

EXCALIBUR



Professor Sir Christopher Thomas Evans, OBE

DSc, PhD, BSc, ARCS, F.Med.Sci, FR Eng, FRSC, FRSA, FIBiol, FIOM, CCMI, C.Biol., CSci, C.Chem

Founder and Chairman, Excalibur Fund Managers (formerly Merlin Biosciences) and Excalibur Group

Sir Christopher Evans is regarded as one of Europe's leading medical science entrepreneurs. He has a proven track record of establishing 45 successful, high-quality science companies, twenty of which have been taken public on 5 stock markets. Many of these companies have made substantial returns for their venture capital and institutional backers and employ more than 3,500 people. Of note is Chiroscience plc, started by Sir Christopher with \$2 million in 1992 and grown to \$1 billion by 1997 before merging with Celltech plc, which in turn merged with UCB to create one of Europe's flagship bioscience enterprises. Sir Christopher's considerable contributions to the biotechnology industry have been honoured with a Knighthood in the 2001 New Year's Honours List and an OBE in the 1995 New Year's Honours List. In 1987-1994, he created Cambridge's first biomedical companies, starting the now famous Cambridge Cluster which has grown from Sir Chris' earlier start ups to some 350 companies worth over \$7 billion.

In 1996, Sir Christopher founded Merlin Biosciences, which currently manages over \$600 million and is one of Europe's foremost venture capital firms specialising in medical sciences. Merlin invests in companies that are bringing to market human medicines or medical devices based on groundbreaking technology and which possess great commercial potential. Merlin has helped create some 35 companies worth over \$3.5 billion developing over 200 new medical projects. Merlin companies created the world's first gene medicine product to treat brain cancer and the world's first stem cell product to be clinically trialled on humans for stroke. Despite difficult market conditions, he has been the only entrepreneur to consistently float at least one of his medical companies each year since 2003. In 2008, he sold Piramed for \$185 million cash to Roche providing a x7 return to investors.

He is recognised for his contribution to small businesses and entrepreneurship throughout the UK and Europe. He won the BTG/DTI Best New Business in Britain Award. In addition to being voted Cambridge Businessman of the Year twice, he has been awarded the BVCA Cartier Venturer Award for Technology start-ups, the youngest recipient ever of the SCI Centenary Medal, the RSC Interdisciplinary medal, and the Henderson Memorial Medal. He has supported small businesses through his membership and chair of committees and trusts including the Prime Minister's Council for Science and Technology, the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts, and the National Enterprise Campaign. He has also chaired the BEST European Commission Committee for small businesses.

Sir Christopher has a degree in microbiology from Imperial College, a PhD in biochemistry from the University of Hull and Research Fellowships in genetic engineering from University of Michigan. He holds professorships at the Universities of Exeter, Manchester, Liverpool, Bath, Dundee and Imperial College and is a Fellow of the Institute of Biology, the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Universities of Wales. He has been awarded several Doctor of Science (DSc) degrees by British universities in recognition of his achievements as a scientist. Sir Christopher has over 100 publications and patents on his scientific work. He founded his first charity, the UK Stem Cell Foundation in 2004, to back promising new medical advances using revolutionary stem cells.

In 2008 he launched Excalibur as an investment boutique to focus on the broader medical sciences sector.