The Hummingbird

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Newsletter
March 2022

Colibri Scientific

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Welcome to The Hummingbird.

The Hummingbird will keep you informed on our evolving and growing business as well as share current industry hot topics.

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Contact charles.stewart@colibriscientific.co.uk with any suggestions of what you would like to see in future editions.

Infex Therapeutics

Infex Agrees partnership with Colibri Scientific to provide services for RESP-X program.

Alderley Park, Cheshire Infex Therapeutics has today announced a deal with Colibri Scientific, to provide logistics and sample operational services for Infex's RESP-X program.

RESP-X is an anti-virulence therapy in-licensed from Japanese pharma company Shionogi. It is designed to help the body tackle Pseudomonas aeruginosa infections, a hard to treat drug-resistant pathogen recognised by the WHO as a critical threat to human health. A novel humanised monoclonal antibody, RESP-X does not kill bacteria directly but deactivates a mechanism that prevents the immune system from acting against the infection.

Dr Peter Jackson, CEO of Infex Therapeutics, said: "I am delighted to see Infex working with Colibri Scientific to support for our RESP-X program. Colibri Scientific are a key part of the local scientific community, and collaborations such as this really showcase the North West as a UK centre of excellence in infectious disease research.

"RESP-X is designed as a preventative treatment against non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis, a long-term condition where the airways of the lungs become abnormally widened, leading to a build-up of excess mucus that can make the lungs more vulnerable to infection. Patients can become chronically infected with Pseudomonas, significantly reducing their quality of life. There is high, unmet need, with millions of patients worldwide at risk of this condition, and no approved preventative therapy."

Sue Keeler, Managing Director for Colibri Scientific, said "We are delighted to announce that Infex Therapeutics has taken the decision to partner with Colibri Scientific to provide sample operational, and logistics services for their RESP-X program."

“Fast and Flexible Clinical Sample Services….

….keeping sample operations off the critical path”

— Colibri Scientific

Colibri to the rescue!

Is your study in trouble? Are you trying to navigate complex challenges vital to your studies success? We can help.

The ever-increasing complexity of clinical trials can lead to operational issues, which not only affects trial efficiency but may ultimately impact delivery of achieving target milestones.

Being a company with an excellent reputation for speed and flexibility, we have developed substantial experience in ‘rescuing’ clinical trial operations after they have started. In a matter of weeks, we can have kits on-site and a tailored logistic package in place.

If your trial is in this situation, please reach out to us at charles.stewart@colibriscientific.co.uk for a rescue chat.

Meet the Team Ep. 1

Name:

Alice Cross

Company Role:

Document Manager / Stock control co-ordinator

Favourite quote:

The best things in life are free

What do you do at Colibri Scientific?:

In a nutshell, I maintain all of Colibri's controlled documents and make sure that the change control process is followed prior to updating documents. I also carry out inventory checks as well as assist Project Managers with kit building and quality checks.

What do you like about working at Colibri Scientific?:

I like the variety of personalities we're working with and the positive team spirit. Everyone is very helpful and accommodating. The management is really good and I enjoy my job. I also feel recognised. I've noticed that a lot with the company that if you do work hard, you are recognised and then, you know, you have opportunities for progression.

What is something people in your area have to deal with that you want to fix?:

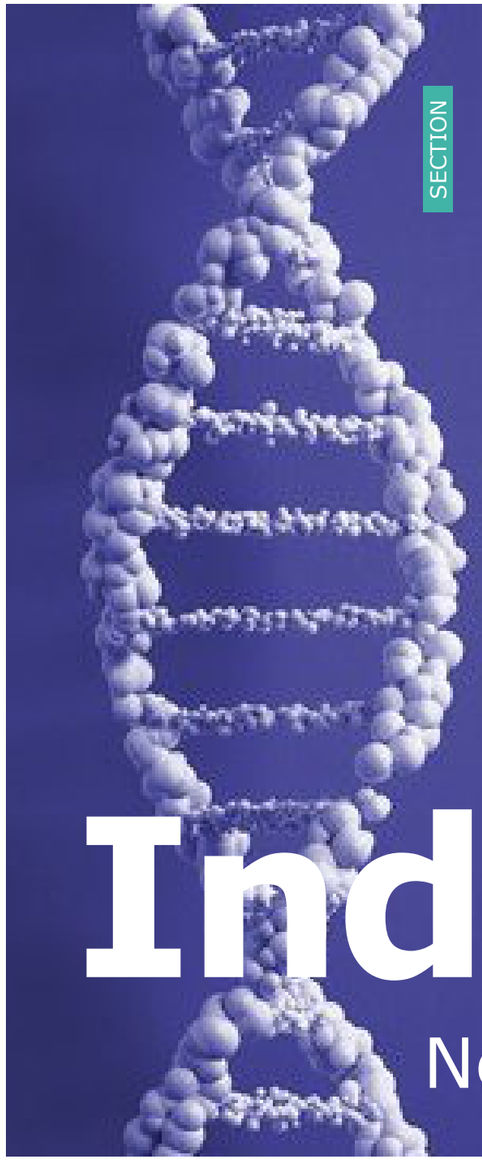
I think the main area I have wanted to help fix in the last year has been ensuring our clients experience none of the knock on effects of Covid / Brexit. There have been a huge number of global supply difficulties but I am proud to say that this hasn't been something that our clients have had to deal with.

What are the values that drive you?:

I think my biggest drive is my moral compass. I like forming good relationships with people and being kind and caring.

What do you enjoy doing when you are not working?:

I'm quite creative. I enjoy gardening, cooking and anything to do with nature really. I love sports and going for walks in the countryside. I also love travelling.Unfortunately, I've not been able to go on holiday because of Covid so I'm looking forward to being able to again!



