



## PRESS RELEASE

### Inspira Pharmaceuticals Awarded Innovate UK Grant

**London, UK – 9 June 2022 – Inspira Pharmaceuticals Limited** ("Inspira" or "the Company"), a UK biotech start-up focused on respiratory and infectious diseases, has been awarded grant funding of £350,000 via the prestigious Smart Grant Program run by Innovate UK, the UK's leading innovation agency<sup>1</sup>.

The funding will be applied towards ongoing research focussed on the application of Inspira's patented IPX enzyme technology to treat biofilm formation in the lungs associated with cystic fibrosis and bacterial lung infections. The planned research will include further optimisation and evaluation of the IPX technology in well-established *in-vitro* models of biofilms. The grant represents 70% of the research costs and the remaining 30% (£150,000) will be financed by the Company.

Biofilms form when bacteria adhere to surfaces and form a multilayer structure (or film). Biofilms are very difficult to treat, and clinicians must prescribe more antibiotics for longer periods which promotes anti-microbial resistance. With bacterial lung infections accounting for approximately 32% of antibiotic prescriptions in the UK, anti-microbial resistance is an urgent issue with biofilm-disrupting products representing a substantial unmet market need. The biofilms treatment market is projected to reach US\$2.4 billion by 2025 from US\$1.6 billion in 2020<sup>2</sup>.

Rory McGoldrick, Co-Founder of Inspira, commented: "*I am delighted that the excellent work and innovation of our team of scientists, partners and investors who support the business, has been recognised and selected by the expert reviewers within Innovate UK. These are challenging times for research funding and business activity generally, so the award is all the more meaningful as it enables us to accelerate our research in this exciting new direction. The grant will support job generation, scientific discovery and will see us through several stages of vital preclinical research.*"

-ENDS -

1. Innovate UK drives productivity and economic growth by supporting businesses to develop and realise the potential of new ideas. It connects businesses to the partners, customers and investors that can help them turn ideas into commercially successful products and services and business growth. Innovate UK funds business and research collaborations to accelerate innovation and drive business investment into R&D. Innovate UK is part of UK Research and Innovation. For more information visit [www.innovateuk.ukri.org](http://www.innovateuk.ukri.org)

2. Markets and Markets, Biofilms Treatment Market, May 2020: <https://www.marketsandmarkets.com/Market-Reports/biofilms-treatment-market-57398610.html>

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#### ABOUT INSPIRA PHARMACEUTICALS

**Inspira Pharmaceuticals Limited** is a UK-based company focused on the development and commercialisation of its proprietary IPX technology. Inspira has identified novel plant-based enzymes that have potential therapeutic applications for the treatment of respiratory diseases. Inspira's products are being formulated for pulmonary delivery with the aim of treating and preventing a range of respiratory infections.