



Optimum
Strategic Communications

18th Annual Healthcare Investor Conference

8th October 2026



International strategic communications using our multi-channel approach

For Life Sciences, Healthcare & Industrial Biotechnology

We specialise in communicating complex scientific information to key stakeholders, combining strategic corporate communications and investor relations across Europe and the US. Trusted by hundreds of public and private companies, we help clients navigate growth and communicate a compelling story to the audiences that matter.



Healthcare, life sciences & industrial biotech specialists who have worked with over 500 companies



Multi-channel communications approach to create powerful impact



Successful track record helping companies raise their profile in the international top tier media



Deep research and global healthcare expertise delivering informed and creative advice, and compelling investment stories.



AI communications orchestration to maximise message reach



Unrivalled network of investors across Europe and US

*The right story,
to the right people,
at the right time*

Welcome to Optimum's 18th Annual Healthcare Investor Conference

Following several years of volatility, the last 12 months has marked a turning point for the life sciences sector, with renewed investor confidence, increased dealmaking and growing momentum across the industry.

With record amounts of M&A activity, biotech has demonstrated that the sector's recovery is well underway. Capital markets – both private and public – have improved, strategic transactions are accelerating, and AI is increasingly delivering measurable value.

At the same time, this is a more disciplined market than the one we saw in the Covid era. Investors are placing greater emphasis on clinical validation, capital efficiency and clear differentiation, raising the bar for companies seeking to attract investment and partners.

Against this backdrop, companies must clearly articulate their science, explain why they are different and set out their path to value creation. With investors, partners and other stakeholders increasingly using AI-powered search and large language models (LLMs) to inform decision-making, visibility now extends beyond traditional media coverage and investor relations. Companies that communicate effectively and ensure their stories are visible across both human and AI-driven channels, will be best positioned to attract capital and secure partnerships.

At Optimum, we help clients navigate this evolving landscape through bespoke communications programmes that enhance visibility, strengthen differentiation and maximise impact. By combining deep sector expertise with a strategic, multi-channel approach, we ensure our clients are positioned for success in an increasingly competitive and complex landscape.

This year's conference brings together industry leaders, investors and expert commentators to discuss the opportunities and challenges shaping the future of healthcare innovation. Topics such as women's health, AI's influence on biotech investment, the future of biomedical science, public markets, European competitiveness and fundraising in today's market. Our panellists will explore the themes defining the next generation of life sciences companies and investors.

We're proud to highlight Optimum's chosen charity this year: BEAT Eating Disorders. As well as providing vital immediate crisis support, BEAT trains healthcare and education professionals to ensure early detection and better patient care. It also works to reduce stigma, increase medical funding, and secure faster access to life-saving treatment through public awareness campaigns and high-level lobbying of UK governments. Vanessa Langley will be joining us to share more about BEAT's important work. Please speak with Vanessa during the day to learn more – and please consider donating to support this fantastic cause too.

There will be plenty of opportunities to connect with the amazing group of life sciences executives who join us today, during the coffee breaks, lunch, and drinks reception.

As always, we encourage everyone to take part in the conversation, so please ask questions during the sessions and use the hashtag [#OptimumConference2026](#) to engage on social media. Summaries of our panel sessions and fireside chats will be available on our website and social media channels following the event.

Finally, a huge thank you to our sponsors – Babraham Research Campus, Barclays, Citi, Cooley, Domainex, Nasdaq, Oppenheimer and M Ventures. Your support makes this event possible.

I would like to personally thank everyone for joining us for our 18th conference. I hope you have a thought-provoking and enjoyable day.

Best wishes,

Mary & The Optimum Team

Mary Clark, CEO, Optimum Strategic Communications



Top tips for raising finance

Communicate a strong story

Telling your story in a credible and compelling way is critical to the perception of your company.

What is your company's unique selling proposition?

How are you different and superior to the competition?

Will the management team be successful in implementing their strategy?

Differentiation



Having a unique and differentiated business proposition is key. Investors are particularly drawn to companies that offer distinct solutions that stand out in crowded markets and can command strong pricing and/or volume.

What is your strategy to reach key value inflection points?



You need to demonstrate a well-defined route to market and potential exit strategies. Ensure you are funded through inflection points with a buffer to handle unforeseen challenges.



Target the right investors

Getting in front of the right investors is what is important. Do your homework and know about them.

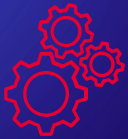
Are they in a position to invest?

Are they interested in your market?

Where are they in their fund cycle?

How expert are they in your field?

What companies have they invested in before?



Prepare and execute

Prepare the materials you need to tell your story. How effective is your investor deck? And have you practised it? Be clear and deliver your story confidently. Be responsive. Have answers ready for commonly asked questions.

Leadership and track record

Having a quality management team and building a capable board is crucial.

Is your management team prepared and aligned?

How is your board made up? Are they well networked?
Do they have relevant experience?

Who else do you need to recruit?

Who has done it before and where are the gaps?

Present your data confidently but credibly



You might know that your data gives you the edge, but don't assume the person you are talking to understands that. Explain why. If you've got good data, don't undersell it.

Identify which dataset is likely to matter to an investor and concentrate on it. But recognise that investors are sophisticated and know that not everything is perfect.



Hollie
Vile



Nick
Bastin



Mary
Clark



Jonathan
Murphy



Eva
Haas



Hana
Malik



Stephen
Adams



Zoe
Bolt



Monica
Clark



Premal
Pajwani



Charlotte
Hepburne-Scott



Eleanor
Cooper



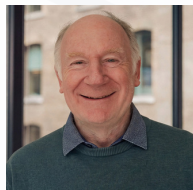
Isabelle
Abdou



Katie
Flint



Vareen
Outhonesack



Malcolm
McCulloch



Aoife
Minihan



Josh
Evans



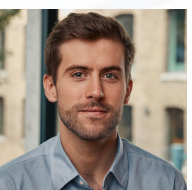
Nellie
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Katherine
Bliss



