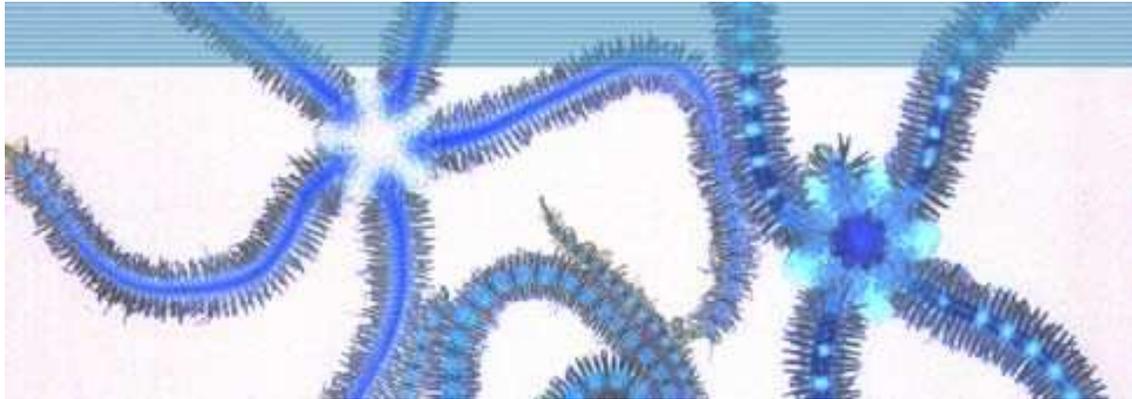




## Diabetes – can the sea provide new treatments?



### Drugs company GlycoMar in study with UHI researchers

**An innovative drug discovery and development company in Argyll is to work in partnership with UHI researchers to evaluate the potential of new treatments/drugs from marine organisms to treat the inflammatory aspects of Diabetes that could benefit approximately 200,000 diabetes sufferers across Scotland. This collaboration has been brought together by an innovative project called HI Links led by the UHI Millennium Institute.**

Glycomar Ltd ([www.glycomar.com](http://www.glycomar.com)) was founded in early 2005 by Dr Charles Bavington and is based at the European Centre for Marine Biotechnology near Oban. They are focused on identifying compounds which may be suitable for inflammatory disorders, such as asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, and multiple sclerosis.

GlycoMar will be conducting a feasibility study with Professor Ian Megson, the UHI Lifescan chair in diabetes at the Inverness-based Department of Diabetes, UHI Millennium Institute. The study aims to evaluate the potential of GlycoMar's products to treat the inflammatory aspects of diabetes by identifying active compounds that can then be progressed to pre clinical and early clinical trials.

The study is being financed with the help of a grant from UHI HI Links, which provides companies in the Highlands and Islands with a unique service by linking them to Scottish academic expertise. Specifically they provide one-to-one free consultancy and financial support and guidance to help develop new products, processes and business ideas ([www.hilinks.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.hilinks.uhi.ac.uk)).

The UHI Department of Diabetes was launched last year to advance research into the causes and consequences of diabetes. Its laboratory boasts the very latest technology for investigating the role of free radicals and inflammation in pancreatic degeneration, insulin resistance and cardiovascular complications associated with diabetes. Whilst the immediate focus of the facility is diabetes, the scope for research into a wide range of other clinical

conditions that involve free radical generation, most notably cardiovascular diseases, inflammatory diseases and cancer has led to this partnership with GlycoMar.

It is hoped that this study will help to successfully establish a long-term research partnership between the company and UHI, and provide a stepping stone to further grant submissions and commercial research and development.

Dr. Charles Bavington Commented:

*“GlycoMar is very happy to receive support from Hi-links which has enabled us to establish this collaboration with Prof Megsons group at UHI. This project provides an important opportunity for us to test the value of our products in a new disease area, which we hope will lead to a long term development programme.”*

**"HI Links** is a project supported by a SEEKIT grant from the Scottish Government, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and UHI"

