## "Bunsens, Beer and Bugs..... from Chemistry to Fermentation and Microbiology"

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SCI, University of Strathclyde 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016 innovating adapting delivering world class biotechnology

INGENZO

INGENZO Who am I? And how did I get to where I am today?

### S. Alison Arnold

#### **Current Role:**

- Head of Fermentation Team at Ingenza
- Responsible for all the development of fermentations and scale up of fermentation processes within Ingenza
- Joined Ingenza in 2003 when there was 4 of us
- Now there are 45 of us!





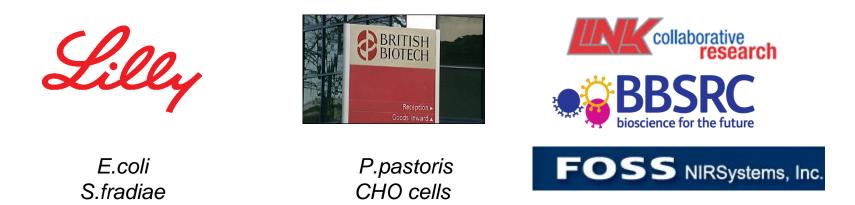


## **Who am I? And how did I get to where I am today? Pre Ingenza:**

- Post doc at Strathclyde University and DSM, Delft, The Netherlands
- $\rightarrow$  Continuous culture of *A.nige*r for the production of enzymes



- Research Assistant at Strathclyde University working with Eli-Lilly, Speke, UK and British Biotech, Oxford UK.
- $\rightarrow$  BBSRC, LINK project to use Near Infrared Spectroscopy to monitor Industrial Bioprocesses



• Combined work as a research assistant with a PhD write up

"The use of at-line and on-line near infrared spectroscopy to monitor industrial microbial bioprocesses".

- BSc (Hons) Chemistry from University of Aberdeen
- Bit of working and travelling abroad between degree, PhD and jobs

## Daily Life at Ingenza

#### **Current Role:**

- Head of Fermentation Team at Ingenza
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#### Job Description:

- Varies day to day!
- Meeting potential new customers
- Building relationships with current customers
- Planning and running the fermentations
- Supervising and training other more junior staff
- Working closely with both Molecular Biology and Chemistry Teams at Ingenza – multidisciplinary company
- Industrial PhD supervisor
- Technical Transfer of Processes off-site
- Going on site to assist with running of the process scale up
- Managing Projects and Grants
- Hob nobbing with Politicians !









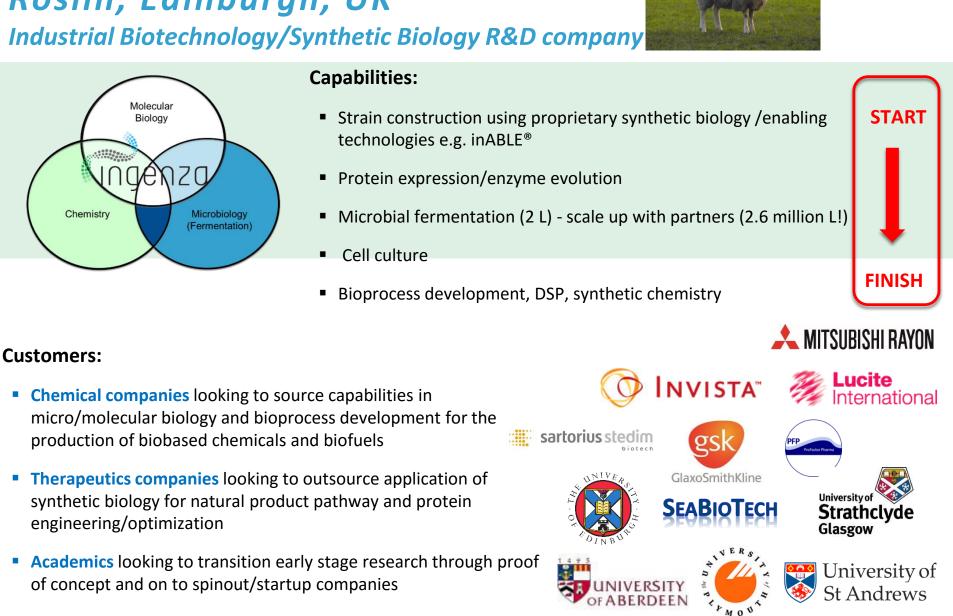
# INGENZO Who am I? And how did I get to where I am today?

