

## Google, Pfizer & More Than Just Space



**Discovery Park Sandwich celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022 with a gathering of the great and good under the title “Biotech Unplugged: From Cell to Software”.**

On the panel in the morning session was Jacques Schooler, Global Account Manager at Google, Dr Hamish Graham, Sr Manager at Pfizer Healthcare Hub, Andrew Miles, EMEA Head of Healthcare and Life Sciences at Google Cloud and Ingeborg Oie who is the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Strategy Officer at HUMA, one of the UK’s fastest growing biotech companies. Delegates received a privileged insight into the future of the biotech industry which has been so much in focus since the start of the COVID-19 crisis.



The day’s activities in Discovery Park’s Innovation House attracted a wide range of companies and individuals who shared a common interest in new approaches to health issues that could enrich the public and private sector with new approaches to digital-first care, decentralised clinical trials, remote medicine and similar recent advances in healthcare.



“More than just space” was the theme of Discovery Park’s Chief Executive Mayer Schreiber’s description of his company’s investment of £20 million over the last five years in new amenities and upgrades at the site. Mayer also outlined the main features of the £5.5 million Incubator Project due to open in January 2023 which will offer state-of-the-art facilities to support chemical, biological, pharmaceutical and analytical research companies.

Dr Julian Thompson, Pfizer’s Global Head of Regulatory Affairs and Head of the Sandwich Site, summarised Pfizer’s history in East Kent since 1952 and its continuing commitment to the area following the sale of the freehold of its Sandwich base in 2012. Pfizer’s hybrid model of home working and on-site staffing had more than proved its worth in the last two years. Its Sandwich operations had remained fully operational during the Covid-19 crisis, continuing its invaluable work as home to Pfizer’s automated pilot plant manufacturing medicines for clinical trials worldwide.

Discovery Park Chairman Dr Martino Picardo coordinated a panel discussion in focused on the next ten years of development of an Innovation Ecosystem to address global challenges. Delegates were treated to expert responses from Dr Mohamed Abdel-Maguid, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Canterbury Christ Church University, Isabel Stevens, Deputy Director at the office for Life Sciences, Helen Tate, Health Tech Innovation Lead at Barclays and Dr Karen Sink, Head of Medicine at Innovate UK, the UK’s national innovation agency. Questions afterwards featured insights into progress in transdermal medicine and robot surgery. The afternoon ended following self-evident proof that Discovery Park Sandwich is indeed more than just space.

David Foley  
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