

CRT, UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER AND ASTRAZENECA WORK TOGETHER TO SEEK NEW CANCER DRUGS

CANCER RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY, the commercial arm of Cancer Research UK, the University of Manchester and AstraZeneca today announced two agreements to seek new cancer drugs.

In the first agreement, scientists at the Cancer Research UK Paterson Institute for Cancer Research at the University of Manchester will develop compounds which target a key protein involved in DNA damage response. AstraZeneca will provide the preliminary compounds - the basic building blocks for the development of the drugs, as well as the shape and structure of the target to best determine which compounds can interact with it. AstraZeneca has first rights to the molecules discovered through the agreement and can choose to continue further development after the agreement. In return Cancer Research Technology will receive royalty payments when the project reaches certain milestones and has the option to develop the molecules further if AstraZeneca declines to do so.*

In an additional agreement, AstraZeneca has invited Cancer Research UK scientists from the Paterson Institute to test a potential drug target against AstraZeneca's compound collection at Alderley Park to see if any could potentially work as a new cancer drug. This is the first time that AstraZeneca has invited an external party to screen its full collection of compounds. AstraZeneca will provide the important clinical and molecular information on any promising molecules which Cancer Research UK scientists at the Paterson Institute will then have the opportunity to develop to a defined stage. AstraZeneca will have first rights of negotiation on any promising drug targets as a result of the extensive testing at the compound collection at Alderley Park.

Susan Galbraith, head of the AstraZeneca Oncology Innovative Medicines Unit said: "Part of AstraZeneca's strategy in the fight against cancer is to forge partnerships with leading academic and medical institutions. We believe the UK is on the cutting-edge of cancer

research and that by working together we can ultimately bring the most value to patients. Cancer Research UK and AstraZeneca have an ongoing collaboration to tap into the cancer research expertise in the UK to deliver investigator-led studies of combinations of novel agents. This highlights the growing strategic relationship between cancer scientists from UK-based biopharmaceutical companies, charities and academic institutions.”

DNA repair is a key area of interest for cancer drug discovery. Cells contain DNA which holds the cell’s instructions in the form of genes. But, DNA is continuously damaged by processes within a cell as well as harmful elements such as ultraviolet radiation or tobacco smoke.

In response to damage, DNA repair mechanisms mend DNA, but occasionally make mistakes. Over time these mistakes build up, and if located within important genes involved in cell growth, cells can multiply out of control, causing cancer. Drugs that interfere with DNA repair mechanisms show great potential to treat a wide range of cancers.

Dr Donald Ogilvie at the Cancer Research UK’s Paterson Institute for Cancer Research at the University of Manchester, said: “DNA damage causes cancer. By directly targeting this pathway for drug discovery we are getting to the heart of the disease and working to translate Cancer Research UK’s world-class research into cancer treatments.”

Dr Phil L’Huillier, Cancer Research Technology's director of business development, said: “We’re delighted to reach this agreement with AstraZeneca. This is an exciting opportunity to develop potentially novel compounds targeting emerging areas of cancer biology. This work demonstrates how industry and academia can work together and use their experience to develop projects that may otherwise have never progressed and deliver patient benefits sooner.”

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For media enquiries please contact Alan Worsley on 020 3469 8252 / 8300 or, out-of-hours, the duty press officer on 07050 264 059.

Notes to editors:

*Further information to be published in a presentation at the European Laboratory Robotics Interest Group (ELRIG) Drug Discovery Conference which will be held at Manchester Central on the 3-4 September 2013

About Cancer Research Technology

Cancer Research Technology (CRT) is a specialist commercialisation and development company, which aims to develop new discoveries in cancer research for the benefit of cancer patients. CRT works closely with leading international cancer scientists and their institutes to protect intellectual property arising from their research and to establish links with commercial partners. CRT facilitates the discovery, development and marketing of new cancer therapeutics, vaccines, diagnostics and enabling technologies. CRT is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cancer Research UK, the world's leading cancer charity dedicated to saving lives through research. Further information about CRT can be found at www.cancertechnology.com

About Cancer Research UK

- Cancer Research UK is the world's leading cancer charity dedicated to saving lives through research
- The charity's pioneering work into the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer has helped save millions of lives.
- Cancer Research UK receives no government funding for its life-saving research. Every step it makes towards beating cancer relies on every pound donated.
- Cancer Research UK has been at the heart of the progress that has already seen survival rates in the UK double in the last forty years.
- Cancer Research UK supports research into all aspects of cancer through the work of over 4,000 scientists, doctors and nurses.
- Together with its partners and supporters, Cancer Research UK's vision is to bring forward the day when all cancers are cured.

For further information about Cancer Research UK's work or to find out how to support the charity, please call 0300 123 1861 or visit www.cancerresearchuk.org. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)