

Innovate UK: Future Leadership Fellowship Round 10 - Business Competition Support

30 June 2025 | 14:00-15:15



Housekeeping

Webinar
will
be recorded



Social
Media

@innovateUK

Welcome and overview

Dr Stephen Meader

Director of Future Leaders Fellowships Scheme



Dr Jennifer Postles

Lead Specialist - Innovation Talent, Innovate UK



Cherish Vines

Programme Co-ordinator for Fellowship and Talent Programmes, Innovate UK





Innovate
UK

Welcome



UK Research
and Innovation

UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships R10 Business Support Webinar

Jennifer Postles, Innovate UK

Future Leaders Fellowships

£110m

Future Leaders Fellowships will invest £110m in Round 10

Growth

To grow the strong supply of talented individuals needed to ensure a vibrant environment for research and innovation in the UK.

Challenges

The support will enable each fellow to tackle ambitious and challenging research and innovation and develop their own careers.

Diversity

We want to fund the best fellows no matter what their background.

Flexibility

The scheme has been developed with unprecedented levels of flexibility to support applicants from a wide range of experiences, disciplines and sectors.

Future Leaders Fellowships

Funding the **Top Ten** Future Leaders of Research and Innovation in Business



£1.5m

over
4 years
average award



UK Businesses
of any size
and
sector



Flexibility

- Supporting diverse career paths
- Career break
- Reduced hours or part time



- Single programme
- Portfolio of projects
- Concurrent interlinked projects



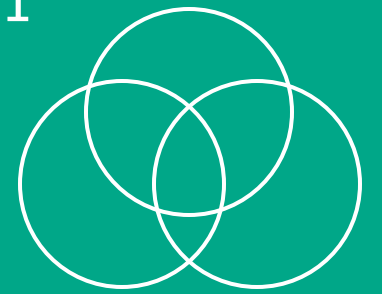
Networking
across cohort and
investment for training
and **professional**
development



Collaboration
Option to collaborate
with other
organisations



Interdisciplinary
and
cross-sector
research



Is FLF right for you?



We're looking for the Future Leaders of Research & Innovation in Business



Significant commitment from the applicant and host organisation



Host support and excellence



Ambitious vision for the future

Is FLF right for you?



Hear from current fellows about their fellowships



Hear from the Development Network about their support for fellows



Hear from panel members about what makes an excellent application



Q&A with the panel



Further opportunities for advice and guidance

FLF R10 Timeline

Application

23rd June 2025: Competition opens

September 2025:
Application workshops with
Innovate UK Business Connect

5th November 2025 (11am):
Application deadline

Assessment

Nov 2025:
External assessment

Jan 2026:
Opportunity for applicant to
respond to assessor comments

March 2026: Shortlisting meeting

May 2026:
Interviews

Awards

July 2026:
Funding decision

Oct 2026:
Earliest Fellowship start date

Fellow's Case Studies



Fellow's Case Study

Rachel Carey

Zinc



Fellow's Case Study

Rick Salmon

PathQA



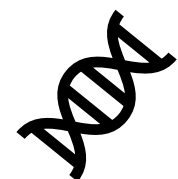
Fellow's Case Study

Césaré Cejas

MFX



Césaré Cejas



Hardware biotech SME (instruments & single-use bioreactor consumables) for cell & gene therapy bioprocessing applications



FLF Round 4 (Business-hosted) - 2021

Miniaturisation of high-throughput bioreactors for advanced therapeutics

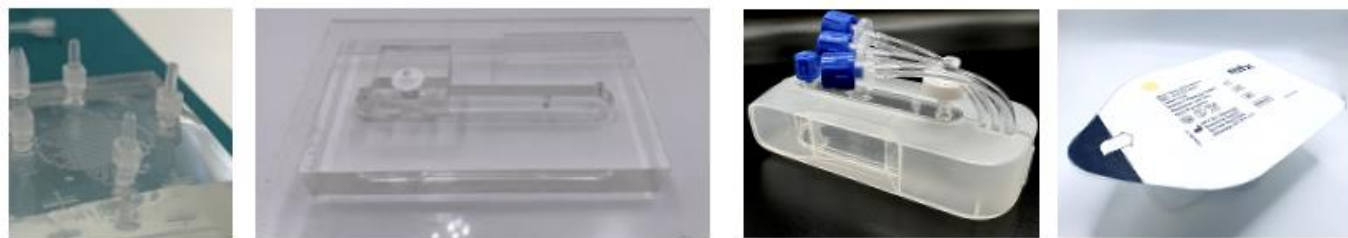
FLF Renewal – 2025

Integration of in-line process analytical technologies with bioreactors for bio-adaptive cell manufacturing

Single-use bioreactor consumable
Prototyping



Productisation
(TRL 7-9)



Early Access Programme – Validation & Early
Commercialisation as Research-use only Products



SOME TIPS



Frame your application in terms of various leadership tenets

Scientific/Technological Leadership

- Why is the proposed innovation innovative?
- What differentiates it? (Understand your market)

Team Leadership

- What are your skill set that make you the best person for the project?
- What skill set are you lacking and what's your plan for training/upskilling?