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Murphy



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Williams



Rosanna
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ReproNovo

Sofinnova
partners

Agenda

- 9:15am - 10:00am Registration**
- 10:00am - 10:10am Welcome from Mary Clark, CEO, Optimum**
- 10:10am - 11:00am Women's Health panel**
Sponsored by M Ventures
Chair: Ashleigh Furlong, Health Reporter, Bloomberg
- Isabel Jiménez Bernal, Principal, Asabys Partners
 - Patric Stenberg, CEO, Gesynta Pharma
 - Ilka Schellschmidt, Global Head Medical Affairs Fertility, Merck Healthcare
 - Hakan Goker, Managing Director, M Ventures
 - Jean Marie Duvall, CEO, ReproNovo
- 11:00am - 11:10am Optimum's featured charity: BEAT**
- Vanesa Longley, CEO, BEAT Eating Disorders
- 11:10am - 11:30am Refreshment break**
- 11:30am - 12:20pm AI's role in shaping biotech investment narratives - does AI deliver hype, value, or a new investment lens?**
Chair: Nick Bastin, Managing Director, Optimum
- Tashy Rodgers, Associate, F-Prime Capital
 - Philip Brainin, CEO, Isomab
 - Lucie Ellis-Taitt, Editor in Chief, Health & Medtech, Norstell
 - Ed Kliphuis, Partner, Sofinnova Partners
- 12:20pm - 1:10pm Public markets, what's the point?**
Sponsored by Gilmartin Group
Chair: Mary Clark, Founder & CEO, Optimum
- Lynn Lewis, Founder & CEO, Gilmartin Group
 - Premal Pajwani, Founder & CEO, PRP Advisory
 - David Ebsworth, Chair, Opteron Health AG
- 1:10pm - 2:00pm Networking lunch**
Sponsored by Citi and Nasdaq
- 2:00pm - 2:05pm Welcome back from Mary Clark, CEO, Optimum**

2:05pm - 2:45pm Fireside chat - From discovery to impact: The future of biomedical science

Sponsored by Oppenheimer

Chair: Clive Cookson, Senior Science Writer, Financial Times

- Professor Edith Heard, PhD, FRS, CMG, Director and CEO, The Francis Crick Institute

2:45pm - 3:35pm Maximising the European opportunity

Chair: Kieran Murphy, Chair, Biotage

- Geraldine O'Keeffe, Partner, EQT Life Sciences
- Leopoldo Zambeletti, Independent Director
- Jane Rhodes, CEO, AstronauTx
- Werner Lanthaler, CEO, Fair Journey Bio

3:35pm - 4:05pm Afternoon tea

Sponsored by Babraham Research Campus

4.05pm - 4:35pm Fireside chat - Investing through cycles: Gareth Powell in conversation - A career in healthcare investing

Chair: Eva Haas, Managing Director, Optimum

- Gareth Powell, Head of Healthcare, Polar Capital

4:35pm - 5:25pm What it takes to raise finance in today's market

Chair: Susan Hill, CEO, Mestag Therapeutics

- Gil Bar-Nahum, Managing Director and EMEA Head of Biotechnology, Jefferies International
- Victoria Taylor, Principal, Medicxi
- Naveed Siddiqi, Senior Partner, Novo Holdings
- Paul Major, Independent Director

5:25pm - 5:30pm Thank you & conclusions from Optimum

5:30pm - 7:15pm Networking reception drinks

Sponsored by Barclays and Cooley

Thank you to our sponsors



Womens Health Panel

Join M Ventures for a thought-provoking panel exploring the evolving women's health landscape. From breakthrough science and emerging technologies to the opportunities and challenges shaping investment and innovation. Hear from leading voices across the life sciences on where the field is headed and how we can accelerate meaningful impact for women's health.



Chair: Ashleigh Furlong, Health Reporter at Bloomberg

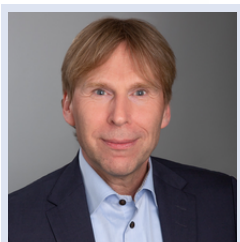
Ashleigh covers health care and the pharmaceutical industry for Bloomberg News from London. Previously, she wrote about global health policy at POLITICO.



Isabel Jiménez Bernal, Principal, Asabys Partners

Isabel Jiménez Bernal is a Principal at Asabys Partners, a Barcelona-based venture capital firm focused on healthcare and life sciences, managing over €400 million in assets across biopharma, medical technology and digital health. She serves as a Board Observer at iPremom, Oriva Therapeutics, Orikin Bio and Augustine Therapeutics. Her board roles at iPremom and Oriva provide particular exposure to women's health, spanning molecular diagnostics for the early prediction of pregnancy complications and novel therapies for chronic gynaecological diseases.

Isabel brings more than ten years of experience spanning translational research and life-sciences investment. Previously, she was part of the investment team at Ysios Capital and conducted haemato-oncology and immunology research at the Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology. She holds a PhD in Medicine, a Master's degree in Immunology and an Executive MBA from ESADE.



Patric Stenberg, Chief Executive Officer, Gesynta Pharma

Patric Stenberg is one of the co-founders of Gesynta Pharma. He holds a PhD in Pharmaceutics from Uppsala University. Patric has more than 20 years of experience from positions as CEO, Chief Scientific Officer, business development manager and pharmaceutical R&D scientist within the life science industry, ranging from small virtual organizations to global pharma companies.



Ilka Schellschmidt, Global Head Medical Affairs, Fertility, Merck Healthcare

Dr. Ilka Schellschmidt is a highly accomplished medical doctor, women's health specialist and pharmaceutical executive with more than two decades of experience in reproductive medicine, clinical development and healthcare innovation. A trained obstetrician and gynaecologist, she has held senior leadership roles at Bayer, where she has led global clinical development programmes focused on contraception, reproductive health and menopause care.

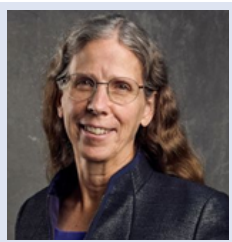
Throughout her career, Dr. Schellschmidt has contributed to the development of innovative women's health therapies and technologies, while championing greater inclusion of women in clinical research. She is also an accomplished researcher and inventor, with numerous scientific publications and patents in reproductive medicine and contraception.



