



**Enterprise Tuesday  
28<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
13.30-18.00  
John Innes Conference Centre**

**Panel Discussion Biographies:**

**Dr Pete Jackson (Panel Chair)**

**CEO, Infex Therapeutics and Non-Executive Chair, Anglia Innovation Partnership**

Dr Jackson is an experienced UK-based serial entrepreneur in the life sciences sector. Over the past 18 years, he has created seven new companies, developing novel therapeutics across infection, oncology and immunology, as well as in agrochemicals and life sciences services. Dr Jackson has over 30 years' experience in the sector, previously holding senior executive roles including Vice President of Avecia's Pharmaceutical Products business unit, following senior commercial and R&D positions at predecessor companies Zeneca and ICI.

In 2015, Dr Jackson chaired the steering committee created to establish the UK's translational R&D centre focused on antimicrobial resistance, the AMR Centre, which in 2020 was renamed Infex Therapeutics, where he now serves as the CEO. Dr Jackson was a member of the Project Advisory Group for NICE/NHS England's antibiotic reimbursement trial, and also serves as a Senior Advisor on AMR to the Milken Institute in Washington DC. Dr Jackson is a graduate in physical chemistry from the University of East Anglia and holds a doctorate in magnetic resonance from the University of Durham.

**Chris Hunter, COO, Colorifix**

Chris Hunter is the Chief Operating Officer of Colorifix, which he joined in October 2018 when it received its first institutional funding. Previously, he worked as a venture capital investor and operator in early-stage companies. Chris is also a trustee of two environmental charities, the Belu Foundation, and the SEM Charitable Trust. He has a BA from Pomona College, and an MBA from Said Business School, University of Oxford.

**Dr Andrew Osbourne, Head of Biology, Ikarovec**

Andy Osborne is an ocular gene therapy researcher located at the Norwich Research Park. He has held significant positions within two gene therapy start-ups, contributing to the advancement of viral-mediated treatments as comprehensive solutions for prevalent eye disorders. Previously, he held the role of principal investigator at Quethera, a spin-off from the University of Cambridge focused on addressing glaucoma. Subsequently, he played a pivotal role in the establishment of Ikarovec, another start-up employing analogous technologies to combat age-related macular degeneration.

**Dr Jason Mellad, CEO and Co-Founder, Start Codon**

Jason is a scientist entrepreneur passionate about translating innovative technologies into better patient outcomes. As CEO and co-founder of Start Codon, a Cambridge UK-based accelerator, he aims to identify the most disruptive healthcare founders and innovations worldwide, seed fund them and leverage the exceptional resources of the Cambridge cluster to de-risk and drive the success of their start-ups. Previously he was CEO of Cambridge Epigenetix (now Biomodal) and Business Development Manager for Horizon Discovery's diagnostics division. He also served as an associate in Cambridge Enterprise, the technology transfer office of the University of Cambridge. Jason was awarded a Marshall Scholarship to complete his PhD in Medicine at the University of Cambridge (Clare College) after graduating Summa Cum Laude from Tulane University with a BSc in Molecular Biology and Chemistry.



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**James Pilling, Associate Principal Scientist, Astra Zeneca**

James Pilling has over 18 years experience working within early drug discovery within AstraZeneca. James joined AstraZeneca in 2004 and has worked with applying novel technologies and approaches to Drug Discovery processes across various therapeutic areas. Passionate about collaboration both internal and externally, James is currently seconded into the Emerging Innovations R&D Delta team challenged with finding and piloting new ideas in science and technology to drive innovations to the clinic. Prior to his current role James worked within the Functional Genomics group at AstraZeneca where he had applied high content phenotypic imaging to find and validate new disease targets.

**Dr Sarah Robinson, Director of Delivery, Health Innovation East**

Sarah oversees the delivery of Eastern AHSN's programme of work from NHS England and partners across the East of England. Her portfolio includes oversight of local projects supporting the NHS recovery from the pandemic and localised challenges for health.

Sarah is the Implementation Lead for the NIHR East of England Applied Research Collaborations (ARC) and is the NIHR Mental Health Implementation Network team (MHIN) co-lead for implementation of evidence-based solutions at a national level.

Sarah has held numerous strategic NHS roles since qualifying as a clinical psychologist. She was the regional lead for the national dementia strategy before taking up a patient safety and safeguarding leadership role at NHS England.