

# Chapter 6

## Making it happen: Create the Bioscience Leadership Council

### **CREATE A BIOSCIENCE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

A key recommendation of the BIGT is the need to create a Bioscience Leadership Council. The Council has a vital role to play to:

- Facilitate Government and industry cooperation;
- Proactively drive implementation of the measures recommended by the BIGT;
- Monitor their effectiveness;
- Provide a forum to discuss issues management; and
- Enhance the probability of success for a world-leading bioscience industry developing in the UK.

This report makes significant recommendations about how Government and the bioscience industry should work together, to develop one of the most strategic industries of the future for national health and wealth. Without a mechanism for nurturing and monitoring this cooperation it is likely that much momentum will be lost, and the opportunity for the UK to become a world leader in bioscience may be missed.

The creation of a Bioscience Leadership Council, with a rolling programme of action, is central to the BIGT's longer term vision.

### **Bioscience Leadership Council: The structure**

The Council should comprise of a senior group of six leaders of bioscience companies, together with six strategic stakeholders (e.g. from academia, NHS, etc.), to facilitate discussion and cooperation between the bioscience industry and Government. A chairman would be appointed to the Council for the duration of three years. The Council should meet four times a year and report to the Minister of Health and DTI Ministers biannually.

The focus of the Bioscience Leadership Council should be to act as:

- A mechanism to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of BIGT's recommendations. In those cases where there is Government support at the highest level for the BIGT suggestions, the Council will monitor the extent to which change actually happens on the ground. It will then report to Ministers on further implementation measures that may be necessary.
- A forum so that Government and industry can continue to work together to jointly identify new initiatives or changes to existing initiatives to improve the climate for bioscience in the UK.

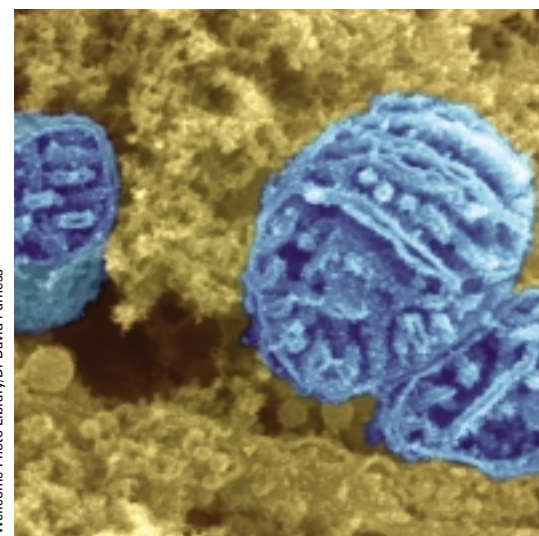
## Implementation Team

The Council will need a secretariat to arrange meetings and produce or commission reports on implementation of the recommendations. It is proposed that a small team of two should be created to act as secretariat, and this responsibility will be charged to the DTI Bioscience Unit.

The first job of the secretariat will be to amplify and finalise the implementation plan for the BIGT recommendations, and achieve agreement from all interested parties on their respective roles. It will have to be clear who is responsible within Government for delivering in each case where Government action is required.

In some cases, it may be advantageous to convene a Working Group of the Council to assist in the implementation of particular recommendations. For example, the setting up of a National Clinical Trials Agency will be a complex exercise, and whilst policy responsibility for such an action must fall to the Department of Health, industry input into the process could prove invaluable.

The secretariat will also be charged with the creation of the Biotechnology Risk Assessment Forum (BRAAF), following up the recommendation in *Chapter 2*. BRAAF's deliberations on upcoming risks will then be fed into the Council, which will decide whether specific follow-up on particular issues is required.



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The DNA contained in the mitochondria is passed down the female line