

**Life Sciences: Investing in Discovery**  
**Edinburgh March 23rd 2010**  
**Welcome and Introduction**

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## **This is the Century of Life Sciences and Informatics**

- **The UK is a world leader in life sciences, ranked second in the world after the US**
- **In the past decade the UK has very substantially increased its investment in science and especially in the life sciences**
- **The Government sees the life science sector playing a vital role in driving growth and prosperity as well as continuing improvements in healthcare delivery especially meeting future challenges such as an ageing population and obesity**
- **Accordingly this conference is focussed on how our excellent life sciences sector can deliver economic benefit and improved quality of life**

## Life Sciences and the UK Knowledge Economy

- **The pharmaceutical sector is the leading sector for investment in research & development investing £4.5bn in the UK in 2007 representing over a quarter of all UK business R&D**
- **The UK medical biotechnology sector leads Europe in the number of drugs in all stages of clinical development**
- **The medical technology sector is growing rapidly with the largest share in Europe at just over 2000 companies, mainly SMEs, with sector employing almost 50,000 people across the UK**

## Specific Context for this meeting

- **Establishment of the Office of Life Sciences led by Lord Drayson (January 2009)**
- **Publication of the Life Science Blueprint (July 2009)**
- **Publication of Life Sciences 2010: Delivering the Blueprint (January 2010)**
- **Other related activities**
  - **A Patent Box (10% rate of Corporation Tax)**
  - **TSB's £21.5M RegenMed Programme**
  - **An Innovation Pass which will give patients earlier access to promised licensed medicines (£25M 1-year pilot from April 2010)**

## Biomedical Research Environment in Scotland

- **Scotland is at the forefront of investment in health and the life sciences**
- **There is a culture of collaboration illustrated by the Scottish Universities Life Science Alliance (SULSA) linking 6 Universities with £27M investment from the Scottish Funding Council and almost £50M of related investment from the Universities**
- **The life sciences is strongly linked to chemistry, physics, engineering and informatics**
- **There is excellent medical and veterinary research embedded in world class basic science**
- **There is enthusiasm and commitment to translational research supported by the £50M investment from Wyeth and SE**
- **There are excellent links to the NHS fostered through the Scottish Academic Health Sciences Collaboration**

## The Programme

- **Anne Glover: Connecting our biological science to our economy**
- **John Jeans: The MRC's translational agenda**
- **John Coggins: Linking academia and industry**
  
- **Masterclasses**
  
- **John Savill: What can NHS R&D do to support emerging Scottish bioscience companies?**
- **Andy Powrie-Smith: Partnerships in Drug Discovery and Development**
- **Panel Debate: Delivering Innovation in Healthcare**