has contributed to the raise of $320 million in a Series A round, established four discovery partnerships (GSK, Genentech, MedImmune and Lilly) and entered into two clinical trial collaborations with MedImmune and Lilly. She had the opportunity to introduce innovative deal structures within the company allowing more potential value to be retained. Her desire is to grow a successful independent world-leading company in immuno-oncology by implementing creative business strategies.

Eva-Lotta is also a non-executive director of Targovax in Oslo and has held a number of different roles in private and public biotechs. She started her career as a bench scientist.

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Kate Bingham, Managing Partner, SV Life Sciences
Kate played an active role in setting up the new Dementia Discovery Fund (DDF) to find disease modifying drugs for Alzheimer’s by 2025. The fund has support from Biogen, GSK, Johnson & Johnson, Lilly, Pfizer, Takeda, UK’s Department of Health and Alzheimer’s Research UK. Kate is on the Investment Committees for all SV funds, including the DDF.
Kate serves or has served on the boards of companies in the UK, US, Ireland, Sweden and Germany and her current investments include Atople, Auditory, Bicycle, Calchan, Kalvista, Karus, Kesios, Pulmocide, TopiVert and Whispeed. Prior to joining SVLS in 1991, Kate worked at Vertex Pharmaceuticals. She has a biochemistry degree from Oxford and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

Jenna Bowen, Co-Founder, Cotton Mouton Diagnostics and Lecturer, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Cardiff University
Jenna and the team at Cotton Mouton Diagnostics (CMD) are developing an innovative magneto-optical diagnostic platform to bring about a paradigm shift in the diagnosis of aephs – a condition that kills one person every few seconds. A prototype assay and instrument is expected by spring 2017. CMD’s proprietary technology is affordable, reliable and critically maintains sensitivity under challenging conditions to deliver results in less than 15 minutes. Within the first year CMD has received £1M of grant and equity investment and assembled a multi-disciplinary team of 10.
A pharmacist by training, Jenna was awarded her PhD in 2011.

Maria Dahl, Executive Business Development Director - Oncology, AstraZeneca plc
Maria is responsible for global licensing and partnering of oncology assets in early clinical development and research at AstraZeneca. She is passionate about innovation and negotiating deals to get stakeholders from different organisations together to create win-win solutions and bring new medicines to patients. She was among AstraZeneca’s lead negotiators on the establishment of the Apollo Therapeutics LLP fund.

Veronique has 16 years of drug discovery science and medical technologies. With an academic career in biochemistry, budgeting and with ground-breaking uncertainty and with ground-breaking important through times of change and communication is vital to winning public, positive engagement for biotech amongst as well as organisations including academic, investor and for-profits. In promoting positive engagement for biotech amongst its numerous audiences, clear and inclusive communication is vital to winning public, industry and investor trust, especially important through times of change and uncertainty and with ground-breaking science and medical technologies.

Inga Deakin, Healthcare Ventures Associate, Imperial Innovations plc
Inga is excited about investing in companies using technology to transform medicine, therapeutics and healthcare. She represents the venture capital investment group Imperial Innovations plc on the boards of LESS Digital Health, Puridy, Precision Ocular and Veryan. iC les delivers highly effective mental health therapy online, Puridy is revolutionising biotherapeutics manufacturing, Precision Ocular is enabling and improving ophthalmology therapeutics, and Veryan has a best in class peripheral stent.
Previously, Inga worked in business development at the Royal Veterinary College London Bioscience Innovation Centre, completed her DPNI in neuroscience at the University of Oxford and read natural sciences at the University of Cambridge.

Sarah Haywood, CEO, MedCity
Sarah has worked in the NHS, at the Novartis Institute for Medical Sciences and the Civil Service.
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Professor Sue Hill OBE, Chief Scientific Officer, NHS England

Sue is leading the introduction of cutting edge genomic technologies and personalised medicine into the NHS. She has driven the broader use of analytics, evidence and scientific methodology to inform service transformation both at a local level and across a range of national initiatives. She has devoted her professional career to ensuring that science is at the centre of improving outcomes for patients and wider communities.

Eleanor Irvine, Business Development Manager, Biogelx

Eleanor is a founding member of Biogelx, an early stage biomerical company designing tuneable peptide hydrogels for 3D cell-based applications, including drug development, 3D bioprinting and regenerative medicine. The technology enables cells to be grown in the laboratory in an environment closely mimicking the human body, offering the potential to reduce animal testing and speed the use of a patient’s own stem cells. Eleanor drives revenues through sales to a wide range of customers, including leading international academic researcher groups, high growth SMEs, three global pharmaceutical companies and a leading cosmetics company.

