UNIVERSITY RESEARCH TO PIONEER NEXT GENERATION OF SKIN TREATMENTS

IP based on translational research led by Dr Catherine O’Neill and Professor Andrew McBain at the University has been transferred into a new company. The venture, Skinbiotix limited, is being supported by OptiBiotix Health plc (AIM: OPTI). OptiBiotix is a leading life sciences business developing products to tackle obesity, high cholesterol and diabetes on a global scale. The agreement was negotiated on behalf of the University by UMIP.

The images show human skin which has been stained with a green dye to visualise a protein, critical to skin’s function as a barrier between the body and the environment. The level of this protein increases dramatically following treatment with a particular bacterium (compare ‘untreated’ with ‘treated’).

Dr O’Neill and Professor McBain will continue to actively support the development of the technology. The company is built on ground-breaking discoveries on the human microbiome and its application to develop skin health products. It will help create new product opportunities in large global markets including skincare, Health Care Acquired Infections and wound care.

Dr Catherine O’Neil, Senior Lecturer in Clinical Biochemistry at The Centre for Dermatological Research at the University commented: “The agreement with OptiBiotix is a really important step for our research. There is huge potential that our technology will help create products that will have real impact on the treatment of skin conditions.”

Stephen O’Hara, OptiBiotix’s Chief Executive Officer, commented: “We are pleased to announce the acquisition of skin health technology from The University of Manchester. This acquisition accelerates OptiBiotix’s strategic intent to grow the company by extending our platform technologies into new application areas where there are large global markets and an unmet need. We expect this venture will lead to new product and partnering opportunities and make a significant contribution to the Group over the coming years.”

Director of Operations at UMIP, Dr. Rich Ferrie commented: “We are delighted to have entered into this agreement with OptiBiotix, who we believe is the ideal partner to develop the ground-breaking skin health microbiome science developed by Dr Catherine O’Neill and Professor Andrew McBain. The signing of this agreement represents a pivotal moment towards the release of innovative and effective skin healthcare products.”