



pni **PHARMA** **SUMMIT** **26**

Transform & Thrive
Thursday 26th March @ Croke Park

UnitedDrug
a PHOENIX company



allphar

DRIVALIA





Prof Raj Thakur, Founder



Raj is an internationally recognised expert in drug delivery and pharmaceuticals, with over 20+ years of R&D experience. He currently serves as Chair in Pharmaceuticals at the School of Pharmacy, Queen's University Belfast, UK.

In addition, Raj is the Founder and Chief Technology Officer of Re-Vana Therapeutics, a Queen's University spinout company pioneering long-acting ocular drug delivery technologies.

Under his scientific leadership, Re-Vana has raised significant Seed, pre-Series A and Series A funding and recently entered a landmark strategic collaboration with Boehringer Ingelheim valued at over \$1 billion in potential milestones, to co-develop sustained-release therapies targeting chronic retinal diseases. He holds a PhD in Drug Delivery, an MSc in Pharmaceutical Sciences, and a Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy.

Innovation in Action: Building & Scaling Success

Proudly supported by:



From Academic Discovery To Biotech Venture

A Founder's Journey in Ocular Drug Delivery Innovation

Prof. Raj Thakur

Founder | Re - Vana Therapeutics | USA | Belfast

Professor in Pharmaceutics | Queens University Belfast

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PMI PHARMA SUMMIT 2026 | 26th March 2026 | Dublin

A Global Vision Crisis We Cannot Ignore

285M

Visually Impaired
People worldwide living
with visual impairment
today

39M

Blind Worldwide
People with total
blindness - a number that
keeps rising

5 sec

Every 5 Seconds
Someone in the world
goes blind - largely
preventably

\$20B +

Retina Market
Global retinal pharma
market projected by 2029

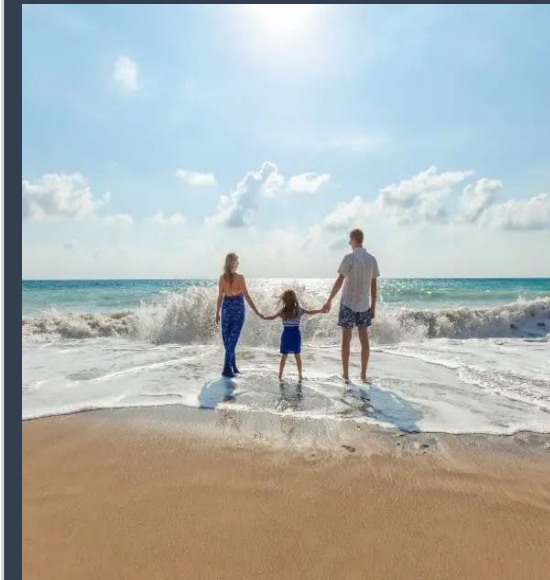
- Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) is the **#1 cause of blindness in adults 55+** .
- Diabetic Retinopathy is the **#1 cause in working -age adults** .
- The burden is massive and growing.



