LabSkin INSIGHTS

INNOVATION IN EVERY LAYER

A welcome to the first edition of Labskin Insights from Scientific Director, Nicola Kingswell.

The past few months have been an exciting and transformative period for Labskin Limited. We successfully relocated to our new laboratory facilities in Wetherby, a significant milestone that would not have been possible without the dedication, flexibility, and hard work of our entire team.

Alongside settling into our new home, we have continued to strengthen our presence within the global scientific and cosmetics communities, including our first attendance at the New York Society of Cosmetic Chemists in May, along with participation in several other fantastic industry conferences and events. These opportunities have enabled us to showcase our innovations, build new collaborations, and engage with researchers and partners from around the world.

We are also delighted to welcome several new colleagues to the LabSkin team, bringing fresh expertise and perspectives as we continue to grow. I hope you enjoy this inaugural edition and look forward to sharing more updates, insights, and achievements with you in future issues.

Dr Nicola Kingswell
Scientific Director and Owner

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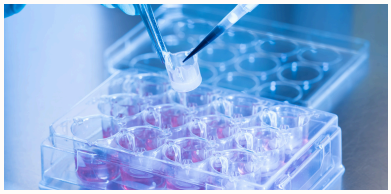
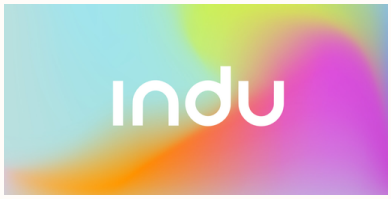
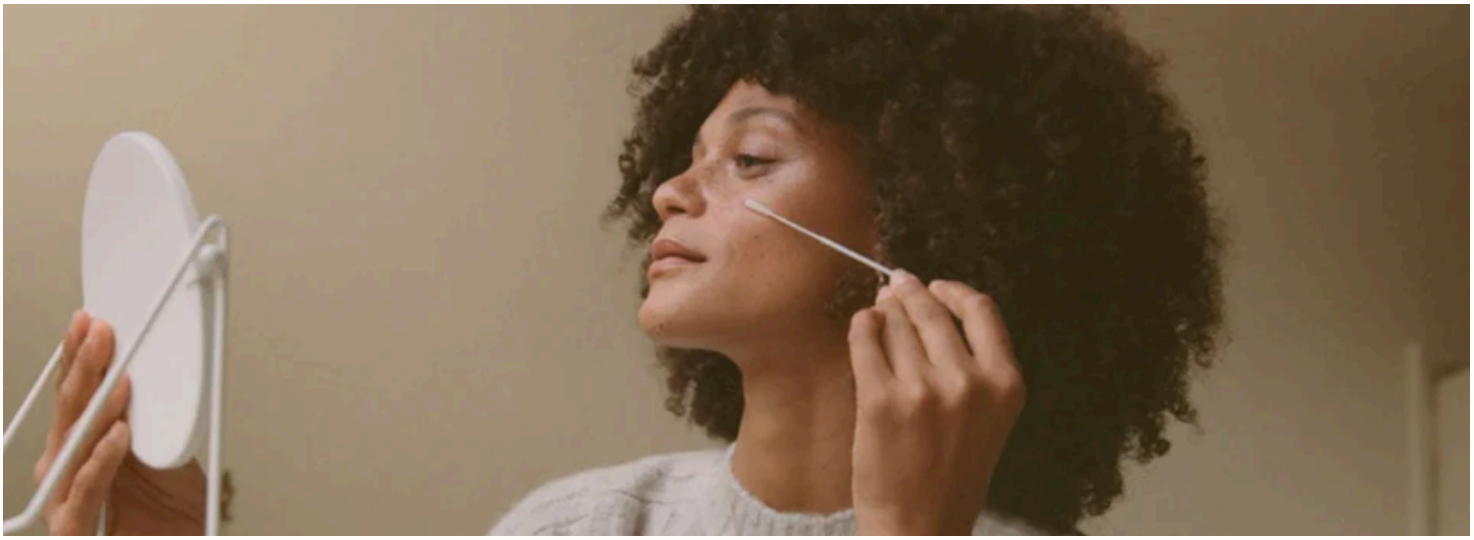




FROM MICROBIOME CLAIMS TO MICROBIOME CONFIDENCE

Editorial by Dr Stewart Sale, Business Development Director



In an industry increasingly shaped by microbiome science, the promise of “microbiome-friendly” skincare has captured both consumer imagination and commercial momentum. Yet as the category matures, so too does scrutiny of the scientific foundations behind many of these claims. For companies operating at the intersection of innovation and evidence, the challenge is no longer simply to participate in the microbiome conversation - it is to ensure that the science supporting those claims is robust, reproducible, and clinically meaningful.

