INSIDE MEDICON VALLEY

Number 5 | 2026/2027

The Leading Life Science Cluster in the EU

Manufacturing for a Resilient Life Science Future

Medtech Innovation from Research to Patient Impact

Precision Medicine for Earlier, Smarter Healthcare

Innovation Districts Connecting Science, Talent and Growth

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One of the Leading Life Science Clusters in the EU

The Swedish-Danish Medicon Valley in the Øresund Region is one of Europe's leading Life Science clusters and a strong Nordic hub for research, innovation and growth. Academic and clinical strengths on both sides of the Øresund include cancer, diabetes, fertility, precision medicine and advanced therapies.

The region is home to global pharma, medtech, biotech and contract manufacturing companies in close proximity to universities, hospitals, research facilities, science parks and innovative start-ups. With more than 1,500 Life Science companies, over 80,000 employees in private Life Science companies, 12 universities and 32 hospitals, Medicon Valley encompasses a thriving and growing ecosystem. The region continues to explore new fields and frontiers such as biomanufacturing, ATMP, microbiomes, AI-driven Life Science discovery and development, precision medicine and women's health.

Collaboration Across Borders

The region is home to a well-educated, English-speaking and digitally competent labour force crossing the Swedish-Danish border. But one of the region's greatest strengths lies in its unique collaboration framework between public and private actors, large pharma companies, SMEs, academia, healthcare, investors and start-ups. As a bi-national cluster spanning eastern Denmark and southern Sweden, collaboration is part of Medicon Valley's DNA, creating strong conditions for successful partnerships, clinical development and ground-breaking innovation.

A Region Built for Growth

By building on its scientific strongholds, industrial capabilities and cross-border collaboration, Medicon Valley continues to attract international companies, investment and talent. This strengthens the region's position as one of Europe's most dynamic Life Science ecosystems and creates a virtuous circle for future growth.

/ Anette Steenberg
CEO Medicon Valley Alliance (MVA)

Asbjørn Overgaard
CEO Copenhagen Capacity

Malin Bornschein
CEO Medeon Science Park

Micael Gyorei
Director Investment Promotion
Invest in Skåne – Region Skåne



Southern Sweden at the Heart of Medicon Valley Innovation

Welcome to the Swedish side of Medicon Valley: Skåne region of southern Sweden – a hub for Life Science innovation.

Medicon Valley is not just a geographical area, but a dynamic and cross-border innovation hot-spot that connects our two nations – Sweden and Denmark – through a shared passion for Life Science. On the Swedish side of the strait, with Skåne at the forefront, we form a central part of this cluster, known for our deep academic expertise, a thriving startup scene, world-leading research infrastructure and a manufacturing hub at a very competitive cost level.

Here you will find a unique concentration of universities such as Lund University with its distinguished Faculty of Medicine, as well as prominent hospitals and research institutes. We are home to groundbreaking facilities such as the MAX IV laboratory and the ESS (European Spallation Source), which already now and for the future will open up revolutionary discoveries in areas such as materials science and bio-medicine.

The Swedish part of Medicon Valley is characterised by a strong tradition of collaboration between academia, industry, and the public sector, creating a fertile environment for translational research and the development of new treatments and technologies.

Our commitment to innovation extends from basic research to commercialisation, where a vibrant environment for entrepreneurship and business development thrives. This makes Medicon Valley an attractive destination for talent, investments, and collaborations aimed at solving global health challenges and improving people's quality of life.

Welcome to the sweet spot of Sweden!

Micael Gyorei
Director Investment Promotion
– Invest in Skåne – Region Skåne

Building the Next Generation of Antibody Therapeutics

From the Øresund region — one of Europe's strongest Life Science environments — Servier Symphogen turns increasingly complex biology into new therapeutic options for patients, as an integrated part of a foundation-owned global research group.

Servier Symphogen occupies a distinctive position in European antibody research. With approximately 150 employees in Copenhagen, it brings together deep expertise in antibody discovery, engineering and development — pairing the agility of its Nordic biotech heritage with the reach of a global research group.
Its purpose is demanding but clear: to advance next-generation antibody-based therapeutics for cancers of high unmet medical need.

"Antibodies have transformed the treatment landscape for many patients, and we still see tremendous opportunity to unlock their potential. Our ambition is to combine scientific excellence with a long-term commitment to innovation, so we can deliver meaningful advances for patients." **Christophe Thurieau, Chief Executive Officer, Servier Symphogen**



Where Long-Term Research Drives Innovation

Servier is governed by a foundation — an ownership model suited to the long timeframes that real research requires, and one that allows the group to reinvest its profits into development for the benefit of patients. The group pursues research across three therapeutic areas — oncology, neurology, and cardiometabolism & venous diseases — with oncology as its largest, reflecting the significant unmet needs that remain across many forms of cancer.

The commitment is reflected in concrete figures: close to 20% of brand-name revenue is reinvested in R&D each year, with oncology accounting for around 70% of the R&D budget.

Turning Complex Biology into Patient Impact

Turning a biological target into a working medicine is where antibody science becomes hardest — and it is where Servier Symphogen concentrates its capabilities. The organization runs the full path from discovery to early development: mining large antibody repertoires with next-generation sequencing and bioinformatics, isolating fully human antibodies, and screening tens of thousands of candidates down to a small set of optimised leads.

From there, the science moves beyond conventional monoclonals into more sophisticated formats. Bispecific and trispecific antibodies are designed to engage several biological targets at once — for example, bringing an immune cell into contact with a tumour cell. Antibody–drug conjugates take a different approach, using the antibody as a precision delivery vehicle to carry a potent payload directly to its target while sparing healthy tissue. Increasingly, artificial intelligence and machine learning support this work — helping to identify new targets, predict molecular properties and accelerate the design of promising candidates.



Every format is chosen to improve selectivity, efficacy and patient outcomes. The aim is not simply to make new molecules, but to expand what antibody therapeutics can achieve. Oncology is where Servier Symphogen has come furthest and where its expertise runs deepest — but the ambition reaches further: as antibody and biologic science matures, the goal is to bring that same expertise to bear in neurology.

Innovation Through Collaboration

Scientific breakthroughs rarely happen in isolation, and collaboration has long defined both Medicon Valley and Servier's approach to innovation. As a foundation-owned international group, Servier can pursue a long-term perspective while actively engaging external partners across academia, biotechnology and healthcare — combining complementary expertise to accelerate progress. That openness is real in scale: more than 60 active research partnerships in 2024/25 and a global network of over 300 academic and industrial partners.

For Servier Symphogen, being part of Medicon Valley means access to one of the most dynamic Life Science environments in Europe. The close proximity of universities, hospitals, start-ups and established industry creates opportunities for knowledge exchange, partnership and talent development.

"Collaboration is deeply embedded in the culture of Medicon Valley. The region brings together exceptional scientific talent and a strong willingness to work across disciplines and organisations — and that is exactly the environment in which innovation thrives."

Jane Juel, Chief Operating Officer, Servier Symphogen

Local Expertise in a Global R&D Engine

While Servier Symphogen is rooted in Denmark, its role reaches far beyond the region. As part of Servier's global R&D organisation, the scientific expertise and antibody technologies developed in Copenhagen contribute directly to the Group's ambition to build a strong and differentiated pipeline in oncology — and, increasingly, to support innovation across other therapeutic areas where biologics may play an important role.

This position gives Servier Symphogen a distinctive bridge-building role: combining the agility and scientific depth of its biotech heritage with the scale, infrastructure and long-term perspective of an international pharmaceutical group. It is a combination that allows research to be pursued with the continuity and focus that ambitious science demands.

For Servier Symphogen, the mission is clear: to advance antibody innovation, expand what is possible in therapeutic design, and help bring new treatment options to patients who need them most.

Strengthening Medicon Valley Through Cross-Border Collaboration

Medicon Valley Alliance's core focus is to strengthen our cross-border foundation, triple-helix collaboration and regional competitiveness — for our members, for Medicon Valley and for Denmark, Sweden and Europe as a whole. We do this together with partners such as the science park Medeon, Copenhagen Capacity, Invest in Skåne and key stakeholders across academia, hospitals and industry. Together with our 300+ member companies and organisations from Denmark, Sweden and the rest of Europe, they form an attractive and continuously growing meeting place and marketplace for life science in the Nordics.

We strengthen the life science ecosystem through tailor-made events, conferences, network meetings and seminars, as well as through strategic long-term partnership projects that foster cross-border collaboration and public-private synergies. Together, these activities contribute to the positioning of Denmark and Sweden as leading life science nations. Our current flagship projects include DiaUnion, ReproUnion, Cross Border Talent Bridge and the new Nordic project, "WHIVA Nordic (Women's Health Innovation, Ventures & Access)", developed in collaboration with, among others, DTU – Technical University of Denmark, SmiLe Venture Hub and The Life Science Cluster, and funded by EU Interreg.

While Medicon Valley may not have the same scale or access to capital as global hubs such as Boston, our strength lies in the ability to build on distinctive regional strongholds and focus our efforts where we have the strongest potential to achieve world-class excellence. By concentrating on areas where Denmark and Sweden already demonstrate scientific, clinical and commercial leadership — and where new opportunities are emerging — we can create even stronger cross-border value. These areas include, but are not limited to, oncology, diabetes, microbiome, fertility, regenerative medicines, ATMPs and, as illustrated by the project highlighted above, women's health.

Visit mva.org to learn more about the benefits of membership and how our strategic projects help position Medicon Valley as a world-leading life science cluster — actively contributing to European innovation, collaboration and competitiveness.

