



## Judging Panel Biographies



**Dr. Sharon Barr**

Senior Vice President, Head of Research and Product Development at Alexion, AstraZeneca's Rare Disease group

Dr. Sharon Barr is the Senior Vice President, Head of Research and Product Development at Alexion. She is responsible for drug discovery, early development, product development and clinical supply, as well as discovery and development of diagnostics, data sciences, bioinformatics, clinical biomarkers and bioanalytical sciences supporting the Alexion pipeline focused on rare disease. With more than 15 years industry experience, she has previously focused on precision medicine, oncology drug discovery and clinical development.

Sharon received her PhD from New York University, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University. Sharon also serves on the board of the Alexion Charitable Foundation and the Alexion Political Action Committee as well as community foundations.

**Dr. David Wilson**

Vice President and Global Head of Oncology Chemistry, AstraZeneca, UK

David is Vice President and Global Head of Oncology Chemistry at AstraZeneca. He has over 25 years' experience of small molecule drug discovery gained at GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, Dark Blue Therapeutics and AstraZeneca. During his career, David has worked across multiple therapeutic areas including neurosciences, infectious diseases, immunology and oncology, and has been closely involved with the discovery of numerous drug candidates that have progressed into clinical phase development. He has many research interests including epigenetic modulation, targeted protein degradation and the development of novel small molecule approaches to target 'undruggable' disease relevant proteins.

David received his PhD from the University of Leeds and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Florida State University with Professor Robert Holton. He has been closely involved in various externally focussed research collaborations and currently represents AstraZeneca at the JSC level on several strategic partnerships.



**Prof David Goldstein**

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

Human geneticist focused on human genetic diversity, the genetics of disease and pharmacogenetics. Recently, was Director of the Institute for Genomic Medicine, and Professor of Genetics and Development at Columbia University, with the mission to integrate genetics and genomics into research, patient care, and education.

Profesor Goldstein is also responsible for establishing a group of Precision Medicine Initiatives in partnership with New York Presbyterian Hospital and in collaboration with key faculty and physicians at Columbia University Irving Medical Center – these initiatives enroll thousands of patients annually in the areas of epilepsy, maternal fetal medicine, kidney and liver disease, ALS and undiagnosed childhood disease.

Previously Professor Goldstein directed Duke University’s Center for Human Genome Variation. He discovered a number of disease-causing genes and syndromes, in particular neurological and infectious diseases. Additionally, he served as advisor to numerous pharmaceutical companies, including as AstraZeneca’s chief genomics adviser and led an integrated initiative focused on the discovery of new targets and biomarkers linked to molecular mechanisms of disease across multiple therapy areas.

Professor Goldstein co-Founded Praxis Precision Medicines, a public clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company translating genetic insights into the development of therapies for patients affected by central nervous system (“CNS”) disorders characterised by neuronal imbalance. Currently, he is co-founder and CEO of Actio Biosciences, a venture-backed company focused on using bioinformatics to systematically interrogate the genome to identify novel disease targets and treatments for Mendellian genetic diseases and associated common disorders.



**Dr. Jenni Nordborg**

National Coordinator and Director of the Office for Life Sciences at the Government Offices of Sweden

Jenni Nordborg is responsible for the Swedish National Life Sciences Strategy. Prior to this position Dr. Nordborg was Director and Head of the Health Division at Vinnova, the Swedish Governmental Innovation Agency. Dr. Nordborg is active in strategic innovation policy development and implementation within health and life science on national and international level. Her network includes international innovation policy, entrepreneurship and the health and life science ecosystem. Her research background is from Chalmers University of Technology. She has experience from senior management positions in both the private and public sector, an entrepreneurial background from commercialization of research, and worked with international collaborations and marketing and sales management. She also has experience in board level positions both in private companies and governmental organisations.



**Prof Sir Menelas Pangalos**

Executive Vice-President, BioPharmaceuticals R&D, AstraZeneca

Mene was appointed as Executive Vice-President, R&D BioPharmaceuticals in January 2019 and is responsible for BioPharmaceutical R&D from discovery through to late-stage development covering Cardiovascular, Renal, Metabolism, Respiratory, Immunology, Microbial Science and Neuroscience areas. Prior to this, he served as Executive Vice-President of AstraZeneca’s Innovative Medicines & Early Development Biotech Unit and Global Business Development.

Since joining AstraZeneca in 2010, Mene has led the transformation of R&D productivity through the development and implementation of the “5R” framework resulting in a greater than four-fold increase in success rates compared to industry averages. In parallel, he has championed an open approach to working with academic and other external partners, changing the nature of academic-industry collaboration. Mene previously held senior R&D roles at Wyeth and GSK.

Mene holds Honorary Doctorates from Glasgow University and Imperial College, London, is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, the Royal Society of Biology and Clare Hall, University of Cambridge and is a Visiting Professor at The Wolfson Centre at Kings College. He co-chairs the UK Life Sciences Council Expert Group on Innovation, Clinical Research and Data and is a member of the Life Sciences Industrial Strategy Implementation Board. He is also on the Boards of The Francis Crick Institute, The Judge Business School, Cambridge University and Dival Pharma, and is a member of the Life Sciences Vision Advisory Group. Mene was awarded the 2019 Prix Galien Medal, Greece for his scientific research and named Executive of the Year at the 2019 Scrip Awards. In 2019, Mene was awarded the honour of a Knighthood by Her Majesty The Queen for his services to UK science. In 2021 Mene was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the British Pharmacological Society.

Mene also oversees the creation of AstraZeneca’s new Global R&D Centre in Cambridge – a state of the art facility designed to stimulate collaborative scientific innovation and which will play an important role in the future success of the UK life science industry which has started occupation this year.

Since the start of 2020, Mene has led and overseen AstraZeneca’s R&D response to COVID-19; maintaining existing clinical trials and delivery of medicines to patients, responding to the UK government’s call for supporting our national testing effort, and discovering and developing new preventative and treatment approaches to the disease. This work has involved partnering with Oxford University in the global development of a vaccine and ensuring broad equitable access at no profit during the pandemic, the discovery and development of a long-acting antibody combination for those who can’t be vaccinated, as well as exploring our existing portfolio as potential treatment options against the disease.