#### Description of what I was and what I am now...

Former chemist, turned microbiologist....at points an engineer (!) with a touch of molecular biology (!!)

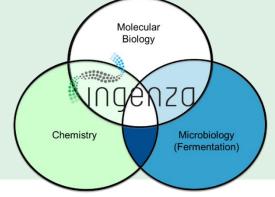


## "Bunsens, Beer and Bugs..... from Chemistry to Fermentation and Microbiology"

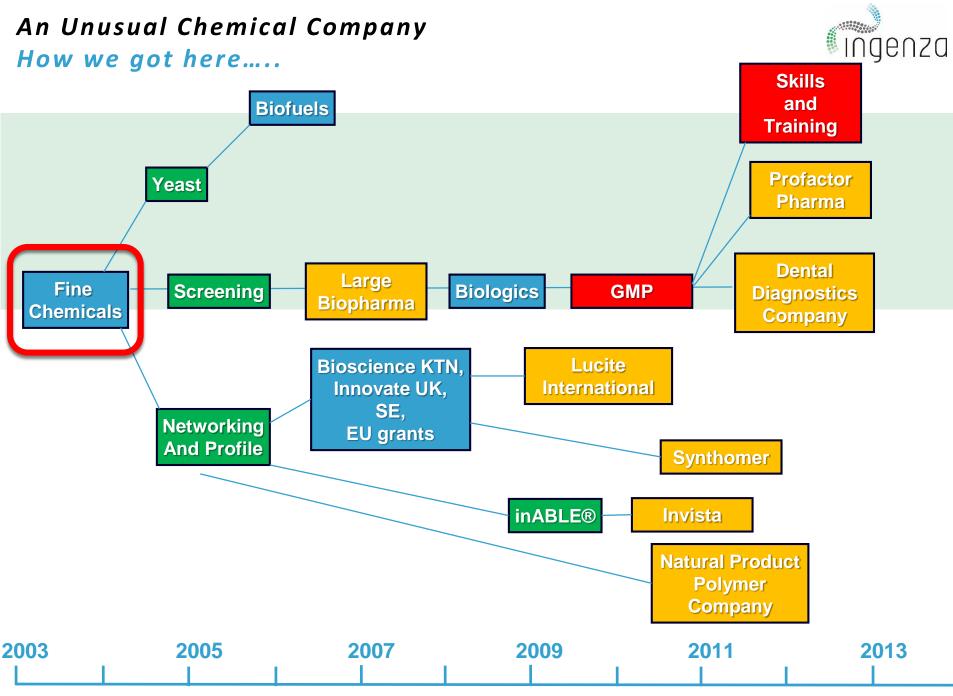


Ingenza

## Ingenza Ltd Roslin, Edinburgh, UK Industrial Biotechnology/Synthetic Biology R&D company



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## **The Beginning** Biosynthesis of Chiral Compounds



#### • Academic group

Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2003, 42, 4807-4810

#### **Directed** Evolution

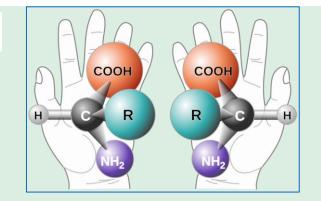
Directed Evolution of an Amine Oxidase Possessing both Broad Substrate Specificity and High Enantioselectivity\*\*

Reuben Carr, Marina Alexeeva, Alexis Enright, Tom S. C. Eve, Michael J. Dawson, and Nicholas J. Turner\*

#### ChemBioChem 2005, 6, 637-639

Directed Evolution of an Amine Oxidase for the Preparative Deracemisation of Cyclic Secondary Amines

Reuben Carr,<sup>[a]</sup> Marina Alexeeva,<sup>[a]</sup> Michael J. Dawson,<sup>[b]</sup> Vicente Gotor-Fernández,<sup>[a]</sup> Cara E. Humphrey,<sup>[a]</sup> and Nicholas J. Turner<sup>\*[a]</sup>



Scientifically successful but the economics needed Improved for cost effective manufacturing

Ingenza spun out of Department of Chemistry, Edinburgh University based on this technology

"INdustrial GENetics and enZymes"....A





### **The Beginning** Biosynthesis of Chiral Compounds





Chemistry Department Joseph Black Building 2003-2006

> Prof. Nick Turner Prof. Sabine Flitsch Dr. John White







The Wallace Building Roslin BioCentre 2007-2016

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## Fine Chemical Business Why it didn't work for Ingenza....

