

60 SECONDS WITH AN ENTREPRENEUR...

KATE CAMERON

Role: CEO & Founder

Company Name: Cytochroma

Sector: Biotechnology

Founded: 2017

Base: Edinburgh

Purpose: Cytochroma manufactures ethnically diverse human stem cell models for global drug discovery



How did you come up with your business idea? When I was working as a post-doctoral researcher, I entered a business competition, after winning a few of these I decided to give it a go full time.

What's been your biggest challenge to date? Raising seed investment during a pandemic hasn't been easy.

How has SE (or any other support organisation in the Scottish ecosystem) helped you on your journey?

Many organisations have offered advice, support and funding, including The RSE, Edinburgh Business School, Edinburgh Innovations, Scottish EDGE, Converge Challenge, Roslin Innovation Centre, The Beatson Institute and The University of Glasgow, Scottish Enterprise, Innovate UK, and Investing Women.

What's been the highlight of the last year for you? We secured several grants and expanded our team, it's always a nice to win a few competitions!

Is there anything on your business bucket list? I would love to see the company grow further, both in terms of team and product offering. Also make lots of money and have fun while doing it.

How did you come up with your company name? Cyto- means cell and chroma – colour.

We use a method called 'cell paint' which uses fluorescent tags to identify changes in cell shape, and this can be used to measure the toxicity and effect of new drugs.

What's the best thing about being an entrepreneur in Scotland? The people, the funding opportunities, the view from our offices, and it is home!

What's the best piece of advice you've ever received? That's too difficult to answer! I have had so much good advice. I would say trust your instincts, work hard, have fun.

What has been your proudest achievement since starting up? Hiring great staff and keeping them.

How do you care for each other's wellbeing at work? We always make time to chat, help each other out and through flexible working.

Who has been your biggest supporter? My friends and family - you are all awesome!

How do you start you day? With a walk around The Shore in Leith and several coffees.

What do you do for fun after a busy week? Meet friends, enjoy good food and wine and join a pub quiz.

What's the best business book you've read? The Hard Thing About Hard Things by Ben Horowitz.

Any office pets? Home office - two fluffy cats, who keep me warm and at my desk.

What's your best tip for achieving a good life/work balance? Leave the laptop at work.

What would you say is the secret to success? Hard work, perseverance and knowing the right people.

What's your big dream? To travel the world.

How would you like to be remembered? As someone who made a difference and as a good laugh.

Where can we find out more about your business? www.cytochroma.org / [@cytochroma_uk](https://twitter.com/cytochroma_uk)