**WE** ARE HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCES

LEP Health & Life Sciences Sector Group Meeting

Monday, 22 July 2019 - 3-5pm

Bristol & Bath Science Park, Bristol

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1. **Minutes and Action Points from Meeting held on 29 April 2019**

It was noted that minutes of the meetings need to be sent out shortly after each meeting so that all members are aware of the issues discussed.

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 29 April 2019 were agreed.

***Action Points from 29 April 2019:***

Richard Luxton updated the group on the hosting of the meeting notes. Steve West had written to WECA raising this issue and Richard subsequently received an email about the redeveloped website. There is still no provision on the WECA new website for any of the sector groups. Richard Luxton, who is also Chair of Medilink South West, suggested that the minutes and supporting documents could be hosted on the new MLSW website and provide a link to the WECA website. The group agreed this was the best way forward.

**2. WECA Industrial Strategy**

WECA has published the Industrial Strategy which includes comments from the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Business Energy & Industrial Strategy, Prof Steve West, Chair of the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership and Tim Bowles, West of England Mayor. <http://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/ourstrategy/>

Richard has had a meeting with Nigel Harris, WEAHSN to discuss the Network map. The AHSN is pushing ahead with collecting data but companies do need to self-register and this needs to be highlighted and publicised.

1. **Regional Activity**

*Unit DX (by email)*

* Unit DX’s 2nd birthday was in May, headline figures are 37 member companies, over a quarter of these operate in the life sciences sector, over 100 jobs are supported by the Unit DX incubator, the member companies here have received over £21.5M of investment since Unit DX opened in May 2017 (~£15M in private investment, and ~£7M in grants). 1078 local school children have attended hands on outreach events in the labs at Unit DX since we opened, as the labs are now full we have started taking the outreach events out to local schools for another ~300 students.
* We are still going through our due diligence process prior to acquisition of an additional location to provide additional lab space, unable to comment further on this at this point.

*Techspark*

* The HLS Tekki Brekki takes a summer break and is working on a new programme for the next term/year. Looking for topics to be covered and people to present. Have held some meetings at Future Space, Heath Tech Hub, Desklodge, Unit DX and VR lab. Open to suggestions and offers to host. Abdul happy to hold at Science Park and have possible companies that could present.
* Meetings held last Wednesday in the month so the next few dates are 25 Sept, 30 Oct and 27 Nov – all to be confirmed and booking available through Techspark.
* Topics suggested include robotics, barriers to HLS – solution focus, healthy aging, genomics, block chain in healthcare, one on new MDR (medical device regulations). A meeting on Connectivity – general connecting people up 5G human to infrastructure connectivity testing, looking at research.

*Bristol & Bath Science Park (BBSP)*

* Bristol Technology Festival 7-10 Nov – a week of events. Good publicity opportunity and increased exposure. This is a platform that allows groups to run and promote tech events under the banner of Bristol Technology Festival and to provide support and guidance. [www.bristoltechfest.org](http://www.bristoltechfest.org)

*Institute of Bio-Sensing Technology (IBST)*

* Looking to hold a technology showcase event in Oct/Nov focussed on HLS technology, digital health, developing links with Malaysia and on digital healthcare. Strong link into Malaysia markets, develop trade through the DIT.
* It was suggested to run the event during the Tech Fest week. An evening event similar to the recent Zoo networking event works well.

**4. Future activities and opportunities – from members**

*IBST*

* 9-10 September 2019: C3Bio Conference at Bath University on different aspects of biosensors, bioelectronics and biodevices – free to attend for UWE, Bristol and Bath staff and students.

*University of Bristol*

* A report commissioned by Bristol, Cardiff and Newport City Councils to form a Great Western Powerhouse (GWP) has been published (July 2019). This was announced in the House of Lords and is supported by the Mayor of Bristol, Marven Rees. Need to look at how we (LEP/WECA) interface with the GWP in the future <http://www.metrodynamics.co.uk/blog/2019/7/9/a-powerhouse-for-the-west-britains-missing-powerhouse>.
* Held a Genomics Conference at Bristol Uni and had a workshop for industry as well as for academics. Very good attendance by some big companies.
* Also working on developing a new spin out company to look at carbon emissions.

*500more*

* Bristol Uni has a new PhD in Digital Health – beyond CDT. There is a pot of money available and funding to undertake collaborative research across units. Suggests talking to head of Digital Health.

*BBSP*

* New temporary additional space to be made available at Science park (5,000sqft/3 floors) either containers or modular build.
* The Institute for Advanced Automotive Propulsion Systems is being built behind the Composite Centre and is set to open in 2020.
* The Science Park receives queries every day for space from companies, most from outside the region wanting to move here. Unable to accommodate and referring on to FS/Unit DX, who are also at full capacity.
* Avara Pharmaceuticals leaving the Avonmouth site. Sealed Bids to be in by end August. All enquiries through DIT.

The group discussed connecting regional activity and suggested inviting a representative from WECA to attend a future meeting.

There is a lot of interest from outside the region to move into the region and there is a need to promote what the region has to offer in terms of HLS. It was suggested that a video rather than a promotional brochure would be useful and to ask whether WECA would be interested in producing a HLS video. It was noted that the DIT has a capability statement/infographic but do not have one for digital health in the region. This will also help investors.

**5. Any Other Business**

* 2-3 October: South Glos Business Show at Science Park – 2-day show with exhibits, displays, workshops and talks.
* The UK Lifescience Industry Magazine is published 3-4 times a year. The Medilink network sponsors the publication and we (MLSW) has the opportunity to include articles. If any members have any items of interest they would like to include please send to Julie. Current issue deadline is 26 July. <https://www.lifescienceindustrynews.com/magazine/>

**6. Dates of future meetings**:

The next meeting is on Monday, 14 October 2019 at 3-5pm in the Health Tech Hub, UWE Bristol

**Dates for 2020**

Monday, 20 January 3-5pm – HTH

Monday, 20 April 3-5pm - HTH

Monday 13 July 3-5pm - HTH