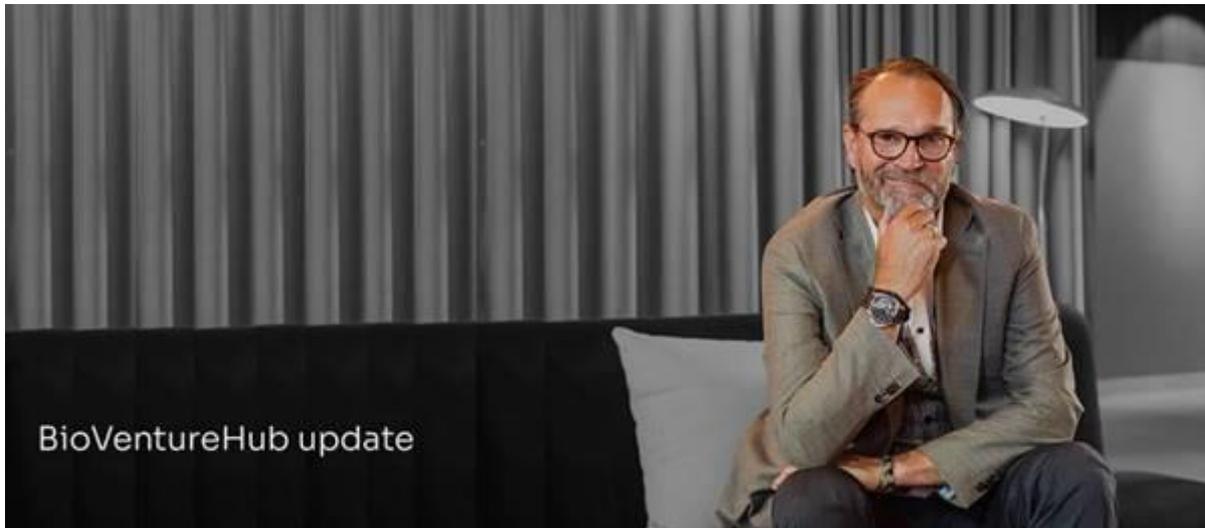


April 2022



Dear friends,

As we sharpen our focus on delivering value to AstraZeneca, we are taking further action to help accelerate the development of [A.Catalyst Network](#) – an interconnected global network of more than 20 AstraZeneca health innovation hubs.

Aligning with the BioVentureHub's mission to catalyse collaborative innovation, the A.Catalyst Network aims to bring together diverse stakeholders to forge non-traditional partnerships and open up new opportunities to enhance patient-enabled innovation.

Success breeds success

As one of the oldest (we prefer to say 'original' 😊) hubs in the network, the BioVentureHub is actively sharing strategic and operational insights, experience and learnings with other AstraZeneca innovation hubs spanning the globe from Brazil through Israel to China and Japan.

So, what's in it for us? Well, we get to expand our global reach, extend our network and enhance the support we can offer BioVentureHub companies as and when they are looking to expand geographically. We can also learn from our peer hubs around the world and collaborate with them when it comes to recruiting companies across geographical borders.

Exploring complementary ideas and technologies @ Slush

The A.Catalyst Network has partnered with [Slush](#), the world-leading start-up event. Together with representatives from other AstraZeneca innovation hubs, we participated at the Slush event in December and have established contact with investors and entrepreneurs developing new technologies that could potentially add value to AstraZeneca and complement the life science ecosystem we are building in and around AstraZeneca. [Read more.](#)

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BioVentureHub receives 90% recommendation, satisfaction and dare-to-share ratings

In our annual survey of current BioVentureHub companies and academic groups, 90% said they would recommend the BioVentureHub to others; 90% feel the BioVentureHub is promoting a dare-to-share/collaborative culture; and the overall satisfaction rating of companies in the BioVentureHub was also 90%. Other highlights from the 2021 survey include:

- SEK 556 million in capital raised
- 14 clinical trials initiated
- 5 new companies joined
- 84 new employees (of which 35 were international recruitments)
- 36 new patents
- 5 companies launched new products
- 1 IPO
- 32% of the companies have ongoing collaborations with AstraZeneca

“The BioVentureHub has been a door opener both in Sweden and internationally for different kinds of collaborations and opportunities...”

“Wow... all of these are what makes the BioVentureHub a magical place. It is the whole working infrastructure of people trying to solve issues and do their best to never say no to a request - a very inspiring and facilitating spirit.”

“We gained access to a group of very knowledgeable staff from AZ in our pre-clinical phase to discuss additional application areas of our technology...”

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Two new academic groups establish in the BioVentureHub: KTH & OligoNova

The KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm has set up a lab in the BioVentureHub. The aim is to test and scale-up an innovative, nanoscale, microfluidic technology platform to produce 3D microtissues for large-scale drug compound screening in a pharmaceutical company setting. [Read more.](#)

[OligoNova Hub](#), the new Swedish national platform for oligonucleotide drug development, is being hosted and constructed in the BioVentureHub. Oligonucleotide therapeutics provide new opportunities to treat many diseases where traditional drugs have failed. OligoNova was initiated by the University of Gothenburg and AstraZeneca in 2020 through support from SweLife and the Swedish government innovation agency, Vinnova. [Read more](#) about the open call for therapeutic oligonucleotide projects.

Using the BioVentureHub in this way as a vehicle to catalyse collaborative innovation and to facilitate interactions between academic researchers, health care professionals and life science companies can generate value for AstraZeneca and everyone involved. Moreover, hosting academic groups of this calibre in the BioVentureHub adds to the vibrancy and diversity of the AstraZeneca Gothenburg site and the life science ecosystem in West Sweden.