Mary Kerr, CEO, NeRRe Therapeutics

Mary was appointed CEO in 2015 to develop an unique portfolio of drugs to treat neuronal hyperexcitability in a variety of chronic diseases in women’s health, dermatology and respiratory conditions. The mid-stage company has two compounds ready for Phase 2b clinical trials and was spun out of CKS in 2012 raising £8 million. Prior to her appointment at NeRRe, Mary held senior leadership roles at CKS, most recently SVP and Global Franchise leader and before that Executive VP and Head of Europe at VIV Healthcare. Mary is an Operating Partner with Advent Life Sciences and serves as an independent Non-Executive Director at Galapagos.

Rebecca Lumsden, Head of Science Policy, Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI)

Rebecca is developing the ABPI’s work on rare diseases, precision medicines and antibiotics for the benefit of UK patients. This includes championing a new UK reimbursement model for antibiotics. She also delivers policy advocacy for the biopharmaceutical and CRO sector, with a focus on enhancing the UK environment for drug discovery and early-phase clinical research. She leads the ABPI’s activities around maintaining the excellence of the UK’s science base, as an essential foundation for keeping life sciences R&D investment in the UK.

She was a post-doctoral scientist prior to pursuing a career in policy, with a PhD from the University of Cambridge in cancer cell signalling.

Maryann Maryayelovam, Clinical Research Fellow, Cambridge University Hospitals and The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Klings Lyon

Maryann works to understand why errors occur in healthcare, and specifically in ‘never’ events. She is using patient-generated data to study the human factors underlying medical errors. She has published over 20 peer-reviewed papers and has won multiple national and international awards for her work in patient safety.

Nicole Mather, Director, Office for Life Sciences, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Department of Health

As Director of the Office for Life Sciences, Nicole works closely with No10 and Ministers, leading on policy and strategy for Life Sciences and supports UK trade and investment. She formulates a range of national programmes including work to support fast-growing new industries and transforms the NHS’s ability to collaborate with innovators and use the best products. This includes the innovation test bed, 100,000 genomes, advanced therapies manufacturing task force and the Accelerated Access Review.

Lisa Mohamet, Co-founder, Stratastem

Lisa and her colleagues are creating stem cell models to close the gap between diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer’s disease. Lisa co-founded Stratastem in 2012 while at the University of Manchester. Her research generated intellectual property allowing them to study Alzheimer’s disease in a dish, which was supported by proof of concept funding from BBiGRC together with investment from The University of Manchester Intellectual Property Fund (UIMP) and The University of Manchester. Lisa has over ten years’ experience in human cell line research and was awarded a Royal Society of Edinburgh/BBiGRC Enterprise Fellowship for her work.
Karen O’Hanlon, Head of Engagement, Aridhia
Karen is leading Scotland’s response to a shifting innovation model for precision medicine through her dual role spanning Aridhia and the Stratified Medicine Scotland Innovation Centre—the country’s national centre for precision medicine—of which Aridhia is the key technology partner. Her current focus is on putting into practice the Centre’s Precision Medicine Ecosystem initiative; a Scottish Government-funded programme which coordinates academic, industrial and healthcare resources and expertise to deliver new, integrated precision medicine services to pharma.
Prior to joining Aridhia, Karen completed an MBA, and spent 12 years working on eHealth strategy and policy development for the Scottish Government.

Jane Osbourne, VP Research and Development, MedImmune and Site Leader, MedImmune Cambridge
An expert in antibody engineering, Jane originated several key publications and patents, and has made a significant contribution to building the technologies which led to the discovery and development of marketed drugs Humira and Benlysta and more than 40 clinical candidates. She has worked across a range of disease areas and currently leads a team of researchers developing biosensor biologics medicines in oncology, cardiovascular disease and diabetes.
Jane was appointed as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Bioindustry Association in January 2016, and she is also a Director of Babraham Bioscience Technologies and a Director of Cambridge Enterprise. In addition, she has presented at a number of parliamentary Select Committees.

Professor Nazneen Rahman CBE, The Institute of Cancer Research
Nazneen is leading two innovative translational research programmes. The Mainstreaming Cancer Genetics (MCG) programme is undertaking technological, scientific and translational work required to make cancer predisposition gene testing part of routine cancer care. The Transforming Genetic Medicine Initiative (TGM) is building the knowledge base, tools and processes required to deliver the promise of genetic medicine.
Nazneen is an internationally recognised expert on cancer predisposition genes and has discovered many such genes during her career, particularly for breast, ovarian and childhood cancers. She has garnered numerous awards, including a CBE in the 2016 Queen’s birthday honours. She is also a singer-songwriter.

