Oxford University students sweep the board at PhD research awards

- Finn Wolreys, PhD student at the University of Oxford, scoops top prize at UCB PhD Networking Day for poster presentation on molecular research
- Fellow Oxford University students Claire Marks and Nicholas Pearce also received prizes for their research work
- UCB’s event promotes collaboration between leading UK universities and industry, and provides a platform for sharing best practice and world class skills training for the next generation of science leaders

Slough, UK, 1 October, 2015: UCB celebrated some of UK’s most promising PhD scientists at its annual networking event at Royal College of Surgeons. The UCB networking day gives PhD students the chance to network with and learn from both their peers and world leading academics, helping them to gain skills that transition across university and business environments. Each student also gets the chance to present their research project, an experience which equips them with vital presentation and communication skills.

Finn Wolreys was awarded first prize for his research poster. Speaking of his win Wolreys said: “I think the input from UCB has been instrumental for guiding my research by allowing access to cutting edge resources and expertise. It has also enabled me to connect with like-minded peers in my field through the networking day which is extremely useful for collaboration and my future.”

Wolreys’ project focused on a new approach using antibodies to explore complex proteins associated with certain diseases to assess their potential for targeting with a new generation of small molecule drugs.

University of Oxford colleague Claire Marks was awarded first runner up for her work to create software that correctly predicts the shape of the most important section of an antibody. Nicolas Pearce received second runner up for his work using x-ray crystallography to streamline the drug development process by enabling researchers to identify weak molecules and discount them early.

University of Bristol student Matthew Goodwin received the overall first prize at the event for his research.

UCB PhD Networking Day aims to enrich the students’ studies and broaden their perspective of academia and industry. UCB currently supports 40 students by giving them access to cutting edge technology, supervision and placement opportunities. The company also covers the costs of laboratory consumables and provided the students with top-up grants.

Commenting on the need for greater life science collaboration, Dr. Neil Weir, Senior Vice President of Discovery Research at UCB said: “UCB is committed to developing the next generation of science leaders in the UK. I am delighted that UCB has the opportunity to engage and collaborate with these students and their supervisors. This is a key part of expanding our ever growing super-network and will help to enhance early research and speed up the discovery of new treatments for patients.”

Further Information
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About UCB
UCB, Brussels, Belgium (www.ucb.com) is a global biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery and development of innovative medicines and solutions to transform the lives of people living
with severe diseases of the immune system or of the central nervous system. With more than 8500 people in approximately 40 countries, the company generated revenue of € 3.3 billion in 2014. UCB is listed on Euronext Brussels (symbol: UCB).

About UCB PhD Networking Day
UCB's PhD networking day enables students to interact with respected academics, leaders in business and their peers from other institutions, strengthening relationships between universities and industry, exchanging ideas and spurring opportunities for collaboration. The students get the chance to present their research, gaining valuable public speaking experience that will prove valuable throughout their careers.

UCB is currently supporting over 40 PhD students through access to cutting edge technology, supervision and placement opportunities in its laboratories. The company also covers the costs of laboratory consumables at their home university and tops--up direct grants awarded by government research councils.

Forward looking statements
This press release contains forward-looking statements based on current plans, estimates and beliefs of management. All statements, other than statements of historical fact, are statements that could be deemed forward-looking statements, including estimates of revenues, operating margins, capital expenditures, cash, other financial information, expected legal, political, regulatory or clinical results and other such estimates and results. By their nature, such forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions which could cause actual results to differ materially from those that may be implied by such forward-looking statements contained in this press release. Important factors that could result in such differences include: changes in general economic, business and competitive conditions, the inability to obtain necessary regulatory approvals or to obtain them on acceptable terms, costs associated with research and development, changes in the prospects for products in the pipeline or under development by UCB, effects of future judicial decisions or governmental investigations, product liability claims, challenges to patent protection for products or product candidates, changes in laws or regulations, exchange rate fluctuations, changes or uncertainties in tax laws or the administration of such laws and hiring and retention of its employees. UCB is providing this information as of the date of this press release and expressly disclaims any duty to update any information contained in this press release, either to confirm the actual results or to report a change in its expectations.

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