

Dr Roderick Simon Patrick Benson

Non-Executive Director | Biotech Strategy & Operations Expert

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Board-Ready Executive Summary

Seasoned biotech executive with 16+ years building and scaling life sciences companies from startup to successful exit. Proven track record in strategic leadership, investment raising (£2M+), and revenue growth (£32K to £1.7M). Deep operational expertise across drug discovery, regulatory strategy, and commercial partnerships with Big Pharma. Currently provides strategic guidance to early-stage biotechnology companies.

Core Board Competencies: Strategic Planning | Investment & Fundraising | Risk Management | Regulatory Affairs | Commercial Strategy | Operational Excellence

Executive Leadership Experience

Chief Operating Officer | *Dominion Biotech* | 2023 – present

Patient-derived cancer models for pharmaceutical drug discovery

Strategic Leadership:

- Provided strategic guidance during company formation and early-stage development
- Developed business model and positioning strategy for pharmaceutical service market
- Secured first major contract, establishing revenue foundation for growth

Operational Excellence:

- Prepared detailed financial models (£3m and £4m) for VC investment
- Assisted in business plan slide deck
- Established service delivery frameworks and pricing strategies
- Built operational processes supporting future scale-up

Chief Executive Officer / Chief Operating Officer | *Imagen Therapeutics* | 2007 - 2017

High-content screening services & personalized cancer medicine - £1.7M revenue in 2023

Strategic Achievements:

- **Revenue Growth:** Scaled from £50K overdraft to £1.7M annual revenue
- **Investment Success:** Raised £2M+ across multiple funding rounds from Angel investors
- **Market Leadership:** Established dominant position in UK high-content screening services
- **Strategic Exit:** Successfully executed stake sale and management transition (2017)

Operational Leadership:

- Built organization from 2 original founders to a mature biotech company
- Managed P&L responsibility until exit in 2017
- Developed comprehensive service offerings generating average £50K per project
- Established partnerships with tier-1 pharmaceutical companies globally

Strategic Planning & Risk Management:

- Led strategic pivots from service provider to personalized medicine technology
- Navigated regulatory requirements for clinical development pathways
- Managed cash flow through multiple growth phases and market cycles
- Developed IP portfolio and extensive trade secrets

Commercial & Business Development:

- Negotiated service contracts with AstraZeneca, and other Pharma and Biotech
- Created market-leading pricing strategies and contract frameworks
- Built comprehensive marketing and business development capabilities

Senior Scientist to Management | *AstraZeneca* | 2003 - 2007

Systems biology and drug discovery - Major pharmaceutical environment

- Managed cross-functional scientific teams and projects
 - Helped with internal marketing strategies
 - Led equipment acquisition and facility management decisions
 - Contributed to strategic research planning and resource allocation
 - Gained extensive Big Pharma operational and strategic perspective
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Other Business & Teaching Experience

Prove It Mathematics Club Founder | 2023 – Present

- Created advanced mathematics club for gifted Year 5-7 students
- Developed curriculum teaching mathematical proofs ($\sqrt{2}$ irrationality proof)
- Focused on logical thinking development for future scientists
- See <https://bensonium.com/algebraclub/>



Founded Bensonium Limited 2019

A small enterprise offering software and mathematics club

- February 2024 – August 2025: Completely Refactored and documented a new version of The Platemaker Wizard, a data analysis program I began developing in AstraZeneca and continued to perfect in Imagen Therapeutics. Now available on my website (<https://bensonium.com/the-platemaker-wizard/>)



Magical Maths Franchisee | 2019 – 2023

- Delivered engaging after-school mathematics clubs for primary students
- Developed marketing strategies and managed team of tutors
- Awarded "Best Customer Service Franchisee" 2021

Part-time Lecturer | *University of Manchester* | 2022 – 2023

Biological Sciences (2nd Year) & Problem-Based Learning Medical Students (1st/2nd Year)

Financial & Investment Expertise

Investment Raising Experience:

- Successfully raised £2M+ through multiple rounds (Angel, Grant, Strategic)
- Prepared comprehensive business plans and financial projections
- Presented to investors including VCs, Angels, and strategic partners
- Managed investor relations and board communications

Financial Management:

- P&L responsibility
- Cash flow management through multiple growth phases
- Budget planning and resource allocation across R&D and operations
- Cost management and efficiency optimization

Strategic Financial Planning:

- Developed complex financial models for growth scenarios
 - Led pricing strategy development and contract negotiations
 - Managed working capital and seasonal cash flow variations
 - Experienced in managing through cash critical situations
 - Planned and executed successful exit strategy
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Board-Level Risk Management & Governance**Operational Risk Management:**

- Laboratory safety and regulatory compliance (COSHH guidelines)
- Quality systems implementation and audit management
- IP protection strategies and competitive intelligence
- Supply chain management and vendor relationship oversight

Strategic Risk Assessment:

- Market analysis and competitive positioning
- Technology obsolescence and development risks
- Regulatory pathway planning and clinical development risks

Governance Experience:

- Management of investor reporting and board communications
 - Legal compliance including employment, health & safety, data protection
 - Contract negotiation and legal relationship management
 - Strategic planning and performance measurement systems
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Sector Expertise & Market Intelligence**Life Sciences Sectors:**

- Cancer therapeutics and diagnostic development
- Drug discovery and development services
- Personalized medicine and companion diagnostics

Technology Platforms:

- High-content screening and automated microscopy
- Cell-based assays and patient-derived models
- Laboratory automation and robotics
- Bioinformatics and data analysis systems

Regulatory & Commercial:

- Clinical development strategy and execution
 - Pharmaceutical partnership and licensing structures
 - Technology commercialization and IP monetization
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Education & Professional Qualifications

Ph.D. Physiology (Cancer Biology) | *University of Manchester* | 1996

B.Sc. (Hons) Physiology, First Class | *University of Sydney* | 1989

Professional Development:

- Advanced business strategy and financial management
 - Board governance and director responsibilities
 - Strategic planning and change management
 - Investment and fundraising processes
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Industry Recognition & Network

Awards & Recognition:

- Wellcome Showcase Award (£83K independent funding) - Innovation recognition
- BBSRC Biotechnology YES Competition - 2nd place national final
- Best Customer Service Award 2021, Magical Maths Franchise - Operational excellence recognition

Professional Networks:

- Extensive UK biotech and pharmaceutical industry connections
 - University technology transfer and academic research networks
 - Investment community relationships (Angels, VCs, strategic investors)
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Publications & Intellectual Property

Peer-Reviewed Publications: 16 publications in high-impact scientific journals

Patents: 2 filed patents in biotechnology applications

Industry Recognition: Multiple publications demonstrating technical and commercial expertise

Non-Executive Director Value Proposition

Strategic Leadership: Proven ability to guide companies from startup through multiple growth phases to successful exit

Commercial Acumen: Deep understanding of biotech business models, market dynamics, and customer relationships

Operational Excellence: Hands-on experience scaling operations, managing teams, and delivering measurable results

Investment Expertise: Successfully raised significant funding and managed investor relationships through multiple cycles

Industry Intelligence: Extensive network and current market knowledge across biotechnology sectors

Risk Management: Comprehensive understanding of operational, regulatory, and strategic risks in life sciences

Board Appointment Interests

Preferred Sectors: Biotechnology, Pharmaceutical Industry, Drug Discovery Services

Stage Preference: Early to growth stage companies requiring strategic guidance and operational expertise

Geographic Focus: UK-based companies with potential for international expansion

Committee Interest: Scientific Oversight, Audit, Risk, Strategy, and Commercial committees

Professional references from former board colleagues, investors, and industry partners available upon request