

Oxford BioEscalator

Annual Review 2023/24



Driving innovation, advancing human health



“The government has an ambition for the UK to be a science and technology superpower, with thriving partnerships between universities and high-tech spin-out companies contributing to economic growth and productivity.”

Professor Irene Tracey CBE, FRS, FMedSci & Dr Andrew Williamson, 2023 Independent Review of University Spin-out Companies

“At the BioEscalator there is a sense of commitment to human healthcare impact and a willingness to be part of the community.”

BioEscalator tenant

A year in the life of the Oxford BioEscalator

Whether we're talking to the biotech industry and venture capital, taking part in entrepreneurship events or organising tenant seminars, the BioEscalator is focused on helping our companies succeed.

Here's a snapshot of what happened in 2023/4*.

** Our year runs from 1 August to 31 July*



**Aug
2023**

BioEscalator Laboratory Manager nominated for Apprentice Manager Award

**Sep
2023**

BioEscalator tenant Hutano Diagnostics acquired by EDX Medical Group

**Oct
2023**

BioEscalator celebrates five year anniversary
-
OBN & Nucleate UK Student Science Social

**Nov
2023**

BioEscalator Apprentice Laboratory Technician nominated for Intermediate & Advanced Apprentice Award

**May
2024**

BiotechTV visits BioEscalator as part of an Oxford innovation series

**Apr
2024**

Visit from Oxford University Industry Fellows and Postdoc Network

**Mar
2024**

Demo Day for Oxford University Biotech Society IGNITE accelerator

**Feb
2024**

Celebration of National Apprenticeship Week
-
Grow-on space exhibition

**Jun
2024**

Oxford University research facilities showcase
-
MediMabBio graduates from the BioEscalator