Anette Steenberg
CEO Medicon Valley Alliance (MVA)

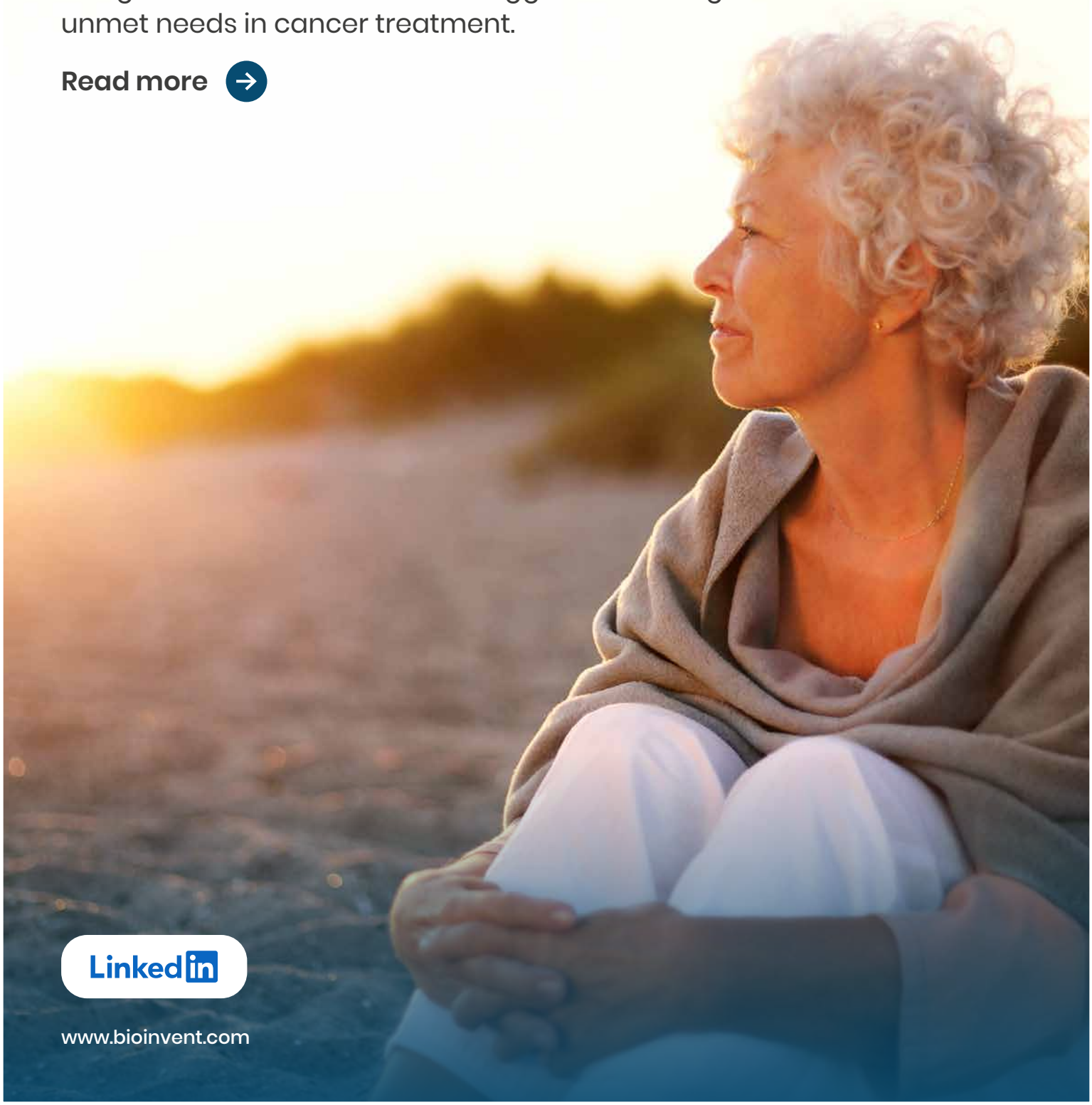


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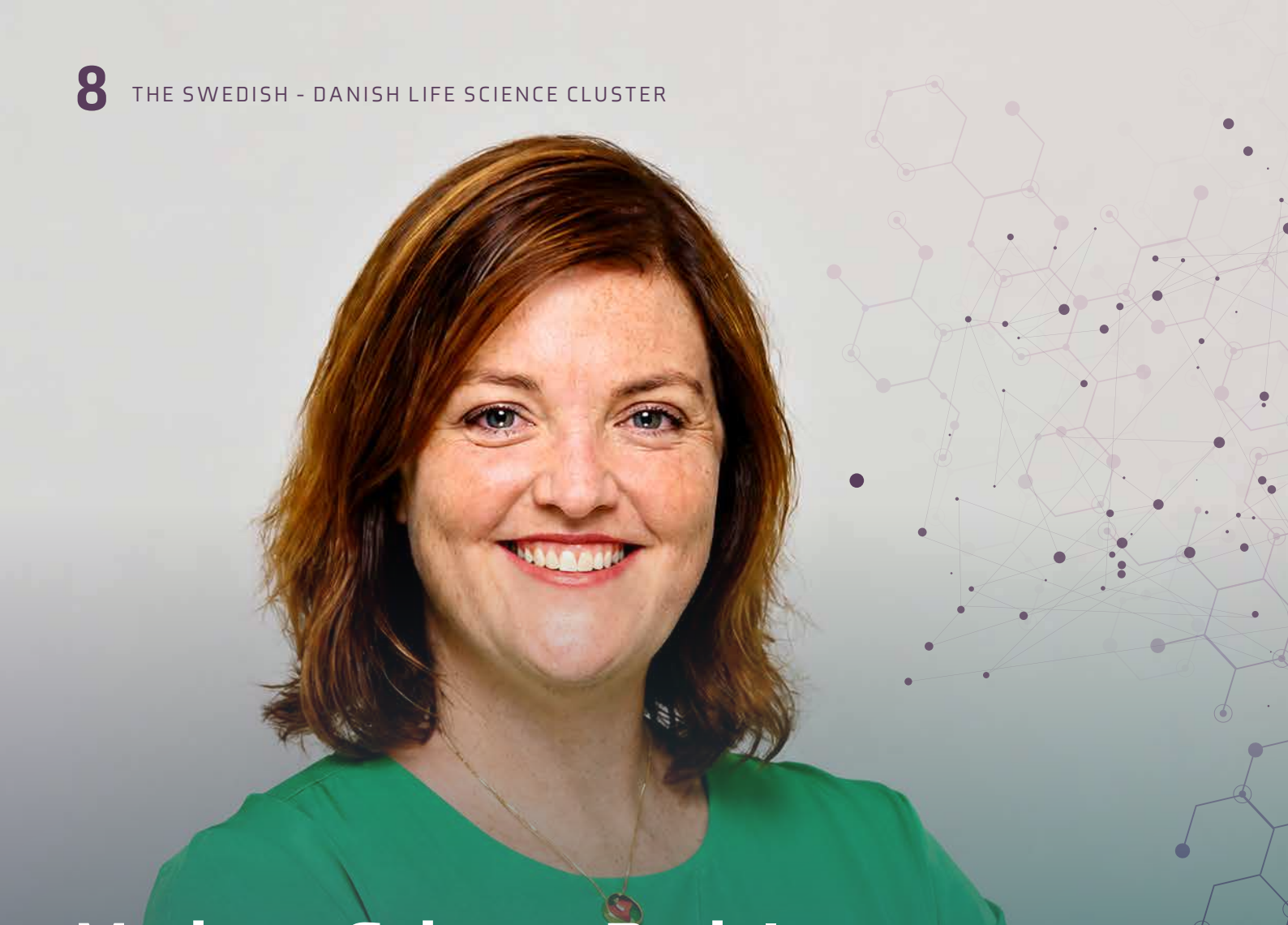
We are developing next-generation IO therapies designed to address one of the biggest remaining unmet needs in cancer treatment.

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Medeon Science Park Is Building Scandinavia's Strongest MedTech Ecosystem

Medeon Science Park is entering a new chapter with a clear focus on MedTech and a goal to create the strongest environment in Scandinavia for MedTech companies to start, develop and grow. From our base in Malmö, at the heart of the Medicon Valley Life Science region, we bring together companies, healthcare, academia, investors and specialist expertise.

Our co-working lab gives companies access to facilities and infrastructure for development and testing. Together with our incubator, business support and specialist networks, it enables us to support companies from early development towards growth and market. Through the TIM project, with its specific focus on MedTech, and Oral Bridge, connecting innovation and expertise within oral health, we contribute to testbed environments and collaborations that can help companies move from promising ideas towards solutions with real clinical and commercial potential.

MedTech is our focus. Prevention, diabetes, oral health and healthy ageing are our strength areas, fields where Medeon and the surrounding region have particularly strong networks, expertise and opportunities for collaboration.Our location is another key strength. We are in close proximity to Skåne University Hospital, Lund University and Malmö University, creating opportunities for closer interaction between companies, research and healthcare.

Together with the City of Malmö, Wihlborgs and partners across the region, we are continuing to develop Medeon and strengthen the conditions for MedTech innovation.

Our ambition is to make Medeon and Malmö the natural home for MedTech in Scandinavia.

Malin Bornschein
CEO Medeon Science Park

Connecting Global Life Science with the Right Ecosystem

For more than 30 years, Copenhagen Capacity has helped international companies and highly qualified professionals find their place in Denmark and the Greater Copenhagen Region. Life Science remains a strategic priority — and one of the region's strongest global positions.

At the heart of this strength is Medicon Valley. Its concentration of world-class research, innovative companies, skilled talent and collaborative institutions gives international Life Science companies a compelling reason to establish and expand their activities here.

However, a successful ecosystem is about more than proximity. It depends on connections between people, ideas, research and industry. The openness and willingness to collaborate across organisations — and across the Danish-Swedish border — are among Medicon Valley's most valuable competitive advantages.

Our cooperation with Innovation District Copenhagen further strengthens these connections. Copenhagen Capacity is responsible for attracting foreign-owned companies to locations within the district. Together, we connect international Life Science companies with some of the region's most dynamic innovation environments, placing new companies and researchers at the intersection of leading research, clinical expertise, industry and talent.

