

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## **DR. JOHN R. NORMANTON BSc PhD DipClinSci MIoD**

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### CAREER HISTORY

<b>Managing Director, Owner &amp; Founder, Oxandia Limited</b> ( <a href="http://www.oxandia.com">www.oxandia.com</a> )	<b>May 2006 - present</b>
<b>Managing Director &amp; Co-founder Argantrix Limited</b> ( <a href="http://www.argantrix.com">www.argantrix.com</a> )	<b>Mar 2014 - present</b>
<b>Managing Director, Co-founder, IPgeniX Limited</b> ( <a href="http://www.ipgenix.com">www.ipgenix.com</a> )	<b>May 2023 - present</b>

Orchard Lea, Horns Lane, Combe, Oxfordshire

Consultancy companies offering services to academia, SME's, investors and industry in:

- business development & licensing
- patent portfolio strategy & IP management
- business and project planning
- strategic early spin-out management

Oxandia was formed to address the need for early-stage companies to have access to in-depth experience of the above skills whilst in the crucial initial phase of their life. However, it rapidly became apparent that a broad range of bodies (universities, charities, larger companies, private individuals, etc.) often urgently needed basic advice on IP management and commercialisation. This was extended by the formation of Argantrix with the specific objective to advance collaborative company formation between overseas countries and the UK and IPgeniX to help inventors optimise their IP.

I have over 35 years of experience in:

- negotiating, implementing and managing £multi-million R&D contracts placed with academia (inc. £26M returned to 2 UK universities from one company out of a lifetime turnover of £35M)
- strategic IP planning and management (over 750 patent applications filed and prosecuted)
- in- and out-licensing (multiple £multi-million deals successfully closed)
- sourcing, drafting and project managing grant applications

I am also involved as a Founder of a number of early-stage companies:

***CholesteniX Limited*** ([www.cholestenix.com](http://www.cholestenix.com))

Swansea University (Neurodegeneration therapeutics and diagnostic company)

***Lucilia Pharma Limited*** ([www.lucilia-pharma.com](http://www.lucilia-pharma.com))

Swansea University (Antimicrobial therapeutics based on insect secondary metabolites)

***EstryX Pharma Limited*** ([www.estryx.com](http://www.estryx.com))

Universities of Oxford & Bath (Endocrine-dependant oncology therapeutics spin-out company)

***GliaGenesis Limited*** ([www.gliogenesis.com](http://www.gliogenesis.com))

Company spinning out of a UK university (Neuro-regeneration therapeutics & glial cell function)

***Rechargion Energy Private Limited, India*** ([www.rechargion.com](http://www.rechargion.com))

An Indian company in the area of next-generation sodium-ion and lithium-sulfur batteries

***Nebuquine Limited***

A company founded during the pandemic to develop an inhaled therapeutic for Covid-19

***Allosterica Limited*** ([www.allosterica.co.uk](http://www.allosterica.co.uk)) - currently operating in 'stealth' mode

A new drug target identification company spinning out from industry (All clinical indications)

***StratiPhrenia s.r.o., Czechia*** ([www.stratiphrenia.com](http://www.stratiphrenia.com)) - currently operating in stealth mode

A new company in the area of stratification of schizophrenia spinning out from a State institute

**Managing Director & Company Secretary, Life Research Oxford Limited** **Apr 2024 – Dec 2025**

Reporting to the Founder

All aspects of incorporating and establishing the company, retaining scientific staff, securing laboratory premises and establishing all associated legal, financial, regulatory and governance processes.

**Co-Founder, CEO & Company Secretary, Polypharmakos Limited** **Mar 2016 – Feb 2023**

Reporting to the Board of Directors

Polypharmakos was a joint spinout from the University of Cambridge & Royal Botanic Gardens Kew ‘prospecting’ for new antimicrobials derived from botanicals to address Antimicrobial Resistance. Key founders included Prof. Duncan Maskell FMedSci (Senior Pro Vice-Chancellor, Cambridge and later Vice-Chancellor, University of Melbourne) and Prof. Monique Simmonds OBE, Kew. As co-founders of this company, my COO and I successfully raised pre-seed finance from Cambridge Enterprise prior to a seed round in late 2017 raised from the Cambridge Seed Funds (managed by Palkwalk Advisors) and Swansea University. In 2020 an R&D relationship was established with Proctor & Gamble and in February 2023 the company was acquired by a new management team.

**Director, Commercial Project Planning, Ipsen Limited** **Mar 2005 – Apr 2006**

14 Kensington Square, London

Reporting to SVP, Business Development (*Mr. Christian de la Tour*)

**Consultant to Ipsen Limited** **Mar 2004 - Feb 2005 and May 2006 - Apr 2011**

Reporting to Group VP, Corp. Dev. (*Dr. Alistair Stokes*) and CSO (*the late Dr. Jacques-Pierre Moreau*)

Principal responsibilities:

- Integration of Sterix Ltd. into the Ipsen Group
- Business development & Licensing
- Intellectual property strategy and management
- Alliance management (CRUK & Spirogen Ltd.)

