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FOR THE FUTURE.**

# **MEET THE AMBASSADORS:**

**LIFE SCIENCES**

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## **GRAHAME GUILFORD**

**EX-DIRECTOR, MANUFACTURING, GE HEALTHCARE.**

**OWNER, GRAHAME GUILFORD & COMPANY**

Grahame Guilford is owner of Grahame Guilford & Company Ltd, which works with universities and small life sciences companies in Wales to help them commercialise their research expertise and technology transfer. Dr Guilford is also a member of the Welsh Government's Life Sciences panel, where he advises ministers on industry opportunities and helps develop and implement policies. He has recently been selected for the Private Sector panel within the European Programmes Partnership Forum, which has been established to discuss the development of any future European funding programmes in Wales.

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## **LIFE SCIENCES**

Life science is a growing and diverse sector in Wales, incorporating biotechnology, medical technology, pharmaceuticals and diagnostics. There are important centres of research expertise and product development in both North East and North West Wales.

Developments and funding initiatives by Welsh Government in this sector provide important opportunities for long term growth and investment in the region. North Wales has already attracted significant investment from multinational Life Sciences companies including Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics and Wockhardt, one of the top 75 research based pharmaceutical companies in the world.

‘E-health’ is an important area of potential future growth; in a recent article Professor Dylan Jones-Evans notes that *“it is predicted that the main trend for next year will not be in the development of new drugs but in how digital technology can help deliver health solutions remotely... According to industry observers, the digital health-technology market will be worth £4bn by 2015.”* There are a significant number of innovative ‘homegrown’ companies in this area, particularly in North East Wales, who are successfully developing products with global reach, such as Microvisk.

The Welsh Government is prioritising growth, research and development and inward investment in this sector, and has made available £100 million in funding for the sector through the Life Sciences Investment Fund. Other policy/industry initiatives include the annual BioWales conference, one of the UK’s largest life sciences conferences and brokerage events held outside of London. Celebrating its eleventh year the 2013 conference focussed on the links between NHS, Industry and Academia in delivering tomorrow’s health solutions.

A number of universities and other research centres in North Wales have particular strengths in life sciences, food technologies and chemical processes and strong links with industry. This includes Bangor University's School of Medical Sciences, which is developing programmes of translational and clinical research in the areas of ageing, chronic disease, cardiovascular disease, cancer and mental health.

Technium OpTIC (Opto-Electronics Technology and Incubation Centre) is a specialist innovation centre based at St Asaph Business Park, resourcing medical and biotechnology company growth. The regions' universities also provide a number of relevant graduate and postgraduate courses, for example Glyndŵr University's MRes in Polymer Science and Technology, and a number of HND courses are also available.



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