Access to highly qualified people is equally important. Through initiatives such as Science Hub Denmark, Copenhagen Capacity applies its experience in international talent attraction to help Denmark attract the specialists needed to sustain innovation and growth.

None of this can be achieved by one organisation alone. Our close cooperation with partners including Innovation District Copenhagen, Invest in Skåne, Medicon Valley Alliance and Medeon helps international companies navigate the region, establish valuable relationships and become part of its Life Science community.

We are proud to contribute to Inside Medicon Valley and to our shared ambition of strengthening the region as one of the world's leading places for Life Science innovation.

Asbjørn Overgaard
CEO Copenhagen Capacity



Medicon Valley in a European Perspective

Among Europe's leading Life Science clusters, Medicon Valley has established itself as one of the continent's strongest and most balanced innovation ecosystems. When compared with major hubs such as the UK's Golden Triangle, BioValley, BioM and Flanders, the Swedish-Danish cluster consistently ranks among Europe's leaders across drug development, clinical research, financing and business development.

A Strong Development Pipeline

One of the region's greatest strengths is the size of its development pipeline. Medicon Valley ranks among Europe's top clusters in the number of drug candidates under development, reflecting the combined strength of global pharmaceutical companies, successful biotech firms and a steady stream of innovative startups. Rather than relying on a single therapeutic area, the pipeline is broadly distributed across multiple disease areas and development stages, creating a balanced portfolio with long-term growth potential.

Clinical Development and Biologics

The region also continues to strengthen its clinical footprint. Industry-sponsored clinical trials have increased steadily, placing Medicon Valley among Europe's most active regions for clinical development. A particularly notable feature is the high proportion of biologics, highlighting the cluster's expertise in antibody therapeutics, cell-based medicines and other advanced biological treatments that are expected to play an increasingly important role in future healthcare.

Access to Capital

Access to capital is another area where Medicon Valley stands out. According to the State of Medicon Valley analysis, the region ranks among the most active fundraising clusters in the European Union. Between 2019 and mid-2025, companies secured US$ 9.8 billion through 134 financing transactions, illustrating investors' continued confidence in the region's scientific and commercial potential.

The financing landscape spans venture capital, PIPE transactions, IPOs, follow-on offerings and debt financing, demonstrating a mature ecosystem capable of supporting companies throughout their growth journey.

Borderless Collaboration

Collaboration has long been one of Medicon Valley's defining characteristics, and the latest data confirms that position. The region ranks third in Europe for both alliance activity and acquisitions, reflecting a highly connected ecosystem where companies actively pursue licensing deals, research collaborations, strategic partnerships and corporate transactions to accelerate innovation and expand internationally.

A Competitive European Life Science Hub

While each European Life Science cluster has its own strengths, Medicon Valley distinguishes itself through the combination of scientific excellence, clinical development, investment capacity and cross-border collaboration. Together, these qualities have created one of Europe's most competitive Life Science ecosystems—and one that continues to strengthen its international position year after year.

This article is based on the State of Medicon Valley Report 2025, available for download at:

mva.org/press/state-of-medicon-valley/



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Spotlight on Medicon Valley

Medicon Valley continues to strengthen its position as one of Europe's leading Life Science clusters, combining world-class research with an increasingly mature commercial ecosystem.

A Cross-Border Region

Stretching across eastern Denmark and southern Sweden, the region brings together universities, hospitals, multinational pharmaceutical companies, innovative biotech firms and a network of science parks and incubators that help transform research into new therapies.

From Research to Therapies

Innovation is nurtured throughout the region by incubators and science parks such as Medicon Village in Lund, COBIS in Copenhagen, Symbion, Medeon Science Park, Ideon Science Park and BioInnovation Institute. Together they provide laboratory facilities, business development support, investment networks and close links to academia and healthcare, creating an environment where startups can grow alongside global industry leaders.

Oncology as a Strength

The region's drug development pipeline continues to expand steadily, reflecting both the strength of established pharmaceutical companies and a vibrant biotech sector. Oncology remains one of Medicon Valley's defining areas of expertise, accounting for the largest share of drug development projects while also representing a significant proportion of the region's approved medicines. The combination of a broad oncology pipeline and a growing portfolio of marketed therapies highlights Medicon Valley's ability to translate scientific discoveries into clinical practice.

Clinical Reach

Clinical development is equally impressive. Companies headquartered in Medicon Valley sponsor hundreds of clinical trials around the world, underlining the international reach of the region's Life Science industry. The strong clinical activity demonstrates that Medicon Valley is not only a centre for research, but also for advancing new medicines through every stage of development towards regulatory approval.

Financing Growth

Investment activity remains another key strength. Between January 2019 and June 2025, companies headquartered in Medicon Valley raised US$ 9.8 billion across 134 financing transactions. Private investments in public equity (PIPEs) accounted for the largest share by value at US$ 4.2 billion, while venture financing contributed US$ 1.4 billion through 42 deals. Companies also raised almost US$ 1.9 billion through follow-on public offerings and nearly US$ 800 million through IPOs, demonstrating access to both private and public capital markets.

Cluster Collaboration

The collaborative nature of the cluster is reflected in its high level of partnering activity, with companies regularly entering licensing agreements, research collaborations and strategic alliances that accelerate innovation and international growth. Mergers and acquisitions also remain an important feature of the ecosystem, illustrating both the maturity of local companies and the global interest in technologies developed within the region.

A Dynamic Innovation Ecosystem

Taken together, the figures paint a picture of a Life Science cluster that combines scientific excellence with commercial momentum. From early-stage incubation to late-stage drug development, financing, partnerships and acquisitions, Medicon Valley continues to demonstrate why it is recognised as one of Europe's most dynamic innovation ecosystems.

Medicon Valley Alliance



BRIDGING LIFE SCIENCE IN THE NORDIC



WELCOME TO MVA´S WOMEN´S HEALTH NETWORK

With the Medicon Valley Alliance Women's Health Network it's our ambition to gather our members from industry, academia and the public sector, who are or want to be engaged in this agenda to knowledge-share, create partnership and advocate for more focus, research funding and investments in start-ups, etc on Women's Health

Our vision is to make Medicon Valley an attractive hub for research and development of medicine and equipment adapted to women's biology and bodies, as well as to create an attractive eco-system for entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, and other talents in this field. Altogether, something that will create a virtuous circle and a strong life science eco-system – also within women's health.

The network meets at least twice a year and with agendas to be decided on an ongoing basis with input from the participating MVA members. It is the ambition that the meetings will be hosted evenly on Danish and Swedish venues.

Learn more about MVA´s Women´s Health Network and how to join by contacting MVA Network and Event Manager, Katrine Brems Olsen at kbo@mva.org

MVA.ORG

Helping Medtech Innovations Reach the Market

As healthcare companies face growing demands for faster product launches, resilient supply chains and increasingly complex regulatory requirements, manufacturing has become a strategic part of product development. At Nolato Medical Solutions, the goal is to support customers throughout that entire journey – from concept to commercial production.



As Vice President of Global Business Development at Nolato Medical Solutions, Tobias Dahlgren works closely with customers to understand their challenges and connect them with the company's global expertise in product development, industrialisation, manufacturing, and supply chain management.

– A large part of my role is building long-term partnerships and helping customers move from an early product idea to robust, scalable commercial production, he says.

Nolato is a global development and manufacturing partner for the medtech and pharmaceutical industries, specialising in advanced polymer engineering, precision injection moulding, automation, and cleanroom manufacturing. The company supports customers throughout the entire product lifecycle, helping transform innovative concepts into high-volume manufacturing while reducing risk and shortening time to market. In addition, Nolato offers a range of standard products, including primary plastic packaging, breathing bags and laboratory products.

– We don't see ourselves simply as a manufacturer, says Dahlgren.

– Our ambition is to be a long-term partner that helps customers industrialise products, scale production efficiently and build resilient supply chains.

The company works with organisations of all sizes, from emerging medtech companies preparing for commercialisation to global healthcare leaders expanding production capacity.

Partner for Life

As the healthcare sector continues to evolve, manufacturers are expected to do much more than produce components. Customers increasingly look for partners that can navigate complex regulatory requirements, support sustainable manufacturing, and ensure stable global supply chains.

– This is where Nolato can make a real difference. By combining deep manufacturing expertise with a global production footprint and close local customer support, we help customers industrialise products, scale production and reduce risk throughout the product lifecycle.

