

## Healthcare economy

North East England has a successful and thriving Healthcare and Life Science economy, featuring global pharmaceutical companies such as Sanofi-Aventis, GSK and Merck Sharp & Dohme, world leaders in biologics manufacturing such as Avecia Life Sciences, and rich sub-clusters of companies in fields such as medical devices, assistive technology and health informatics.

Our knowledge base has much to offer in Oncology, Ageing & Health, Genetics, Plant Biotechnology, Stem Cells & Regenerative Medicine, Infectious Diseases, Biologics, Systems & Cell Biology, and Diagnostics and Medical Devices. We have welcomed significant life science and nanotechnology investments from Japan, China, India and North America.

Universities, support agencies and investment organisations combine to provide companies with advantageous business conditions and a knowledge base for profitable growth. There are strong central support networks for healthcare R&D, inter-company interaction, supply chain initiatives and peer-group networking.

Companies benefit from a dynamic, forward-looking economy with pro-business attitudes, low operating costs, a flexible, skilled and intelligent workforce, strong research support, competitive financial incentives and a range of high-tech offices and incubators, science and business parks.