

Wound Repair

Academic Partner: Dr Matthew Hardman, Faculty of Life Sciences

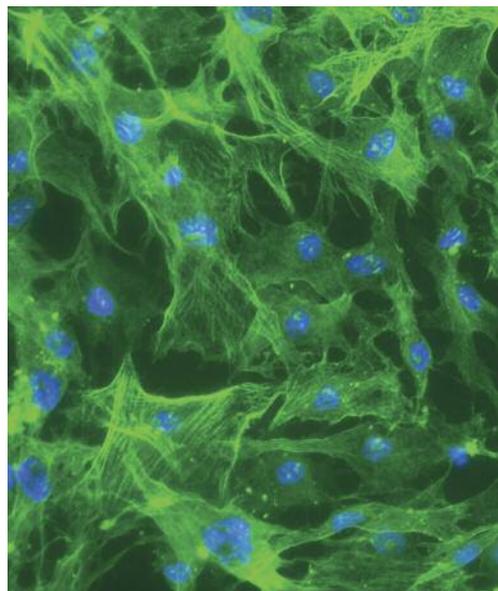
Company: Epistem

Objective: To optimise, validate and commercialise new pre-clinical assays for cutaneous wound repair, which will result in a new contract research service offering.

Project: Over the last 10 years, Dr Hardman has developed a detailed understanding of the molecular and cellular basis of pathological skin repair. This includes extensive experience using and developing both cell based and in vivo wound healing assays. Through this Partnership, Epistem have been able to access this knowledge and expertise, translating academic excellence into commercial, profitable, services. The KTP Associate for this project followed on from a CASE studentship in the Hardman lab that was specifically relevant to this area of work. Dr Hardman, who is based in the University's Faculty of Life Sciences, said: "It is a real privilege to be awarded the first ever KTP grant to be sponsored by the Medical Research Council. This partnership represents a tremendous opportunity to realise the potential of our work."

Catherine Booth, Managing Director at Epistem, added: "We are delighted to be working with Dr Hardman, who is a highly regarded wound healing expert, and to be able to provide our customers with access to cutting edge preclinical models."

This Partnership is supported by: Medical Research Council (33%), Technology Strategy Board (67%)



Clinical Trials for New Ocular Therapies

Academic Partner: Dr Hema Radhakrishnan, Faculty of Life Sciences

Company: Optegra

Objective: To provide an embedded capability to run clinical trials and evaluate ocular therapies.

Project: Dr Radhakrishnan's experience in setting up and executing clinical trials that encompass specialist research measurement techniques are invaluable for this Partnership. The partnership will focus on a range of ophthalmic research projects to develop new approaches for evaluating visual performance.

As a result of the project, Optegra will be better placed to establish itself as a leading provider of cutting-edge eye care services and as a centre of excellence for running clinical trials in ophthalmology. The project will provide Optegra with new information on how best to stratify treatments based on the characteristics of individual patients. This will be expected to further improve the clinical outcomes for patients, which aligns with Optegra's goal to be the world's most trusted choice for eye care.

Dr Hema Radhakrishnan said "This Partnership provides a unique opportunity to improve our knowledge and understanding of the very latest ophthalmologic treatments".

This Partnership is supported by: Technology Strategy Board (100%)

Biofilms in Chronic Wounds

Academic Partner: Dr Matthew Hardman, Faculty of Life Sciences; Dr Andrew McBain, Faculty of Medicine and Human Sciences

Company: Crawford Woundcare

Objective: To develop an assay workflow to support the design and validation of unique medical devices to disrupt, remove and prevent re-attachment biofilms in chronic wounds.

Project: The academic team of Dr Hardman and Dr McBain have extensive expertise in the molecular and cellular aspects of pathological healing, cell and animal-based wound healing models, biofilms and microflora and a range of clinically-relevant bacteriological methodologies. Through the Partnership, Crawford are able to access the knowledge and expertise of this multi-disciplinary team. The overall aim of this KTP project is to develop and embed within Crawford a specific workflow that can be used to generate a portfolio of novel anti-biofilm products for the treatment of pathological healing, with the establishment of long-term R&D capabilities at Crawford.

Crawford chief executive Richard Anderson said: "We are delighted that our knowledge transfer partnership application with the University of Manchester has been successful.

"Led by our director of research and development, Christian Stephenson, the work we will embark upon is vital to the ongoing advancements in the growing issue of biofilms within wound care."

This Partnership is supported by: Medical Research Council (100%)

