



**Diagnostic and Therapeutic Technologies**

Institute of Cellular Medicine  
Medical School  
Framlington Place  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4HH  
United Kingdom.

March 20<sup>th</sup> 2013

***To Whom it May Concern:***

I have worked with iXscient since 2004 when they first approached me regarding the possibility of collaboration in proposing projects for European Commission Framework programme funding. Having faced the difficulties of identification of funding opportunities through calls for proposals, consortium building and writing funding proposals from Framework 3 to Framework 5, the prospect of a professional project management team, with huge experience of the medical microsystem technologies field and its applications, becoming involved with academia, research institutes and industry in all stages of the application process was one which was particularly attractive given the major changes to funding introduced in Framework 6 – particularly Integrated Projects. iXscient performed an outstanding role in all aspects of the initial proposal for the SmartHEALTH Integrated Project ([www.smarthealthip.com](http://www.smarthealthip.com)) from idea generation and discussion to partner identification to managing the overall writing process. Subsequent to successful funding they provided exemplary technical Project Management skills ensuring highly effective delivery of that 22M€ large-scale collaborative research project. For me, as an academic with the role of Project Coordinator, they demonstrated clearly that this type of multi-partner, multi-disciplinary research and technology development programme could and should only be managed properly by a company with their knowledge, expertise and skills. Since 2004 I have been involved in some thirteen applications for EC-funded projects, including three large-scale Framework 6 and 7 Integrated Projects in which iXscient were the Project Manager. It is no coincidence that, due to the involvement of iXscient, all three large-scale projects were funded and two have been successfully completed – with the European Commission ranking both as **Excellent**. In my opinion iXscient are far and away the best Project Management team I have worked with in my 30 year career in translational academic research in clinical diagnostics.

In summary, I cannot recommend iXscient highly enough as a partner in research collaborations; their input, insight and dedication to excellence in project delivery is an outstanding example of best practice to any company involved in this area.

Professor Calum McNeil

Professor Calum McNeil  
Diagnostic & Therapeutic Technologies

Tel: +44 191 222 8259  
Fax: +44 191 222 7991  
E-mail: [calum.mcneil@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:calum.mcneil@ncl.ac.uk)