



- Procarta Biosystems is at the frontline of new drug developments
- Based in the world class Norwich Research Park (NRP)
- Developed the technology to treat drug-resistant bacteria
- Originally a spin-out from the John Innes Centre and Plant Biosciences Ltd
- www.procartabio.com

Procarta Biosystems is fighting the global threat of drug resistant bacteria, with partners in the Norwich Research Park

Founded in 2009, as a spin-out from the John Innes Centre and Plant Biosciences Ltd, Procarta Biosystems now has 15 members on the team, but remains primarily an R&D company, with money raised from grants, seed funders, and investment. The founders, Dr. Michael McArthur and Prof. Mervyn Bibb, discovered a novel way to control expression of genes in bacteria and developed the technology to treat drug-resistant bacteria. .

"A lot of our strength comes through collaborations with partners around Norwich Research Park: the Institute of Food Research (IFR), UEA School of Pharmacy and the Norwich Medical School. We have almost a virtual company with lots of expertise coming into it – we couldn't necessarily afford it ourselves," explains McArthur. "For example, if we need a formulation to turn something we do on the lab bench into a product, we can pick the brains of the experts in the School of Pharmacy."

Procarta have an extremely successful track record in delivering & coordinating both EU & nationally publicly funded projects, recent grants include funding from several Technology Strategy Board grants (2013), and two big European grants (NAREB and DNA-TRAP). In addition, on an individual level, the team have a wealth of experience in commercializing and exploiting innovative products in previous roles before joining the company. Procarta have attracted multi-million funding from US Venture Capitalists and have extensive patent protection.

McArthur had been working in the US before he became the BioIncubator's first tenant. Starting from scratch today, would he still opt for Norwich? McArthur concedes that we do not have access to as much support funding as other areas, but believes the quality of local recruitment more than makes up for it. "Doing medical microbiology and looking at gut microbiologies, Norwich is a very strong place to be. The Norwich Medical School, in particular, has started to make some strong recruitments, people we're actively collaborating with. Norwich really makes sense for us. The recent dualling of the A11 and improved train services now makes Norwich easily accessible to the rest of the country and world."

"There is a very strong science base in Norwich and the skilled workforce we can draw upon are very able, with an excellent foundation in human health and the history of antibiotic development. Norfolk offers an excellent quality of life that attracts and retains high-value staff."

Dr. Michael McArthur, Chief Scientific Officer

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