Recent regulatory interventions have exposed a growing disconnect between marketing language and scientific substantiation. Claims that products “support,” “nourish,” or “balance” the skin microbiome have, in some cases, been challenged due to a lack of rigorous human evidence. Too often, supporting data relies heavily on simplified in-vitro systems that fail to replicate the complexity of living skin and its microbial ecosystem. While such studies may demonstrate isolated biological effects, they do not necessarily predict how a product will behave in real-world use across diverse skin types and microbial environments.

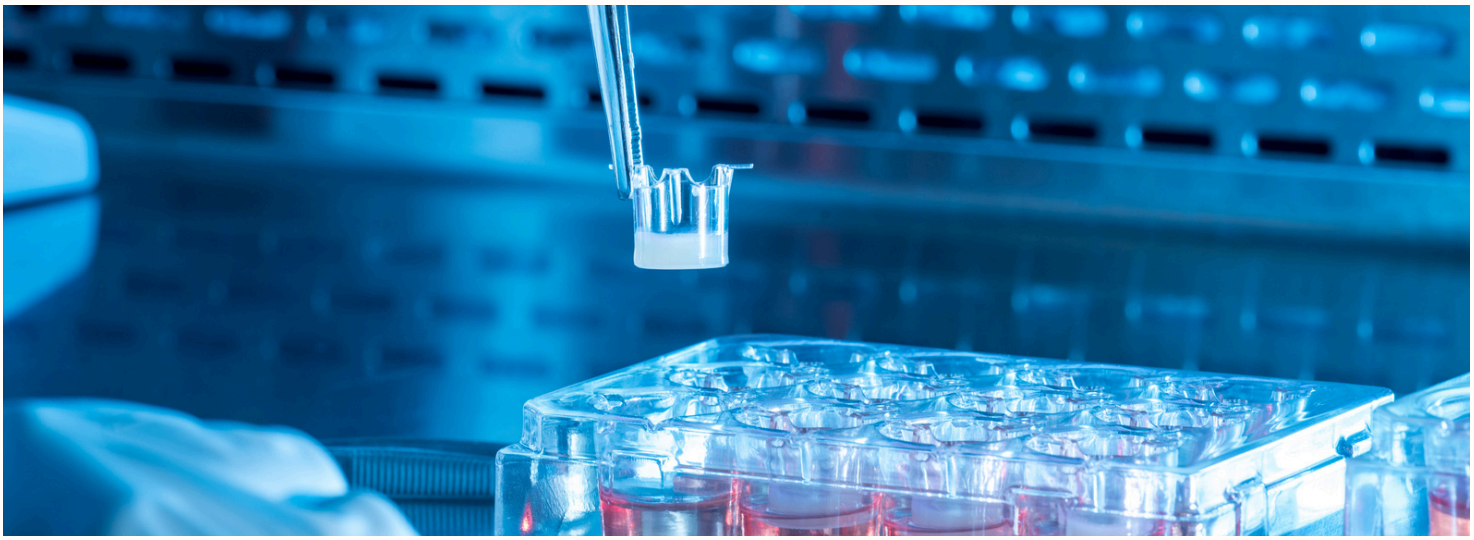
This translational gap is becoming one of the defining scientific issues in modern cosmetic testing.

The human skin microbiome is not a simple collection of bacteria. It is a highly dynamic ecosystem involving bacteria, fungi, viruses, metabolites, immune responses, and barrier interactions that constantly influence one another. Yet many conventional laboratory models continue to evaluate only a narrow subset of microbial species under highly artificial conditions. As a result, products initially considered “microbiome-friendly” may still contribute to irritation, dysbiosis, acne flare-ups, or barrier disruption when introduced into the complexity of real human skin.

