

SULSA - Scottish Universities Life Sciences Alliance

POOL	SULSA - Scottish Universities Life Sciences Alliance		
Original Partners	Universities of Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, St Andrews and Strathclyde		
Funding	SFC £26.7M Institutions £50.7M		
Start	January 08	End	Dec 14
Original objectives			
1) the recruitment of research leaders; 2) development of new and improved linkages between Universities; 3) enhanced research infrastructure and access to facilities; and 4) the creation of postgraduate and post-doctoral training opportunities.			
Justification	In 2003 Council recognised Biological Sciences as a priority area for pooling. Biological sciences were recognised at that time as an area in which the leading Scottish departments could match their competitors on scale and quality. However, detailed analysis revealed that Scotland's international position was vulnerable and depended on a small number of leading researchers and groups and that the area faced several challenges in sustaining its high ranking position .		
Inclusivity policy	Selectively inclusive from within the partner institutions		

Funding breakdown

	SFC (£000s)	Institution (£000s)	Total (£000s)
Staff 9 Professors (one of whom is the Director 50:50) 9 Lecturers 24 trained supporting staff and facility managers Also includes 4x Administrators and 0.8 FTE secretarial support	16,465	16,508	32,973
Equipment	7,011	3,777	10,788
Studentships (52)	1,876	1,876	3,752
Buildings	0	28,537	28,537
Other	1,325	0	1,325
Total	26,677¹	50,698	77,375

¹ Figures from proposal, slightly different to final award letter

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Governance / structure

Original Governance	<p>International Advisory Board (annually)</p> <p>Executive Committee reports to Principals</p> <p>Director, the Directors of the three research Themes and high level representation from each partner institution</p> <p>Theme Directorates x3</p> <p>Facilities Management Committees x3</p>
Research themes	<p>Cell biology,</p> <p>Systems biology and</p> <p>Translational biology</p>
Directorate	<p>Director 0.5FTE</p> <p>Administrator x4 (one Directorate and one for each theme)</p> <p>Secretarial support 0.8FTE</p>

End of award

Final report	December 2015
Highlights	<p>REF performance: enhanced, especially around impact and environment</p> <p>Publications: 508 for SULSA researchers and 646 for SULSA facilities, coming to a total of 1154</p> <p>Leveraged funding: £367M (not including the institutional match funding) including £80M in kind IMI; facilities income £123M; research awards £138M</p> <p>Studentships: delivered 90 (well over the proposed 52) including 20 Bioskape phds in collaboration with industry</p> <p>Report also includes detail on collaborations, invited talks, student outputs,</p> <p>Facilities: Delivered 4 new facilities (two planned): PET facility (Aberdeen), Scottish Metabolomics (now Glasgow Polyomics), European Lead Factory (ELF, Newhouse), National Phenotypic Screening Centre (NPSC, Dundee)</p> <p>Critical mass: 9 professors appointed but two left and were replaced with lecturers (note this changes to one left in the proposal for continuation???)</p>
Major changes/challenges	<p>Changes to staffing see above with 2 professors leaving and being replaced with lecturers.</p> <p>No cost extensions due to delays in lab refurbishments and in appointing and/or replacing staff</p> <p>Major change to the administrators roles; replaced by a single Executive Director.</p>

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SULSA Continuation Funding

Partners	Universities of Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, St Andrews and Strathclyde Three new Associate Members joined SULSA in 17/18; Heriot Watt, Edinburgh Napier and Robert Gordon University.		
Funding	SFC £750,000 (later reduced to £600,000) Institutions £793,629		
Start	Jan 16	End	Dec 20

Funding breakdown

	Total (£000s)
Staff costs (Directorate)	853
Consortium generating	400
Events	100
Other (office, marketing, networking/travel)	191
Total	1,544

Governance	Replaced IAB with less formal interaction with international experts
Directorate	Director (not clear how much time) Executive Director Networking and Communications Officer Financial Officer and PA to Director
Objectives	Greater focus on leveraging funding than others. To continue its core enabling activities including administration of SFC and other leveraged funds; a programme of events and training opportunities that support the network; and the coordination of consortia to leverage significant new awards for emerging fields of the life sciences; employ selected consultants to help leverage new research consortia that will be in line with the organisation's refreshed 5-year research strategy, which aims to develop a number of new areas of life sciences to internationally significant standards and capacity.

Highlights from AY2017/18 annual report [LINK](#)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • programme of researcher development events across Scotland; 80 ECRs attended these courses in four different cities. • supported EPSRC DTP bids. (outcome not known) • leveraged £3M for the Scottish Life Sciences Community. This includes a CryoEM facility, a Scottish NMR facility, support for industry engagement in Optical Imaging. • Supported successful ESCUlab bid • established a Scottish AMR network, and from this funded 6 projects which were pan-Scottish collaborations. Submitted a response to the Government AMR strategy call for evidence, and held a conference on AMR with 170 attendees. • Implementing refreshed research strategy
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