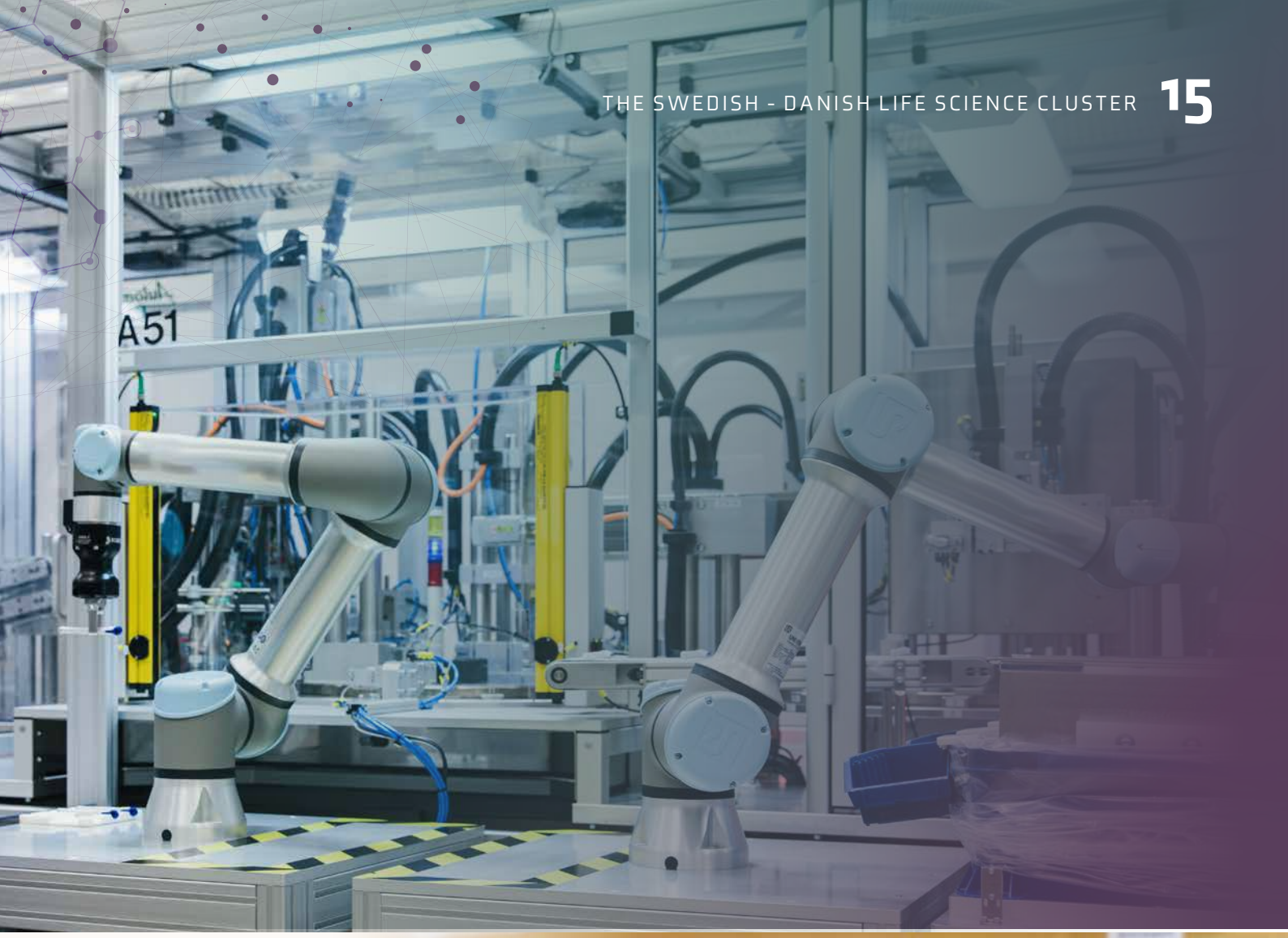
He explains that Nolato is particularly well positioned to support companies developing drug delivery devices, diagnostic systems and other high-value medical products where precision, quality, and scalability are critical.

– Whether we work with an emerging company preparing for commercialisation or a global healthcare leader expanding capacity, our ambition goes beyond manufacturing components. We work as a long-term partner, helping customers navigate complexity, strengthen supply chains and bring innovative products to market with confidence.

For Nolato, having a presence in Medicon Valley offers clear strategic advantages. The region's concentration of research institutions, healthcare providers, innovative startups and established Life Science companies, as well as a highly skilled talent base creates an environment where new ideas and collaborations emerge naturally.

– For us, being present in Medicon Valley means being closer to customers and innovation at an early stage, says Dahlgren.

– It strengthens our ability to collaborate throughout the product development journey, access leading expertise and build long-term partnerships that ultimately help us deliver competitive solutions to customers around the world.



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Innovation District Copenhagen Scales Up a Stronger Innovation Ecosystem

In the heart of Copenhagen, an emerging innovation district is bringing together hospitals, universities, start-ups, and established companies across just two square kilometres. With ambitions to become a global leader in Life Science, quantum technology, and AI, Innovation District Copenhagen is building on an unusually dense concentration of knowledge and talent.

Innovation District Copenhagen (IDC) may cover only two square kilometres, but it is home to an impressive concentration of scientific and entrepreneurial activity. The district includes two hospitals, three universities, five start-up communities, ten incubator and accelerator programmes, and around 500 start-up companies.



– We want to build on what is already here and strengthen Europe's competitiveness, while making Denmark even better at attracting talent and investment, says Annemarie Munk Riis, CEO of Innovation District Copenhagen.

Twenty-one partners are currently committed to the district's development, which aims to connect the existing scientific, clinical, and entrepreneurial communities more closely and create an environment where new ideas can develop into companies, products, and solutions.

From Hospitals and Universities to an Innovation District

The roots of the district stretch back to the 1920s, when Rigshospitalet and the University of Copenhagen began expanding alongside what was then a growing industrial area.

As industry gradually moved out of central Copenhagen, the hospitals and universities expanded. By 2008, the area had become a major centre for science and healthcare, with more than 40,000 researchers, clinicians, students, and staff working in the district.

A major investment by the Danish government helped trigger the next phase. When the state committed around €1 billion to new facilities for science and healthcare, the idea of creating a dedicated innovation district began to take shape.

The ambition gained further momentum in 2024, when the Danish state, private foundations, and other organisations joined the partnership behind IDC.

Today, the goal is to turn the area's existing concentration of expertise into a more connected innovation ecosystem.

The Power of Unexpected Encounters

For Riis, infrastructure alone is not enough to create a successful innovation district. The physical environment must also encourage people to meet and exchange ideas.

Research into innovation districts has highlighted the importance of what is sometimes called the "Bump Factor": the chance of unexpectedly meeting the right person at the right moment.

– Researchers and innovators need to meet just the right person for their next step every time they leave the office, Riis explains.

– That means the district needs cafés, restaurants, cultural spaces, and outdoor areas where people can meet naturally.

IDC is therefore not simply about laboratories and offices. Creating an open, welcoming environment where people from different organisations and disciplines interact is considered an essential part of the district's innovation strategy.



CASE STUDY

Going *above* and *beyond* for our clients in life sciences

Solving supply issues and sourcing custom solutions for two of the leading names in life sciences, to avoid delays and keep our clients moving.

CHALLENGE

Life sciences companies rely on suppliers they can trust. We work with leading names in the industry and pride ourselves on being able to deliver, from procurement needs and beyond, to offer superior customer service, support, and bespoke solutions.

In one instance, a global player with whom we have worked for over a decade needed a specific material, a quaternary ammonium salt, that had been discontinued. Without it, their work would be severely delayed, so they looked to us for help.

In another challenge a global biotech leader, with whom we have worked for a number of years, needed a custom synthesis for a coenzyme derivative, so they turned to us, and we got to work.

SOLUTION

For the first challenge, a discontinued material used as a phase transfer catalyst, we found alternative options immediately to present to our client. However, we knew they didn't have time to approve a new source, so we contacted the manufacturer in Asia to find a solution. We had worked with them for years, so we were able to proactively negotiate the production of a custom run, just for our client.

For our biotech client, we searched high and low to find a suitable supplier that could produce the custom synthesis required. We supplied all documentation required for approval and sample batches were tested and passed validation. We also ensured the manufacturer carried out stability tests to ensure that a 6-month shelf life could be guaranteed.

RESULTS

Thanks to our strong relationships, proactive approach, and industry know-how, we were able to avoid the use of unwanted alternatives that would require lengthy approval processes. This would, for one client, have delayed production and implicated loss, and for the other, have delayed the production of life-saving medication.

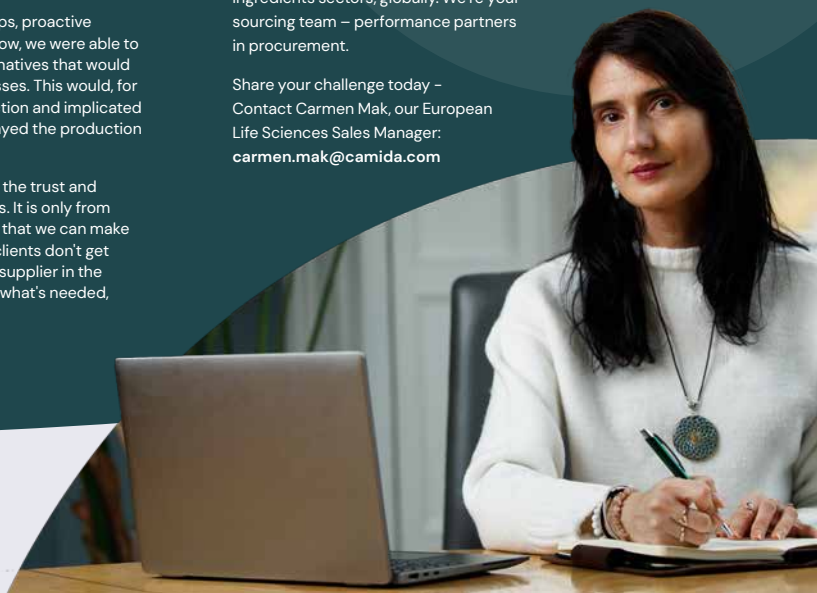
This helps to further strengthen the trust and confidence our clients have in us. It is only from working with suppliers for years that we can make special requests to ensure our clients don't get slowed down, or to find the one supplier in the world who can produce exactly what's needed, when it is needed.

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The long-term ambition is to become a world-leading innovation district, particularly in Life Science and quantum technology.

Artificial intelligence is another important part of the picture, with IDC seeing significant potential in the convergence of these three fields.

– We have great expectations for the merging of Life Science, quantum science, and AI, says Riis.

– We believe Innovation District Copenhagen has a bit of a head start.

Supporting the Next Generation of Companies

The district is also intended to help companies progress from start-up to scale-up and eventually become global players.

IDC already provides infrastructure for characterising and testing small-scale production in biotech and quantum technology. A pilot-scale production plant for biotech solutions is also being developed, and in early 2027 the quantum computer Magne [qunorth.com/magne] comes online in the district. The company QNorth, which is installing it, says that it will be the world's first Level 2 quantum computer, and promises that it will be the most powerful of its kind available for industry as well as academia.

Such infrastructure could help strengthen Europe's ability to develop and scale strategically important technologies closer to home, supporting wider European ambitions around resilience and technological competitiveness.