Influential Leadership

- How does your project align and potentially contribute to UK priorities?
- What is the pathway from early career → recognised leader and how the award could help you?



Clear description of management/leadership structure – host support

Decision-making like in SMEs vs. larger companies (any roadblocks to decision-making)



Clear Funding Plans and evidence of fundraising efforts

To demonstrate that the FLF is for R&D and experimental development projects; Where is the match funding coming from?



Unambiguous IP structure and ownership

Who owns the IP? Are you allowed to exploit it?

FLF Development Network Support

Margot Bucaille

Innovation Manager, FLF



The Future Leaders Fellowship Development Network

Round 10 Business Competition Support Webinar

Margot Bucaille, Innovation Manager



Introductions

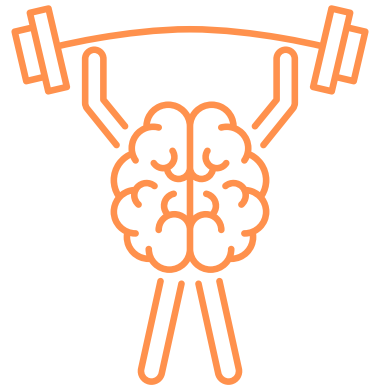


Margot Bucaille
Innovation Manager *m.bucaille@qub.ac.uk*



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

FLF Development Network



Leadership skills training differs a lot from organizations.