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There are currently 31 emerging companies and 3 academic groups co-locating with AstraZeneca in the BioVentureHub. [Meet the companies!](#)

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Extending AstraZeneca's sustainability approach to emerging life science companies

The BioVentureHub has initiated a collaboration with the US-based, non-profit, environmental organisation, My Green Lab, to extend a global AstraZeneca green lab certification program to the emerging life science companies in the BioVentureHub. The aim is to inspire smaller, emerging companies to play their part to act and deliver to improve public and planetary health. Besides sharing sustainability learnings and best practices through seminars and training sessions together with AstraZeneca and My Green Lab experts, BioVentureHub companies also benefit from AstraZeneca sustainability initiatives such as 100% renewable energy, ISO 14001 certification, waste management and the SmartMover scheme to facilitate sustainable travel. [Read more.](#)

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BioVentureHub company updates

Alzinova completed humanisation work and selected a lead candidate for monoclonal antibody, ALZ-201, ([read more](#)) and improved the manufacturing process of vaccine, ALZ-101, to meet phase 2 requirements ([read more](#)).

Antaros Medical is collaborating with Sahlgrenska University Hospital and is planning a project at the imaging and intervention centre (BOIC) in which insulin resistance will be examined using PET imaging ([read more](#)). Antaros also

published results from a liver imaging method study in collaboration with Uppsala University and Boehringer Ingelheim in the Journal of Magnetic Resonance Imaging ([read more](#)).

Cereno Scientific announced that progress made in preclinical program, CS014, triggered a milestone payment to BioVentureHub company, Emeriti Bio. [Read more.](#)

Cline Scientific published a scientific paper entitled “Insights into the present and future of cartilage regeneration and joint repair” in the Cell Regeneration journal. [Read more.](#)

Ectin Research received approval from the Swedish Ethical Review Authority for a phase I/II study into metastatic urothelial bladder cancer” ([read more](#)) and also announced a contract research agreement with the Sahlgrenska Academy at the University of Gothenburg to evaluate further use of MFA-370 ([read more](#)). Anna Sjöblom-Hallén, Ectin’s CEO, won GU Ventures Leader of the Year 2021 ([read more](#)).

Intelligent Implants has been recognised by SOSV (a global venture capital firm) on their “Human Health 100” list. [Read more.](#)

NanoSIMS published a scientific paper in collaboration with AstraZeneca and the University of Gothenburg AstraZeneca entitled “NanoSIMS imaging reveals the impact of Ligand-ASO conjugate stability on ASO subcellular distribution” in the Pharmaceutics journal. [Read more.](#)

OnDosis achieved a significant milestone with the first parts for the OnDosis Dosage Manager manufactured from serial production. [Read more.](#)

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Welcome Yorick and Per!

We are very pleased to welcome [Yorick Kamlag](#) and [Per Hillertz](#) to our ecosystem team. Per and Yorick will work closely with [Anders Persson](#) and the rest of the team to create and develop partnerships relevant for the BioVentureHub, AstraZeneca and the wider life science ecosystem. Click [here](#) (and scroll down) to see all the BioVentureHub team members.

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BioVentureHub BUZZ

- **FILM:** Vinnova produced [a new film](#) about the BioVentureHub.

- **PODCAST:** EMG Health featured an interview with Magnus talking about innovation, collaboration and creativity in a recent [EMG Gold podcast](#).
- **ARTICLE:** CTech, a technology news site providing high impact stories from the Israeli tech scene, posted [an article on the BioVentureHub](#) based on an interview with Magnus. The article also highlighted the “The Connector” innovation program organised as an R&D collaboration between Sweden and Israel.
- **ARTICLE:** The Innovator featured the BioVentureHub in [a recent article](#) on how it is catalysing collaborative innovation between BioVenturehub company, Waters, and AstraZeneca to optimise workflows in the drug development process.
- **AZ TALK*:** The BioVentureHub team produced an [AZ Talk*](#) featuring Bret Sellman and Taylor Cohen from AstraZeneca’s Microbiome Discovery group discussing with Sara Malcus from BioVentureHub company, Metabogen. how the microbiome could be harnessed to improve patient outcomes.
- **PANEL:** Our CEO, [Magnus Björsne](#), participated in a mainstage panel discussion on “The magic of collaboration – joining forces for the future to reach UN SDG 3” at [Sweden innovation Days](#).
- **PANEL:** Our COO, [Pernilla Isberg](#), participated on a panel discussion at a [Business Ecosystem Alliance event](#) and discussed Ecosystems Work.

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Get in touch

By repurposing and sharing infrastructure, expertise and ideas, the BioVentureHub supporting the sustainable growth of emerging life science companies and the wider healthcare ecosystem. At the same time, the BioVentureHub is generating value for AstraZeneca by exposing AstraZeneca to a wider diversity of science, technology and ways of working.

If you have an innovative idea, project or technology that could complement AstraZeneca’s offering and benefit from being developed in close proximity to AstraZeneca experts, we’d love to hear from you. [Contact us](#).

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For more information about the BioVentureHub, see the [BioVentureHub website](#) and please follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Workplace*](#).

Take care and stay healthy!

Magnus

Magnus Björsne
CEO, AstraZeneca BioVentureHub

* Internal AstraZeneca link. Only accessible to AstraZeneca employees.

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