Hakan Goker, Managing Director, M Ventures

Hakan Goker, PhD, is the Managing Director of M Ventures and heads the Biotechnology Investments covering Healthcare and Life Science Tools and Technologies sectors. Hakan joined M Ventures in 2013 and has been investing in the sector for 19 years.

Previously, Hakan was a partner at Aescap Venture investing in European opportunities. Hakan started his investment career at Atlas Venture focusing on global investment opportunities in healthcare and medical technologies across US, Europe and Asia. He was instrumental in the creation and financing, business and R&D strategies of multiple companies in their formation years including Bicycle, Nimbus Discovery, and f-Star while at Aescap and Atlas. Hakan continues his active investing role and represents M Ventures on multiple portfolio companies. He comes from an academic background receiving his Ph.D. in oncology from the Institute of Cancer Research/ University of London, UK and continuing his scientific career with post doctoral work at the Breakthrough Breast Cancer Centre/Royal Marsden Hospital. He gained his B.Sc. Hons, from University College London. Hakan is based in Amsterdam at the M Ventures head office.



Jean Marie Duvall, Chief Executive Officer, ReproNovo

Jean Marie Duvall is Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of ReproNovo, a clinical-stage company dedicated to addressing critical gaps in fertility and women's health. Together with co-founders Joan-Carles Arce and BingMei Hao, she leads a team of globally recognized experts with decades of immersion in reproductive medicine, drug development, regulatory affairs, and business development, alongside a strong understanding of patient needs and the evolving treatment landscape.

Since founding ReproNovo, Jean and her co-founders have rapidly established a Phase 2 pipeline that includes RPN-001 (leflutrozone) for male infertility and RPN-002 (nolasiban) for embryo implantation and adenomyosis. In May 2025, ReproNovo secured a \$65 million Series A financing round led by Jeito Capital, co-led by AXA IM Alts and founding investor M Ventures, with strong syndicate support from Ysios Capital and ALSA Ventures.

Prior to founding ReproNovo, Jean Marie served as one of four Executive Board members at Ferring Pharmaceuticals, where she contributed to the company's growth and strengthened its position in reproductive medicine and maternal health. She has also co-founded and chaired biotech ventures, including Trizell, an oncology gene and cell therapy company, and Amzell, focused on life-cycle management for the U.S. market.

AI's role in shaping biotech investment narratives – does AI deliver hype, value, or a new investment lens?

From scientific breakthroughs to investor presentations, AI is rapidly becoming part of the biotech story. But is it creating genuine value or simply generating hype? Join industry leaders and investors as they explore how AI is shaping the narratives driving biotech investment today.



Chair: Nick Bastin, Managing Director, Optimum

Nick has more than three decades of experience advising companies and individuals from over 35 different markets on a wide range of multi-market, multi-stakeholder, multi-channel communications. Nick specialises in helping clients build powerful narratives around their corporate reputation and to help deliver capital market objectives. Nick has strong transaction experience and has helped clients raise over €30bn through IPOs and has advised on M&A transactions with a combined deal value in excess of €150bn.



Tashy Rodgers, Associate, F-Prime Capital

Tashy Rodgers is an Associate in F-Prime's London team, working across the life sciences sub-sectors including therapeutics and medical technology. Prior to joining F-Prime, Tashy was an associate consultant at Bain & Company. She also worked as a junior doctor in Edinburgh and Oxford with a particular focus area in Intensive Care.

Tashy holds an MB BChir from Cambridge University and an A.B. in Molecular and Cellular Biology from Harvard University.



Philip Brainin, Chief Executive Officer, Isomab

Dr. Philip Brainin brings more than 10 years of clinical, scientific, and investment experience across therapeutics, venture investing, and company building to his role as CEO of IsomAb.

A physician-scientist and MBA, he has a strong track record of translating cardiovascular and immunology science into value creation through portfolio strategy, partnering, and financing. Prior to IsomAb, he was part of the investment teams at Sunstone Life Science Ventures and Sound Bioventures, where he helped build and execute investments across cardiovascular, renal, and rare diseases. He led cross-functional due diligence and authored an investor impact framework published in Nature Biotechnology. Dr. Brainin has advised the boards of BOOST Pharma, AnaCardio, NephroDI, VarmX, and Arthex Biotech, as well as the Therapeutics Advisory Group at BioInnovation Institute.

An actively practising physician, he holds a PhD from the University of Copenhagen and an MBA from Copenhagen Business School, where he achieved the highest GPA in the programme's history. He has authored 40 peer-reviewed publications and received multiple international scientific awards.



Lucie Ellis-Taitt, Editor in Chief, Norstell

Lucie is a healthcare and life sciences journalist and editor with more than a decade of experience covering the global biopharmaceutical, medtech and healthcare sectors. She is Editor in Chief, Health & Medtech, where she sets the editorial strategy for leading industry publications In Vivo, Medtech Insight, Generics Bulletin and HBW Insight.

Prior to her current role, Lucie was Editor of In Vivo and previously held senior editorial positions at Scrip and Pink Sheet. Covering the biopharma industry since 2012, she has built expertise across leadership, R&D, innovation, market access, dealmaking and healthcare policy, and is a regular moderator at industry conferences and events.



Edward Kliphuis, Partner, Sofinnova Partners

Edward is a Partner at Sofinnova Partners, focused on Digital Medicine investments. Previously, he was part of M Ventures, the €1bn venture capital arm of Merck KGaA, where he led health-tech investments including Akili Interactive Labs, the first FDA-approved prescription video game, as well as Wiliot and Biolinq.

Before M Ventures, Edward worked in the Life Sciences securities team at Kempen & Co, covering European small- and mid-cap healthcare companies. He began his career as an analyst within the biopharma investment team at M Ventures.

Edward holds an MSc in Biopharmaceutical Sciences from Leiden University, with a specialisation in pharmacology.

Public markets, what's the point?

Public markets have long been the destination for ambitious life sciences companies, but are they still? Our panel will debate the benefits, drawbacks, and future relevance of public listings in an increasingly challenging capital markets environment.



