



Chesterford Research Park offers biotechnology and pharmaceutical R & D companies modern, dynamic and flexible facilities.

From prestigious, bespoke HQ buildings, such as the Gonville Building, currently occupied by Illumina, to the fully fitted laboratory space of Science Village and unique environment of the Mansion House, all areas have been designed to drive discovery and development activities.

Occupied by Charles River Laboratories, the Robinson Building is another impressive, bespoke build, which enabled the consolidation of Charles River's Chesterford Research Park operations into one state-of-the-art facility and bought its team together under one roof, having previously been spread across multiple buildings.

The 60,000 sq ft building comprises two wings, linked by a stunning two-storey atrium with landscaped courtyard behind.

The building is further enhanced by extensive green landscaping, allowing it to sit unobtrusively within the park's naturally beautiful surroundings.

The styling of the building is synonymous with the contemporary styling consistently adopted at Chesterford Research Park, where every bespoke build is designed to suit its particular location within the 250-acre parkland site, whilst staying true to the very specific internal functions required of R & D buildings.

The Robinson Building enables all the scientific disciplines to be together to facilitate good communication and the rapid turnaround of data to support integrated projects. To find out more about Charles River and its current focus, we spoke to Jackie Macritchie, the company's senior managing director.

Can you briefly describe the focus of Charles River's activities?

Charles River is a Contract Research Organisation (CRO) that provides products and services to the life science community in order to bring new pharmaceutical and agrochemical products to the market. We are passionate about improving the quality of people's lives and strive to deliver high quality, timely science to all our partners, from the very early stages of drug discovery through to selecting a compound to go into the clinic.

What is the scope of Charles River's current activity at Chesterford? Is there a particular area of focus for the organisation?

Our work at Chesterford Research Park is focused on the early discovery phase, discovering new pharmaceutical products for our clients. We work only in in vitro sciences at the park in the areas of biology, medicinal chemistry, computer aided drug design, structural biology and DMPK (drug metabolism and pharmacokinetics). We are involved in discovering small molecules that have utility in therapeutic areas such as oncology, neurodegenerative diseases, inflammation and respiratory diseases.

We also actively work on projects in the rare and orphan disease field. One example, which we are very proud of, is the

Chesterford Research Park Occupier Focus: Charles River Laboratories



The Robinson Building, CRL's home at Chesterford Research Park



Jackie Macritchie, senior managing director at Charles River Laboratories

part we play in an open science Medicines4kids collaboration with M4K Pharma.

This programme is focused on the discovery and development of a treatment for diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG), a rare and fatal paediatric brain cancer with no chemotherapies that provide benefit. Nearly every child diagnosed with the disease dies within two years.

Is there a future objective that you have set your sights on as an organisation that you

can share?

Yes, we have recently signed an exclusive partnership agreement with Distributed Bio; an antibody discovery company. This is a very exciting opportunity that enhances the capabilities that we offer our clients and we are looking forward to building this partnership and adding an antibody discovery platform to sit alongside our small molecule research.

What attracted Charles River to Chesterford Research Park?



An aerial view of Chesterford Research Park

What are the 'must have's' for a life science R & D park location from your perspective?

Having worked on the park since the early 1990's I have had the opportunity to experience its development first hand! The parkland environment is particularly attractive and extremely well kept and The Nucleus central facilities building provides excellent additional amenities. We use the Nucleus meeting rooms regularly and the restaurant and health and fitness centre are a real draw for our staff.

From a location point of view, the park is ideally positioned within easy reach of the M11, Stansted airport and Cambridge. The proximity to the University of Cambridge and the associated talent pool is also really beneficial.

In addition, the park management team are incredibly approachable and collaborative; we have forged good, long-term relationships with Katherine Maguire and her team. It's very apparent that they are extremely dedicated to the smooth running

of the park, both for us as occupiers and also the visitors that come on site every day.

Finally, is Charles River hiring at the moment and if so, what skill sets are you particularly looking for?

We are an expanding organisation and so typically we always have ongoing vacancies. We started an apprenticeship scheme in January this year and will be adding further apprentices this coming year. From a scientific perspective, we are currently recruiting into a number of biology positions, both laboratory based and senior project managers. We also have vacancies in the core functions that support the sciences (for example project coordination, client services and HR).

To discover more about Chesterford Research Park visit www.chesterfordresearchpark.com and to find out more about Charles River Laboratories visit www.criver.com