Angela Russell, Associate Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, University of Oxford and Co-founder OxStem
Launched in May 2016, Angela-co-founded OxStem, a revolutionary University of Oxford spin-out company focussed on regenerative medicine. OxStem aims to identify new classes of drugs that can re-program or stimulate existing resident cells to repair tissues in age-related conditions including cancer, neurodegenerative diseases and heart failure. The company has raised £16.5 million this year, a record for a UK spin-out, to fund the development of a series of daughter companies.
In her academic career, with over 15 years medicinal chemistry experience, Angela has published over 80 original articles, book chapters and patent applications and co-founded the Oxford spin-out MxO Ltd, acquired by Summit Therapeutics plc in 2013.

Galia Schilvan, Associate Director Physician in Translational Science, Innovative Medicines Oncology, Astrazeneca
Galia is connecting novel science, for example detecting circulating tumour DNA, with breast cancer clinical trials so we can understand more precisely which patients are likely to respond best to targeted cancer therapies. She is a medical oncologist and joined AstraZeneca in 2015 and has already identified opportunities of collaborative translational research with worldwide leading academics.
Earlier, in Nick Turner’s lab at the Institute of Cancer Research in London, Galia discovered that mutations of the oestrogen receptor gene (ESR1) are commonly selected for during endocrine therapy for metastatic disease and only rarely acquired during adjuvant therapy.

Julie Simmonds, Director, Institute of Neurodegenerative Disease, University of Oxford
Julie raises funds for both large and small companies both in the UK and continental Europe in the biotechnology, specialty pharma, medical device and diagnostics subsectors, enabling the development of many new healthcare technologies and services. Most recently this included the IPO of MapiCure, which has a novel Flow electrophoresis technology being adopted by many cell therapy companies. This disruptive therapeutic potentially enables cell therapy treatment with a 24 hour manufacture time, lower side effects and the promise of use in solid tumours.
Julie has been an Equity Analyst since shortly after completing her microbiology PhD in 2007.

Professor Eleanor Stride, Institute of Biomedical Engineering, University of Oxford, Co-Founder AtoCap
Eleanor’s research is developing methods to deliver drugs to their targets through advanced encapsulation, controlled release of chemicals, and engineering microbubbles for diagnostics and therapeutics. While at University College London, she and Professor Mohan Edirisinghe co-founded AtoCap to commercialise a novel electro-hydrodynamic property technology. The first application is for on-the-fly encapsulation of antibiotics in a controlled release formulation to enable urinary tract infections to be treated in a targeted manner via a single minimally invasive injection.
Her work has been recognised through numerous awards and in 2016 she was selected as one of the top 50 most influential Women in Engineering.
Join the community

The biotech market has experienced remarkable growth over the past five years, and this upward trend shows no signs of stopping. Sales of vaccines and biologics are expected to grow from $289 billion in 2010 to an estimated $445 billion by 2019 (1). Similarly, the demand for in vitro diagnostics is projected to grow by 5.1 percent annually.

With the field moving at such a pace, it’s increasingly important to know what the next big thing is. We asked our community of experts to give us their thoughts on the key trends for 2017. Here’s what they said...

1. **Jelena Aleksic, CEO and Co-Founder, GeneAdviser**

With the dropping price of DNA sequencing and access to novel genome editing tools now in mainstream use, now it is the time to make sure that knowledge is open and accessible so that it can be used to help patients.

2. **Julie Simmonds, Director, Nicki Grundy, CFO, Xerion Healthcare**

We are seeing many start-ups that are providing solutions to save costs and increase efficiency to overcome the reduction in available funds in the healthcare system. New technologies are much more patient-centred.


‘Collaboration is how we will solve big health challenges.’ Anna is leading the Focus on Pharmacology programme to redefine how the pharmacology community could work synergistically across disciplinary and sector boundaries to maximise contributions to health and wellbeing. In parallel, Anna is supporting the education communities that will be at the heart of solutions.

4. **Jane Osbourn, VP Research and Development, MedImmune**

Join the community to make the UK a biotech leader. MedImmune Cambridge; Chair, UK Bioindustry Association

There is a key role for the biopharma industry in helping to address the challenges of seeing scientific research and innovations reaching the patient. Through our experience and connections we can support the work of smaller, growing research teams and link translational research together: we need to be bold in our ambition and work as a seamless community to make the UK a global leader in translational medicine.

5. **Caroline Porter, Deputy Head of Technology Transfer, Oxford Sciences Innovation**

The next challenge for Oxford is to be bold in our ambition and could be augmented by enhanced nano-delivery systems.
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