Chair: Mary Clark, Founder & Chief Executive Director, Optimum Strategic Communications

Mary has a 25-year successful track record in providing strategic corporate and financial communications to both early- and late-stage healthcare companies and has worked with over 500 biotech and healthcare clients across Europe and the US. She has developed several high-profile investor focused campaigns and has been instrumental in strategic positioning ahead of fundraising rounds of private financings, IPOs and follow-on public financings. She founded Optimum in 2017 with the mission to provide the best strategic communications advice and implement effective communications programmes to achieve high impact results. Prior to this, Mary built and led healthcare businesses at several international PR&IR agencies. She started her career at BTG plc where she was involved in the Company's IPO and the start-up of several new tech and biotech companies.



Lynn Lewis, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Gilmartin Group

Lynn spent the first half of her career as a Wall Street equity research analyst and investor focused on evaluating innovative companies within the medical device and healthcare sector. She pivoted in 2008 to strategic consulting with emphasis on investor relations, capital markets advisory and support in forecasting financial and operational milestones. Having created and executed investor relations programs and strategies for over 100 companies (public and private) at various stages of development, Lynn has a proven track record of success. She is actively involved with her clients, enabling companies to effectively communicate their business strategy, operational goals, and financial profile to Wall Street constituents. Lynn and the team at Gilmartin work with many of the most successful IPOs in the medical technology sector, advising initially on capital markets and IPO readiness, and continuing on, partnering on IR strategy and long term shareholder engagement.

As Founder and CEO of Gilmartin Group, Lynn advises many of the medical technology sector's most successful IPOs, supporting companies from IPO readiness through to long-term shareholder engagement. Previously, she was a Managing Director at Westwicke Partners, Founder and Portfolio Manager of Aphelion Capital, and held senior equity research roles at Thomas Weisel Partners and Adams, Harkness & Hill.

Lynn holds the CFA designation, has a MS in Finance from Boston College Carroll School of Management and a BA in Environmental Science and Mathematics from University of Vermont. When not working, Lynn spends time with her family (and dog) outside as much as possible. She serves on the board of directors of Slide Ranch, a non profit committed to environmental stewardship and education.



David Ebsworth, Chair, Opterion Health AG

David has more than 40 years of experience in the global pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors. He began his career at Pfizer before spending over 19 years at Bayer, where he led the global pharmaceuticals business and held a number of senior international leadership roles.

He subsequently served as CEO of Oxford GlycoSciences, Vifor Pharma and Galenica Group, and has held numerous chairmanships and board positions across the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and healthcare industries. As Chairman of Verona Pharma, he oversaw the company's growth from a development-stage business to a leading respiratory specialist, culminating in its US\$10 billion acquisition by Merck.

David currently serves on the boards of several international healthcare companies, including Sartorius and SYNLAB. He holds a BSc in Chemistry and German, together with a PhD in Industrial Relations from the University of Surrey.

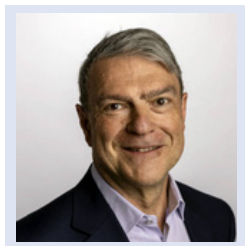


Premal Pajwani, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, PRP Advisory

Premal is a Senior Adviser to Optimum and is the founder and principal of PRP Advisory, a specialist independent healthcare consultancy firm. Premal previously worked as the Global Healthcare Specialist for J.P. Morgan Asset Management in London for 8 years. Prior to this, Premal was a Healthcare Portfolio Manager with at First State Investments. From 2000 to 2007, Premal was a Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Analyst at J.P. Morgan Securities and Eden Financial. From 1991 to 2000, Premal worked as a Research Analyst covering Pharma at various banks and brokers in NYC. Premal holds an M.B.A. from the University of Cincinnati and a B.Com. from University of Bombay, India.

Fireside chat: From discovery to impact: The future of biomedical science

Professor Edith Heard, Director and CEO of The Francis Crick Institute, in conversation with Clive Cookson, Senior Science Writer of the Financial Times, on the journey from fundamental discovery to real-world impact. The discussion will explore how cutting-edge biomedical research is translated into therapies and the role of leading institutions in shaping the future of medicine.



Chair: Clive Cookson, Senior Science Writer, Financial Times

Clive Cookson has worked in science journalism for the whole of his professional life. He left Oxford University with a First Class Honours degree in chemistry and, after training on the Luton Evening Post, joined Times Higher Education – first as science correspondent in London and then as North America editor in Washington DC.

Clive returned to London as technology correspondent of the Times and moved to BBC Radio as science and medical correspondent. He went back to print journalism at the Financial Times first as technology editor then in 1991 as science editor, leading a writing team covering science and health, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology. In October 2023 Clive became the FT's senior science writer. He has won numerous awards, including British Science Writer of the Year 2022 and Lifetime Achievement Award of the Association of British Science Writers in 2025.



Professor Edith Heard, Director and Chief Executive Officer, The Francis Crick Institute

Edith Heard is Director and CEO of the Francis Crick Institute, and Professor of the Collège de France. She studied Natural Sciences at Cambridge University (UK) and obtained her PhD in Biochemistry from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in London.

After her postdoc at the Pasteur institute in Paris, she moved to the Institut Curie, where she set up her own lab and then became Director of the Genetics and Developmental Biology Unit in 2010. She then moved her lab to Heidelberg in Germany, where she was the EMBL Director General from 2019-2025. Edith's laboratory specialises in epigenetics and the process of X-chromosome inactivation (XCI) whereby one of the two X chromosomes is silenced during female mammalian development. Her group has uncovered the early events that trigger the XCI process in XX embryos, contributing to the discovery of topologically associating domains (TADs) and also revealing the remarkable dynamics of X inactivation in development and disease, providing key insights into the underlying mechanisms. Professor Heard has been awarded honours including the CNRS Gold Medal in 2024, the L'Oréal-UNESCO international prize for women in Science in 2022 and she has been elected to EMBO, the Royal Society, the US National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine and others.

Maximising the European opportunity

Europe is home to some of the world's most exciting life sciences innovation - but turning scientific excellence into commercial success remains a challenge. Join industry leaders and investors as they discuss how to unlock the full potential of the European ecosystem in an increasingly competitive global landscape.



Chair: Kieran Murphy, Chair and Non-Executive Director, Biotage

Kieran is Chair of Biotage, Zentiva and SPT Labtech. He was previously President and CEO of GE Healthcare's \$19B Healthcare division, and before that led GE Healthcare Life Sciences, where he helped scale the business into a global leader in bioprocessing and life sciences tools.