Compounding the issue is the absence of a standardised regulatory framework defining what “microbiome-friendly” actually means. Without universally accepted testing methodologies, biomarkers, or validation criteria, the industry risks entering a landscape where claims outpace evidence. For forward-looking brands and developers, this creates both scientific and reputational risk.

This is precisely where advanced translational models become essential.

Labskin Limited was established to bridge the critical divide between simplistic laboratory testing and costly, variable human clinical studies. Its advanced 3D human skin equivalent offers a biologically relevant platform specifically



designed to support microbiome research under controlled and reproducible conditions.

Unlike traditional monolayer cell cultures, Labskin recreates key structural and functional characteristics of human skin, including stratified epidermal architecture, physiologically relevant lipid composition, and barrier integrity. More importantly, the model is specifically engineered to sustain microbial colonisation, allowing researchers to investigate complex host–microbe interactions in ways previously difficult to achieve outside clinical studies.

This capability represents a significant evolution in cosmetic and dermatological testing. By enabling controlled inoculation of defined microbial communities, researchers can move beyond simplistic “presence-or-absence” assessments and begin exploring how formulations influence microbial diversity, competition, metabolite production, inflammation, and barrier function over time.

The implications for product development are substantial.

For formulators, this means earlier identification of ingredients that may unintentionally disrupt microbial balance. For brands, it offers a more credible pathway toward substantiating microbiome-related claims. And for the wider industry, it creates an opportunity to elevate scientific standards at a time when both regulators and consumers are demanding greater transparency and evidence.

Perhaps most importantly, advanced skin-microbiome models such as Labskin enable mechanistic insight rather than purely observational outcomes. Instead of simply measuring whether a product changes microbial abundance, researchers can investigate why those changes occur, how they influence skin physiology, and whether they are ultimately beneficial or detrimental to skin health.

As the skincare sector continues to evolve, the future of microbiome innovation will depend not on marketing terminology, but on scientific precision. The next generation of successful products will be those supported by testing platforms capable of reflecting the true biological complexity of human skin.
In that future, translational relevance will become the industry’s most valuable currency - and sophisticated models like Labskin will play a central role in defining the new benchmark for microbiome science.

Dr Stewart Sale,
Business Development Director

COMPANY GROWTH AND UPDATES

New Projects & Collaborations

The team has recently begun work on several exciting new projects spanning the cosmetics, biotech, and healthcare sectors with some of the biggest global companies in these sectors. These projects reflect growing interest in our platform technologies and scientific expertise, particularly within areas such as skin health, microbiome science, product development, and disease-focused research. Alongside these collaborations, we provide bespoke microbiome research services designed around each client's unique needs.

Thistle Scientific Partnership

We are also pleased to announce an exclusive UK distribution partnership with Thistle Scientific The partnership will strengthen access to the ready to use Labskin-S plates within the UK market and further supports our strategy for growth and collaboration across the academic and biotech research sectors.

> “PARTNERSHIPS SUCH AS THIS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR LONG-TERM GROWTH STRATEGY. WORKING WITH ORGANISATIONS THAT SHARE OUR COMMITMENT TO SCIENTIFIC QUALITY AND INNOVATION ENABLES US TO EXPAND OUR REACH AND DELIVER GREATER VALUE TO CUSTOMERS AND COLLABORATORS.”
>
> **Dr Stewart Sale**
> **Business Development Director**

Grant Success

We are delighted to share news of recent grant successes, including collaborative work with Oxford University as part of a NC3Rs award and then we have an Innovate UK grant focused on developing a 3D melanoma model.
These projects will help further develop our research capabilities, strengthen academic and commercial partnerships, and support continued innovation across the biotechnology and pharma sectors.

International Reach

Our products and services continue to gain international traction, with Labskin-S plates recently shipped to customers and collaborators across:

- **USA**
- **Europe**
- **Middle East**
- **UK**

This growing international reach highlights increasing global interest in our technologies and scientific capabilities within both the research and cosmetics industries.

NEW FACILITY – GROWTH AT LABSKIN

Following two successful years at York Biotech Campus, we were delighted to move to our new facility at Thorp Arch Estate, Wetherby in April 2026.

The move marked an important step in LabSkin's continued growth and development, providing increased space and improved facilities to support both our expanding team and growing customer base.

Since relocating, we have been able to:

- Expand laboratory and operational capacity
- Improve workflow efficiencies and collaboration across teams
- Enhance facilities for customer projects and partner visits
- Create additional space for future growth and innovation.

