

Media Quote Sheet

Dr Asma Al Manna'ei, Director of Healthcare Quality and Exec Director of Research and Innovation in Abu Dhabi Department of Health, UAE

“Opportunities for scientific innovation have never been greater. If we are to advance healthcare quality and create patient centred systems worldwide, R&D must push science further than ever before. The AstraZeneca R&D Postdoctoral Challenge helps to fulfil our ambition to drive medical research and innovation: to discover transformative breakthroughs that hold a key to optimising healthcare provision, improving the lives of people with some of the world’s most complex diseases.”

Dr Sharon Barr, Senior Vice President, Head of Research and Product Development at Alexion, AstraZeneca’s Rare Disease group

“Alexion’s work in rare disease R&D is driven by a sense of urgency to find new treatment options that will build a better tomorrow for patients and their families. The R&D Postdoctoral Challenge is an exciting initiative for scientists who share our passion for innovation, and our commitment to deliver life-changing medicines for people living with rare diseases and other devastating conditions. We look forward to evaluating new ideas to advance pioneering research across new disease targets and modalities to identify and advance the most promising opportunity to help more people reclaim their lives.”

Dr Susan Galbraith, Executive Vice President, Oncology R&D, AstraZeneca

“At AstraZeneca, we are always striving, searching for new knowledge, and the next breakthrough as we aim to create the greatest impact on disease. In Oncology, our ambition is to provide cures for cancer in every form. We’re not settling for standard of care or incremental improvements, we’re leading a revolution to redefine cancer care. To do this, our approach is to identify and treat patients earlier in their disease when the chance for cure is higher, to target treatment to patients most likely to benefit, and to build effective combinations that address different mechanisms driving cancer. By putting all of these together, we are confident that we can improve the prospects for long-term survival and cure. I am looking forward to seeing the innovative ideas from the R&D Postdoctoral Challenge that will help us meet our ambition.”

Professor David Goldstein, Director of the Institute for Genomic Medicine at the Columbia University Medical Center, US

“Scientific discovery is more powerful in collaboration. To successfully innovate and drive drug development, we need to bring together the brightest scientific minds across the world, harnessing the power of industry and academic integration to drive diversity of talent and thought. The AstraZeneca R&D Postdoctoral Challenge puts collaboration into practice offering the opportunity for early talent to progress their scientific careers in a dynamic, global research community. Together we can help accelerate ideas to transform future treatment.”

Professor Christopher Lowe, Emeritus Professor of Biotechnology in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, and Director of the Institute of Biotechnology and Director of the Cambridge Academy of Therapeutic Sciences at the University of Cambridge, UK

“The need to drive the next generation of innovation to prevent, modify and, hopefully in the future, cure some of the world’s most complex diseases has never been more urgent. If we can accelerate the discovery of transformative medicines we will achieve real impact for patients, healthcare and society. The AstraZeneca R&D Postdoctoral Challenge is exciting because it creates an entrepreneurial environment for the next generation of young scientists that will fuel developments in novel science across the world, thereby opening the door for research ideas to be translated into potential treatments of the future.”

Dr Jenni Nordborg, Director & National Coordinator, Life Sciences Office Sweden

“New approaches to treatment require us to bring forward innovative approaches to drug discovery. The AstraZeneca R&D Postdoctoral Challenge is a key part of this new model, offering an opportunity to collaborate on pioneering R&D and to work at the forefront of scientific exploration. Working within collaborative healthcare ecosystems will allow ideas to be co-created and applied to science, helping to drive healthcare change across the world.”

Prof Sir Menelas Pangalos, Executive Vice President, BioPharmaceuticals R&D, AstraZeneca

“The events of the past two years clearly show the need to push the boundaries of medical science has never been more urgent. Rapid progress in disease understanding, as well as scientific and technological advances are genuinely changing our expectations of what is possible. We are delighted to launch the R&D Postdoctoral Challenge to support the next generation of science leaders and help them translate their ideas into meaningful benefits for patients.”