Kieran works with private equity investors including KKR, EQT and GTCR where he serves as Chair to a number of their portfolio companies across the life sciences and healthcare sector.



Jane Rhodes, Chief Executive Officer, AstronauTx

Jane Rhodes, PhD, MBA is Chief Executive Officer at AstronauTx Ltd. She is an accomplished leader with 25 years of experience in the biotechnology industry. Previously Dr Rhodes was President and Chief Business Officer at Verge Genomics, and has held a variety of operational roles in business development, innovation, corporate strategy and R&D at Biogen and Forma Therapeutics.

A neuroscientist by training, she has a strong track record of company formation, successful equity financing and forging large enabling Pharma partnerships. Dr Rhodes currently serves as Chair of the Board of Pheno Therapeutics and as a Non-Executive Director at Turbine AI. She holds an undergraduate degree in Pharmacology and Physiology and a PhD in Neurophysiology from the University of Manchester and a Masters in Business Administration from the Babson College F.W. Olin School of Business.



Geraldine O'Keefe, Partner, EQT Life Sciences

Geraldine O'Keefe joined EQT in 2008, as Partner within the EQT Life Sciences team. Her association with LSP began the same year and continued until 2022, culminating in the integration of LSP with EQT, subsequently rebranded as EQT Life Sciences.

Before affiliating with LSP, Geraldine served as a Senior Equity Research Analyst at Fortis Bank in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Prior to Fortis, she held the position of Head of Infectious Disease at Biotrin, a medical diagnostic company based in Dublin, Ireland, which has since become an integral part of Diasorin.

Geraldine holds a BSc Hons in Microbiology and Biochemistry from University College Cork, an MSc in Biotechnology from University College Galway, and a Graduate Diploma in Business Studies from the Dublin School of Business.



Leopoldo Zambelletti, Independent Director

Since 2013 Mr Zambelletti has been an independent strategic advisor to life science companies on Merger and Acquisitions, out-licensing deals and financing strategy. He is a Non-Executive Director of Nogra Pharma, Philogen, Touchlight, LenioBio, Avanzanite and Senior Advisor to Mediobanca for Healthcare



Werner Lanthaler, Chief Executive Officer, Fair Journey Bio

Werner Lanthaler is CEO of Fair Journey Bio (FJBio.com). FJBio is a globally leading company offering customized services and technologies for optimal antibody solutions.

He is also founder and CEO of Wlanholding (wlanholding.com), an investment company focused on driving growth in cutting-edge technologies. With over 20 years of management experience in biotech, Dr. Lanthaler supports visionary entrepreneurs in transforming innovative business ideas into scalable organizations.

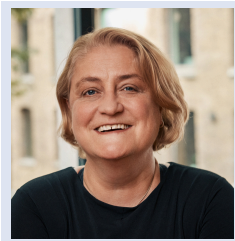
As CEO of Evotec SE, he led the company through significant global growth. Prior, as CFO of Intercell AG, he was instrumental in establishing Austria's first Biotech IPO and several vaccine product approvals.

Before his industry engagements Dr. Lanthaler was a consultant with McKinsey & Company. His career is based on a strong academic background, including a PhD in Business Administration from Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien, and an MPA from Harvard University.

He serves as chairman in leading high-tech companies, including HAL Allergy (Netherlands), aTenstion.life (Austria), OncoDesignServices (France), Proxygen (Austria), and Elucidata (USA). Most recent key investments of Wlanholding include Proxygen GmbH, Cerabyte GmbH, Rohrmaxx GmbH, Elio GmbH, Elbfly GmbH, Solgate GmbH, Planet Pure GmbH, Cyment GmbH, Pirche GmbH, InSphero AG, and Pexxes GmbH.

Fireside chat: Investing through cycles: Gareth Powell in conversation - A career in healthcare investing

A fireside chat with Gareth Powell, Head of Healthcare at Polar Capital, reflecting on his career in healthcare investing, the evolution of the sector, and the disciplined approach behind his long-standing track record. Chaired by Eva Haas, Managing Director at Optimum, the discussion will explore key lessons from public and private markets and how investment thinking has evolved over time.



Chair: Eva Haas, Managing Director, Optimum Strategic Communications

Eva has 25+ years' experience in fund management and company analysis across the global healthcare sector. She lived in New York for 7 years covering the US. She was recently at Schroder Investment management where she was responsible for the analysis and valuation of publicly listed & about-to-be-listed healthcare companies in medical devices & supplies, diagnostics, biotechnology, pharma, life sciences tools, healthcare distribution, pharmacy benefit management, hospitals & health insurance. Eva has a PhD in Biochemistry from Bristol University. She is also a fluent German speaker.



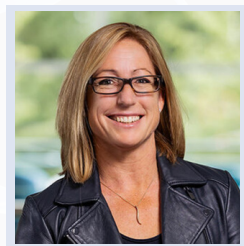
Gareth Powell, Head of Healthcare, Polar Capital

Gareth joined Polar Capital in 2007 to set up the Healthcare team. Prior to Polar Capital, Gareth worked at Framlington, where he began his career in investment management in 1999. Soon afterwards, he joined the Healthcare team in 2001 and helped launch the Framlington Biotech Fund, which he managed from 2004 until his departure.

Gareth studied biochemistry at Oxford, during which time he worked at Yamanouchi, a leading Japanese pharmaceutical company (later to become Astellas). As well as this, Gareth worked for the Oxford Business School and various academic laboratories including the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology and the Wolfson Institute for Biomedical Research.

Investor Panel: What it takes to raise finance in today's market

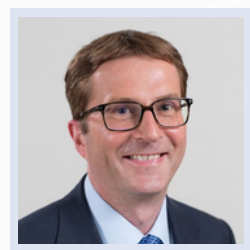
Where is capital flowing, what are investors backing, and what will define success in the next 12 months? Hear from leading healthcare investors on the trends shaping the market and what they will be watching for as we approach the Jefferies Conference, London Life Sciences Week, and the road to JP Morgan.



