



New Kent expansion for scientists researching solutions for the effects of human health conditions

A team of scientists researching solutions for the effects of Covid-19, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's Disease, pain, mental illness, and other debilitating conditions are marking their 10th anniversary by opening a new laboratory in Kent.

From the time the translational biology company [Transpharmation](#) was founded in 2010 by scientists [Dr Neil Upton](#) and [Dr Mark Duxon](#), the team has contributed significantly to UK and world-wide understanding of a range of health conditions.

Now the company is opening its largest laboratory at [Discovery Park](#) in Kent, working alongside and providing scientific research services to other organisations and academic institutes in the UK and across the world. As well as an established specialist team of scientists relocating to Kent, Transpharmation is also creating multiple new positions at Discovery Park.

"Human health and science have always been the driver behind Transpharmation and remains at the heart of everything that we do, whether that's direct research into debilitating conditions or helping new scientists forge a research career," said Chief Scientific Officer Dr Upton, a Fellow of the British Pharmacological Society with more than 30 years' experience in neuroscience.

"While our early days were focussed on research into cognition and pain, our team is now also looking at other areas – for example, the relationship between Covid-19 and inflammation or using brain electrical activity to look at signatures in other diseases. Our particular focus is on looking at how experiments in the lab translate to human health in the clinical setting – a term referred to as 'translational biology'."

Transpharmation is a contract research organisation – partnering with other laboratories to provide research experiments and data to show how medical drugs or components interact with the body.

It has more than 100 clients internationally, already working from its established bases The London Bioscience Innovation Centre, Royal Veterinary College and Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience, Dublin – and now at Discovery Park in Kent which will become its primary and largest site.

Chief Executive Officer Dr Duxon, a specialist with more than 20 years' experience in depression and anxiety disorders, said: "We are looking forward to opening in Discovery Park. We have always thought it was important to invest in the future for new scientists too – we fund a number of PhD students in the UK and Ireland, for example – and chose Discovery Park in part because it places a similar emphasis on young scientists. We are looking forward to immersing Transpharmation in the STEM and school education activities on the Park."

The new laboratory and its proximity to other specialist research organisations will provide additional research capability for Transpharmation, allowing the team to scale up and accelerate its drug discovery support for life-changing medicines.

Dr Duxon added: “Discovery Park has a long scientific heritage of drug discovery for human health - we are pleased that we are able to continue and add to this reputation and cement British leadership in this essential field.”

Importantly, due to the enhanced connections for trains, ports and airports offered close to Discovery Park, Transpharmation will also be able to strengthen its services for overseas clients, especially those looking to enter into or expand relationships in Europe and the UK. A key partner is Agenda Life Sciences, which will work with Discovery Park and Transpharmation providing day-to-day operations, governance and assurance of strict regulation, and ethical compliance with the Home Office for experiments.

Both Dr Upton and Dr Duxon consolidated their early careers with industry-leader GlaxoSmithKline, with Dr Duxon leading the firm’s Singapore research and development team looking at central nervous system issues and Dr Upton leading advanced clinical trials. Dr Upton is the author of more than 200 scientific publications and holds various patents and non-commercial investigational new drug (IND) awards.

Ends

Notes to editors

Transpharmation is a contract research organisation established 10 years ago by Dr Neil Upton and Dr Mark Buxon and continues to be led by scientists. Recognised by drug developers worldwide for researching and delivering life-changing medicines, science will always remain our passion.

We provide services for the following research areas:

- Pain
- Neuropathic pain
- Alzheimer’s Disease
- Depression/anxiety
- Schizophrenia
- Inflammatory pain
- Cognitive disorders
- Multifocal motor neuropathy (MMN)
- Molecular Biomarkers
- Sleep/wake
- QEEG (brain activity patterns)
- Cancer and chemotherapy

Images are available of Discovery Park and of Mark Duxon and Neil Upton here:

<https://1drv.ms/u/s!AsmXK4ECjBwagUiTeqlq9Pktvp1P?e=aFZGsj>

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