

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

There is an increasing interest in the corporate social responsibility activities of public companies, covering all industry sectors and all sizes of company. Oxford BioMedica has identified four key areas relevant to its operations: employees, health and safety, environmental impact, and community involvement. The board considers social, ethical and environmental risks as part of its overall risk-management strategy.

DEVELOPING SAFE AND EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS THAT ADDRESS UNMET MEDICAL NEED

The most important aspect of Oxford BioMedica's contribution to society is its day-to-day work in developing novel treatments that address unmet medical needs. At the company's inception, the directors identified large areas of unmet medical need in the treatment of cancer and neurological disease, and aimed to harness the potential of gene-based medicines to provide entirely new treatments that had superior safety and efficacy compared to existing drugs. Results to date have been highly encouraging - TroVax and Metxia both have exceptional safety records in the patients that have been treated to date in Phase I/II and Phase II clinical trials, and have given clear evidence of efficacy. The neurotherapy products, while not yet in the clinic, have all established proof of principle in preclinical studies. In particular, ProSavin has shown unprecedented levels of correction in a relevant preclinical model of Parkinson's disease. In its clinical development, the company operates to the high technical and ethical standards required by United Kingdom and United States regulators, and its laboratory facilities are certified to Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) standard.

EMPLOYEES

The group's employees, and the intellectual capital that they represent through their experience and expertise, are fundamental to Oxford BioMedica's success. We believe in rewarding them appropriately for the contribution that they make, and we aim to involve all employees closely in the group's progress through share option schemes. We operate to high standards of UK and US employment practice, and aim to provide an appropriate work/life balance for employees, including flexible working practices, where this is practical and consistent with the company's goals.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

We have a first-class safety record, and have never been required to report an accident to the UK Health and Safety Executive, or its US equivalent. Effective health and safety management is integral to our approach to business activities.

ENVIRONMENT

It is generally recognised that the biotechnology industry has a relatively low impact on the environment in terms of emissions and the use of materials, and we believe this to be true of the operations of Oxford BioMedica. The company operates to appropriate levels of biological containment in its laboratories, and employs suitably qualified and licensed contractors for the disposal of biological and chemical waste.

COMMUNITY

The group's level of resources and, at its current stage of development, the need to focus resources on the development of its novel drugs, limits the scope of its impact on the communities in which it operates. However, we work closely with charitable organisations in the disease areas we have chosen to address, and we share their goals of improving the lot of disease sufferers. We also support local education initiatives. We provide, subject to appropriate safeguards, access to our technology for the academic and research communities, and we contribute to charities in the community in which we operate.