We had a solution looking for a problem to solve.....

## Customers

Large Pharma companies

## Costs

Raw materials

## **Route to Market**

Difficult to predict, clinical trial

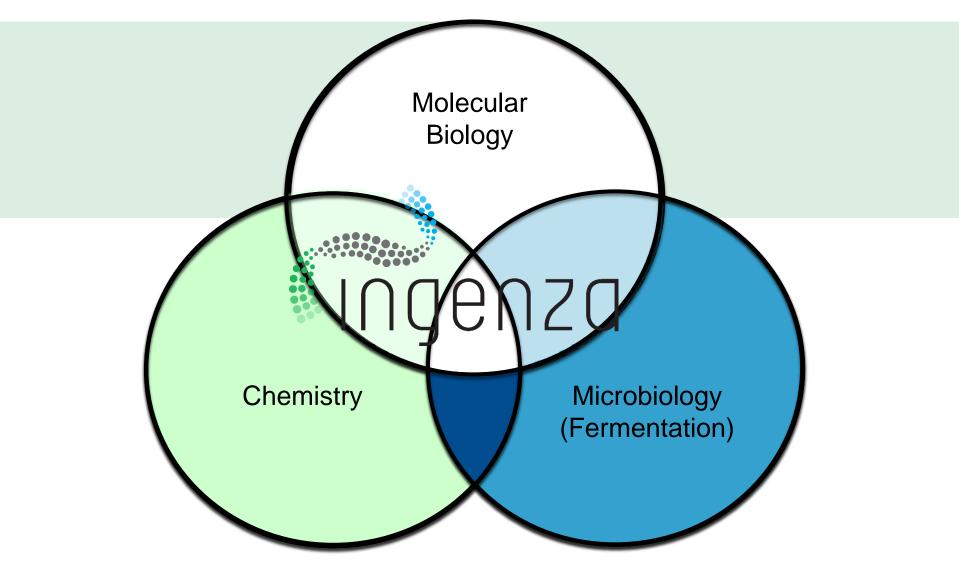


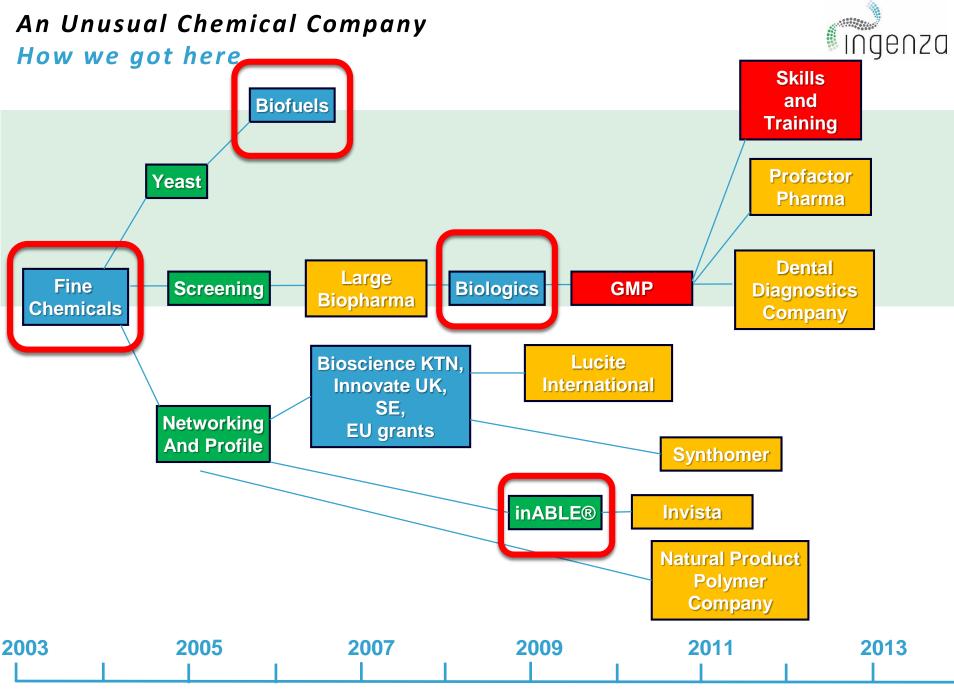




### Industrial Biotechnology and Synthetic Biology Where is the value?





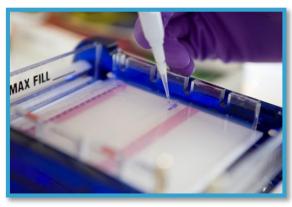


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## Fermentation at Ingenza



#### **Molecular Biology**



Bacterial, Yeast, Fungal and Mammalian...