For Riis, the goal is not simply to attract more start-ups, but to create an environment in which companies can grow.

– We have a continuous commitment to making sure that our district provides the infrastructure needed for companies in both the start-up and scale-up phases, she says.

Success Creates a New Challenge

The district's growing popularity has created an unexpected problem: there is not enough space.

– One of our greatest strengths is also creating one of our greatest challenges, Riis says.

– The district has been a massive hit with start-ups, so we need to build a considerable amount of additional space to keep up with demand.

The challenge is becoming even more pressing as established companies increasingly see value in locating close to local scale-ups and research institutions to strengthen R&D collaboration.

Construction, however, takes time. In the meantime, IDC is focusing on strengthening the culture of innovation within local hospitals and universities and developing the supporting ecosystem around Life Science and quantum technology.

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30 Years of Connecting Medicon Valley

When Medicon Valley Alliance (MVA) was founded in 1997, its focus was primarily on strengthening academic collaboration between Lund University and the University of Copenhagen. Three decades later, the organisation has evolved into a cross-border Life Science network connecting academia, healthcare, industry, and investors across one of Europe's leading Life Science regions. As MVA approaches its 30th anniversary in 2027, the ambition is clear: to strengthen Medicon Valley's position among Europe's leading Life Science hubs and help shape the future competitiveness of European Life Science.



Over the past 30 years, Medicon Valley Alliance has grown alongside the region it represents. What began largely as an initiative to strengthen collaboration between universities on either side of the Øresund has developed into a broader organisation bringing together companies, universities, hospitals, and other stakeholders across southern Sweden and eastern Denmark.

Today, MVA has around 300 member companies and organisations, including an increasing number of international companies looking to explore business and partnership opportunities in the region.

– The evolution of MVA mirrors the evolution of Medicon Valley itself, says Niels Abel Bonde, Chairperson of the Board at MVA.

– We started with a strong focus on academic collaboration, but for more than two decades we have been a true triple-helix organisation, bringing academia, industry, and healthcare together to stimulate knowledge-sharing, collaboration, and innovation. This drives value to member companies and to the ecosystem broadly.

From Projects to Partnerships

MVA's activities have developed along two main tracks: developing and managing cross-border projects, and creating a meeting place for the region's Life Science community.

The organisation has a long track record of developing projects and helping partners secure public and private funding. Over the years, MVA has facilitated or co-facilitated more than €10 million in EU Interreg funding for Life Science research and innovation projects.

Recent and ongoing initiatives include DiaUnion, which focuses on screening for type 1 diabetes; HALRIC, which aims to improve access to highly specialised Life Science research infrastructures; and ReproUnion, a cross-border research and innovation initiative focused on infertility.

MVA is also involved in the Cross-border Talent Bridge project, addressing talent attraction and retention, while the recently completed Nordic Life Science Academy for Startups aimed to help Life Science start-ups develop and scale.

A new EU Interreg project focused on commercialisation of Nordic SMEs within women's health has also recently been approved, with MVA taking a leading role.

The second pillar of MVA's activities is its extensive programme of events and networks. The organisation hosts 30–35 events each year, ranging from specialist MVA Network meetings in areas such as oncology, women's health, medtech and healthtech, microbiome, and R&D, to partnering events, the MVA Annual Summit, and executive-level gatherings.

Together, these activities create a marketplace where companies and other organisations can meet potential partners, exchange knowledge, and develop business opportunities.

– A significant part of MVA's value is simply bringing the right people into the same room, says Sofia Wallström, CEO at Lif Sweden.

– The organisation creates a neutral meeting place where knowledge can be shared and ideas can cross-pollinate. By connecting the right people and expertise, we can turn collaboration into innovation, and ultimately create value for patients and society.



A Different Kind of Life Science Organisation

One of MVA's defining characteristics is its cross-border nature. With Sweden and Denmark as its home markets and English as its working language, it operates across national boundaries in a way that remains relatively unusual in Europe.

Its independence is another distinguishing feature. Rather than relying on government funding, MVA operates through membership fees and project-based activities. That model has helped shape the organisation's approach, according to MVA.

– We have to be on our toes every day, just like the privately owned companies we serve, says Niels Abel Bonde.

– Our members expect us to deliver a service, a platform, and opportunities that create real value.

The organisation's triple-helix structure is equally central. MVA brings together academic institutions, hospitals, regions, start-ups, established companies, and other organisations with different perspectives and interests.

The result is intended to be more than the sum of its parts: a network where research can find industrial applications, companies can access expertise and talent, and healthcare challenges can help shape new research and innovation.

Looking Beyond the Øresund

As MVA approaches its 30th anniversary, the organisation sees significant potential for further growth – both within Medicon Valley and beyond.

The Life Science cluster itself continues to develop, providing a natural foundation for MVA's membership and activities. But the organisation has also demonstrated that its model can attract companies from outside the region, including European companies without an established presence in Medicon Valley.

For these companies, MVA can act as a gateway to the region, helping them explore potential partnerships, customers, talent, and business opportunities.

At the same time, MVA increasingly sees its role in a wider European context.

A 2025 analysis, "Strengthening European Competitiveness – the Role of Regional Life Science Hubs", highlighted the importance of strong regional clusters in building European competitiveness. The report also provided a platform for discussion between leading Life Science hubs across Europe.

Medicon Valley's cross-border nature makes it particularly relevant to that discussion. The region connects two countries, multiple research institutions, major healthcare organisations, and a broad Life Science industry across the Øresund.

The Draghi report on European competitiveness has also explicitly highlighted Medicon Valley as an example of a region that transcends narrow national interests.

– We believe Medicon Valley has the potential to become one of Europe's leading Life Science innovation hotspots, says Sofia Wallström.

– Its cross-border structure demonstrates what can be achieved when we look beyond national boundaries and build a stronger ecosystem together.

That ambition extends beyond simply making Medicon Valley more successful. MVA increasingly wants the region to contribute to the wider European conversation about innovation, competitiveness, and the future of Life Sciences.

In that sense, the organisation's next 30 years may be about taking the same idea that inspired its creation – connecting strengths across borders – and applying it on an even larger scale.

From a partnership between two universities in 1997 to a network of around 300 organisations today, MVA has spent three decades building bridges across the Øresund. Its next challenge is to help those bridges reach further into Europe.

Precision Medicine Center South Aims to Bring Tomorrow's Healthcare into Today's Clinics

Precision medicine is transforming healthcare by enabling treatments and preventive measures to be tailored to individual and defined subgroups rather than broad populations. Through the newly established Precision Medicine Center South, Region Skåne and Lund University are working together to accelerate the implementation of these approaches in clinical practice.

Launched in early 2025, Precision Medicine Center South (PMCS) is one of Sweden's seven national precision medicine centres. The initiative is a collaboration between Region Skåne and Lund University and serves as a bridge between healthcare, academia, and existing research infrastructures, helping translate scientific advances into routine clinical care.



Fotograf: Ingemar Hultquist

– Precision medicine means matching prevention and treatment to the biological and social characteristics of individual patients or specific population groups, says Professor Olle Melander, Director of Precision Medicine Center South.

– The goal is to ensure that individuals who are likely to benefit receive the right intervention, while avoiding unnecessary treatment for those who will not.

PMCS identifies clinical challenges together with healthcare professionals and connects them with researchers and established infrastructures that can develop precision medicine solutions. The centre supports projects with clinical implementation potential towards actual implementation in healthcare.

Current activities span several medical fields, including oncology, haematology, paediatrics, and disease prevention. The centre also works closely with the other six Swedish precision medicine centres to coordinate national initiatives and prepare projects for wider implementation.

The Next Step: Preventing Diseases

Although precision medicine has so far made its greatest impact in cancer care and rare genetic diseases, Melander believes the next major step will be in preventing common diseases such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and dementia.

– We are now moving from precision medicine primarily being used to treat disease towards also preventing disease before it occurs, he says.

Advances in genomics have driven much of the progress to date, but other technologies are rapidly becoming part of the precision medicine toolbox. Transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics, electronic health records, and artificial intelligence are expected to play increasingly important roles in helping clinicians make better-informed decisions.

One of PMCS's first major initiatives illustrates this shift towards precision prevention. During autumn 2026, Region Skåne plans to introduce a new polygenic risk score for coronary artery disease (PRS-CAD), developed within the framework of PMCS.

Whole-Genome Sequencing Identifies Risks

Today, cardiovascular risk is primarily assessed using the SCORE2 model, which considers factors such as age, sex, blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and smoking status. While valuable, the model fails to identify many people who later suffer a heart attack and may also recommend preventive treatment for individuals who would never develop disease.

The new PRS-CAD test uses whole-genome sequencing and analyses around one million genetic variants to identify inherited risk that traditional assessments may overlook.

– By combining genetic information with existing clinical assessment, we hope to identify individuals with hidden high risk who would benefit from preventive treatment, while also avoiding unnecessary medication for people at low risk, says Melander.

As precision medicine continues to evolve, PMCS aims to ensure that scientific discoveries reach the population and patients more quickly—not only by supporting groundbreaking research, but by making precision medicine a practical part of everyday healthcare.

Precision Medicine Center South is a joint venture between Region Skåne and Lund University, and is governed by a board with representatives from Region Skåne and Lund University and operated by Olle Melander (Director and Professor of internal medicine), Sophia Zackrisson (Co-director and Professor of radiology) and Linda Holmquist Mengelbier (Scientific Coordinator).



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Building a Stronger Health Tech Community

Health Tech Hub Copenhagen is bringing together start-ups, established companies, investors, and healthcare professionals with a shared ambition: to accelerate innovation and help promising health technologies reach patients faster. By building a collaborative ecosystem, the organisation aims to strengthen both the Danish and European health tech sectors.



For Jesper Grønbæk, Founder and CEO of Health Tech Hub Copenhagen, collaboration is the key to driving meaningful innovation in healthcare.