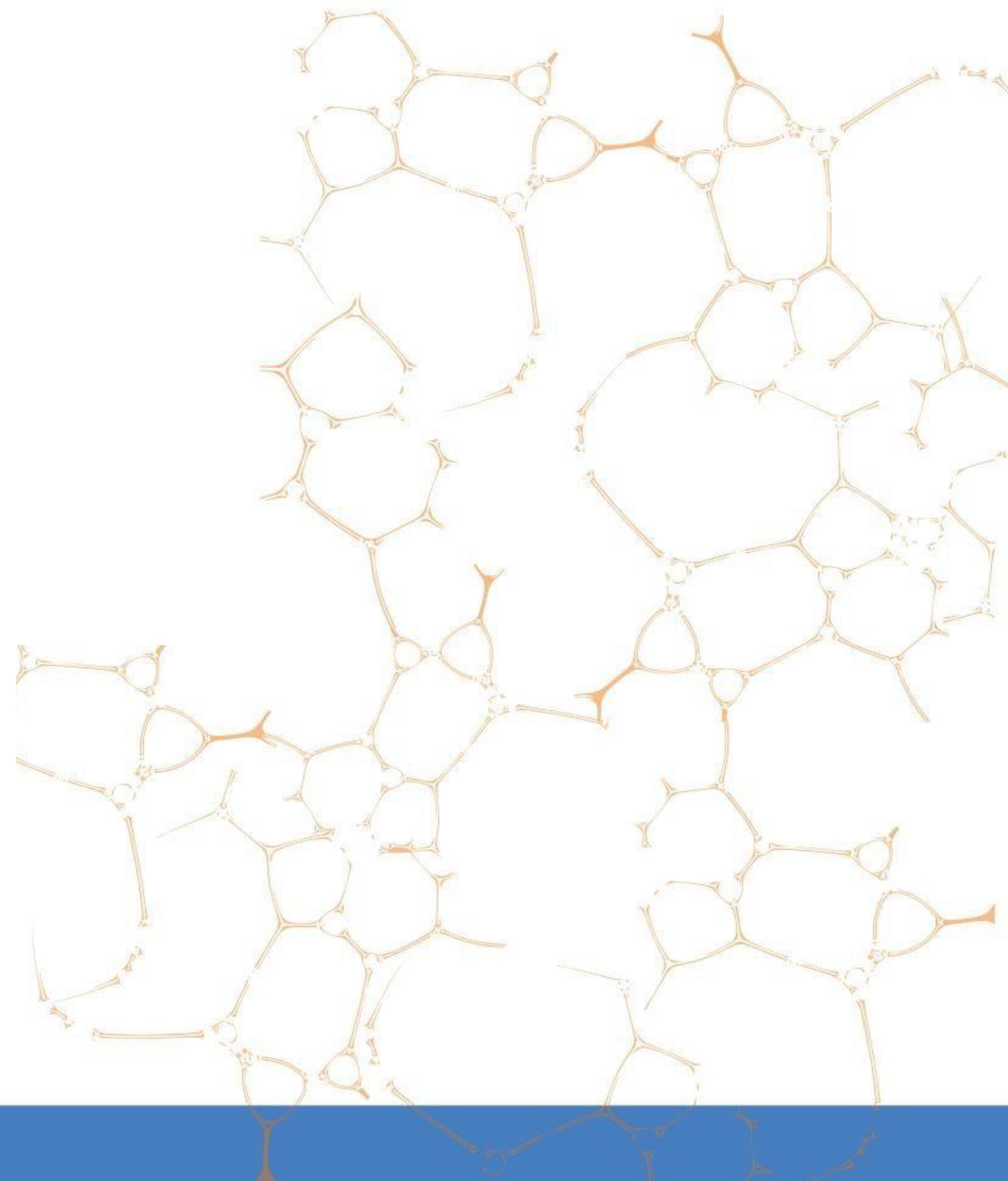


Fellows are **unique** in their organisations



Desire to **grow the collaborative**, interdisciplinary, and community aspect of the Fellows scheme