My initial role was to assist Ipsen in assimilating the IP, projects, personnel and business operations of Sterix into the Ipsen organisation following its acquisition in February 2004. Specifically, the brief covered: full management of strategy and prosecution of Sterix’s extensive patent portfolio (reporting to VP, Intellectual Property); integration of Sterix’s Phase I study of STX 64 in breast cancer with CRUK; assistance with in- and out-licensing programme for the Sterix product portfolio (reporting to VP, Business Development) including close liaison with: Bayer-Schering, Novartis, Takeda, Kyowa Hakko, BioMerieux, PregLem SA, the Universities of Bath and Edinburgh and Imperial College.

Subsequently, I took on broader functions operating across all of Ipsen’s sectors of business development: neuromuscular, oncology and endocrinology and was involved in initiating, negotiating and closing a significant number of in- and out-licensing agreements as well as assisting in company spin-outs and co-ordinating a series of patent due diligence exercises. I became increasingly involved in planning and budgetary management across Ipsen’s patent portfolio as a founding member of the Intellectual Property Strategy Committee (reporting to the Executive VP & CSO). I was also responsible for alliance management with CRUK and Spirogen Ltd. in respect of preclinical and clinical R&D.

**Chief Operating Officer, Sterix Limited** **May 2001 - Feb 2004**

**Company Secretary**

**Managing Director & Co-founder**

Magdalen Centre, Oxford Science Park, Oxford, OX4 4GA

Reporting to Executive Chairman (*Dr. Peter Johnson*)

Principal responsibilities:

- Intellectual property management
- Business development & Licensing
- Information technology management
- Financial & project management
- Oxford preclinical screening & DMPK support
- Legal, Regulatory and Health & Safety compliance

**Aug 1998 - Jan 2002**

**May 1997 - May 2001**

In late-1997 I incorporated Sterix Limited with co-founders, *the late Prof. Mike Reed* (Professor of Steroid Biochemistry, Imperial College) and *Prof. Barry Potter* (Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, University of Bath) with the aim of developing steroidal and steroid-mimetic products in oncology and endocrinology. I negotiated terms for assignment key technologies and IP and Sterix became fully operational in August 2008 when I signed a £multi-million licence agreement with Schering AG in HRT/oral contraception. This revenue funded Sterix's initial operations through to 2001 included a team (~40 FTE's at peak) of medicinal chemists and biologists working under contract at Bath and Imperial. I established Sterix's headquarters in Oxford and in 2000 recruited a part-time Executive Chairman.

In 2001, we together secured £8m funding from 3i, J&JDC, Avlar and Quester and Sterix's R&D activities were substantially augmented at Bath and Imperial and a Preclinical R&D Support Facility was established in new laboratories in Oxford.

From 2001 through to 2004 I coordinated the Executive Committee, established the Drug Development Committee and managed the Company's day-to-day operations. Throughout this period I crafted a patent portfolio of ~450 applications and also successfully negotiated a further substantial licence agreement with a major Japanese company in 2002 and coordinated the appointments to Sterix's SAB, orchestrated several budgetary restructurings and business plan revisions.

Throughout 2003 I presented to numerous companies exploring the potential for partnerships including several potential merger/acquisition discussions and, in February 2004, Sterix underwent a successful trade sale to the Ipsen Group. The assets included an extensive patent portfolio together with a pipeline of major potential products including steroid sulfatase inhibitors for oncology and other indications, dual aromatase/sulfatase inhibitors, 11 $\beta$ HSD inhibitors for type II diabetes and a combined microtubule disruptor/angiogenesis inhibitor indicated for a range of solid tumours. During the sale I managed the due diligence process and oversaw key aspects of the legal negotiations with Ipsen and with Imperial and Bath to secure their ongoing working relationship. In aggregate, with Sterix I was successful in returning £26M of R&D funding to the UK university sector.

**Director & Company Secretary, 3i Research Exploitation Ltd.**

**Jul 1996 - Oct 1997**

Reporting to Chairman of Imperial College Innovations Ltd. (*the late Sir Peter Baxendell*)

Principal responsibilities:

- Sole operational director
- Intellectual property management
- Business development & Financial management

I held overall responsibility for strategy in a range of areas including: malarial vaccines, peritoneal dialysis, Down's Syndrome pre-natal testing and novel chimeric antibodies for oncology.