Normal Vision



**Vision with Age-related
Macular Degeneration (AMD)**



Normal Vision



Diabetic Retinopathy

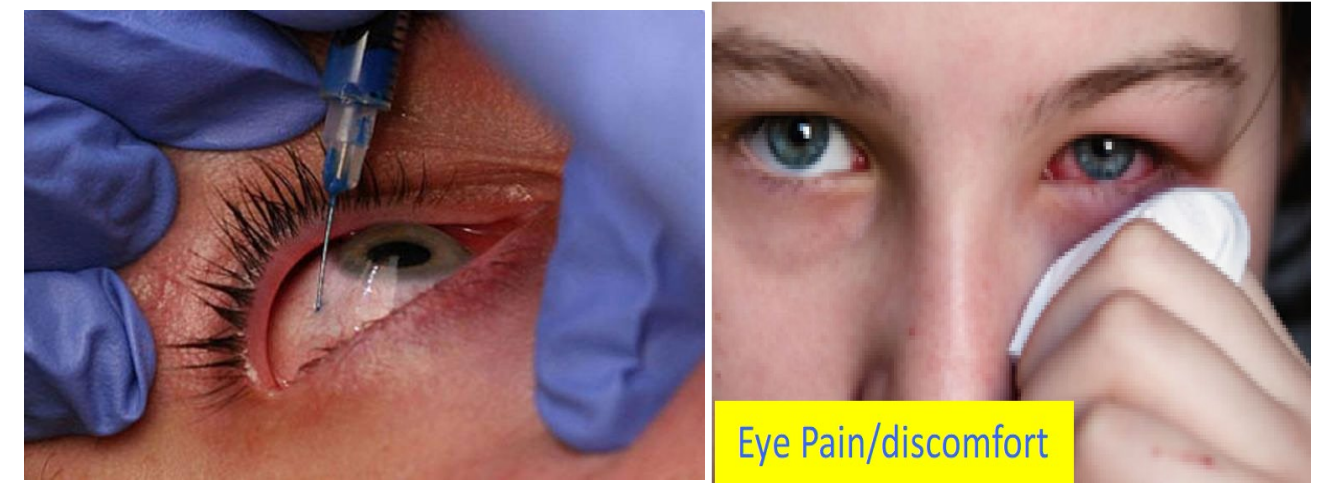
Current Treatments Are Failing Patients

Eye Drops - The Compliance Crisis



- Less than **5% bioavailability** (~ 95% of drug is wasted)
- **Multiple drops** required daily
- Up to **50% of patients fail** to adhere to regimen
- High variability in delivered dose leads to inconsistent outcomes

