Impact on industry

As well as enabling access to world-leading facilities, EU funding encourages industry collaboration at a much earlier stage than many current UK funding programmes. For CompBioMed, this meant Janssen, a large Belgian pharmaceuticals company, could be an equal partner in the project, bringing di erent expertise. There is also considerable support available for working with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as well as developing spinouts and start-ups from the project.

“We recently announced a couple of new start-up companies that are nurtured by the work we have been doing,” says Peter. “EnsembleMD, a UK based company, and ELEM Biotech. It is very di cult for large industry to get access to computational science experts that they need for these projects, so this kind of SME can bridge that gap.”

Supporting the next generation of doctors

The longer-term impact of CompBioMed’s work has the potential to change the nature of clinical practice to the bene t of patients and medical professionals alike. Peter’s team works closely with medical schools, and has developed and implemented a training module at UCL, which they intend to expand to teaching courses in other medical schools in the UK, Spain, Germany and the Netherlands.

“We are trying to get medics and biomedical scientists to have more direct hands-on experience of what di erence super computers can make to their work – it’s been very well received. We couldn’t do this without EU funding, it’s absolutely essential.”

Virtual human, human brain vasculature and supercoiled DNA plasmid