

# UKRI Innovation Scholars: Rinri Therapeutics



UKRI invited applications for individuals wishing to spend up to 3 years (full or part-time) on secondment within the biomedical sciences sector. Funding was available to create porosity between sectors by enabling career mobility, boosting the skills, knowledge and career development of people and intensifying knowledge exchange between industry and academia whilst adding value to the sector and the UK economy.

For Simon Chandler, CEO of Rinri Therapeutics, a pioneering regenerative cell therapy company in the treatment of sensorineural hearing loss, the Innovation Scholars was ideal in solving a skills and knowledge gap within their growing organisation. The company had strong research links with the Universities of Sheffield and Nottingham, and funding enabled career development and knowledge exchange across the industry and university environment, very much to the advantages of all organisations involved.

*Simon says; 'Both funding calls were an absolute no brainer for us and we are very pleased to be able to develop the careers of two academic researchers at different stages in their careers. The benefits definitely go both ways. Universities often struggle with the needs of businesses and complete immersion for this length of time really allows for learnings from all areas of a biotech business operations to embed, and as a business, we gain access to expertise, leadership and researchers across academic clinical networks that helps us gain insight we would not ordinarily get.'*

*'The hands-on and flexible nature of the secondment is enabling me to cultivate my entrepreneurial mind set and continuously enhance my understanding of organisational operations, processes and behaviours. During my first six months, I have already enjoyed taking on a number of varying responsibilities, ranging from clinical project management to organising patient and public engagement activities. These new experiences have not only enhanced my leadership skills and commercial awareness, but have also encouraged me to think outside of the box.'*

*The secondment helps to bridge the gap between industry and academia in the exciting and emerging field of regenerative medicine for hearing loss by encouraging knowledge transfer between Rinri, academics and clinicians. I am able to utilise my previous clinical experience and understanding of translational research to help Rinri mitigate barriers they may experience when planning and delivering a first-in-human clinical trial'.*

Dr. Faizah Mushtaq, University of Nottingham

# In2scienceUK Scholars Programme



**Dr Rebecca McKelvey, Founder  
of In2scienceUK**



In2scienceUK is a charity that empowers young people from low income backgrounds to progress to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) degrees and careers. In2scienceUK works with young people that are recipients of free school meals and from families with no history of higher education. In2scienceUK promotes social mobility by enabling young people to work alongside STEM professionals and experts at some of the UK's most prestigious companies, research centres and higher education institutions. While on placement, young people undertake real research with their dedicated STEM host. Participants gain positive role models, attend workshops and skills days that develop professional skills. In 2021 In2scienceUK will be supporting over 700 young people across England, and they have ambitious plans to extend the programme to every region of the UK.

Rebecca McKelvey (Founder): *"Our mission, to increase diversity and equal opportunity in STEM, has never been so relevant as it is today. Poverty and social background remain huge barriers to progressing to university and STEM careers. COVID-19 has highlighted the disparity of opportunity between young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and those who are more affluent. We need to tackle a skills shortage, improve our economy, and increase diversity in the workforce."*

In2scienceUK's impact has been recognised by the **Queen's Award of Enterprise for Promoting Opportunity through Social Mobility 2021** for its exceptional services to young people.

Over the next three years, In2scienceUK aims to continue to expand across the UK and support more young people. **The Avantor Foundation** have supported In2scienceUK's expansion to The Midlands enabling In2scienceUK to support an additional 70 young people in 2021.

[Please see our proposal to find out more](#)



*Two young people proudly show their  
In2scienceUK certificate*



[www.bioindustry.org](http://www.bioindustry.org)

To get involved in In2scienceUK contact Luke McKelvey <[luke@in2scienceuk.org](mailto:luke@in2scienceuk.org)>