Chair: Susan Hill, Chief Executive Officer, Mestag Therapeutics

Susan Hill PhD brings more than 25 years' experience as an international leader within the biotech, investor and pharmaceutical industries. She founded oncology/immunology company Mestag Therapeutics in 2020, leading through \$95m financing, strategic pharma partnerships and organizational build into a clinical biotech. Susan also serves as a Venture Partner at SV Health Investors (London), an advisor to AdBio (Paris) and until recently as a member of the Development Board of Christ's College, University of Cambridge.

Susan joined Mestag from retinal therapy company Gyroscope Therapeutics (acquired by Novartis for \$1.5bn), where she served as Chief Business Officer, bringing critical delivery technology via the acquisition of Orbit Biomedical (Philadelphia) where she was founding Chief Executive Officer. Previously, Susan led strategy and operations as Chief Business Officer of Freeline Therapeutics (now known as Spur Therapeutics, London) and drove transactions in the Business & Corporate Development team at Alexion (Switzerland/US) and during 8 years at Merck KGaA (Geneva) in a series of Global Corporate & Business Development and Portfolio roles. Susan began her career in strategy consulting/M&A, followed by a stint leading biotech seed investments in ABRDN. She has an MA and PhD from the University of Cambridge and is a previous Fellow of the Securities Institute.

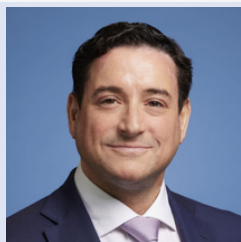


Paul Major, Independent director

Paul has worked in healthcare-related finance roles for thirty years, including positions in investment banking, sell-side research and portfolio management. Within these roles, he has covered all major healthcare sub-sectors and geographies.

Paul has also worked as a consultant for several asset management businesses, advising on portfolio construction and fundraising topics, including PIPE and VC funding for Life Sciences companies.

He has a biochemistry background, with research experience at the Agricultural and Food Research Council and the UK National Health Service.



Gil Bar-Nahum, Managing Director and EMEA Head of Biotechnology, Jefferies International

Dr. Gil Bar-Nahum is a Managing Director and EMEA Head of Biotechnology in the Global Healthcare Investment Banking Group at Jefferies, based in London. He leads the team with a primary focus on innovative companies in Europe and Israel.

Dr. Bar-Nahum has over 20 years of investment banking experience and has executed transactions for biotechnology, pharmaceutical, medical technology, and life science tools companies. In the last several years, Dr. Bar-Nahum has led the execution of more than 60 financings, including 30+ IPOs for foreign private issuers (on NASDAQ), raising more than US\$5.0Bn. Since joining Jefferies in 2009, Dr Bar-Nahum has also advised on more than a dozen cross-border M&A transactions and strategic partnerships. From 2002-2009 Dr. Bar-Nahum was part of UBS Investment Bank's Global Healthcare Group, based primarily in the US. Prior to that, Dr. Bar-Nahum worked as an Equity Research Analyst for UBS where he served as an Associate Director covering companies in the Life Science Tools and Biotechnology space.

Dr. Bar-Nahum received his PhD in Basic Medical Sciences from the Department of Biochemistry at the Sackler Institute of New York University School of Medicine. The subject of Dr. Bar-Nahum's doctorate work was published twice in the journal Cell. Dr. Bar-Nahum also received an MS from New York University's School of Medicine in Cell and Molecular Biology and a BS from the University of Illinois in Microbiology.



Victoria Taylor, Principal, Medicxi

Victoria is a Principal at Medicxi. Prior to joining Medicxi, Victoria worked at the Foundation Institute for 21st Century Medicine (C21Med), focusing on early-stage company creation and operations. Here she co-founded a number of companies that received Medicxi investment including Imhotex, Perfect Balance and Pandeia Therapeutics (sold to an undisclosed party).

Victoria currently serves on the boards of portfolio companies Neurommune and Tactix Bio and has supported on a number of Medicxi investments including RAPT Therapeutics (acquired by GSK) and MiroBio (acquired by Gilead Sciences).

Victoria graduated with an MBiochem in Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry from the University of Oxford.



Naveed Siddiqi, Senior Partner, Novo Holdings

Naveed joined Novo Holdings A/S in 2019 and works from London and Copenhagen as a Senior Partner in Venture Investments.

He brings more than 25 years of experience in life science investments and investment banking. Between 2013 and 2018, he was Partner at Andera Partners, a Paris based venture capital and growth equity firm with over 2 billion euros under management, focusing on life science investing. He has also worked for Nomura Phase4 Ventures, Nomura International, EFG Corporate Finance, KPMG and as a medical doctor in the UK's National Health Service. During his career he has served on multiple European and US boards.

At Novo Holdings he has served on the Boards of Amolyt (acquired by AstraZeneca), Reviral (acquired by Pfizer), Vectivbio (IPO on NASDAQ and acquired by Ironwood), Alentis Therapeutics, Asceneuron, F2G and Windward Bio. He also served as Board Observer at Numab (sale of Yellow Jersey Therapeutics to J&J). Naveed obtained his medical degree from Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital Medical School (now King's College London). Later, he also qualified as a chartered accountant from the Institute of Chartered Accountants England & Wales.

Featured Charity

BEAT

Beat
Eating disorders

In the UK 1 in 20 people, 3.5million are likely living with an eating disorder.

Yet too many struggle to access support and treatment. Beat is the UK's eating disorder charity, helping those affected now while working to prevent others being affected in the future. We do this by:

Answer the Call:

Too many people facing eating disorders feel they have nowhere to turn. Through our Helpline, services and digital support, we provide practical support to over 500,000 people affected by eating disorders and those who care for them.

Spread the Word:

Early intervention saves lives. Through research, awareness raising and training for schools, healthcare professionals and communities, we help more people recognise the signs of an eating disorder and know how to respond.

Change the Story:

Beat brings evidence-led insight to partner with the NHS, government and industry to improve access to treatment and create lasting systemic change.

