

Bind Research Newsletter

Winter 2025 Edition



We're excited to share with you Bind Research's inaugural newsletter, with updates on all the developments since Bind evolved from vision to reality in February 2025! In less than a year, Bind has moved from concept to a fully operational lab, assembled a world-class team, and demonstrated early technical feasibility across experimental and computational platforms.



Our Mission:

Pioneering Drug Discovery for Disordered Proteins

At Bind Research, we're tackling one of the most formidable challenges in modern medicine - pioneering breakthrough approaches to target "intrinsically disordered proteins" ("IDPs"), most of which have remained elusive to conventional drug discovery.

We are building a revolutionary measurement platform to operate at orders of magnitude faster than current technologies, combined with advanced AI analytics, creating the first comprehensive "rulebook" for drugging these dynamic targets.

35%

of human proteins are intrinsically disordered

1st

UK Focused Research Organisation



Major Milestone - We're Home!



We've officially signed our lab lease and moved into our new space at the London BioScience Innovation Centre (LBIC) in Tribeca, near King's Cross.

This state-of-the-art facility provides the perfect environment for our research. Located in one of London's most vibrant innovation hubs, our new home positions us at the heart of the UK's thriving life sciences ecosystem, with excellent connectivity and access to world-class talent.

The LBIC space offers us the specialised laboratory infrastructure needed to develop our high-throughput measurement platform and to house our growing team of world-class scientists and technologists.

Building our Dream Team: Recruitment Update

We have been overwhelmed by the calibre of applicants to join the team, and are honoured that every applicant to whom we have offered a role has accepted!

We are thrilled to welcome several exceptional new team members who are already making significant contributions to our mission, joining our founding team of **Gabi Heller (CEO/CSO)**, **Thomas Löhr (Director of Compute)**, **Gogs Karunanithy (Director of Magnetic Resonance)** and **Melissa Strange (CFO)**.

Recent Additions:

- **Dr Wendy Bushell, Director of Operations** >15yrs of leadership in UK and global biotech, with expertise in scaling teams, establishing labs, and embedding culture and systems. Holds a PhD and MBA.
- **Dr Jasmine Cornish, Head of Protein and Drug Discovery** An expert in IDPs with experience across academia and industry, leading our efforts to find binders using specialised biophysical methods.
- **Dr Sharna-kay Daley, Delivery Manager** Bringing expertise in pharmaceutical R&D and clinical research, overseeing end-to-end delivery of research programmes to ensure alignment between scientific goals and operational efficiency.
- **Dr Acely Garza, Senior Scientist, Biophysics** A biochemist with deep expertise in protein and small-mol characterisation, contributing to robust high-throughput workflows for IDP-small-mol interactions.
- **Dr Sören von Bülow, Senior Scientist, Compute** A computational biophysicist developing automated workflows for sampling IDP dynamics, expert in biomolecular simulation and machine learning.
- **Dr Candide Champion, Scientific Software Engineer, Compute** An expert in computational drug discovery methods, developing automated tools to characterise small-mol binding to IDPs.
- **Dr Laura Fletcher, Head of Strategic Funding and Partnerships** A life sciences commercialisation expert with a track record in building industry partnerships, previously leading Strategic Alliances at CRUK.
- **Dr James Eaton, Senior Scientist, Magnetic Resonance** A specialist in NMR spectroscopy, developing high-throughput workflows for atom-specific characterisation of small mol binding to IDPs.
- **Stephanie Pritchard, Office Manager** Bringing nearly two decades of administrative experience supporting senior leaders across legal, not-for-profit, and corporate sectors.
- **Dr Anaïs Naretto, Senior Scientist, Biophysics** Expert in production of challenging proteins and assay development for binding and activity assessment.
- **Dr Ananth Kumar, Senior Scientist, Biophysics** Specialist in RNA biology, especially complex protein-RNA assemblies, allowing us to tackle IDPs in RNA-related disease pathways.
- **Alex Messam, Financial Controller** A systems-focused finance professional with biotech experience.



Recruitment: Future Team Expansion

We look forward to welcoming an additional 3 new starters in the New Year. In addition our recruitment efforts continue as we build toward our target team size.

Currently we're actively seeking a Scientist to advance our computational and modelling capabilities, including developing new ML models, open-source software and large-scale data analysis.

If you know exceptional candidates who share our passion for transforming drug discovery, we'd love to connect with them.