**Technology Transfer Executive, Imperial College Innovations Ltd.**

**Apr 1991 - Aug 1998**

Imperial College, London

Reporting to CEO (*the late Dr. David Thomas – pro-Rector, Imperial College*)

Principal responsibilities:

- Project management of Imperial College-funded biopharmaceutical development projects.
- Evaluating, patenting and out-licensing of Imperial College biopharmaceutical technologies.
- Agency management of 3i Research Exploitation Ltd. (Dec 1992 - Jul 1996)

I held overall responsibility for sourcing, patenting and licensing in small molecule therapeutics for all departments as well as co-responsibility for certain other areas of diagnostics, vaccine and biologicals. This involved a significant amount of technology auditing and contact with companies from multinationals to start-ups. From 1991 to 1997 I secured and managed various types of funding from Imperial College, Bath, Cyanamid, Schering AG and CRUK for R&D teams at Imperial and the University of Bath. Additionally, I filed seminal patents and licensed in areas including: Alzheimer's animal models and diagnostics (licensed to Athena Neurosciences, Inc. later sold to Élan Corp.), allergy immunotherapy (the basis of Circassia Ltd.), cancer cachexia, BSE, Freidreich's Ataxia & polycystic ovary disease diagnostics, automated DNA sequencing, vaccine and retroviral vector delivery systems.

**Patents and Licensing Executive, 3i Research Exploitation Ltd.****May 1990 - Apr 1991**

Windsor (subsidiary of 3i plc)

Reporting to CEO (*Dr. Charles DesForges*)

Principal responsibilities:

- Sourcing, auditing, evaluating, patenting and licensing of biomedical technologies
- Project management of 3i REL-funded biomedical development projects

**Clinical Research Associate and Information Resources Manager****Jun 1988 - Mar 1990****Clinical Research Unit London, Sandoz Ltd. (now Novartis) Camberley, Surrey**Reporting to Unit Head, London (*Dr. Deirdre Gillespie*) and to Medical Experts, Basel

Principal responsibilities:

- UK phase III pivotal trial of Navoban in chemotherapy-induced emesis
- Monitoring of several phase I/II studies in patients (ADME, PK, early efficacy, etc.)
- Planning, purchasing, implementation and administration of IT resources

My main responsibility whilst at Sandoz was management of the UK arm of a high-profile multi-country multicentre Phase III trial on Sandoz's 5-HT<sub>3</sub> antagonist in chemotherapy-induced emesis. Key centres recruited and/or managed included: University College (*Prof. Robert Souhami*); The Christie Hospital (*Prof. Tony Howell*); Guy's Hospital (*Prof. Sir Mike Richards*) and Southampton (*Prof. Chris Williams*).

**William Carleton Gibson Junior Research Fellow, Green College, Oxford****Oct 1986 - Jun 1988****College Lecturer in Neurophysiology, Exeter College, Oxford****Oct 1985 - Jun 1988**

I was elected to these positions for my research work in the area of sleep neurochemistry and tutorial services in neurophysiology. I remain a member of Green College and Exeter's Senior Common Room.

**Departmental Demonstrator****Oct 1982 - Jun 1988****University Laboratory of Physiology, Oxford**Reporting to Head of Department (*the late Prof. Sir Colin Blakemore*)

Responsible for:

- Independent research into neuropharmacology of putative endogenous sleep substances
- Basic and advanced teaching and tutoring in CNS neurophysiology
- Supervision of BA, medical and D.Phil student research projects

**Research Associate & Rowbottom Research Fellow****Oct 1980 - Sep 1982****Department of Physiology, University of Birmingham**Reporting to Professor of Neurophysiology (*the late Prof. John Wolstencroft*)

Responsible for

- Independent electrophysiological research into novel neuropeptides in the brain and spinal cord

**PATENT INVENTORSHIP****PCT/GB2012/000499****PCT/GB2014/000356****PCT/GB2015/054170****PCT/EP2021/057124****PCT/EP2021/058784****GB 2018245.7****GB 2102950.9****GB 2401857.4****GB 2403899.4****GB 2502446.4**

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

- **Member of Advisory Board, Brainscape Project, Prague, Czechia (Brainscape) 2025 - Present**  
Cross-sectoral collaboration – technologies in psychiatry - precision medicine and new therapies
- **Member of Advisory Board, ONESTX, Seville, Spain (<https://onestx.bio/>) 2025 - Present**  
Olavide Neuron STX S.L. (“ONESTX”), developing drugs to treat neurodegenerative diseases
- **Member of Council, Center of Excellence (Personalised Medicine), Czechia 2018 - Present**  
Czech National Centre of Competence – Personalized Medicine – Diagnostics and Therapy
- **Member of the International Business Advisory Board, IOCB Tech s.r.o., Prague 2016 - 2023**  
Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry of the Czech Academy of Sciences
- **MIoD elected member of the UK Institute of Directors 1999 – Present**

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

- **Diploma in Clinical Science, University of Wales 1990**  
Thesis : “Good Clinical Research Practice: Background, Impact and Future for Clinical Trials”
- **PhD Electrophysiology of Neuropeptides, Dept. of Pharmacology, Leeds 1982**  
Thesis : “Physiological and Pharmacological Studies of Some Endogenous Peptides in the CNS”
- **BSc (Hons) class I Pharmacology, University of Leeds 1977**