

ACCELERATE

The UK Venture Conference

8 May 2025

Agenda

Andaz, London Liverpool Street

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Agenda, 8 May 2025

08:30

REGISTRATION

Angel

09:00

Welcome

Chris Elphick, Head of Venture Capital, BVCA

09:05

Venture capital in the UK 2025

Keynote

Synopsis: Analysis from the BVCA on our Venture Capital in the UK 2025 report.

Suzi Gillespie, Head of Research, BVCA

09:15

Investment Day Zero – How to get it right at pre-seed

Panel sponsored by UKBAA

Synopsis: This panel will explore angel and pre-seed VC investment, from identifying promising startups to supporting growth and achieving successful exits.

Moderator: Rod Beer, Managing Director, UKBAA
Oliver Kicks, Partner, Concept Ventures
Hannah Leach, Partner, Antler

Further speakers to be announced shortly

09:40

Tipping the balance - lessons from the Investing in Women Taskforce

Fireside

Synopsis: This fireside will highlight the importance of female founders and investors in driving innovation and creating inclusive ecosystems.

Moderator: Jenny Tooth OBE, Chair, UKBAA

Further speakers to be announced shortly

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09:55

Emerging funds & emerging industries

Panel

Synopsis: This panel will examine how emerging VCs can stand out and distinguish themselves with new strategies and approaches.

Moderator: Dr Juanita Gonzalez-Uribe, LSE
Chloe Dagnell, Principal, Isomer Capital
Sarah Drinkwater, General Partner, Common Magic
Brian Kinane, Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Sure Valley Ventures

Further speakers to be announced shortly

10:20

NETWORKING BREAK

Seed-Series A

10:50

Founder fireside - seed

Fireside

Synopsis: Founder and VC fireside on what to look for at seed, and future growth plans.

Moderator: Camilla Dolan, General Partner, Eka Ventures
Jimmy Williams, CEO & Founder, Urban Jungle

11:05

From lab to market: accelerating UK spinouts

Panel

Synopsis: On this panel, the focus will be on translating academic research into high-growth companies and all the nuances involved in this process. Panellists will share insights on building strong university-industry partnerships, scaling spinouts in priority sectors like AI and life sciences, and addressing regional disparities in spinout success.

Anne Dobree, Investor Director, Parkwalk
Robert Higginson, Par Equity
Andrew Scott, Managing Partner, 7percent Ventures

Further speakers to be announced shortly

11:30

Keynote

Synopsis: The BVCA's VC Forum Chair reflects on his plans for the role going forward and the evolving landscape for VCs and how they can successfully engage with government.

Speakers to be announced shortly

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11:45

Diversity & sustainability in the Trump era

Panel

Synopsis: This panel will focus on the current state of affairs for diversity and ESG, two focus areas which have been very prominent over the past decade. The question of how developments in the US could affect the UK and Europe's Diversity and ESG agendas will be discussed.

Meghan Stevenson-Krausz, Co-CEO, Diversity VC

Further speakers to be announced shortly

12:10

NETWORKING LUNCH

Series A+

13:05

Welcome

Chris Elphick, Head of Venture Capital, BVCA

13:10

Squaring the Circle - unlocking pension investment for Venture Capital Fireside

Isobel Clarke, Director of Policy, BVCA
Harry Raikes, Investment Director, Schroders

Further speakers to be announced shortly

13:25

Beyond the AI goldrush - Where next for series A

Panel

Synopsis: This panel will focus on helping investors identify the most promising sectors within AI while addressing risks such as over-saturation, ethical dilemmas, and regulatory challenges. Key questions will be addressed here including discussions on what is needed to galvanise these sectors and does the UK's domestic "Growth" agenda go far enough in positioning the country to be a winner in the AI space.

Josh Bell, General Partner, Dawn
Itxaso del Palicio, Partner, Notion
Stephen Nundy, Partner & CTO, Lakestar

Speakers to be announced shortly

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13:50

The new playbook for venture capital *Presentation*

Synopsis: This presentation will speak on the traditional VC models and make the case that they are in need of reform. The discussion will reflect on modern investors being called to provide more than just capital and act as a partner for growth within their portfolios. This presentation will discuss the rise of operator-led VC, how to build VCs that are fit-for-purpose and the next big structural shifts.

Speakers to be announced shortly

14:05

Innovating at the intersection: deep tech, life sciences, and the future of health *Panel*

Synopsis: This discussion will dive into the convergence of deep tech and life sciences in healthcare. From personalised medicine to game-changing startups, the panel will explore how emerging technologies are shaping the future of health and what it takes to build successful ventures in this rapidly evolving space.

Dr Ed Lascalles, Partner, AlbionVC

Further speakers to be announced shortly

14:30

Fireside

Michael Moore, Chief Executive, BVCA
Peter Kyle MP, Secretary of State DSIT, Labour Party

14:55

NETWORKING BREAK

Series A+

15:25

Fireside

Edmund Phillips, Senior Investment Partner, NSSIF

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15:40

New model VC - does venture need to evolve?

Panel

Synopsis: This panel will examine potential disruption to the VC model from AI and new investors such as pension funds. Panellists discuss sector specialisation, hybrid investments, and ESG integration in Series A+, driving innovation and shaping the future of VC.

Kiu Kim, Beringea

Douglas Hansen Luke, Managing Partner, Future Planet Capital

Further speakers to be announced shortly

16:05

Late stage/exited founder fireside

Fireside

Synopsis: Christian built Paddle into a \$1.4B SaaS payments platform, then merged it with ProfitWell. This fireside will cover why some founders are choosing alternative exits (such as mergers) to IPOs in this market.

Speakers to be announced shortly

16:20

The final push: from VC, to growth, to exit

Panel sponsored by Stephenson Harwood

Synopsis: This panel will explore the critical phase of scaling companies beyond Series A, navigating late-stage growth, managing strategic investments, and optimising for a successful exit. Panellists will discuss the challenges of sustaining momentum, balancing profitability with expansion, and choosing the right path (IPO, acquisition or alternative exits).

Moderator: Malcolm MacDougall, Private Equity Partner, Stephenson Harwood

Andrew Priest, Partner, Inflexion

Henry Sallitt, Co-Founder & Managing Partner, FPE Capital

Further speakers to be announced shortly

16:45

Closing remarks

Michael Moore, Chief Executive, BVCA

17:00

NETWORKING DRINKS

18:30

CLOSE



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8 May 2025 | London

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Venture Capital Association (BVCA)

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