**"WATCHING YOUR CHILD BECOME CONSUMED BY AN ILLNESS YOU
DON'T UNDERSTAND IS TERRIFYING. BEAT WAS THERE FOR US
WHEN WE NEEDED THEM."**

Join BEAT CEO Vanessa Longley at 11:00 for insights into the life-changing work BEAT does to support those affected by eating disorders



Vanessa Longley
Chief Executive Officer, BEAT Eating Disorders

Vanessa has extensive leadership experience in mental health and youth sectors; most recently as Chief Executive of early intervention charity Chance UK, and previously in senior roles at YoungMinds, where as Director of Development and interim Co-CEO she led significant income growth and transformation to address the youth mental health crisis. She is passionate about centring those with lived experience in all Beat's work.

**Eating disorders are preventable.
Recovery is always possible.**

Find out more or support our work: www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk

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- ✓ IPO
- ✓ Crisis communications
- ✓ Profile raising
- ✓ Maximising data

STRATEGIC, PROACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE

500	140	25
Client track record	Current clients	Optimum team

Over the last 2 years our team advised on:

67	7.3	90	10.8	130	70
M&A and licensing deals	USD bn	Fundraisings	USD bn	Clinical developments	Appointments

Financings, deals & data

Financings



\$77.5m Series A financing



\$40m financing



\$86.6m Series B financing



\$58m Series A financing



\$98m Series D financing



€67.5m Series A financing



\$56m Series C financing



Closes €82m Sofinnova MD Start IV fund



\$32m CAD financing



€50m financing



€17m Seed financing



\$56m financing



€6m investment round



\$71m fundraise



£63.5m Series B financing



DKK 5.5bn grant to elevate innovation



€500m fund V



€52m financing



\$41.3m grant and exits stealth



€650m close of Capital XI fund

Deals and collaborations

 Up to \$7.8 bn acquisition of Medixi portfolio company by Eli Lilly & Co	 Mission Tx divested MTX652 to Dimerix for \$292m	 €115m licensing agreement of Hansa Biopharma with Serb Pharmaceuticals	 \$230m exclusive global licensing agreement with Pacira BioSciences
 ResolutionTx partners with Blood Centres of America	 \$1.1bn acquisition of Calliditas by Asahi Kasei Corporation	 Dalton Tx to collaborate with Sygnature Discovery on drug discovery platform	 \$1.5bn acquisition of Myrix Bio by Novartis
 \$1.5bn acquisition of Medixi portfolio company by Eli Lilly & Co	 DKK 700m collaboration with NVIDIA for Premesis to house AI Supercomputer	 \$1.6bn acquisition of Vicebio by Sanofi	 \$13.1bn acquisition of Sofinnova partners' Portfolio Company by Johnson & Johnson
 KKR acquisition of HealthCare Royalty Partners	 Strategic partnership	 \$10bn acquisition of Verona Pharma by Merck	 Dalton Tx AI collaboration with Bonito Biosciences
 \$415m licensing agreement signed with Eli Lilly & Co	 Synaffix \$107m acquisition by Lonza	 \$1.05bn acquisition of Novo Holdings Portfolio Company by AstraZeneca	 Scenic biotech joins Michael J. Fox Foundation's LITE programme

Clinical milestones



EU approval of
leriglitazone



Keltis makes first
commercial
implant of
aXess™



Positive human data
for lead candidate
ATR-258



Positive preliminary
Phase I data for PD



Patients Dosed in the
POLB 001 TOPICAL
Clinical Trial



Initiates Phase IIa
Clinical Trial of
CTH20



Successfully
completes Phase I
clinical trial of
KIT2014



Launch of
Smartphone-
Controlled Kaleido
Pump System



First Patient Dosed
with MST-0312 in
the Phase I
STARLYS Trial



Positive Phase I
first-in-human data
with FB301



First patient treated
with Idefixir



Gains MDR
certification for
STIMULAN®



Commences Phase II
trial of AP31969



Successful results
from Phase I of
Parkinson's disease
peptide TT-P34



Completes
enrollment in Phase
I/II EMERALD clinical
trial



Promising Phase I
sarcoma data of
METTL3 inhibitor



Commencement of
Phase IIb trial
of AP306



Positive 24-month
Follow-up Data
from Phase I
Radspherin® Study



Positive Phase I
Results for DT-9081



Enters ASEAN region
with regulatory
approval in
Malaysia

Awards in the past year!

Optimum clients have already won many high profile life science awards in 2026, and the year isn't over yet!

2026 Shortlisted



Best Use of AI in Drug
Discovery & Preclinical
Development



Colleen
Acosta
CEO



Reuben
Dawkins
CEO



Michelle
Morrow
CSO



Diana
Čekatauskaitė
Director



Javier
Nunez-Vicandi
Principal



2026 Finalists



2025 Winners



Best Clinical
Stage R&D
of the Year



Best Preclinical
Stage R&D
of the Year



Primary R&D
Company
of the Year





Babraham
Research
Campus



"Capital and confidence, not just chemistry and biology, are what turn European research into global companies. The ecosystems, teams and investors who understand that distinction and act on it early, are the ones positioned to capture the value Europe's science base is already creating."

Rich Ferrie, CEO,
Babraham Research
Campus



From idea to impact



Babraham Research Campus is home to over 60 bioscience companies and the Babraham Institute, providing the infrastructure, networks and commercial support that help translate early-stage science into investable businesses.

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Citi Depository Receipt Services

What is an ADR?

American Depositary Receipts (ADRs) are US\$ denominated equity instruments issued in the US markets through a depository bank. ADRs are used by companies to raise capital in the U.S., with or without a listing in the company's home market.

Why choose an ADR?

ADRs allow companies to broaden their shareholder base and build visibility internationally. ADRs can facilitate merger and acquisition activity through use as an acquisition currency. ADR issuers also benefit from a dedicated account manager who manages company AGMs, employee plans, corporate actions, regulatory and tax matters and provides bespoke reporting on a monthly basis. ADR issuers receive tailored and complimentary investor relations support from a team of former corporate Investor Relations Officers.

