



All Party Parliamentary Group established to raise profile of UK Life Sciences sector

20 July 2015, UK – Today the new All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Life Sciences holds its official launch event in Parliament. The group has been established to raise awareness and understanding of the valuable contribution the life sciences sector provides to the health and the wealth of the nation.

Opening the event, Kit Malthouse MP, Chair of the APPG said: *“Life sciences is the quintessential high-tech, innovative sector that we should prioritise for the 21st century economy. In addition to its economic impact, at its heart are innovations and therapies that benefit patients and the public. This is a sector I have long been passionate about and I’m delighted to officially launch the new All Party Parliamentary Group.”*

Minister for Life Sciences George Freeman MP also addressed the event and said: *“As the world’s first dedicated Minister for Life Sciences, I welcome the establishment of this group which I am sure will continue to build the profile of this sector as the 2015 Parliament gets underway.”*

Life Sciences UK (LSUK) will provide Secretariat for the Group. LSUK is made up of the four leading trade associations for the life sciences sector in the UK: Association of British Healthcare Industries (ABHI), Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI), the BioIndustry Association (BIA), and the British In Vitro Diagnostics Association (BIVDA).

Commenting on the launch, the CEOs of the four trade associations said: *“Collaborative working between industry and government is essential to create a national healthcare system that truly delivers not only the best possible outcomes for patients, but provides a fertile environment for UK businesses to advance medical technologies. We look forward to the APPG becoming a forum that will offer further opportunities for this crucial engagement.”*

Peter Ellingworth, CEO, ABHI.

“The UK life sciences sector plays a key role in driving investment in science and health research and in developing life-changing medicines and technologies. The establishment of the APPG provides industry with an essential forum to work with parliamentarians to look at ways to improve the current ‘bed to bedside’ medicine pathway and to ensure that patients are getting access to the latest innovative treatments.” Alison Clough, Acting CEO, ABPI.

“An optimal policy and fiscal environment is crucial to sustain and grow the life sciences sector to deliver health and wealth for the UK. This APPG will provide an effective forum for parliamentarians to engage with this exciting sector.” Steve Bates, CEO, BIA.

“For the UK to truly become a global leader in the life sciences, then effective engagement between policy makers and life sciences industry is essential. The APPG is a vital step towards this highly achievable goal.” Doris-Ann Williams, CEO, BIVDA

ENDS

Notes to Editors

All Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) are informal cross-party groups that have no official status within Parliament. They are run by and for Members of the Commons and Lords, though many involve individuals and organisations from outside Parliament in their administration and activities. The Parliamentary officers of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Life Sciences are:

Chair: Kit Malthouse MP, Conservative Member for North West Hampshire
Vice-Chair: The Rt Hon Lord Paul Drayson, Labour Member of the House of Lords
Vice-Chair: Liz McInnes MP, Labour Member for Heywood and Middleton
Vice-Chair: Daniel Zeichner MP, Labour Member for Cambridge
Treasurer: John Glen MP, Conservative Member for Salisbury
Secretary: Chris Green MP, Conservative Member for Bolton West

The launch event was attended by over 100 representatives from the life sciences community, including industry, parliamentarians, academia, the health service and the charitable sector.

Background information

Life Sciences UK (LSUK) is made up of the four leading trade associations for the life sciences sector in the UK: Association of British Healthcare Industries (ABHI), Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI), the BioIndustry Association (BIA), and the British In Vitro Diagnostics Association (BIVDA). The industries the LSUK represents play a key part in sustaining high-value jobs in research and development and manufacturing, as well as in the delivery of modern healthcare to patients across the UK and around the world.

About ABHI

The Association of British Healthcare Industries (ABHI) is the industry association for the medical technology sector in the UK. ABHI's mission is to champion the benefits and use of safe and effective medical technologies to deliver high quality patient outcomes. With over 250 members, ABHI leads the advocacy of the industry in order to advance access to medical technology. Our membership includes some of the leading multinational businesses in the sector in the UK right the way through to small and medium sized enterprises. For further information, visit the ABHI website (www.abhi.org.uk).

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