The new site has already enabled us to strengthen our operations and continue developing our scientific and commercial capabilities.

As we continue to settle into our new home, we are excited about the opportunities ahead and look forward to welcoming customers, collaborators, and partners to see the facilities firsthand at our upcoming Open Day on 15th September 2026.

To register your interest in attending, please use the button below.

REGISTER

PEOPLE AND TEAM GROWTH

Our people are at the heart of everything we do, and we are delighted to introduce three new members of the Labskin team. Join us in welcoming them as they begin this exciting new chapter with us.

Dr Emma Corbin, Delivery Project Manager

I am delighted to have joined the incredible team at Labskin Ltd this May. As Delivery Project Manager, I work closely with both clients and internal teams to ensure projects are delivered on time and to the highest possible standard. I bring experience from both academic and biotech environments to the role. After completing a PhD in Molecular Biology, I spent three years as a Senior Scientist at a Newcastle University spin-out, where I established and led the Cell Biology department. Labskin has long been on my radar, and I was keen to be part of such a passionate and forward-thinking team, all working towards the shared goal of developing the very best skin models. I'm excited to grow alongside the company and to collaborate with the fantastic teams and clients that make Labskin what it is. As someone who has always loved skincare, I'm really excited to now be part of an industry that I'm so passionate about.

Nell Richardson, Production Scientist

I have recently joined LabSkin as a production scientist. My role focusses on tissue culture and the production of LabSkin models, while also contributing to research aimed at optimising our current LabSkin S model and developing other exciting full-thickness 3D skin models for the future. My background is in molecular biology, with experience in academic research focussed on mitochondrial biology. LabSkin is at the forefront of innovation as the only full-thickness skin model that can be colonised with microbes, and I am delighted to be part of such an amazing team. I am particularly excited to contribute to upcoming research projects while continuing to support the production of our skin models. Having recently moved to be nearer to Labskin, I'm really looking forward to exploring the area, discovering great places to eat, and getting out for walks in the local countryside

PEOPLE AND TEAM GROWTH

Matteo Capocefalo, Scientific Strategy and Operations Director

I am excited to join LabSkin as Scientific Strategy and Operations Director. My role centres on the high-performance machinery behind the scenes – not simply keeping the engine running, but continually refining and upgrading it to strengthen resilience, elevate performance and optimise how we operate, all while ensuring our scientific development efforts remain aligned with LabSkin's strategic priorities.

I'm a Chartered Biologist with 14 years of experience in laboratory operations and technical management, and I'm passionate about developing people. When teams feel supported and empowered, high performance follows – in both our culture and our science.

What attracted me most to LabSkin was its dynamic, innovative and cutting-edge approach to skin science, as well as the opportunity to work with and support such an inspiring leader as Nicola. I'm particularly looking forward to showcasing the power of our advanced skin models and science – and demonstrating, through consistently exceptional delivery, the level of scientific excellence that continues to set LabSkin apart and earns the confidence of our customers.

Interesting fact:
Before moving fully into operations leadership, I originally trained as a microbiologist and still love getting hands-on with the science whenever I can. My favourite bug is *Salmonella* Typhimurium – this is because it's the ultimate shape-shifting, host-jumping, evolution-bending serovar, resilient, versatile and scientifically iconic all at once.

EVENTS AND INDUSTRY PRESENCE

Atopic Dermatitis (AD) Webinar – March 2026
On 25 March 2026, we hosted our AD webinar, which was attended by more than 30 participants from across the industry. The session covered key topics including an introduction to Labskin-AD, a full-thickness, human-relevant 3D model of atopic dermatitis, and its applications across a range of study types.

The webinar featured Dr Colleen Maxwell, Senior Post-Doctoral Scientist at the University of Leicester, who we collaborate with using their proteomic services.

The webinar provided an excellent platform to share insights, discuss current challenges in the field, and engage directly with attendees through questions and discussion.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and contributed to a highly successful session.

WATCH

NYSCC Suppliers' Day – May 2026
On 19–20 May, we attended the New York Society of Cosmetic Chemists (NYSCC) Suppliers' Day for the first time. The event provided an excellent opportunity to connect with new contacts across the industry, while also meeting several existing clients face-to-face for the first time.

