



## **FWB hosts private dinner for key decision makers in the Contract Research Industry**

In June this year, FWB and Nexus co-hosted a private dinner for Chief Executives and Managing Directors from Scotland's Contract Research Industry.

The Contract Research sector is a vigorous and crucial element of the Scottish Life Sciences Community – with significant opportunities for growth but is also facing some constraints to development including the diminishing number of trained and experienced staff working in Scotland.

The discussions began with an overview from Chris Hill, Vice President & Site Head (Newhouse) for MSD.

Key themes that were discussed included:

- Important emerging markets in the E7 (Mexico, Brazil, Turkey, Russia, India, Indonesia and India)
- Positioning Scotland to ensure sustainable competitiveness
- Skill shortages in Senior Project Management and Data Management
- The drying up of new product pipeline in the pharmaceutical industry
- The need to consider who the main players will be – there is still overcapacity in pharma.
- The quality and motivation of graduates and the need to raise awareness of the sector and manage expectations of career development for those entering the sector

It was agreed that the group attending the dinner and the CRO sector in general need to work in concert to lobby for change and help to also deliver it. As a result, several key points are now being actioned and will be discussed at a follow up dinner later in the year.

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