



BRITISH  
PHARMACOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY

Today's science, tomorrow's medicines

## Drug Discovery Advisory Forum

The Drug Discovery Pathways Group calls for the creation of a Drug Discovery Advisory Forum in a letter sent to George Freeman MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Life Sciences at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department of Health on 29 July 2014:

The UK has been a world-leader in medicines research and development, but recent closures and restructuring put this position under threat. Drug discovery is changing everywhere: large pharma businesses are consolidating and downsizing, with much of early-stage research coming from an innovation ecosystem of academia and SMEs. The UK can stay at the cutting edge and reap the economic rewards if we act now, while the sector remains strong, to support the transition to the new drug discovery model.

### **The Drug Discovery Pathways Group is calling for the creation of a Drug Discovery Advisory Forum:**

A Government-sponsored group that brings together all interested parties with relevant expertise to provide an over-arching vision and plan for drug discovery. The Drug Discovery Advisory Forum will serve to ensure the UK continues to be world-leading in translating biomedical research into new safe and effective therapies. This will help to revitalise the UK pharmaceutical sector, delivering benefit to patients, generating wealth for the UK and building long-term sustainability inward investment.

### **The Drug Discovery Advisory Forum will have three objectives:**

1. To build a sustainable model for **skills development** in drug discovery to ensure the UK remains at the forefront of scientific and technological advances.
2. To establish a **research funding environment** that maximises the impact of drug discovery research and incentivises multidisciplinary research
3. To establish a **connected drug discovery community** from early discovery through to clinical research that ensures the best available knowledge, skills and expertise are brought to bear on medicines R&D programmes.

Dr Robert Parker, Chief Executive, Royal Society of Chemistry  
Mr Jonathan Bruun, Chief Executive, British Pharmacological Society  
Dr Mark Downs, Chief Executive, Society of Biology  
Ms Kate Baillie, Chief Executive, Biochemical Society