Intravitreal Injections - The Burden of Care

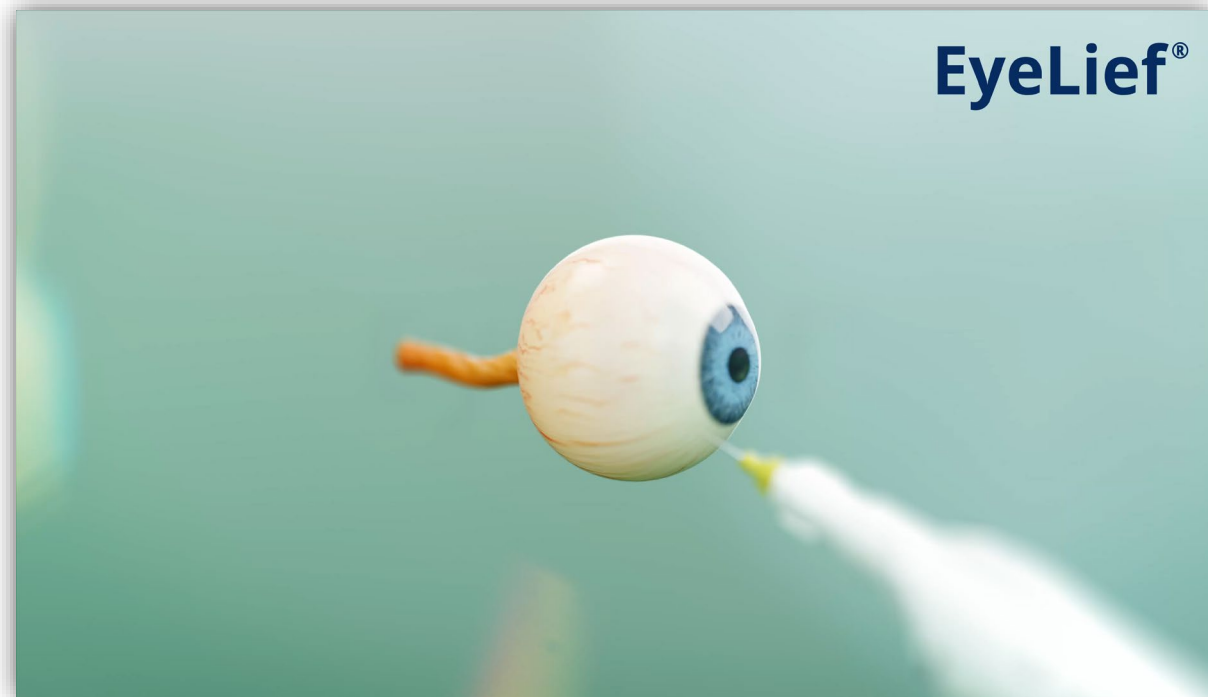


- 3–9 injections per year, for life
- **Risks:** endophthalmitis, retinal detachment, elevated IOP
- Enormous physical, emotional, and economic burden on patients
- Clinic capacity under severe strain globally; costs rising fast

📄 **Re-Vana's answer:** Long-acting delivery lasting 6 –12 months from a single, minimally invasive, office -based procedure - no surgery required.

The Technology: How it works

Unique Photo - Crosslinked Biodegradable Hydrogel Platform - engineered to extend therapeutic benefit and reduce patient burden.



EyeLief® (+ EyeLief-SD™)



OcuLief® (Gel Depot)

- Delivery of wide range of molecules including biologics
- Allow tailorability to match desired product requirements
- Protected by a portfolio of patents
- Potential to expand to other chronic conditions

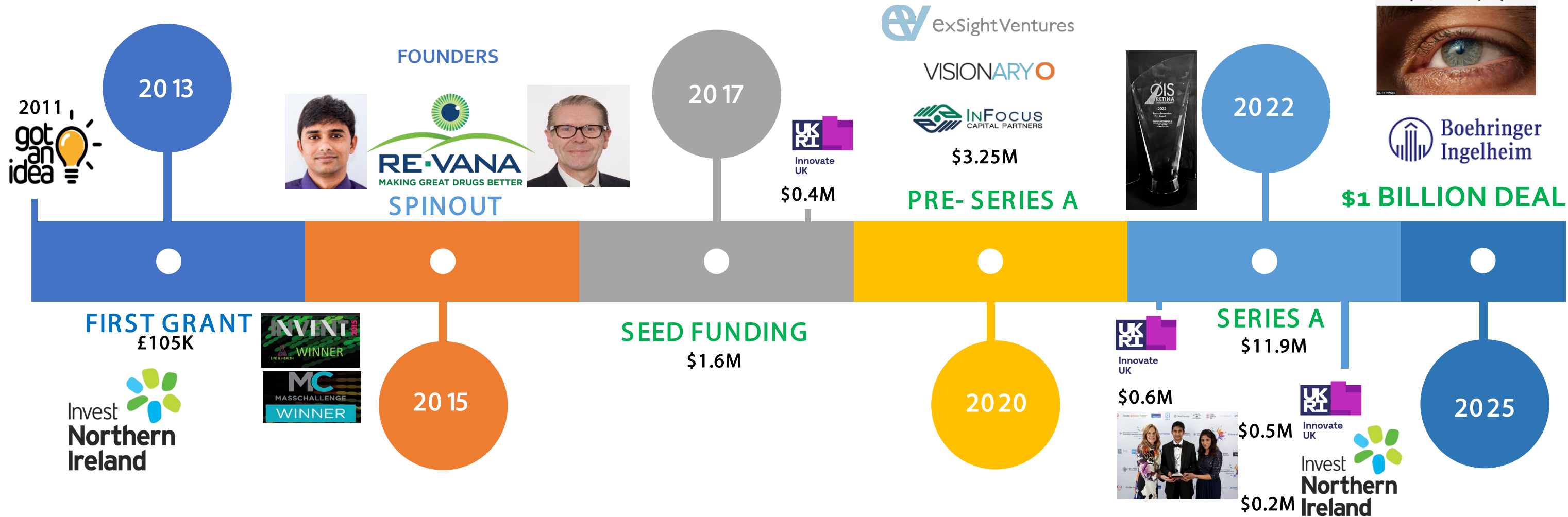
OVERCOMING THE KEY CHALLENGES

#1 STABILITY & ACTIVITY

#2 HIGH DRUG LOADING

#3 TOLERABILITY & COMPATIBILITY

The Spark: From Academic Discovery to Spinout



20+ full-time employees | Global partnership projects | Continuously strengthening & growing | 8+ Patent families

