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Bionow Newsletter May

Companies

June AIM debut planned by ULive
 ULive, a new company set up to commercialise biomedical research from [Liverpool University](#) laboratories, will list on AIM in June with plans to raise £20m which would give a market capitalisation of about £70M. ULive has a portfolio of 13 spin out companies focused in the pharmaceutical, medical devices and diagnostics area and will have first rights to commercialise the University's IP in these areas for the next 15 years, including access to the University's collaborations with the [Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine](#) and the [US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#).

PalindromX secure funding
 PalindromX, a [University of Liverpool](#) spin-out company, has secured an initial package of £100,000 from [Merseyside Special Investment Fund's](#) (MSIFs) [Liverpool Seed Fund](#) to complete the [Proof of Concept](#) phase on a patented technology that increases the sensitivity of blood testing. It gives a quicker and more accurate diagnosis, with more appropriate and timely treatment and significantly reduces costs by allowing doctors to run tests at once rather than separately. Chairman Phil Goodwin said "Currently we are using the test for the early detection of thyroid and heart diseases, but it could also be used to test for cancer and many other conditions..... once proven we can begin the commercialisation process".

Advanced Medical Solutions launch product in the US
 Cheshire-based [Advanced Medical Solutions](#) (AMS) has announced that a novel application of its medical adhesives technology, [InteguSeal](#), which helps reduce the risk of skin flora contamination in surgical procedures, has been launched in the US. In March 2006 [AMS](#) announced that it had entered into an exclusive agreement with [Kimberly-Clark Health Care](#) for the marketing and distribution of [InteguSeal](#) in all global markets. Dr Don Evans, Chief Executive of [AMS](#) stated "I am delighted that [InteguSeal](#) has been launched in the US. With its strong presence and focus on the operating room, [Kimberly-Clark Health Care](#) is an ideal marketing and distribution partner for global commercialisation of this technology".

Eden Biodesign announce full operation of its state of the art GMP manufacturing facility
[Eden Biodesign Ltd](#), the operator of the UK [National Biomanufacturing Centre](#) (NBC), announced on 21 May that it has been awarded a licence by the UK [Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency](#) (MHRA) to manufacture [Investigational Medicinal Products](#) (IMPs) in the NBC in Liverpool which came on-line for process and analytical development in May 2006. The MHRA inspection took place earlier this year to certify [Eden's](#) processes and facilities as having reached the international [Good Manufacturing Practices](#) (cGMP) standard. The new license will provide legal authority for [Eden](#) to manufacture biopharmaceutical drug substances under contract for clients for use in EU clinical trial sites.

Licensing of Intellectual Property to Medical Device Innovations Ltd
[Imperial Innovations Group plc](#), announced on 9 May that [Daresbury-based Medical Device Innovations Ltd](#) (MDI) has acquired the exclusive rights to develop the [RotaCure™](#) technology, a surgical instrument to repair torn rotator cuff tendons in the shoulder. The new surgical instrument invented by Dr Anthony Bull and Dr Adam Hill, from the Department of Bioengineering and the Faculty of Medicine at [Imperial College London](#) respectively, replaces the multiple tools required by contemporary keyhole methods with a single device that the surgeon can operate with one hand.

Avecia launch pAVEway™ - Advanced protein expression for the manufacture of biopharmaceuticals
[Avecia Biologics](#), headquartered in Manchester, has announced the launch of its new biotherapeutic protein production technology - [pAVEway™](#). [Avecia](#) officially unveiled the addition to its growing portfolio of advanced technology solutions for the manufacture of therapeutic proteins at the [BIO 2007](#) convention in Boston. The new technology enables class-leading (>10g/L) microbial production of a wide range of therapeutically useful proteins.

Vindon Healthcare's £2M move
 Oldham based [Vindon Healthcare](#) has raised £2m to fund a move to bigger premises. The AIM-listed firm has placed 10m shares with institutional and individual investor and plans to use the proceeds to finance new facilities during the early part of next year. Negotiations are currently under way over expansion in Lancashire.

Research

Stem Cells provide clues to cancer spread
 Scientists have made an important discovery in understanding how cancers spread which could lead to new ways of beating the disease. The [University of Manchester](#) study used embryonic stem (ES) cells to investigate how some tumours are able to migrate to other parts of the body making the treatment of cancer much more difficult. Dr Chris Ward said "Understanding how cancer cells start to spread is tremendously important for cancer research; tumours that do not spread are rarely, if ever, dangerous" said Dr Ward, who leads the stem cell research group and was the winner of the [Bionow Bioprocessing Project of the Year Award 2006](#) sponsored by [Avecia](#).

European success for Nowgen
[Nowgen](#), the centre for Genetics in Healthcare, is to be the base for two major European initiatives in genetics. Over 1 million euros has been awarded by the [EU Public Health](#) Director General. Manchester will be the co-ordinating centre for [Dyscerne](#) a project led by Dr Jill Clayton-Smith, Dr Bronwyn Kerr and Professor Dian Donnai to improve the diagnosis and management of patients from across the whole of Europe with birth defect syndromes. Professor Dian Donnai, Executive Director of [Nowgen](#) said Manchester's genetics expertise has enabled us to win these key awards which will further enhance the North West's reputation in healthcare. These initiatives are further examples of our innovative approach to genetic medicine'

People and Jobs

Epistem appoints new Chief Executive Officer
 Epistem has appointed [Matthew Walls](#) as their new Chief Executive Officer. Matthew joined the company in February 2007 and is an experienced CEO, most recently with [Oxford BioSignals Limited](#). There Matthew led a strategic 'diagnostics' collaboration with [Rolls Royce Plc](#) and [Covance Inc](#) and completed the recent fundraising and repositioning of the medical diagnostic business to the United States.

UKTI Sector Champion - Life Sciences
 An opportunity has arisen for an exceptional individual to join the [UK Trade & Investment](#) (UKTI) Sector Champions Team. The successful candidate will bring current business, market, technical and sector knowledge and a range of contacts within the life sciences sector to support UKTI's drive to help business to internationalise and contribute to the prosperity of the UK. For further information visit <http://www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk/> or email Karen.coffey@pera.com.

Events

NEWS

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 » [AstraZeneca to acquire MedImmune](#)

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[Stem Cell Manchester - The North West Initiative](#)