Judging Panel Biographies

Dr. Asma Al Mannaei
Executive Director of Research and Innovation Center, Department of Health, Abu Dhabi

Dr. Asma Al Mannaei is the Executive Director of the Research and Innovation Centre at the Department of Health - Abu Dhabi where she also served as a Director of Health Quality. She has more than 15 years of experience working in the Department. Throughout this period, Dr. Al Mannaei has successfully led transformation in patient care quality and safety and contributed to building an advanced patient-centred healthcare system, while continuing to position Abu Dhabi as a global leader in healthcare quality.

She holds a Masters degrees in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University and a Bachelors degree in Medicine from United Arab Emirates University (UAEU).

Dr. Al Mannaei leads the Research and Innovation Centre at the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi. Her role is focused on accelerating healthcare research through assessing the adoption of new innovations, novel medications and technologies in the Emirates. In addition, Dr. Al Mannaei works towards the development of the healthcare ecosystem through deploying innovative solutions, revolutionary treatments and latest health technologies in Abu Dhabi and the UAE.

She served as chairperson of Abu Dhabi Health Research and Technology Committee, and is a member of the Global Commission on Evidence which is an independent panel that develops powerfully complementary perspectives for all types of decision-makers.

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. Susan Galbraith
Executive Vice President, Oncology R&D, AstraZeneca, Gaithersburg US

Susan has 20 years of Oncology pharmaceutical development experience. She joined AZ in 2010, as Head of Oncology in the Innovative Medicines and Early Development (IMED) Biotech Unit, and became Head of Early Oncology R&D in December 2019. Since joining AZ she has been responsible for transforming the productivity and scientific output from Early Oncology. Seven programs have moved into Phase 3 trials, 3 of which are now approved in many countries around the world; Lynparza, the first in class PARP inhibitor (approved in ovarian, breast, prostate and pancreatic cancers), Tagrisso, a mutant-selective EGFR inhibitor (approved in lung cancer) Koselugo, a MEK inhibitor (approved in NF-1 plexiform neurofibroma), savolitinib a cMET inhibitor being developed in renal and lung cancer, capivasertib an AKT inhibitor being developed in breast and prostate cancer, adavosertib, a Wee-1 inhibitor being developed in endometrial and pancreatic cancer, and camizestrant an oral SERD being developed in breast cancer.

Susan is a member of the Cambridge Cancer Centre Executive Committee. She is on the Scientific Advisory Board of the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR). In 2021 she was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Association of Cancer Research (AACR), and serves on the European Association of Cancer Research (EACR) Advisory Council.

Susan trained as a Clinical Oncologist in the United Kingdom. She studied Medicine at Manchester and Cambridge Universities. She was admitted to Membership of the Royal College of Physicians in 1992, and then trained in Clinical Oncology in London. She gained Fellowship of the Royal College of Radiologists in 1997. She then completed a PhD at the University of London involving translational work on a vascular-targeting agent. She was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Medical Science from the Institute of Cancer Research in 2017 in recognition of her contributions to Oncology drug development, and was admitted to Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences in 2018.

Prior to her current role at AZ, Susan worked in the Clinical Discovery Oncology group at Bristol-Myers Squibb from 2001-2010. Susan played a leading role in the in-licensing of ipilimumab from Medarex and the early development of nivolumab, elotuzumab from PDL, the acquisitions of Adnexus and Medarex and research collaborations with Exelixis. She held increasing levels of responsibility becoming VP for Oncology and Immunology Early Development, and then latterly taking on responsibility for the Clinical Biomarker team.

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.

Prof Christopher R. Lowe
Co-Director, Cambridge Academy of Therapeutic Sciences (CATS),
University of Cambridge

Professor Christopher R. Lowe was originally trained as a biochemist (University of Birmingham) and following postdoctoral positions in Liverpool and Lund (Sweden) and a lectureship at the University of Southampton, he was appointed to the University of Cambridge in 1984 to found the Institute of Biotechnology, which he ran for 23 years prior to subsequently merging it with the Department of Chemical Engineering to form the Department of Chemical Engineering & Biotechnology, now based at West Cambridge. Professor Lowe is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Institute of Physics and the Royal Society of Chemistry. The principal focus of his research programme has been the healthcare biotechnology sector, particularly in biologics, microbial technology and biosensors.

Professor Lowe has 400 peer-reviewed publications, 8 books and monographs, >100 patents and has supervised 99 PhD students. He has won a number of National and International prizes: Pierce Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Affinity Chromatography (1989), David Curnow Prize (Clinical Chemistry)(1991), "Queen's Award for Technological Achievement (1996)" Jubilee Medal: The Chromatographic Society (2002), Henry Dale Medal, Prize and Life Membership: The Royal Institution (London)(2003), RSC Sensors Silver Medal (2006) and a "Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education (2007)" and he has the title of "Most Entrepreneurial Scientist of the UK". He was awarded an OBE in the Queen's New Year Honours, the title BBSRC Commercial Innovator of the Year in 2011, visiting chair at the Australian National University in Canberra (2016), a visiting "Super-Professor" in Japan (2017) and an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Surrey (2019).

Professor Lowe has been the driving force for the establishment of 12 spin-out companies, including Prometic Biosciences Inc, Cambridge Sensors Ltd, Psynova Neurotech Ltd, Paramata Ltd, Smart Holograms Ltd, TumourVue Ltd, Continuous Diagnostics Ltd and Royale Therapeutics Ltd, is on the Editorial Boards of International Journals, sits or has sat on a number of UK Research Council and Government committees and is actively engaged in technology transfer and entrepreneurship worldwide. After formal retirement, he has been re-employed by the University to establish the Cambridge Academy of Therapeutic Sciences (CATS) to promote research, translation, education (Master's in Therapeutic Sciences) and policy in therapeutic sciences.

Dr. Jenni Nordborg
National Coordinator and Director of the Office for Life Sciences at the Government Offices of Sweden

Jenni Nordorg 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 Dizal 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 an 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.