

BioCity UK Life Science Start-up report

BioCity Glasgow

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Dr Glenn Crocker

Executive Summary

The 2017 BioCity UK Life Science Start-up report now has the benefit of 12 years of data on the creation and funding of life science companies.

This data collection stemmed from a desire to better understand the market BioCity operates in as a life science incubator. It has now evolved into a significant source of information on early stage companies in the sector. With expected forthcoming changes to the funding landscape, the report provides a unique insight into the state of the nation for life sciences and will highlight where the challenges and opportunities lie for the future.

Report Highlights

- Total amount invested in life science companies formed in the 5-year period 2012-2016 was £780M
- Significant jump in scale of investment in early stage companies
- Golden period for early stage life science companies with more companies being formed than previously recorded and more investment being raised
- Scotland remains in the top 4 areas of the UK for life science start-ups
- Scale of investment in early stage companies jumped significantly thanks to a small number of publicly listed funds, including Woodford Investment Management, Syncona and Touchstone.
- Life Science start-up companies in Scotland secured a record level of investment at £43M, more than double the amount raised in previous periods
- Universities are spinning out more companies. University spin-outs now constitute 49% of all start-ups, up from 32% in the 2008-12 period, but in Scotland 79% of all new start-ups are university spin outs- reflecting both the strength of the university sector but also a concern that there aren't more private companies being generated.
- Scottish Universities perform particularly well with three, Strathclyde, Edinburgh & Glasgow, in the top 10 and Aberdeen and St Andrews just outside

About BioCity

BioCity provides a home to the curious, to the radicals and pioneers going toe-to-toe with the healthcare challenges that affect us all, globally.

Contact:

Gemma Cann | Head of Marketing | BioCity Group
g.cann@biocity.co.uk
+44 7825 163 782

Glenn Crocker | CEO | BioCity Group
g.crocker@biocity.co.uk
+44 (0)333 323 1847