



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Epigen

'Epigen' is an academic and industry collaboration helping two Welsh companies gain access to a global market worth around £50million.



Epigenetics, the study of gene information and its characteristics, is used in essential research for diseases including, cancer and neurodegenerative conditions such as Parkinson's.

Ongoing industry research is expected to bring about major applications in the healthcare and treatment of diseases. However, the overall application of epigenetics remains in its infancy.

Identifying a gap in the market, Swansea University formed an industry and academic collaboration alongside manufacturer Porvair Filtration Group, which provides filtration products to research and clinical diagnostic testing laboratories, and Llandysul firm, Ig Innovations, which produces antibodies for research and human diagnostic purposes.

With support from Swansea University's Institute for Life Science, which secured financial backing for the project from the Welsh Government's A4B programme, the Epigen project has enabled extensive research and development in disruptive technologies, resulting in a new epigenetics research tool called Chromatrap to be introduced in to the life science market.

As a result of the Welsh Government funding, Porvair and Ig Innovations have forged links with academic and commercial providers, resulting in a number of commercial benefits including access to a global epigenetics market.

Ig-Innovations has been able to validate its antibodies using Porvair's Chromatrap system, now a fully realised product protected by patents, available to the mass market.

Dr Lewis Francis said:
"Collaborations with industry are a major objective of the Institute for Life Science at Swansea and, as a result of A4B funding from Welsh Government, we've been able to assist two businesses in commercialising their products for market, and also helped to revolutionise the life science market. Wales is set to make a major contribution to epigenetic research thanks to this collaborative research project."



To find out more about funding and support from the Welsh Government:

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