

The Pistoia Alliance European Life Science Informatics Forum

Introduction:

The [Pistoia Alliance](#) Life Science Informatics Forum was established in 2021 and was launched with a series of activities in the UK. In 2024, the Pistoia Alliance is expanding the Forum with a series of European and USA-based activities.

The objectives of these Forums are to develop communities focused on sparking discussions on leading-edge topics within the broader European Life Science / Biopharma Informatics domains, and identifying pre-competitive common challenges, amenable to common solutions for the Pistoia Alliance to address.

Evolution Timeline:

2021: Birth of the Life Science Informatics Forum in the UK

2022: Initiation of the first two meetings in London

2023: A year of growth with four insightful meetings.

2024: Q1 Venue - AstraZeneca DISC in Cambridge – theme “Imaging”.

2024: Q2 Venue - Royal Society, London – theme “Imaging Part II – Spatial Biology and Multi-Modal Data Analysis”

Steering Committee:

The direction of UK LS Informatics Forum is guided by four well-recognised informaticians viz:

- [Anthony Rowe](#), Head of Technology - Global Scientific IT at Janssen
- [Bryn Williams-Jones](#), CEO at The Open PHACTS Foundation
- [Darren Green](#), Head of Cheminformatics & Data Science, Senior Fellow at GSK
- [Derek Marren](#), Principal IT Business Partner, Clinical Pharmacology, Safety Sciences & In Vivo Studies at AZ

The European Life Science Informatics Forum (Benelux Chapter – other Chapters yet to be established) is guided by another group of well-recognised informaticians viz:

- [Bert Torfs](#), Sr. Fellow Lab and Research platforms Engineering at Janssen
- [Pieter Peeters](#), Vice President, Head Discovery Sciences at Galapagos
- [Martijn Adriaens](#), Data Platform Delivery Lead, IT Early Solutions at UCB
- [Lisa Banks](#) Vice President, Global Head Digital Health & Innovation at GSK [TBC]

These Steering Committees are supported by [John Wise](#) & [Zahid Tharia](#) of the Pistoia Alliance.

Key Discussion Points:

Since 2022, the Forum in the UK has explored several “hot topics”, viz:

Addressing the data science skills deficit	Leveraging the power of Large Language Models
Knowledge Graphs	The opportunities for Digital Twins
AI and Regulation	Imaging

Forum format:

- 15:00** Forum kick-off, typically on a mid-week day, with a greeting from that meeting’s sponsor. This is followed by 3-4 “lightning” presentations, each lasting 15-20 minutes, by specialists well-versed in the chosen theme to provide the body of knowledge to inform the later discussions.
- 16:45** Refreshment break to allow for networking.
- 17:15** Facilitated interactive debates: engaging group discussions, enriched by the earlier sessions.
- 18:30** Post-meeting reception, courtesy of our meeting sponsor.

Member Dynamics:

With a strong membership base of over 100 industry professionals, we follow the “rule of 30” for our meetings. This ensures that while we have a comprehensive range of perspectives, the gathering remains of a size to allow for uninhibited dialogues.

Connect & Collaborate:

If you would like the opportunity to engage in relevant informatics discussions and network with fellow practitioners in the industry, join the Pistoia Alliance Life Science Informatics Forum today.

For membership inquiries and details about upcoming sessions, do get in touch with:

John.wise@pistoiaalliance.org or zahid.tharia@pistoiaalliance.org