

SULSA has been instrumental in managing and supporting MSD through the following:

MSD is proud to have donated over £3 million to the MSD Life Sciences Fund, which was set up in 2012 to fund the following activities over a three-year period with some activity still ongoing:

- **36 year long undergraduate laboratory placements**, to undergraduates in their penultimate year with the opportunity to gain practical experience in 'real-laboratory' situations in an SME industrial setting. This scheme will reach the most junior scientists in Scotland, augmenting their practical skills and enhancing employment prospects
- **Teams of 6 undergraduate students to train and compete in the International Genetically Engineered machines (iGEM) synthetic biology competition** in each of the next 3 years. iGEM is held each year at the Massachusetts Institute of technology (MIT) in Boston. Undergraduate students will be mentored by PhD students and Post-Doctoral Scientists. Training in project design and team management will provide Scotland's top graduates with a versatile set of practical skills and significantly enhance Scotland's international reputation in synthetic biology.
- **18 PhD studentships** in the discipline of drug discovery, including biochemical, genetic and cell biological validation of drug targets, development of complex in vivo pre-clinical models of human disease, implementation of novel organic synthesis and analytic methodologies, and development of next generation informatics approaches for drug discovery. The fourth year of the MSD PhD studentships will be supported by matching funds from the SULSA Universities.
- **6 research Fellowships** in drug discovery to help ensure the flow of emerging PhD talent through to the postdoctoral level. This will drive new discoveries, facilitate knowledge exchange and provide critical mentorship to students.
- Sponsorship of **3 SULSA Annual Research Symposia** providing the opportunity to showcase the achievements of the MSD Life Sciences Fund.