



Association of
British Healthcare Industries

ABHI urges Government to protect the UK science budget

9 September 2015, UK – Ahead of the Government's forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review, the Association of British Healthcare Industries (ABHI) signed an open letter to the Government, published in the [Financial Times](#), in which representatives of almost 200 organisations across the UK life sciences industry have urged the government to reinforce its commitment to science in the upcoming Review.

It was important for ABHI to be a signatory to the letter and be involved in this call to action alongside senior life science stakeholders, as it is our collective responsibility to ensure Government not only recognises our sector's vital contribution to the Growth Agenda, but maintains its support of our sector's position as a leader in global healthcare research and development.

Text of the letter and the full list of signatories can be read below.

Sir, The UK is a scientific superpower. Strong, predictable and long-term government investment provides the foundation for its outstanding, multidisciplinary research base. Diverse public funding is critical to maintain the UK's world-leading position, and improve the health and wellbeing of the population. It drives growth and attracts a wealth of global corporations, investors and charities.

As representatives of almost 200 organisations from across the life sciences, we urge the government to reinforce its commitment to science in the 2015 Spending Review and cement the UK as a global leader in research and development. Our investment and support depend on it.

The UK pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical technology and diagnostics sectors generate an estimated annual turnover of £56bn, and employ 183,000 people, even more in supply chains. Venture capitalists and specialist investors back early-stage innovative companies as they grow and flourish. Medical research charities attract support from millions of individual donors, investing £1.3bn a year and funding the salaries of more than 12,000 researchers in universities and institutes. None of this would be possible without strong government support.

Securing public funding for cross-disciplinary research will deliver benefits to patients, increase private sector confidence and deliver productivity gains, not least through the development and retention of a highly skilled workforce. In recent years, Chancellor George Osborne has made it clear that science is a personal priority. We ask the government to deliver its vision for this area by protecting its essential investment.

Full list of signatories:

Peter Ellingworth, Chief Executive, Association of British Healthcare Industries
Alison Clough, Acting Chief Executive, Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
Aisling Burnand, Chief Executive, Association of Medical Research Charities
Dr Menelas Pangalos, Executive Vice-President of Innovative Medicines and Early Development, AstraZeneca
Steve Bates, Chief Executive, BioIndustry Association
Harpal Kumar, Chief Executive, Cancer Research UK
Patrick Vallance, President of Pharmaceuticals R&D, GlaxoSmithKline
Mikael Dolsten, President of Worldwide Research and Development, Pfizer
Martin Murphy, Chief Executive, Syncona Partners
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Matt Regan, General Manager, AbbVie
Alan Hirzel, Chief Executive, Abcam Plc
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Dr Fiona Marston, Chief Executive, Absynth Biologics Limited
Dr John Burt, Chief Executive, Abzena
Dr Julian Gilbert, Chief Executive, Acacia Pharma Ltd
Professor Sir John Tooke, President, Academy of Medical Sciences
Sean Kelly, Chief Executive, Action for A-T
Paul Breckell, Chief Executive, Action on Hearing Loss
Charlie Johnson, Chief Executive, ADC Biotechnology
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David Sharples, Chief Executive, AKL Research and Development
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Dave Roberts, Chief Executive, Alcohol Research UK
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Dr Claire Brown, Investment Manager, Alderley Park Ventures
John Dawson, Chief Executive, Alliance Pharmaceuticals
Hilary Evans, Chief Executive, Alzheimer's Research UK
Jeremy Hughes, Chief Executive, Alzheimer's Society
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Henny Braund, Chief Executive, Anthony Nolan
Jennifer Murray, Managing Director, Antibody Production Services
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Dr Sarah Howell, Chief Executive, Arecor
Dr Liam O'Toole, Chief Executive, Arthritis Research UK
Simon D Harris, Director, AS-Tec Chemicals Ltd
Dr Harren Jhoti, President & Chief Executive, Astex Pharmaceuticals
Kay Boycott, Chief Executive, Asthma UK
William Davis, Chief Executive, Ataxia Telangiectasia Society
Sue Millman, Chief Executive, Ataxia UK
Jon Spiers, Chief Executive, Autistica
Dr Edward Hodgkin, Chief Executive, Autolus
Roy Sutcliffe, General Manager, B&K Universal
Derek Jones, Chief Executive, Babraham Bioscience Technologies Limited
Dr Alexander Moscho, Chief Executive, UK & Ireland, & Managing Director, Bayer
Dr John B March, Chief Executive, BigDNA
Dr Erik Miljan, Chief Executive, Biodivide
Dr Simon Douglas, Chief Executive, Biofortuna
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Dr Geoff Davison, Chief Executive, Bionow
Lin Bateson, Director, BioPartner UK
Dr Shaun McNulty, CSO, Biosceptre UK
Cathy Gilman, Chief Executive, Bloodwise
Nathan Nagel, Chief Executive, Brain-e-Games
Delyth Morgan, Chief Executive, Breast Cancer Now
Simon Gillespie, Chief Executive, British Heart Foundation
Doris-Ann Williams MBE, Chief Executive, British In Vitro Diagnostics Association
Mike Kimmons, Chief Executive, British Orthopaedic Association

Dr William Campbell, President, British Pain Society
Piers Morgan, Chief Executive, C4X Discovery Holdings
Brenda Reynolds, Chief Executive, Calchan
Martin Frost, Chief Executive, Cambridge Medical Robotics
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Dr Anthony Baxter, Chief Executive, Cyprotex
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Dr Emma Banks, Chief Executive, Datatrial
Dr Marcus Yeo, Chief Executive, DefiniGEN
Dr David Williams, Chief Executive, Discuva
Dr Eddy Littler, Chief Executive, Domainex
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Michele Acton, Chief Executive, Fight for Sight
Dr John Haurum, Chief Executive, F-star Biotechnology
Kieran Murphy, Chief Executive, GE Healthcare Life Sciences
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Dr Dave Simpson, Chief Executive, Glythera
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Dr Mike Yeadon, Chief Executive, Ziarco Pharma
Dr Steven M Martin, Chief Executive, ZuvaSyntha

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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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