SECTION

Despite the growing threat of drug-resistant bacteria, few new antibiotics reach market due to hurdles that biotech executives and experts say stand in the way.

Industry

News

Getty / Edited by BioPharma Dive

Antibiotics drying up

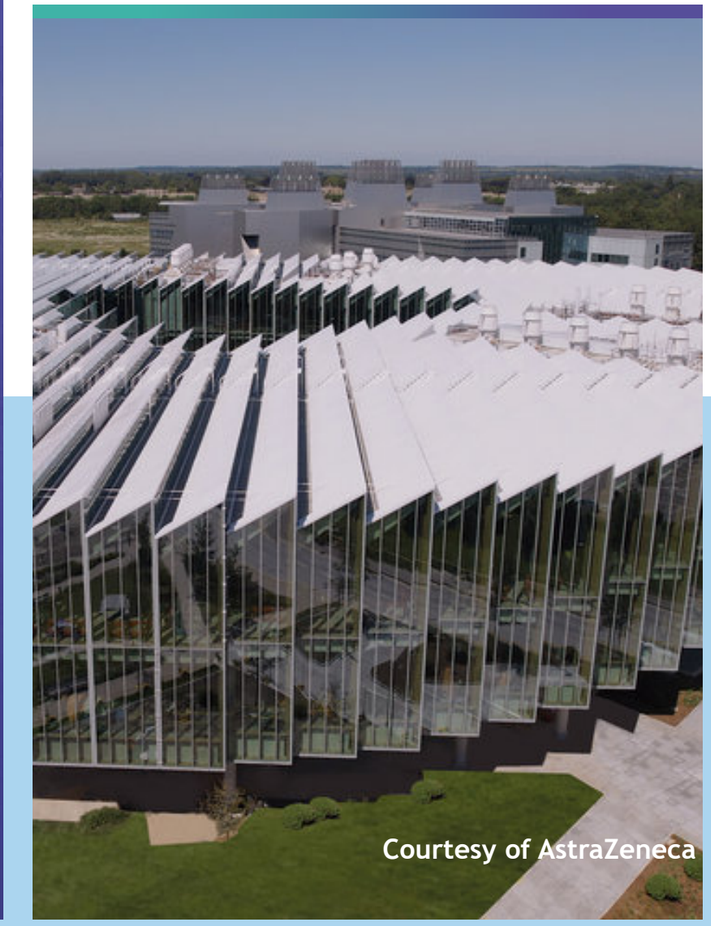
Despite the growing threat of drug-resistant bacteria, few new antibiotics reach market due to hurdles that biotech executives and experts say stand in the way.

Bacteria that can defeat current antibiotic drugs are sometimes called "the next pandemic." Already, infections from them are believed to cause or contribute to more deaths worldwide than HIV/AIDS and malaria combined.

Yet the pharmaceutical industry has been slow to respond with new medicines, even with the promise of extended protection from generic competitors and other, potentially lucrative government incentives. Drug executives complain that these incentives, created by a law passed a decade ago, don't help new antibiotics earn much in the way of sales, dampening enthusiasm for further research.

Read full article here

AstraZeneca dumps late-phase, next-gen COVID-19 vaccine calling time on a beta player in an omicron world



Courtesy of AstraZeneca

Events have overtaken AstraZeneca's next-generation beta variant COVID-19 vaccine. After moving the prospect into phase 2/3 last year, AstraZeneca saw beta fall down the list of the most worrying variants, culminating in today's decision to dump the AZD2816 vaccine candidate.

The removal (PDF) of AZD2816 from the pipeline follows the conclusion of work that persuaded AstraZeneca to stick with Vaxzevria, its first-generation vaccine, rather than push ahead with plans to seek authorization for its beta-specific sibling. AstraZeneca's decision is underpinned by AZD2816's lack of differentiation against the now-dominant omicron.

Vaxzevria was exactly the same—there was no meaningful difference between immunogenicity of 2816 and Vaxzevria.

Read full article here

Silence drug reduces cardiovascular disease risk

Photo by Negative Space, Pexels

Silence Therapeutics is no longer silent on its short interfering RNA therapy, which has been found to significantly reduce levels of an independent risk factor for cardiovascular disease. The London biotech said its siRNA, dubbed SLN360, reduced lipoprotein(a), or Lp(a), in healthy adults who had elevated levels of the substance that carries cholesterol through the bloodstream. The therapy reduced Lp(a) between 46% to 98% depending on which of the four doses patients received during the phase 1 study.

Lp(a) consists of an LDL-like particle that is wrapped inside another protein named apolipoprotein, hence the 'a'. LDL is colloquially known as bad cholesterol. About 20% of people experience high levels of Lp(a), which is seen as a genetic risk factor for cardiovascular disease, Silence said. There are no approved treatments to lower Lp(a).

SLN360 led to "no clinically important safety concerns," Silence said Wednesday. Low grade adverse events were seen at the injection site, most notably at the highest dose of 600mg.

The study's 32 adults, who had no known cardiovascular disease, either received a single dose delivered under the skin or placebo and were observed for up to 150 days. At that time, some patients had an 81% reduction in Lp(a). Silence will extend the follow-up period to a full 12 months to analyse duration, with that data slated for the third quarter, the biotech said.

"More broadly, siRNA is proving to be a powerful modality for treating genetic conditions"

Silence plans to start a phase 2 study of SLN360 in patients with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, or ASCVD, in the second half of this year. The biotech is also working to ink global partnerships to "scale up" development of the drug, said Mark Rothera, CEO and president, in a statement.

Read full article here