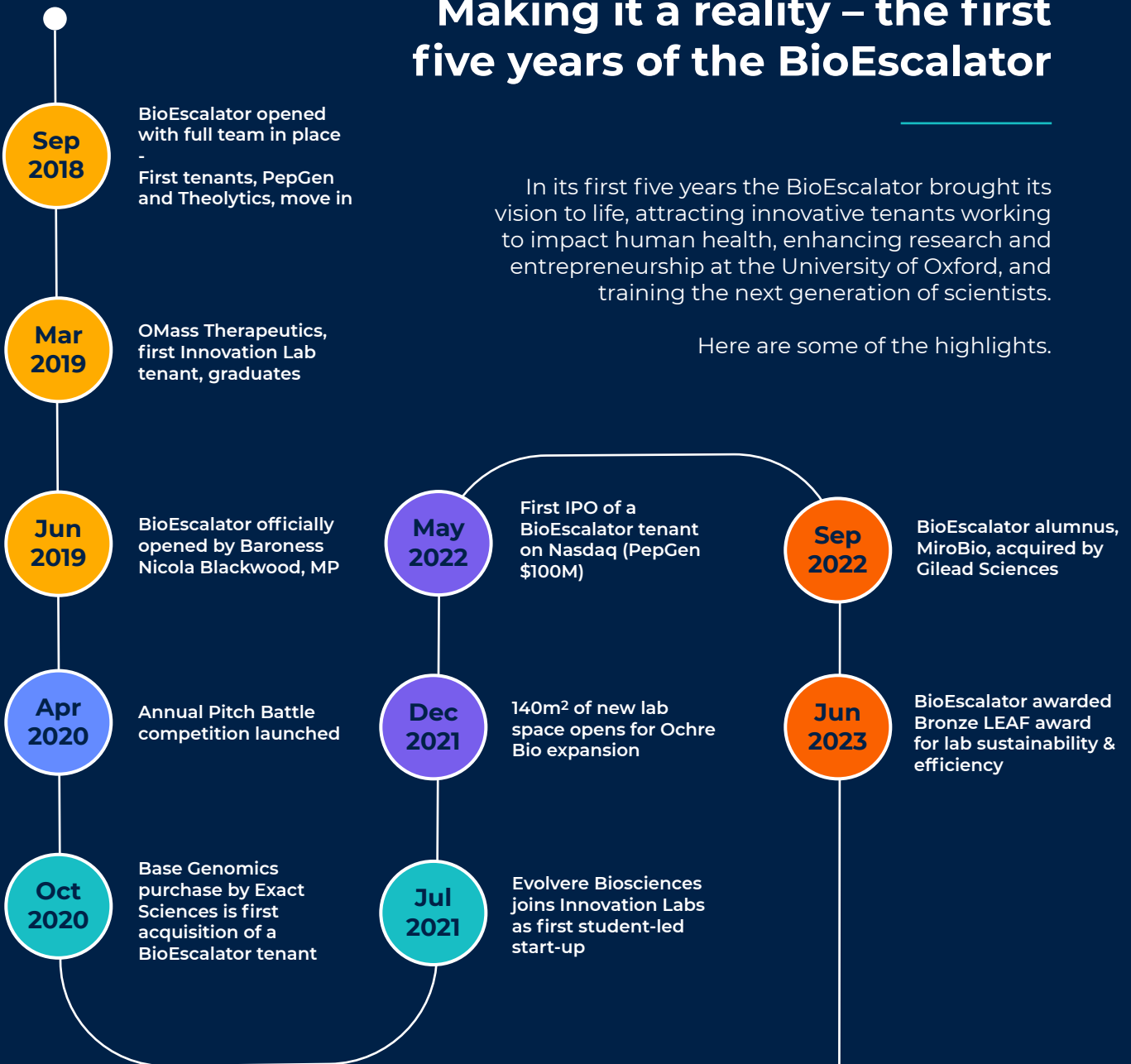
**Jul
2024**

Annual Pitch Battle, judged by Discovery Park Ventures, AbbVie Ventures, J&J Innovation and Oxford North
-
Experimental Medicine 'Lunch & learn' with Oxford University Professor & Management Board member Duncan Richards
-
Precision Cancer Prevention seminar with OBN
-
Bioarchitech graduates from the BioEscalator

Making it a reality – the first five years of the BioEscalator

In its first five years the BioEscalator brought its vision to life, attracting innovative tenants working to impact human health, enhancing research and entrepreneurship at the University of Oxford, and training the next generation of scientists.

Here are some of the highlights.



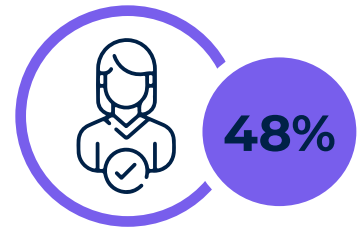
Measuring our impact

BioEscalator tenants are focused on making huge improvements to human health. With our support, they evolve, achieve major milestones and graduate to other innovation locations to continue their development. We're proud to present our metrics to date, showing tenant progress and BioEscalator impact.

BioEscalator impact, to the end of July 2024...



Companies Nurtured



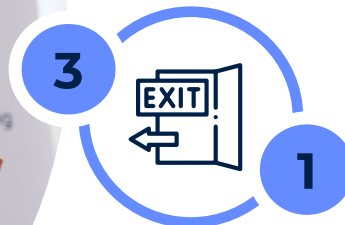
Female Founders/CEOs



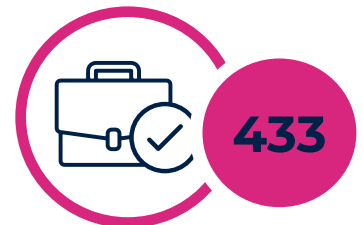
Graduated Companies



Funds Raised



Acquisitions / IPO



Jobs Created



Building a BioEscalator where tenants can thrive

Constant dialogue with tenants helps us create the supportive environment, from laboratory facilities to industry networking, that they need in order to flourish.

Here a tenant and a recent graduate company tell us what they value.



OSPT CEO and Founder Stephanie Lesage

OSPT is developing biomaterials to be used in medical devices for prevention of bacterial infection. Needing to grow its team and access specialist lab facilities, the company arrived at the BioEscalator in 2021 with one full-time employee.

At the BioEscalator there is a sense of commitment to human healthcare impact and a willingness to be part of the community, according to OSPT's CEO. Citing the great network, scientific expertise, innovative research and proactive management team at the facility, she describes the environment as unique to the BioEscalator, unlike anything else she's experienced elsewhere. In addition, the management team introduced OSPT to its main investor, a very important outcome!



