

EXCALIBUR



Professor Sir Christopher Thomas Evans, OBE

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

Founder and Chairman, Excalibur Limited

Sir Christopher Evans is regarded as one of Europe's leading medical science entrepreneurs. He has a proven track record of establishing successful, high-quality science companies, twenty of which have been taken public on 5 stock markets. 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 £1 million in 1992 and grown to £600 million 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 1996, Sir Christopher founded Merlin Biosciences, which currently manages over €500 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.

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 supports 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 a major 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 recently founded his first charity, the UK Stem Cell Foundation, to back promising new medical advances using revolutionary stem cells.

In 2008 he launched Excalibur to focus on the broader medical sciences sector. Excalibur has 19 professionals and is a very profitable enterprise.

- 1957 Born, Port Talbot, Wales
- 1979 BSc Microbiology, Imperial College
- 1982 PhD Biochemistry; files five patents for Cadbury Schweppes
- 1984 Discovers unique Evansii bacterium; research scientist, Allelix, Toronto, Canada
- 1985 R&D manager, Allelix
- 1986 Head of Research, Genzyme Biochemicals Ltd
- 1987 Founds Enzymatix, one of the UK's first biotech companies
- 1989 Produces world's first γ -lactam chiral molecules for drug synthesis; saves lives of premature infants with novel lung surfactant product
- 1990 Enzymatix voted best new business in UK
- 1992 Splits up Enzymatix to form Celsis and Chiros (Chiroscience)
- 1993 Floats Celsis International for £60 million
- 1994 Floats Chiroscience for £100 million
- 1995 Awarded OBE for Bioscience
- 1996 Establishes Merlin Biosciences with £50 million VC fund
- 2000 Raises second Merlin fund
- 2001 Knighted for services to bioscience
- 2003 Floats Ark for £150 million
- Floats Vectura for £160 million
- 2004 Raises third Merlin fund
- 2005 Merlin companies sign £500 million deals
- Floats Plethora and ReNeuron
- 2006 Sir Tom Hunter buys 20% of Merlin
- Floats Intercytex
- UK Stem Cell Foundation raises £12 million and backs first heart attack project
- 2007 Floats Neuropharm for Autism, his 20th quoted business
- 2008 Establishes Excalibur