



# Leah Fletcher

## Dunbar Pharmaceuticals

Leah Fletcher is the founder and CEO of Dunbar Pharmaceuticals, an Irish pharmaceutical manufacturing company developing highly purified cannabinoid active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) for regulated global medical markets.

Her path into pharmaceuticals is unconventional. Originally a primary school teacher, Leah transitioned into entrepreneurship after identifying early opportunities in emerging cannabinoid markets. She founded Arbutus Health Group, advising international companies on regulatory frameworks and market entry, before launching deDANU, a natural skincare brand during the COVID-19 pandemic that has since won multiple awards and featured in a major Hollywood film.

Through this work, Leah identified a larger market gap: while cannabinoids were being cultivated globally, few companies could transform them into standardised pharmaceutical-grade ingredients meeting stringent international regulatory standards.

In 2022, she founded Dunbar Pharmaceuticals and led the creation of a fully integrated manufacturing platform in Ireland, combining R&D, analytical laboratories, GMP manufacturing, and controlled drug compliance within a single facility.

Operating in one of the most complex regulatory environments in global healthcare, Leah has overseen the development of proprietary manufacturing processes, controlled drug licensing, and new international pharmaceutical supply chains. Dunbar launched its cannabinoid ingredients into both the UK and German markets simultaneously in early 2026. The company has grown rapidly to over 28 employees and has raised approximately €9 million from Irish investors to support research, setup, and international expansion.

Dunbar Pharmaceuticals has received multiple national recognitions, including Manufacturer of the Year at the Irish Start-Up Awards, SME of the Year at the Chamber of Commerce Awards, and the Growth and Ambition Award during Enterprise Week 2026, supported by the Local Enterprise Office and Enterprise Ireland.

Leah is passionate about building high-performance teams, driving innovation, and tackling complex projects with meaningful, scalable impact.

[www.dunbarpharma.ie](http://www.dunbarpharma.ie)

STARTING STRONG PARTICIPANT 2026