#### **Fermentation**



E. coli (1 L to 50 m<sup>3</sup>) P. pastoris (1 L to 1 m<sup>3</sup>) S.cerevisiae (aerobic) (1 L -30 m<sup>3</sup>) S.cerevisiae (anaerobic) 100 mL → 2.6 Million Litres ! Corynebacterium Pseudomonas Bacillus Aspergillus Mammalian

Chemistry



- Broad ranging suite of microorganisms
- Development and application as necessary for a specific project

## Overview of Fermentation Scale UP Scaling fermentations up is easy – isn't it??





Colony on a plate



50m<sup>3</sup> fermentation



#### **Fine chemicals**



**Biofuels** 

## **Step 1- Develop a Fermentation Process**



## **Original Ingenza Process**

Shake Flask



- •Good for small scale work as proof of concept
- Poor control
- •Low growth
- Low product yield
- •Not cost effective
- •Not Robust
- $\rightarrow$  Can not scale to 1000's L

Optimise the Process

### Optimised Ingenza Process Fermentation



- •Good control
- •High growth
- •High product yield
- •Cost effective
- •Robust and reproducible
- $\rightarrow$  Can scale to 1000's L



### **Step 2- Scale up the Process** Lab Scale vs Scale Up

















### **Examples of Ingenza's Fermentation Scale Up**







- Environmental (Weather too hot, too cold, too humid)
  - $\rightarrow$  cooling / heating capability
  - $\rightarrow$  storage of raw materials and product
- Contamination (especially in CMO which often operate wide range of microorganisms)
- Safety and Operations
- Communication and language
- Cultural
- Food  $\rightarrow$  illness
- Long hours making key decisions when tired so better to send a team of people to supervise the first scale up





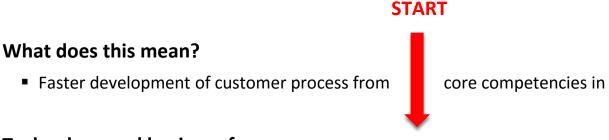
## Industrial Biotechnology Requires "Abilities" (feasibility, adaptability, predictability, scalability) How does it fit into our core business?

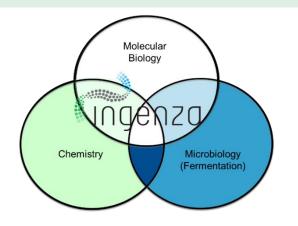
#### Leading SME in industrial biotechnology /synthetic biology

- Partnerships worldwide with major players in chemicals, biologics and natural products
- Adaptability means survivability!

#### **Unusual chemical company**

- Started off as a biocatalysis company and we still work in the chemical industry but in a different way
- Have developed many enabling technologies e.g. inABLE<sup>®</sup>
- Ingenza has many other synthetic biology tools





#### Technology and business focus on:

- Long-term high-value relationships
- Scalable, cost-effective and sustainable bio-manufacturing opportunities
- Cutting edge industrial biotechnology
- Combining synthetic biology design principles with capabilities in industrial biotechnology
- Networking wherever possible

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#### **FINISH**

Ingenza's Modern Apprentice Scheme The early days.....

- In November 2009 Ingenza welcomed Kirsty and Ross to the team
- 2016: Fifth modern apprentice

#### Ingenza employs

- School leavers
- Degree and Masters Qualified staff
- PhD Scientists





### Ingenza engages with the community



Ingenza are very much engaged in an open policy when it comes to communicating with the local community with regular visits from MP's, Councillors, School Kids, Universities and Internships.

Ingenza also play an active part in encouraging youngsters to learn more about science as well as active charity work.



#### www.ingenza.com

Ingenza – Our expanding team



2010





Our team has continued to grow and since 2010 we have doubled in staff size.

www.ingenza.com

## Acknowledgements Ingenzers, our partners and customers



innovating adapting delivering world class biotechnology

INGenza

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