Expertise from across the UK



What we offer

Events
Leadership Retreats
Crucible
Fellow-led Events
Innovation Series



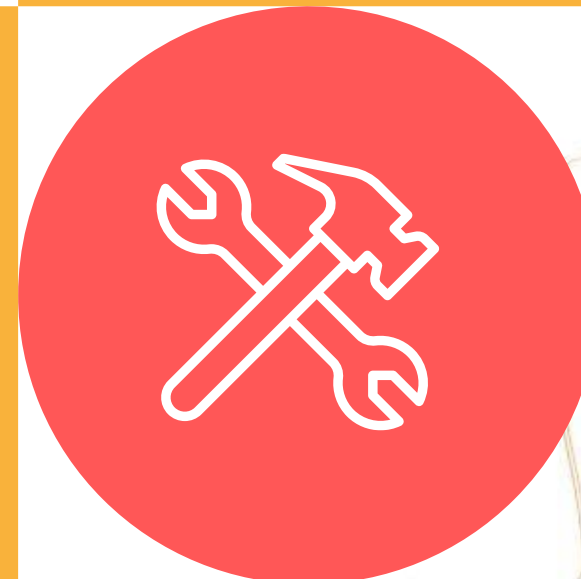
1-2-1 Support
Mentoring
Coaching



Funding
Plus Funds
Flexible Funds



Resources
Toolkits
Digital Profiles



Other resources



One-off events



Toolkits



Fellows Online Profiles

Thank you

Margot Bucaille

Innovation Manager

www.flfdevnet.com



FLF Business Panel Members

Advice

Kate Barclay

BioIndustry Association



Rory Duncan

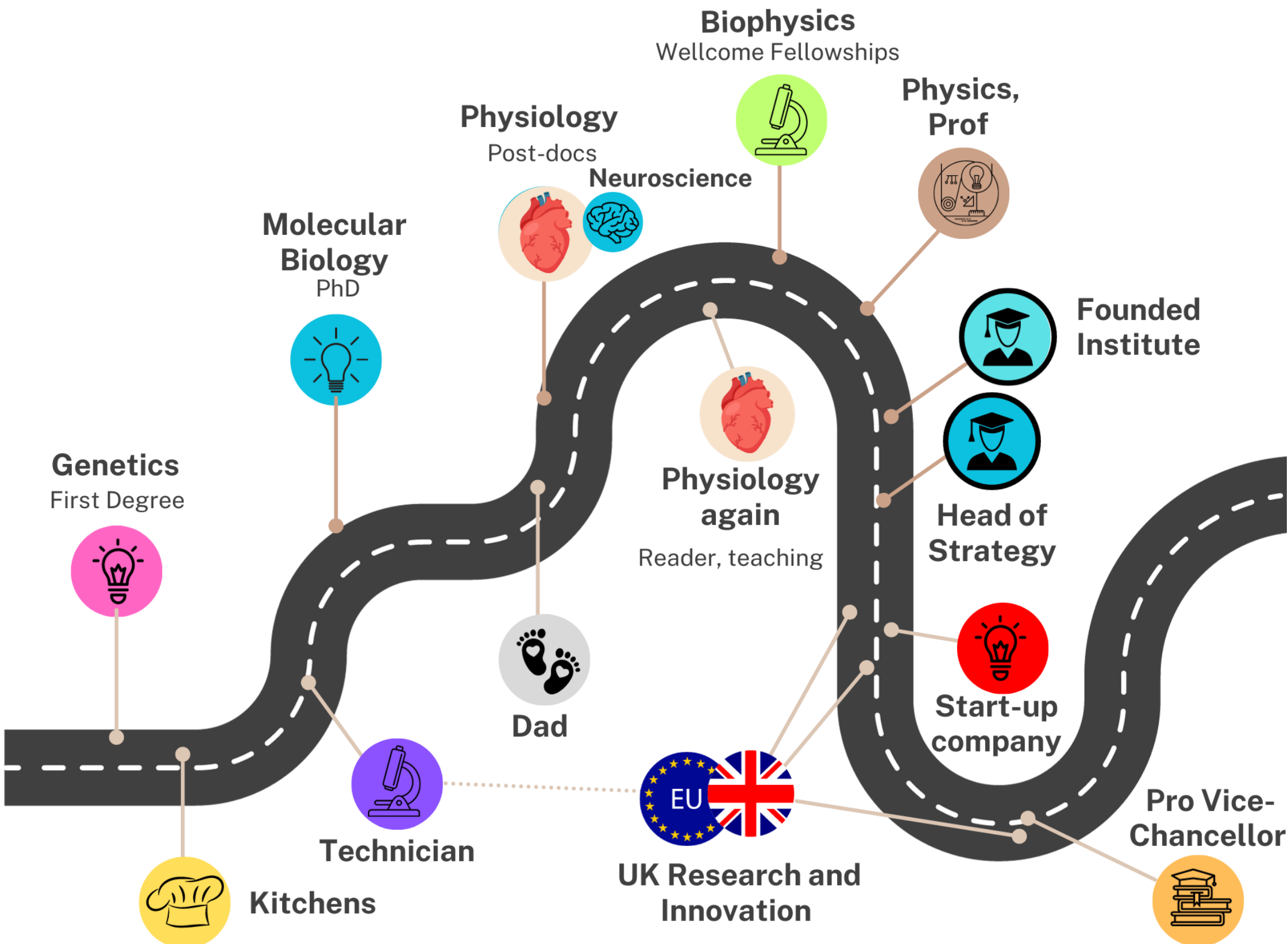
Duddingston Consultancy



Rory Duncan
Director, Duddingston Consultancy Ltd
FLF Business Panel Chair, round 9

rory@duddingstonconsulting.com
www.duddingstonconsulting.co.uk





- UKRI Director, Talent & Skills, 2018-21
- UKRI Director, Horizon Europe association, 2021-22
- SRO (senior responsible owner) FLF programme
- Worked on several governmental research and innovation strategies

rory@duddingstonconsulting.com
www.duddingstonconsulting.co.uk

The opportunity for ‘non-academic’ applicants



Future Leaders Fellowship –
providing stable, generous
support for early career
researchers from any
background



Largest talent programme ever
in the UK



Applicants can be hosted in
business, third sector,
universities – wherever the best
environment is for the
development of the FLF, their
team and their impacts



Rounds 1-3 – no business
awards



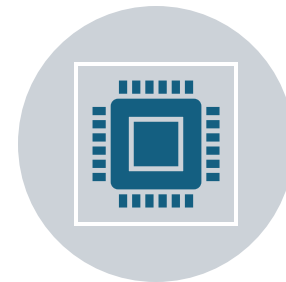
Significant effort to tailor
support for ‘non-academic’
applicants and award
recipients, recognising specific
requirements and diverse
landscape

rory@duddingstonconsulting.com
www.duddingstonconsulting.co.uk

Some tips from this panel Chair



Play to strengths – understand the landscape, its gaps and business processes



Host support in the broadest sense is key (not only or necessarily financial)



Demonstrate a '*holistic*' plan that encompasses everything in a 'pathway to impact'



Think people-centric, including yourself – what do you need to succeed?



Be self-reflective



Think big – this is to support the boldest people and ideas to succeed – demonstrating impact is key

Clear, easy to read writing is all-important: keep in mind that non-experts will be assessing your proposal

Q&A Session



Summary & Close

Dr Jennifer Postles

Lead Specialist - Innovation Talent
Innovate UK