– We want to create the strongest ecosystem where entrepreneurs, innovators, healthcare professionals, and industry partners work together to develop solutions that prevent disease, improve lives, and make healthcare more efficient and human, he says.

Health Tech Hub offers company-wide memberships that provide organisations with access to a broad network of expertise, guidance, and collaboration opportunities. Members can receive support on topics ranging from market access and investment to business development and partnerships, while becoming part of a growing community focused on advancing health technology.

Beyond building connections, the organisation is also developing practical tools to help companies navigate one of the biggest hurdles for medical technology start-ups: regulation. Jesper Grønbæk currently spends much of his time leading the development of Health Tech Pathways, a digital platform supported by the Novo Nordisk Foundation that is designed to help companies achieve CE marking more efficiently.

– The goal is to make the regulatory journey easier and faster, so innovative companies can bring new solutions to patients sooner, he explains.

Giving Health Solutions a Stronger Voice

Health Tech Hub also sees itself as an advocate for the wider sector, working to raise the profile of health technology among policymakers and investors across Europe.

– We want health solutions to have a stronger voice – both politically and financially – so the industry has the conditions it needs to grow and thrive.

Being based in Medicon Valley gives the organisation and its members a significant advantage. The region's unique concentration of hospitals, universities, research institutions, and Life Science companies creates an environment where collaboration comes naturally, and innovation can move more quickly.

– For our members, being part of Medicon Valley means easier access to partners, investors, customers, and clinical expertise, says Grønbæk.

– It's an inspiring ecosystem where people share a common ambition to improve healthcare, and that benefits everyone.

As healthcare systems increasingly focus on prevention, digitalisation, and patient-centered care, Health Tech Hub aims to ensure that innovative companies have both the network and the practical support they need to turn promising ideas into real-world solutions.



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Aiming to Transform the Diagnosis of Gum Disease

A simple saliva sample could one day reveal gum disease long before a probe or an X-ray can find it. That is the vision behind SaliTect, a new AI-powered diagnostic platform being developed in Malmö to detect periodontitis earlier, faster, and without pain.

For Anna Korczak, incoming CEO and co-founder of the company behind SaliTect, the journey into medtech has been anything but conventional. With a background in interaction design and communication, she leads the commercial, regulatory, and user experience aspects of the company, ensuring that the technology can be integrated seamlessly into everyday dental practice.



– My background is not in chemistry or dentistry, she says.

– I focus on everything that happens outside the laboratory – from commercial strategy and intellectual property to regulatory planning and designing the user experience. A diagnostic tool is only valuable if clinicians can use it easily during a normal appointment.

The need for a new diagnostic approach is clear. Periodontitis affects up to 40 percent of adults in Sweden, yet it is often diagnosed only after irreversible damage has occurred. The disease is expensive to treat and is associated with several chronic systemic conditions. Current examinations rely on probing the gums and X-rays, methods that detect damage that has already happened rather than identifying disease at an early stage.

– SaliTect is being developed to detect periodontitis from a saliva sample instead of looking for damage after the fact, Korczak explains.

– Our goal is to give dentists a clear result during the patient's visit, making early intervention much easier.

Rather than searching for a single biomarker, SaliTect is designed to analyse a complex electrochemical fingerprint created by multiple sensors inside a disposable cartridge. An AI model is then used to interpret this pattern and translate it into clinically actionable information.

– The disease is driven by many biological changes rather than one single marker, she says.

– That is why we analyse patterns instead of individual molecules.

A Multidisciplinary Approach

The technology combines expertise from several disciplines, including periodontology, electrochemical sensing, artificial intelligence, interaction design, and medical device development. According to Korczak, that multidisciplinary approach has been one of the project's greatest strengths.

– No single discipline could solve this challenge on its own. Bringing together experts with completely different perspectives has allowed us to approach the problem in a new way.

The team is currently validating the platform using clinical samples from partner dental clinics while preparing for CE marking under the European In Vitro Diagnostic Regulation (IVDR). Commercial pilot projects are planned with selected dental clinics before a broader European rollout.

Although periodontitis is the first application, the ambition extends far beyond oral health. Because the platform combines a sensor, an analyser, and an AI engine, it could eventually be trained to recognise patterns associated with other diseases that leave signatures in saliva. The team is also exploring opportunities outside healthcare, including industrial fluid quality testing, for example freshness and adulteration in dairy. The one hardware platform has many valuable applications.

For SaliTect, Medicon Valley has provided more than a prestigious address. The region offers direct access to dental researchers, clinicians, patients, and the specialist support needed to build a medical technology company.

– We came out of Malmö University and recently joined the Medeon incubator, which gives us access to regulatory expertise, patent support, business development, and an outstanding clinical environment, says Korczak.

– In Medicon Valley, universities, clinics, investors, and Life Science companies are all close together. For a small team, that proximity makes an enormous difference.



The Founding Team

Anna Korczak – Co-founder and incoming CEO. Leads commercial strategy, regulatory planning, intellectual property, funding, and user experience design.

Magnus Falk – Co-founder and Biotech Lead. Leads the electrochemical sensor platform and the electronic tongue research behind it.

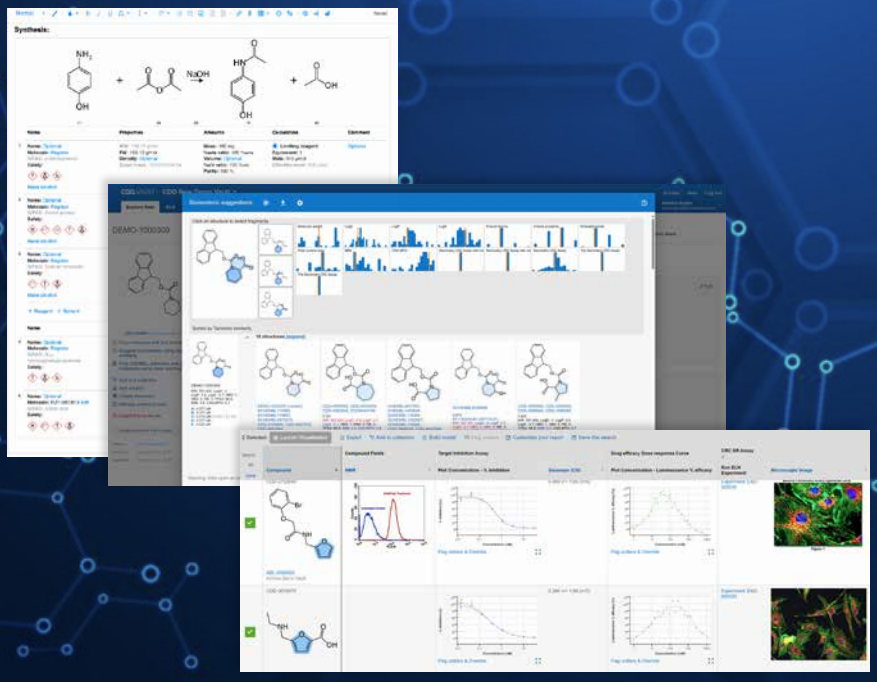
Shariel Sayardoust – Co-founder and Clinical Lead. Specialist in periodontology, responsible for the clinical strategy and validation.

Erdal Akin – Co-founder and AI Lead. Develops the machine learning models that interpret the electrochemical data.

Emelie Nilsson – Co-founder and Omics Lead. Contributes expertise in salivary biomarkers and molecular analysis.

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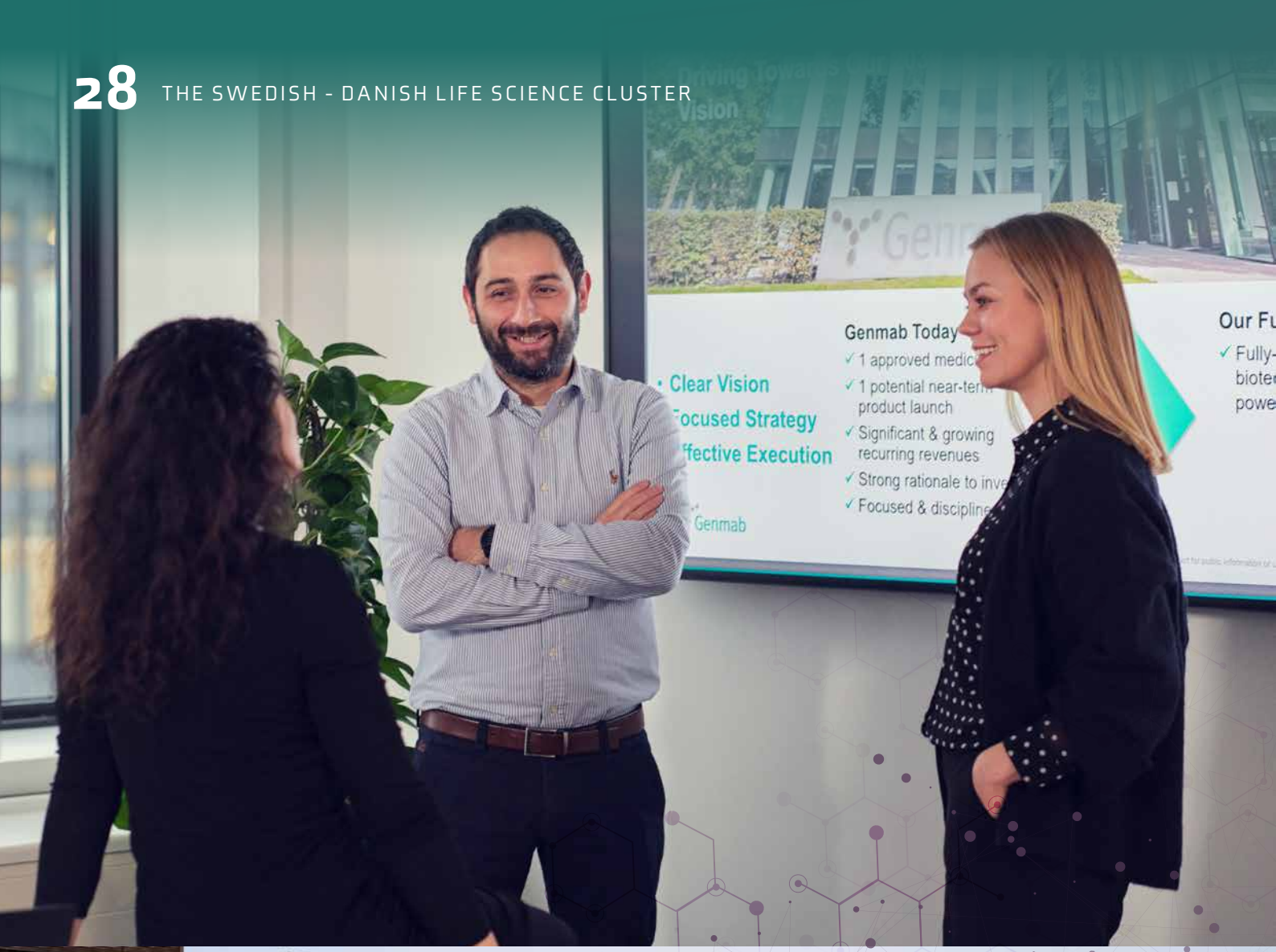


