



PRESS RELEASE

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Ithaka develops spin-out for reproductive market

Cambridge-based consultancy, Ithaka Life Sciences, has added another spin-out business to its growing portfolio, following its instrumental role in the formation of Ziva Bioscience from Imperial College London.

Ziva is developing unique products for the global reproductive health market. Its primary focus will be on the development of a new type of contraceptive vaccine. Ziva is also exploring a novel contraceptive offering an alternative mode of action to the pill, and an implantation promoter for use in *in vitro* fertilisation procedures that will reduce risks to both mother and embryo.

Dr Paul Rodgers of Ithaka becomes CEO. He said, 'Our contraceptive products currently under development already offer significant differences and advantages over present contraceptives in the market. We are delighted that through the formation of this new company, we are in a position to take the proof of principle for these products quickly to the next phase of studies and research.'

Ithaka was responsible for developing the business plan and strategy for Ziva, in conjunction with Imperial Innovations, the technology commercialisation company of Imperial College. As a result, Ziva is set to play a key role in the global reproductive market worth in excess of US\$16 billion pa.

Ithaka is now leading the search for funding for Ziva's next stage of development. Since it was founded in 2000, Ithaka has raised over £15 million for its clients. The company's spin-out successes include Smart Holograms, Psynova and Ampika from Cambridge University, Creative Gene Technology (Durham University), Axordia and Asterion (Sheffield University) and IntelliHep (Liverpool University).

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Notes to editors

Ithaka Life Sciences

Ithaka was founded in 2000 and has quickly built a reputation as one of the UK's leading consultancy and interim management service providers, specialising in new and growing life science businesses. It offers expertise in a number of sectors including pharmaceutical R&D, medical devices, diagnostics and sensors, agriculture and food biotechnology. Its clients include universities, research institutions, life science businesses, investors and public sector bodies. It has offices in Cambridge, Durham and Brussels.

www.ithaka.co.uk

Imperial Innovations

Imperial Innovations is one of the UK's leading technology commercialisation companies with a strong value creation record having already generated revenues in excess of £30 million from spin-outs and licenses since 1997. The company, together with Imperial's academic inventors, has established equity holdings in more than 54 spin-out companies and completed a total of 100 licence deals. Over 1,000 jobs have been created through the spin-out companies.

www.imperialinnovations.co.uk

The reproductive healthcare market

The reproductive healthcare market is worth in excess of US\$16 billion per annum in major developed world markets. There are several unmet needs within this market, providing several opportunities to develop novel product entities and market leaders. The key unmet need is contraception (US\$3.5bn pa): 64% of all pregnancies worldwide are unintended, due to dissatisfaction with current contraceptive methods. Infertility affects one in three couples and has led to the development of In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) technology. However successful embryo implantation during IVF can be problematical and current solutions can place the mother and the neonates at risk. There is a need to provide effective implantation enhancing products.

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