



# Parliamentary Briefing

## Research, innovation and economic impact

- **Oxford has more world-leading academics than any other UK university.**
- **The collegiate University is the largest employer in Oxford, supporting more than 18,000 jobs and injecting £750 million annually into the regional economy.**
- **The University's medical sciences division, with over 2,500 staff involved in research, is one of the largest, and is rated the best, in Europe.**
- **The revenue for Isis Innovation, the University's tech transfer arm, was £10.2 million in 2012, a 21% increase from 2011<sup>1</sup>.**

### **A hub for innovation and commerce**

Oxford University is one of the world's leading research centres. In the last UK government research assessment<sup>2</sup>, Oxford was judged to have the largest number of world-leading research staff. Innovations in recent years range from a reliable roadside test for drug-driving<sup>3</sup> to a breakthrough in stroke management expected to help the NHS prevent 10,000 strokes a year<sup>4</sup>.

### **Begbroke Science Park**

Established just outside Oxford by the University in 1998 in order to provide a home, and hub, for pioneering start-ups, the Science Park now houses more than 30 high-tech companies, and a further 20 research projects. There is currently a waiting list for space on the site. Companies range from cutting-edge low-carbon technology to gene therapy and DNA profiling.

### **Isis Innovation**

Established in 1988 to advise and support researchers with licensing and patent issues and to offer start-up advice, Isis has grown steadily over the years. Last year it filed over 100 patents, and, over the years, it has assisted in the formation of over 70 spin-out companies. Recent research breakthroughs that Isis is assisting in bringing to the wider world include a pioneering

<sup>1</sup> Isis annual report 2012

<sup>2</sup> RAE 2008

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.ox.ac.uk/research/mathematical\\_physical\\_life\\_sciences/projects/electrical\\_sense.html](http://www.ox.ac.uk/research/mathematical_physical_life_sciences/projects/electrical_sense.html)

<sup>4</sup> The EXPRESS study, led by Professor Peter Rothwell, showed that urgent treatment after TIA (mini-stroke) reduced the early risk of major stroke by 80%; the findings have been used to redesign stroke prevention services in the UK and elsewhere.

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vaccine<sup>1</sup> which could be the first new TB vaccine for 90 years; and a breakthrough process for keeping organs alive<sup>2</sup> outside the body to maximise the number available for donations. Isis Enterprise also assists other UK universities (Aston, Liverpool, Cranfield) to commercialise research from their institutions.

### **Oxford Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation**

Based at the Saïd Business School, the OxCEI provides a gateway to 2,000 companies for the budding entrepreneurs on the MBA courses at the school. Supported by the Higher Education Innovation Fund, it provides seed funding for new start-ups and valuable consultancy and networking. OxCEI also supports the Oxford Entrepreneurs Society, which with 8,000 members is the world's largest student society for entrepreneurship.

### **The Oxford Science Park**

A joint venture between Magdalen College and the Prudential, the Oxford Science Park provides more than 530,000 sq ft of office and laboratory space. This includes a new building for Nominet, the internet registry for .uk domain names.

### **Local economic impact**

Consequently, Oxfordshire is one of Europe's leading centres of enterprise, innovation and knowledge. The county's growth rate in high-tech employment remains one of the highest in the UK and many of its 1,500 high-tech companies have links to Oxford University.

The university is an active member of the Local Enterprise Partnership, and is the major local employer.

For further information on the impacts of Oxford University's research go to:  
[http://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research\\_impact/oxford\\_impacts/index.html](http://www.ox.ac.uk/research/research_impact/oxford_impacts/index.html)

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<sup>1</sup> MVA85A from Oxford Emergent Tuberculosis Consortium, OETC

<sup>2</sup> Organox