

PhD Commercial Training Event 2014

On Friday 14th March the Medical Research Scotland PhD students who are in the first and the second years of their four-year Studentships attended the second Commercial Training Event delivered by the Trust. The day began with an inspiring talk from Mr Hugh Griffith, CEO of NuCana BioMed Ltd, on building biotechnologies companies in Scotland. In this, he shared a wealth of experience using case studies of Bioenvision, ExidoMed, MedAnnex and OncoBioPharm and Mr Scott Johnstone (Medical Research Scotland Trustee) then talked to the students about business plans. The afternoon incorporated short presentations from the first-year students on their research projects and the opportunity to view and ask questions about the second-year students' posters, which they had prepared to illustrate their research findings.

The representatives of Medical Research Scotland who attended the event were full of praise for the students, commending the content and delivery of their presentations and posters, and the students seemed to have found the day a valuable and enjoyable experience.

Medical Research Scotland is grateful to the Scottish Lifesciences Association for kindly providing the venue for the day-long event, which concluded with a social gathering over wine.

PhD Commercial Training Event 2013

The first Medical Research Scotland PhD students began their four-year Studentships in autumn 2012 and on Thursday 21st March, the eight students attended the first of a series of Commercial Training Events being delivered by Medical Research Scotland over the course of the Studentships. The Scottish Lifesciences Association kindly provided the venue for the day-long event.

During the morning the students heard talks on how research and industry can be linked. Topics discussed included consideration of what constitutes, and how to take forward, a business idea and routes into a career in industry. Thanks are due to Dr Tim Morley, CEO & CSO of Aquapharm Biodiscovery and Dr Deborah O'Neil, CEO & CSO of Novabiotics, for joining Professor David Harrison (Chairman) and Mr Scott Johnstone (Trustee) of Medical Research Scotland in delivering such informative and thought-provoking talks.

After lunch, the students each gave a short presentation on their research projects and progress to date. All present were very impressed with the quality of the students' presentations and their grasp of their projects. The day ended with an opportunity to put into practice – over a glass of wine – lessons learned during the day on the "Importance of networking"!

Feedback from the event was very positive. We look forward to the group gathering again at future such events as the students' research progresses in the years ahead.