

SMART Cymru funding enables development of world-first Jellyfish bio-ink for tissue regeneration

- Jellagen and Copner Biotech ink partnership following SMART Cymru innovation funding award of £123,724
- The partnership is a world's first in 3D bioprinting, by combining brand new bio-inks derived from jellyfish collagen with advanced precision software

Cardiff, Wales, 5 October 2021 – Jellagen, an innovative biotech company developing a proprietary next-generation biomaterial, Collagen Type 0, announce partnership with Copner Biotech, a pioneer in 3D bioprinting, after securing innovation funding of £123,724 from SMART Cymru.

This partnership has the potential to transform the 3D bioprinting market, which is projected to reach £1.4 billion by 2028ⁱ. Clinical applications for 3D bioprinted materials are broad and range from skin, bone, cartilage and blood vessel printing. Jellyfish-derived Collagen Type 0 has proven to promote an anti-inflammatory driven tissue response that produces fewer side effects than traditional collagens derived from mammalsⁱⁱ, producing a high-quality, compatible and reproducible bio-ink. Copner Biotech brings to the partnership advanced algorithm software, enabling heightened precision of 3D bioprinting. Together, the collaboration has the potential to create a paradigm shift in 3D bioprinting, at a time of high market growth.

Professor Andrew Mearns Spragg, Founder and Chief Scientific Officer of Jellagen comments, *“We are absolutely delighted to partner with Jordan Copner and his team at Copner Biotech. SMART Cymru has enabled the creation of an exciting collaboration between two high-growth Welsh businesses at the forefront of exciting technological innovation in 3D software design capability and medical tissue engineering.”*

Jordan Copner, Founder and CEO of Copner Biotech further added, *“This is an enormously exciting scientific collaboration between Copner Biotech and Jellagen, and a reflection of the increasing significance of 3D bioprinting in the Global medical research landscape. Our partnership aims to push the boundaries to advance innovation in biomedical engineering.”*

This project is partly funded by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

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About Copner Biotech

Copner Biotech Ltd was founded in 2020 with the vision to disrupt the 3D cell culture market with innovative technologies. The 3D cell culture space has the potential to further important medical research with real world benefits, such as cancer research and tissue engineering. Copner Biotech's goal is to design, create and utilise new software platforms to manufacture competitive products for the 3D cell culture market.

As a company we have celebrated several successes to date, including the development of a novel software operating platform for the design of cell culture scaffolds that encourage oxygen and nutrient gradients and the presentation of the GHP International Life Sciences Award for Innovation 2021. Our mission now is to develop further upon what we have already created and commercialise it via the mass manufacture of polymer cell scaffolds and bioprinting products.

About SMART Cymru

SMARTCymru supports Welsh businesses to develop, implement and commercialise new products, processes, and services. It does this by co-investing in Research, Development, and Innovation projects that help to deliver sustainable growth

The scheme, which is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund, can assist businesses at every stage of their Innovation Journey, from Feasibility, through Industrial Research and Experimental Development, and on to Exploitation support.

The scheme can also support the costs of implementing new processes.

SMART Cymru has supported more than 400 businesses in Wales to develop over 500 innovative projects.



ⁱ Global 3D Bioprinting Market Report. July 2021. [3D Bioprinting Market Size, Share, Trends, Opportunities & Forecast \(verifiedmarketresearch.com\)](#). Last accessed 30 September 2021.

ⁱⁱ Flaig I, et al. In Vivo Analysis of the Biocompatibility and Immune Response of Jellyfish Collagen Scaffolds and its Suitability for Bone Regeneration. Int J Mol Sci. 2020 Jun 25;21(12):4518