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Building the Operational Backbone for Genmab's Next Chapter

As Genmab evolves from a pioneering antibody innovator into a fully integrated biotechnology company, the organisation is building the technical operations, manufacturing capabilities, and supply infrastructure needed to take more of its medicines all the way to patients. Leading that transformation is Rayne Waller, Executive Vice President and Chief Technical Operations Officer and head of Genmab's Denmark site.

For Rayne Waller, joining Genmab was not necessarily part of the plan.

After more than 30 years in the biotechnology industry, much of that time at Amgen, Waller had decided to retire from day-to-day operational management. He and his wife had just completed building a new home in Santa Fe, and he expected to stay involved in the industry through board and advisory work.

Then Genmab came calling.

– I quickly realised that I still wanted to contribute directly, says Waller.

– Genmab was at such an important and interesting point in its development that the opportunity to help shape its next chapter was simply too exciting to pass up.

Today, Waller is responsible for Genmab's technical operations, including manufacturing, process development, supply chain, quality, and the infrastructure supporting the company's growing pipeline. His remit also includes leading the company's headquarters site in Denmark.

His role is closely connected to a transformation that he recognises from his years at Amgen: the transition from being known primarily for scientific innovation to taking greater responsibility for the entire journey from discovery to patient.

– Genmab is evolving from an innovation-driven company into one that assumes greater responsibility across the full journey from science to patient, he says.

– In short, we are becoming a fully integrated biotechnology company.

That evolution brings new opportunities, but also a number of organisational challenges. How can a company scale without losing the qualities that made it successful? How can mature, reliable operations be built without sacrificing speed? And how can growth strengthen rather than dilute the company's scientific culture?

For Waller, these questions are at the heart of his role.



Harnessing the Power of Antibodies

Founded in Copenhagen, Genmab is an international biotechnology company focused on developing differentiated antibody medicines for cancer and other serious diseases. The company has spent nearly three decades building expertise in antibody biology and developing technologies designed to push the potential of antibody-based therapies.

– We are antibody experts, and there is no other company with a workforce and market cap of our size that is solely focused on antibody medicines, says Waller.

Genmab describes its scientific ambition as developing "knock-your-socks-off", or KYSO, antibody medicines. The term reflects the company's aspiration to go beyond incremental improvements and develop first-in-class or best-in-class therapies that can fundamentally change treatment.

For Waller, the philosophy is about more than having sophisticated technology.

– It is not innovation for innovation's sake. It is about using our history of focused antibody expertise to keep pushing what antibodies can do, with the goal of creating medicines that can fundamentally change the lives of patients.

That scientific heritage remains central as Genmab expands its capabilities. Partnerships continue to be an important part of the company's strategy, while acquisitions have added further depth to its pipeline and capabilities. At the same time, Genmab is investing in late-stage programmes and building the commercial and operational infrastructure required to potentially bring more medicines to market itself. The result is a broader organisation with greater responsibility across the value chain.

From Innovation to Execution

For Waller, one of the most important foundations of that development is end-to-end reliability.

– From drug discovery to commercialisation, the ability of Genmab to collaborate across functions and execute with speed and quality is paramount to meeting the needs of patients, he says. As the company grows, processes that may once have worked for a smaller organisation need to become more standardised, repeatable, and scalable. At the same time, biotechnology is a fast-moving industry, and the organisation must remain capable of adapting when scientific priorities or market conditions change.

– We have the delicate task of running the business while transforming the business, Waller says.

His approach is to remove unnecessary complexity while ensuring that processes work seamlessly across the organisation. The goal is not bureaucracy for its own sake, but an operational foundation that allows scientists and development teams to move quickly without compromising quality.

Part of that strategy involves carefully deciding which capabilities Genmab should build internally and where external partners are the better choice. Genmab will continue to work with external manufacturing and supply partners, but Waller sees particular value in building internal expertise around newer and technically complex programmes, where processes are still evolving and speed and flexibility are especially important.

– Internalisation brings speed and flexibility because it allows us to respond faster, shift resources when priorities change, and build greater consistency into how we develop and supply our medicines, he explains.

That does not mean bringing everything in-house. As products and processes mature and become more predictable, outsourcing can make sense. The key, according to Waller, is to be deliberate about which capabilities the company needs to control directly.

– This balance is central to building a model that can scale with Genmab's pipeline.

Building Resilience into the Supply Chain

Future-proofing Genmab's operations also means preparing for disruption. The changing geopolitical environment has made supply chain resilience an increasingly important consideration for global Life Science companies. For Genmab, that means looking at how capabilities are distributed across different regions and avoiding unnecessary dependence on any single geography. Denmark will remain an important strategic centre for the company's technical operations, manufacturing, and process development leadership, while Genmab's broader operational network continues to evolve.

Technology will be another important part of that evolution. Waller expects artificial intelligence to play an increasing role in development, manufacturing, and other operational activities, but he sees a clear order of priorities.

– AI will undoubtedly play a bigger role, but technology cannot compensate for weak processes, he says.

– You can automate a bad process, and all you've done is make a bad process automated.

For Waller, the starting point is therefore to establish strong infrastructure and standardised, repeatable processes. AI can then be used to make those processes faster, more efficient, and more responsive.

Ultimately, the purpose of all this operational development is straightforward: to ensure that Genmab's science can reach patients without being held back by limitations in manufacturing, supply, or execution.

– At the end of the day, it is about giving Genmab's science room to move, so promising programmes can progress without operations becoming a bottleneck.

For a company entering a new phase of growth, that may be one of the most important transformations of all. Genmab's scientific ambition remains rooted in the antibody expertise it has built over nearly 30 years. But as the company takes greater responsibility for bringing its medicines to patients, the ability to execute at scale will be just as important as the science that started it all.



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40 Years of Making Life Easier for People With a Neck Stoma

For four decades, Atos Medical has developed solutions to help people living with a neck stoma breathe, speak, and live more independently. Founded in Skåne in 1986, the company has grown into a global voice and respiratory care business, while keeping its roots firmly in Medicon Valley.

Atos Medical was founded on a simple but important insight: people living with a neck stoma often face challenges that affect some of the most fundamental parts of everyday life – from communication and pulmonary health to independence and social participation.

Rather than starting with technology, the company started by listening to patients and healthcare professionals.

– That patient-centric approach continues to guide us today, says Pascale Chapuis, Vice President Commercialization at Atos Medical.

– Through ongoing dialogue, clinical research, and collaboration with healthcare professionals around the world, we identify opportunities to improve care and develop solutions that address real-world challenges.

This approach has helped shape innovations in laryngectomy and tracheostomy care over the past four decades.

Today, Atos Medical is a global leader in voice and respiratory care, with products and services supporting patients in more than 90 countries. Its portfolio combines medical and clinical expertise with patient-centred innovation, education, and personalised care.

The company's focus is on people living with a neck stoma following procedures such as a laryngectomy or tracheostomy, helping them manage everyday challenges and regain as much independence and quality of life as possible.

From Skåne to the World

As Atos Medical celebrates its 40th anniversary, the company has grown considerably from its origins as a local entrepreneurial business in Skåne.

Its reach is now global, but its roots remain firmly in the Medicon Valley region, where the company's headquarters and factory are located and where it continues to develop new solutions.

– Over the past four decades, we have grown from a local entrepreneurial company into a global leader in voice and respiratory care, says Chapuis.

– Throughout that journey, we have consistently introduced innovations that have helped shape the standard of care in our field.

Atos Medical is now part of the Coloplast Group, giving the company access to the resources and global reach of a major healthcare organisation while retaining the patient-focused approach that has been central to its development.

– This combination provides a strong foundation for the next phase of the company's growth, Chapuis says.

Looking Ahead

As Vice President Commercialization, Chapuis is responsible for the global commercialization strategy across Atos Medical's Voice and Respiratory Care portfolio. Her role brings together marketing, medical affairs, clinical education, product management, and regional markets, with the aim of ensuring that new solutions reach the patients and healthcare professionals who need them.

Looking ahead, Atos Medical sees opportunities to expand access to care, advance clinical excellence, and make greater use of new technologies.

The company also intends to continue working closely with healthcare professionals and patients to improve outcomes and quality of life around the world.



– Our mission remains unchanged, but our ambition continues to grow, says Chapuis.

For a company that began in Skåne 40 years ago, the combination of global reach and strong local roots remains an important part of that ambition.