Breaking Ground: Early Scientific Milestones



Bind has achieved significant early progress in making IDPs accessible as drug targets, with advances spanning biophysics, computation, and NMR.

Key accomplishments include the successful production of our first IDP target, and the experimental and computational teams have also made great progress on early milestones.

The team has also published its first manuscript, an open access perspective titled "*Why are there no drugs targeting disordered proteins?*", which lays out why IDPs have resisted traditional drug discovery, and how new measurement paradigms can change that

You can read it here:

<https://zenodo.org/records/17245930>.

With our laboratory now operational, we anticipate accelerating experimental output in the coming months.

Welcoming our interim Board Chair

We're delighted to announce the appointment of Tom Kalil as our Interim Board Chair.

Throughout his career, Tom has been a champion for strengthening investment in the science and technology. His unique blend of government experience, private-sector insight, and philanthropic leadership makes him ideally positioned to guide Bind Research through this critical establishment phase.

Tom's career includes serving as Deputy Director in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy under President Obama and as Senior Advisor for Science, Technology and Innovation for the US National Economic Council. Most recently, Tom was Chief Innovation Officer at Schmidt Futures, before founding Renaissance Philanthropy in May 2024, where he now serves as CEO.

We are particularly grateful to Renaissance Philanthropy; under Tom's leadership it has already played a vital role in Bind Research's establishment. Their early and substantial support enabled us to secure facilities, build our team, and launch our research programme.

Tom's appointment deepens this collaborative relationship, ensuring that Bind Research benefits from strategic guidance informed by both scientific ambition and philanthropic vision.

We are building out our board with additional key appointments that will broaden expertise across science, commercialisation, intellectual property, and finance and look forward to updating further on that next time.



**SAVE
THE DATE**

We're excited to announce our official launch event, where we'll showcase our vision, technology, and progress to the scientific community, industry partners, and supporters.

This will be an opportunity to:

- Meet our founding team and new recruits
- See our technology platform in action
- Learn about collaboration opportunities
- Network with fellow innovators in the life sciences space
- Celebrate this historic milestone in drug discovery research

When: 19th March 2026, 6pm

Where: Venture Café at One Triton Square, London NW1 3BF

Register here!

Partnership & Support

Gratitude

First and foremost we would like to extend our heart-felt thanks to our founding supporters, without whom Bind Research would simply not exist.

We are extremely grateful for the financial backing from the UK Government via the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology's Research Ventures Catalyst Programme, Eric and Wendy Schmidt, and other supporters including Nanotemper and the Klaff Family Foundation.

We are also thankful for the valuable input from the time Bind was conceived from the teams at Convergent Research, particularly Adam Marblestone, and at Renaissance Philanthropy (<https://www.renaissancephilanthropy.org>), especially Tom Kalil, Ronit Kanwar, and Jasnam Sidhu, for helping us reach potential funders and adapt the FRO model to the UK for the first time. We are also grateful to Deep Science Ventures, for offering incubation support before our formal incorporation.

Since our inception, we are also building privileged relationships with a range of suppliers and manufacturers, each helping to ensure we can bring the most cutting-edge technology to bear on our mission, and for this we are also grateful.



Funded by UK Government

**With generous support from Eric and Wendy Schmidt
and the Klaff Family Foundation**

 **NOTEMPER**

 **BECKMAN
COULTER**

INFORS 

 **Fidabio**

 **Renaissance
Philanthropy**

 **CHORDOMA**
FOUNDATION – EU

 **Deep Science
Ventures**



Ambition for the Future

We're continuing to build our support network to fully realise our ambitious vision.

Having secured nearly £26M in capital and in-kind commitments, we're seeking additional co-funders and collaborators who share our commitment to revolutionizing drug discovery.

Please get in touch if you are interested to discuss any of the below!

For Philanthropic Partners:

- Catalyse breakthrough treatments for previously untreatable diseases
- Direct resources toward specific disease targets of interest
- Become a founding supporter of a transformative scientific institute

For Industry Collaborators:

- Potential for early access to Bind's proprietary screening technologies
- Collaboration opportunities on specific disease targets
- Licensing and co-development of therapeutic candidates
- Use cases for instrumentation in application to drugging IDPs

Current Priority Areas for Support:

- Platform technology development and scaling
- Expanding our computational infrastructure
- Key personnel recruitment
- Equipment and instrumentation
- Collaborative research programs to access external specialised technologies and to expand our addressable target list



**STAY
CONNECTED**

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