It was a valuable and enjoyable experience for the team, and we look forward to continuing to grow our presence and partnerships internationally.

Upcoming Events
You can find the team at the following upcoming industry events:

- **Anti-Ageing Conference, London – 23–24 June 2026**
- **SCS Annual Conference, Liverpool – 1-2 July 2026, where we are proud to be a Networking Sponsor**

We look forward to connecting with customers, collaborators, and industry colleagues over the coming months.

CLIENT VOICE:

At Labskin, we are passionate about helping brands develop innovative products backed by robust scientific evidence. In this client spotlight, we showcase our recent collaboration with indu, a pioneering skincare brand dedicated to the unique needs of teenage skin.

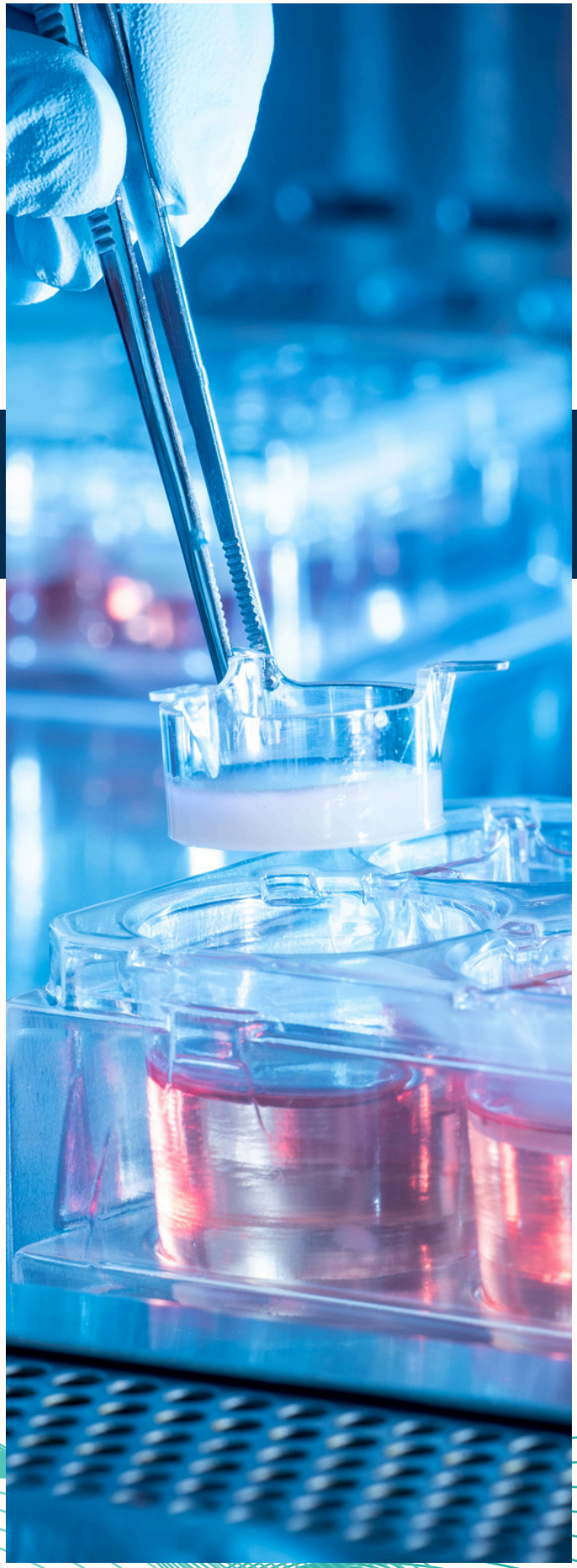
As part of this bespoke project, Labskin developed a customised teenage facial microbiome on our advanced skin model platform, enabling the team to replicate key characteristics of adolescent skin in a controlled laboratory environment. This tailored approach provided a unique opportunity to evaluate the impact of selected indu products on the teenage skin microbiome and gain deeper insights into product performance.

The study highlights how cutting-edge microbiome science and innovative skin modelling can support the development of targeted skincare solutions for younger consumers. It also demonstrates the value of combining scientific expertise with brand innovation to answer complex research questions and generate meaningful data.

Read the full article to discover more about the project.

READ THE CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

LabSkin INSIGHTS



THANK YOU

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