Bioarchitech co-founder and Research Director Kevin Maskell

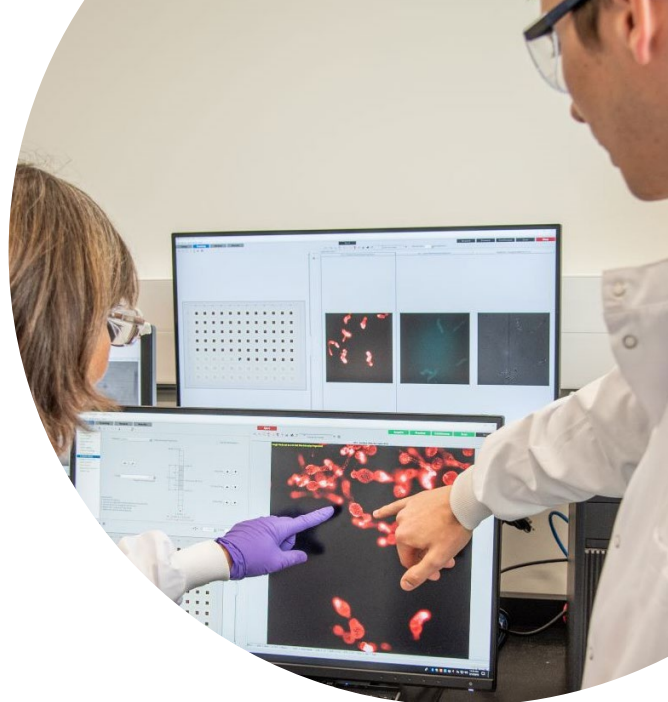
Bioarchitech is focused on cancer, developing oncolytic viruses encoding protein immunotherapies for the destruction of tumours. In 2019 it took a bench in our Innovation Lab, progressing to graduate from the BioEscalator in 2024.

Access to 'crack teams' of clinical expertise, an environment which enables a cost-effective business model and interaction with networks of investors and advisers have all been pivotal to the company's success, Kevin says. Also beneficial is the flexible lab space which can be scaled as needed and the BioEscalator's equipment, added to which the research services at the University of Oxford bring the kind of input usually out of the reach of small companies.

Alumni progress is our success

When tenants outgrow our incubator facility and leave to continue their development elsewhere, they become a valued member of our alumni community. It's a significant network of innovation expertise for us.

The selection of news from 2023/24 shows our alumni striking deals, raising finance and advancing product development.



Moa Technology

Moa harvests global deal for new herbicide



Ochre Bio

Ochre Bio announces partnership with Boehringer Ingelheim to develop novel regenerative treatments for patients with advanced liver disease



Alchemab Therapeutics

Alchemab advances a novel antibody with potential in Parkinson's disease with support from The Michael J. Fox Foundation



PepGen

PepGen Receives U.S. FDA Orphan Drug and Rare Pediatric Disease Designations for PGN-EDO51 for the Treatment of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy



Enara Bio

Boehringer Ingelheim licenses multiple Dark Antigens® from Enara Bio to develop off-the-shelf immunotherapies for non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)

THEOLYTICS

Theolytics

Theolytics successfully closes latest financing raising total of £19M (\$24.5M) and welcomes Sound Bioventures as new investor

Empowering biomedical innovation alongside the University of Oxford

Part of the Medical Sciences Division, the BioEscalator is situated in the inspirational heart of the clinical campus at the world's leading University. It's our partner as we focus on nurturing high-growth bioscience start-ups and encouraging the next generation of entrepreneurs.

While around half of our companies are University of Oxford spin-outs, all of our tenants are active in areas complementary to the institution's research. Many of the spin-outs maintain close links to their originator laboratory, with some, like Alethiomics, cementing the relationship via a sponsored research collaboration.

The BioEscalator also maintains strong links to the University via the Management Board, which is chaired by University of Oxford Professor of Neuroscience and serial entrepreneur Matthew Wood. The Management Board are leaders across a range of scientific disciplines with translation and entrepreneurial skills, a great resource for our tenants.

The BioEscalator Management Board



Professor Matthew Wood
Chair of Management Board, academic and entrepreneur



Peter Callow
International finance expert, focused on financial strategy and planning



Professor Len Seymour
Academic and entrepreneur



Professor Bethan Psaila
Academic and entrepreneur



Professor Chas Bountra
Academic and leader in drug discovery



Professor Dame Molly Stevens
Academic and innovator in biomedical materials and devices



Professor Duncan Richards
Academic and expert in early drug development



Professor Krina Zondervan
Academic and leader in reproductive health innovation



Dr Simon Warner
Track record in biomedical innovation and commercialisation



Professor Catherine Green
Academic and expert in genomic instability and vaccines



Professor Angela Russell
Academic and entrepreneur



Working in partnership in the Oxford innovation ecosystem

Each year the BioEscalator works with a range of valuable collaborators who help our companies deliver human health impact and enhance research at the University of Oxford. Thank you to everyone who supports the BioEscalator.

We're pleased to partner with:



HEADINGTON
SCIENCE CLUSTER



Catalysing Success
in Life Sciences

UKSPA
BUILDING TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS

Contact us to find out more about joining our
innovation community or working with us.

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