

Life sciences

Areas of expertise

- licensing deals
- collaboration agreements
- manufacturing, distribution and logistics contracts
- multi-jurisdictional disputes
- intellectual property
- data privacy issues
- acquisitions and disposals
- investments and financings
- IPOs
- tax structuring
- competition/anti-trust issues
- employment, pensions and incentives advice
- public procurement for tenders to the NHS
- real estate for laboratory and manufacturing facilities, including associated planning and environmental matters
- regulatory advice on compliance at all stages during drug development

Straightforward business-friendly advice from lawyers who understand the unique challenges and opportunities presented by the life sciences sector. We enjoy spending time getting to know our clients and working alongside them for the long-term.

We work with a wide range of clients from the life sciences sector including:

- pharmaceutical companies
- biotechnology companies
- medical device and diagnostic companies
- manufacturers, distributors and logistics companies
- investors
- banks and financial institutions

Stephenson Harwood has a market-leading team of life sciences lawyers. Our partners and associates have acted on a wide range of matters with clients ranging from small biotech start-ups through to some of the world's largest multinational pharmaceutical companies.

Our team has a deep understanding of the key commercial drivers on transactions, disputes and strategic alliances in the sector and includes lawyers with science degrees enabling them to have a better appreciation of the technologies being developed by our clients.

"Every single person is excellent. Superb knowledge of the sector and relevant people. Always produce a great job."

"The team has a strong presence in the Life Sciences sector and really understand the business of bringing new treatments successfully to the market."

"Highly knowledgeable in relation to both law and the sector generally. Delightful to work with – efficient, reasonable, careful."

The Legal 500 UK 2023

A flavour of some of the matters our team have advised on:

GlaxoSmithKline Plc ("GSK")

Advised global healthcare company GSK on the vast cross-border trade mark and unfair competition litigation against Sandoz in relation to the widely reported 'purple' litigation and 'shape' litigation. initiated in the UK but settled shortly before trial.

Exscientia PLC

Advised Exscientia PLC on a data protection compliance project and a number of ad hoc issues relating to data protection in the biotech industry.

AM Pharma

Advised AM-Pharma on its EUR 245 million exclusive license agreement deal with Kyowa Kirin, for the development and commercialisation of ilofotase Alfa in Japan. The overall deal value was EUR 245 million.

GE Healthcare

Advised GE Healthcare on the acquisition of Zionexa. GE Healthcare is a medical technology, pharmaceutical diagnostics, and digital solutions company; Zionexa is an innovator of in-vivo oncology and neurology biomarkers that help enable more personalised healthcare.

Contact us



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Oxford Biomedica

Advised this FTSE250 gene and cell therapy company on a number of transactions, including:

- on the new three year Master Services & Development Agreement with AstraZeneca UK Ltd, which would facilitate potential future manufacturing opportunities for the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.
- a licence and supply agreement with Arcellx, Inc. for LentiVector® Platform for CAR-T Therapeutics.
- the manufacture of AZD1222, the adenoviral COVID-19 vaccine candidate developed by Oxford University and commercialised by AstraZeneca.
- a licence and clinical supply agreement with Juno Therapeutics, a Bristol-Myers Squibb company.

e-therapeutics

Acted for e-therapeutics plc on a number of transactions including:

- a £13.5 million equity fundraise, the proceeds of which will facilitate a number of initiatives to accelerate growth.
- a £22.5 million all equity fundraise, which comprises a placing with institutional investors
- a £12.4 million equity fundraise.