



Shaping the future

Innovative by name and nature

Every inch a scientific business, AstraZeneca is focusing on fresh thinking in ground-breaking areas such as tumour resistant mechanisms in oncology, regenerative medicine in cardiovascular and metabolic disease and personalised healthcare in a range of disease areas.

Operating as an autonomous biotech, the Innovative Medicines and Early Development (IMED) unit is focused on the discovery and development of small molecules up to and including Phase II clinical testing. Combining this research with centres of expertise in biologics, immunotherapies and protein engineering technologies across AstraZeneca, allows diseases to be considered holistically, with individual and combined modalities delivering solutions that transform outcomes and patients' quality of life.

“AstraZeneca aims to lead the way in developing and inspiring the next generation of scientists.”

Combining academia with industry

Collaboration with leading academic institutions is central to the delivery of these exciting programmes, with the emphasis on deep understanding of disease physiology in order to identify and deliver new drugs. By sharing concepts and enabling scientific innovation to cross boundaries and networks, AstraZeneca believes it can accelerate ideas into action - and inspire young talent to generate innovative biotech solutions.

As Mene Pangalos, Executive Vice President of IMED, puts it, “To continue translating today’s cutting edge science into the medicines of tomorrow we need to lead the way in developing and inspiring the next generation of scientists. More so than ever, we need scientists who possess a deep understanding of the drivers of disease, who are excited about publishing their work for peer review and who demonstrate the truth seeking behaviours needed to excel at critical hypothesis driven research. However, to be true science leaders of the future, we are also looking for a generation of scientists who think entrepreneurially, who thrive on challenging the status quo and who are able to build strong networks across academia and industry. These are the skills that we are seeking to develop and cultivate in all our people - from our most senior scientists through to our new graduates.”

The next generation of leaders

Tomorrow’s scientific leaders with AstraZeneca will assume the responsibility for setting the pace in R&D. From students nearing the end of their secondary education to postdoctoral placements, IMED is giving hundreds of aspiring young scientists the opportunity to experience research at the cutting edge – and to develop those additional skills that will set them apart. Among them is Toby, who has joined the IMED graduate programme. Toby discovered AstraZeneca when considering his options, post Master’s, and became excited by the firm’s clear focus on important issues such as oncology, cardiac and respiratory medicine.

“Within a few weeks of joining AstraZeneca I was already involved in crucial project work in oncology, and after two months I have now been able to present key preliminary data that will influence decisions taken by the company” he notes. “The graduate scheme involves three placements of eight months, which delivers great variety whilst allowing enough time to make real impact in each area. What’s really amazed me is how much work goes into creating and developing a new drug, at every stage of the process. AstraZeneca is a hugely inspiring business where I am learning from such talented and motivated people”.

AstraZeneca has an on-going need for new talent, so you could join Toby in reshaping the possibilities for life-saving therapies. To learn more about the business and its opportunities, please visit www.astrazenecacareers.com

‘Innovation’ and ‘leadership’ are core values to which almost any business would subscribe, within the pharmaceutical industry and beyond. So when confronted by genuinely exciting work and substantial investment in developing the scientific leaders of the future, as demonstrated by AstraZeneca’s Innovative Medicines and Early Development (IMED) unit, it’s tempting to reach for the superlatives.