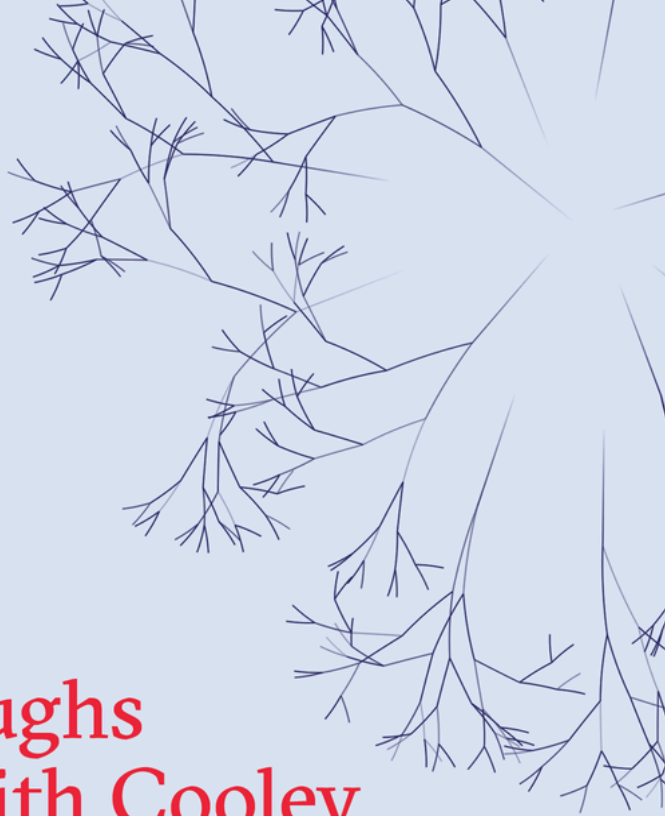
Who buys ADR's?

Many different types of investors buy ADRs, from the world's largest institutions to specialist biotech investors and high-net-worth individuals. The market value of ADRs held by institutional investors has increased from \$720bn in 2010 to \$1,248bn as of 1H 2026.

Companies that have used ADRs for raising capital through Citi as their depository bank:



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\$92,600,000 zentalis Follow-On Offering August 2026	\$500,000,000 VIKING ATM Offering July 2026	\$200,000,000 O32 BIO Follow-On Offering July 2026	\$21,800,000 veru ATM Offering July 2026	\$700,000,000 LIGAND Convertible Notes Offering June 2026	\$50,000,000 ProQR Registered Direct June 2026	\$805,000,000 Definium Follow-On Offering June 2026	\$55,000,000 O32 BIO PIPE May 2026
\$87,500,000 whitehawk PIPE May 2026	\$314,800,000 ODYSSEY IPO & PIPE May 2026	\$150,000,000 inflaRx Follow-On Offering May 2026	\$130,000,000 ocugen Convertible Notes Offering May 2026	\$175,000,000 SAGIMET Registered Direct April 2026	\$69,000,000 spruceBIO Follow-On Offering April 2026	\$173,400,000 trevi Follow-On Offering April 2026	\$30,000,000 APREA THERAPEUTICS PIPE March 2026
\$150,000,000 OnKure PIPE March 2026	\$60,000,000 Ovid PIPE March 2026	\$85,000,000 KORRO PIPE March 2026	\$230,000,000 palvelia Follow-On Offering February 2026	\$125,300,000 evommune Capital Markets Advisor February 2026	\$57,600,000 Coherus Follow-On Offering February 2026	\$460,000,000 NEKTAR Follow-On Offering February 2026	\$57,200,000 satellos U.S. IPO February 2026
\$175,000,000 PERSPECTIVE Registered Direct February 2026	\$172,500,000 HELIx IPO January 2026	\$22,500,000 ocugen Registered Direct January 2026	\$50,000,000 Pelthos Senior Secured Term Loan January 2026	\$26,000,000 iBio PIPE January 2026	\$345,100,000 alumis Follow-On Offering January 2026	\$661,400,000 PRAxis Follow-On Offering January 2026	

 Indicates bookrun / agented transaction.



Scan to Learn More About Oppenheimer's Healthcare Investment Banking Group

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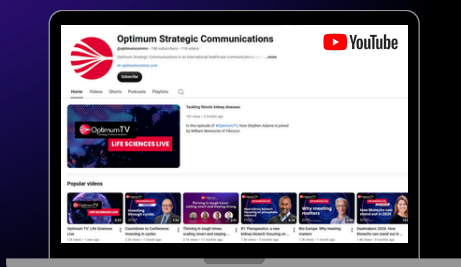
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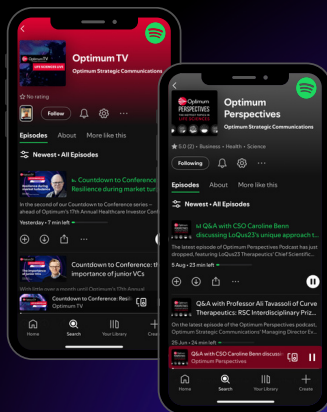
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CONFERENCE

Europe at a crossroads

Leopoldo Zambeletti
Independent Director



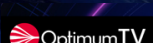


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Biotech's coming of age

Melanie Senior
Biopharma Journalist



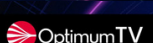


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Babraham: From cowsheds to cancer cures

Louise Jopling
Babraham Research Campus



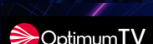


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Revolutionising fatty liver diagnosis with NMR-based metabolomics

Andreas Wolf
numares Health



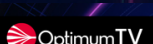


LIFE SCIENCES LIVE

Synkline: Treating CMV before kidney transplantation

Thomas Kledal
Synkline



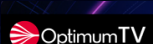


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DEALMAKERS

How Biotechs can stand out in 2026

Anja Harmeler
Roche Venture Fund



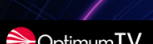


LIFE SCIENCES LIVE
DEALMAKERS

Things can only get better

Clara Campàs
Asabys Partners





LIFE SCIENCES LIVE

Tackling fibrotic kidney diseases

William Newsome
Fibrocor Therapeutics



Running into Jefferies and London Life Sciences Week!

Optimum is bringing the life sciences community together during Jefferies week with two networking opportunities:

- 1 The Networking Event Guide**
showcasing events happening across London around Jefferies Global Healthcare Conference and London Life Science week. Produced by Optimum and Catalyst Advisors, in partnership with Jefferies,
- 2 The London Landmarks Run Club on 17 November**
hosted by Optimum and Catalyst Advisors, offering a sociable way to network, get active and explore some of London's iconic landmarks.



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