Building the Team & the Belfast Ecosystem



Team & Leadership

Founders: 20+ years R&D, 21 PhDs supervised in ocular drug delivery

CEO: Launched the world's first two sustained - release intraocular implants

COO: Senior operational leadership based in California (California)

CBO: Strategic partnerships & business development (New Jersey)

20+ Full -time scientists & Professionals across Belfast & USA; world -class Scientific Advisory Board



Belfast & Global Ecosystem

QUBIS: Early IP support, seed funding, spinout space



Invest Northern

Ireland: First grant £105K + ongoing non - dilutive capital



Techstart & Clarendon: Local VC early -stage backing



U.S. Investors: ExSight Ventures, Visionary Ventures, InFocus Capital



Queen's University:

PhD talent pipeline, lab space, collaborative research



What Big Pharma Wants

Strategic perspective how **Boehringer Ingelheim** evaluates potential partners (from BI podcast, Peter Benz)



Platform Depth

Unique tech with clear differentiation.



Strong IP

Protected innovation backed by real data.



Scientific Rigour

Credible leaders reduce partner risk.



Strategic Fit

Solves pipeline gaps without overlap.



Big Market

Large unmet need drives urgency.



Proven Results

Early data earns investment confidence.

The \$1 Billion Deal, July 2025

The PharmaLetter, 28 July 2025: "Boehringer inks ophthalmic deal with Re-Vana Therapeutics"

Deal Value

Exceeding \$1 Billion + Royalties - one of the largest deals ever secured by a Northern Ireland biotech company

Programs

Up to 3 Projects per Year - applying Re-Vana's sustained-release platform to BI's eye health biologics pipeline

Modalities

Multiple Therapeutic Modalities - platform flexibility enables application across diverse biologic drug classes

Re-Vana conducts feasibility & development activities. BI contributes their biologics pipeline and assumes sole responsibility for clinical development, regulatory approval & global commercialization.

NEWS

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N. Ireland | N. Ireland Politics

German pharma firm signs deal worth up to \$1bn with QUB spin out



How We Attracted BI

01

Need First

We cut injection frequency dramatically → Clinically-Driven Innovation

02

Patent Wall

8+ families filed before partner outreach.

03

Trusted Team

Deep clinical and regulatory expertise reduced risk.

04

Strong Preclinical Data

Therapeutic delivery lasted six to twelve months.

05

Strategic Fit with BI Pipeline

Extended-release potential matched BI's pipeline.

The Balancing Act: Academic vs Entrepreneur

ACADEMIC

Publish | Grant |
Govern

Advance scientific
discovery

Supervise & mentor
students

Navigate university
compliance

Manage IP, patents &
contracts



☂ If you're doing this in Belfast...you're
going to need an **umbrella!**

ENTREPRENEUR

Pitch | Fund |
Scale

Drive product
development & milestones

Build & lead teams

Manage investors &
stakeholders

Significant PM &
Partnership developments

Execute at startup speed

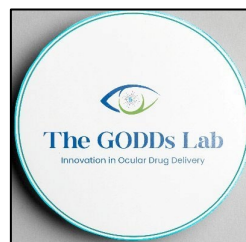
Vision for the Future

Goal: Reduce injection frequency from monthly to once or twice per year with retinal disease globally.

“From a lab at Queen's University Belfast to a \$1 billion partnership → proof that deep science, relentless execution, and local ecosystem support can change the world.”

 Internal Pipeline

 Grow Partnerships



Prof. Raj Thakur

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→ transforming care for millions of patients



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