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Using Ultrasound to Tap into the Body's Own Anti-Inflammatory System

Could chronic inflammatory diseases one day be treated by stimulating the body's own nervous system rather than blocking inflammation with drugs? That is the ambition behind INIA Biosciences, a Copenhagen-based bioelectronic medicine company developing a non-invasive ultrasound platform designed to regulate immune activity.



Inflammatory diseases such as psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis, and inflammatory bowel disease affect millions of people worldwide. Biologic medicines have transformed treatment for many patients, showing how powerful targeted control of the immune system can be. What is exciting about bioelectronic medicine is that it is approaching the same problem from a completely different direction, using the body's own neural pathways to regulate the immune system.

INIA Biosciences is developing a technology that uses precisely targeted, low-intensity ultrasound to stimulate the spleen and activate the body's own anti-inflammatory pathways. The scientific foundation comes from research into the so-called inflammatory reflex, which has shown that the nervous system can regulate immune activity.

– Rather than introducing a drug that systemically blocks a particular inflammatory target, we are tapping into the body's own mechanisms for maintaining immune homeostasis, says Dragana Savic, CEO and Co-founder of INIA Biosciences.

The concept belongs to the emerging field of bioelectronic medicine, which seeks to treat disease by modulating electrical activity in the nervous system rather than relying exclusively on pharmaceuticals.

What makes INIA's approach particularly interesting is that it aims to do this without an implanted device.

– What's revolutionary is not simply using ultrasound, but using ultrasound as a therapeutic interface with the nervous and immune systems, Savic explains.

Bioelectronic medicine has already begun moving towards clinical use. In 2025, SetPoint Medical received FDA approval for an implanted vagus nerve stimulation system for adults with moderate-to-severe rheumatoid arthritis who have not responded adequately to, or cannot tolerate, biologic therapies.

For INIA, this represents an important validation of the broader concept, while also highlighting the opportunity for less invasive approaches.

– The next question is whether we can achieve meaningful neuroimmune modulation without an implant at all, says Savic.

– If we can use targeted ultrasound to access these pathways externally, we have the potential to make bioelectronic medicine significantly more accessible and scalable.

From Pharma to Bioelectronic Medicine

INIA's origins lie within the pharmaceutical industry. Savic and co-founder Shen Ning met while working on bioelectronic medicine solutions at Merck KGaA. Their work resulted in two therapeutic concepts, one of which was taken into Merck's innovation pipeline.

The other was returned to the team, allowing them to continue developing the technology independently. That concept eventually became the foundation for INIA Biosciences.

Their experience at Merck also convinced them that the pharmaceutical industry was beginning to look beyond traditional drug molecules and explore ways of interacting directly with the body's own biological control systems.

For Savic, the next logical question was whether such therapies could be made less invasive.

– If neural stimulation can regulate these biological pathways, could we achieve the same type of effect without surgically implanting a device? she says.

That question ultimately led the team to ultrasound.

INIA's first clinical focus is psoriasis, but the company sees potential applications across a much broader range of immune-mediated inflammatory diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, and inflammatory bowel disease.

The longer-term potential could extend beyond inflammation altogether. Because the nervous system regulates many different biological processes, Savic believes ultrasound could eventually be used to access other therapeutic mechanisms.

– Bioelectronic medicine is no longer purely experimental, but we are still at an early stage, she says.

– Each successful product helps validate the field and makes it easier for the next generation of technologies, including non-invasive approaches like ours, to follow.

For that reason, continued investment in fundamental research and clinical development will be important to the field's progress. Demonstrating that bioelectronic therapies can move successfully through clinical development, regulatory approval, and into routine patient care could open the door to a new class of treatments.

Building in Medicon Valley

INIA's presence in Copenhagen also places the company in the heart of the Medicon Valley Life Science ecosystem.

For Savic, one important factor has been Copenhagen Capacity, which helps companies establish themselves in the region and connect with relevant stakeholders.

– Copenhagen Capacity has done a great job helping us with the BII programme and connecting us with several stakeholders in the ecosystem, she says.

As INIA works to bring its non-invasive bioelectronic approach closer to clinical application, access to a strong Life Science network will be increasingly important.

The company's ambition is ultimately straightforward: to develop a new way of treating inflammatory disease that works with the body's own regulatory systems rather than simply suppressing them.

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Acrivon Aims to Make Precision Oncology Even More Precise

Using its proprietary precision medicine platform, Acrivon Therapeutics is working to improve every stage of cancer drug development – from designing new drug candidates to identifying the patients most likely to benefit from treatment. With discovery research in Lund and translation and clinical development in Boston, US, the company combines Scandinavian scientific expertise with an international precision medicine strategy.



When Acrivon Therapeutics was founded, the vision was to bridge two strong Life Science environments. Today, the company operates from both Boston and Medicon Village in Lund, where Kristina Masson serves as President and CEO of the Swedish subsidiary Acrivon AB while also being Co-Founder and Executive Vice President of Business Operations for the US parent company.

She divides her time between the two sites, overseeing operations in Lund while contributing to the company's executive leadership team in the United States.

– The two companies were established to combine the scientific expertise, infrastructure and talent available in Scandinavia with opportunities for tapping into the world-leading biotech ecosystem for clinical development, financing and business growth in the US, she says.

Although the teams work closely together, each site has its own focus. In Lund, researchers use advanced mass-spectrometry, biology and proteomics to study how drug candidates affect human cells and to generate the data that forms the foundation of Acrivon's precision medicine approach. In the US, teams focus on translational science, data science, biomarker development, clinical trials and corporate functions.

Optimising Effects

At the heart of the company is its proprietary AP3 platform, based on generative phosphoproteomics. Rather than simply identifying whether a drug works, the technology is designed to reveal exactly how it affects signalling pathways inside living cells.

– Our goal is to understand what a drug actually does inside the cell. That knowledge helps us design better drug candidates, identify the patients most likely to respond and optimise dosing to maximise benefit while minimising side effects, says Masson.

The technology is already being applied in Acrivon's two clinical programmes. The lead candidate, ACR-368, is currently being evaluated in a potentially registrational Phase 2b trial for endometrial cancer. By analysing patient biopsies with the AP3 platform, the company identified a subgroup of patients with serous endometrial cancer that appears particularly likely to benefit from the treatment.

– That insight allowed us to focus the clinical programme on the patients we believe have the greatest probability of responding to the therapy, Masson explains.

Acrivon's second clinical programme, ACR-2316, is a novel WEE1/PKMYT1 inhibitor currently being evaluated in a Phase 1/2 study. Here, the same platform has been used to identify the most promising compounds and predict the most promising cancer indications and is now in the expansion phase of the trial.

Several Applications for the AP3 Platform

Beyond its own pipeline, the AP3 platform has applications throughout drug discovery and development. It can help identify predictive biomarkers, understand resistance mechanisms, evaluate combination therapies and discover entirely new drug targets.

According to Masson, the overall ambition is to apply their cutting-edge science for drug discovery and to make clinical drug development more efficient while improving outcomes for patients.

– We believe this approach can help bring the right treatment to the right patient more quickly, while also supporting the development of safer and more effective medicines.

While Acrivon is not currently announcing formal pharmaceutical partnerships, the company maintains an active dialogue with the global Life Science community through scientific conferences and confidential discussions that could lead to future collaborations.

NLSDays Brings the Nordic Life Science Community Together

Nordic Life Science Days (NLSDays), the largest Life Science partnering conference in the Nordic region, returns to Stockholm in September 2026. With a record number of international delegations and thousands of partnering meetings expected, the event will bring together companies, investors, researchers, and other Life Science stakeholders from across the Nordics and beyond. In 2027, the conference will move across the Øresund to Copenhagen.

NLSDays 2026 will take place in Stockholm, home to Sweden's largest Life Science cluster, with the aim of connecting the Nordic and international Life Science communities and creating new opportunities for collaboration.

– We are bringing the Nordic and international Life Science community together in Stockholm to build connections, share ideas, and create new opportunities for collaboration, says Marjo Puumalainen, Executive Director of NLSDays and International Director at SwedenBIO.



The programme will open by highlighting the collective strengths of the Nordic Life Science ecosystem and the innovation emerging from the region. Among this year's Supersessions are discussions on breakthrough developments in central nervous system (CNS) research, strategic venture capital, healthtech investment, the changing global biopharma dealmaking landscape, and new approaches to European innovation funding.

The international dimension of the event will be particularly strong in 2026, with a record 13 international delegations confirmed.

Investors will also have a prominent role. At the Investor Dinner, 120 investors will have the opportunity to connect and explore potential syndication opportunities. Puumalainen reveals:

– Also, 14 of the most promising start-ups will present their visions to investors during the Nordic Star Pitch Competition, while the poster session will give academics a platform to showcase their research and innovations to an industry audience.

Plenty of Opportunities to Network

As always, partnering is at the heart of NLSDays. Thousands of one-to-one meetings are expected to take place during the event, complemented by a range of more informal networking opportunities, including receptions hosted by the City of Stockholm at the iconic City Hall and an evening reception.

– Altogether, NLSDays 2026 will be a true celebration of Nordic Life Sciences, international collaboration, and new partnerships, says Puumalainen.

The following year, the conference will cross the Øresund and take place in Copenhagen. For NLSDays, the move



is about more than changing locations. Denmark is one of the world's leading Life Science nations, and Copenhagen offers a natural meeting point for the Nordic ecosystem.

– We are very excited to return to Copenhagen in 2027, says Puumalainen.

– Medicon Valley, connecting the strengths of eastern Denmark and southern Sweden, is a perfect example of Nordic collaboration and of what we can achieve by working across borders.

With Stockholm in 2026 and Copenhagen in 2027, NLSDays will bring its international community to two of the Nordic region's strongest Life Science hubs – and highlight the increasingly interconnected nature of the Nordic ecosystem.

Read more at: nlsdays.com

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Medicon Valley Alliance

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mva@mva.org
mva.org

contact@copcap.com
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medeon@medeon.se
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