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GSK and Oxford establish the GSK-Oxford Cancer Immuno-Prevention Programme to advance novel cancer research

- Collaboration unites GSK and Oxford's complementary expertise in the science of the immune system, vaccines and cancer biology
- GSK to invest up to £50 million in collaboration to generate key insights on how cancer develops that could inform future development of cancer vaccines
- Programme adds to existing relationship, including the ongoing GSK-Oxford Institute of Molecular and Computational Medicine

GSK plc (LSE/NYSE: GSK) and the University of Oxford (Oxford) today announced that they have entered a new research collaboration focused on the potential of cancer prevention through vaccination. The GSK-Oxford Cancer Immuno-Prevention Programme will conduct translational research, exploring precancer biology to generate key insights on how cancer develops in humans that could inform new approaches to cancer vaccination. GSK will invest up to £50 million over a minimum of three years to support this early research.

Evidence shows that most cancers take years or even decades to develop from normal cells to precancerous cells (or precancer) to cancer. Oxford University has world-leading expertise in the study of precancer biology including the identification and sequencing of neoantigens, or tumour-specific proteins that prompt the immune system to recognise cancer.¹ This unique focus could help target the vulnerabilities of precancerous cells through an active intervention like a vaccine or targeted medicine to prevent them from progressing to cancer.

Tony Wood, Chief Scientific Officer, GSK, said: "We're pleased to further strengthen our relationship with Oxford University and to combine the deep knowledge of Oxford and GSK scientists. By exploring precancer biology and building on GSK's expertise in the science of the immune system, we aim to generate key insights for people at risk of developing cancer."

Professor Irene Tracey, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, said: "This partnership represents a step forward in cancer research. By working with GSK to unite experts in clinical trials, immuno-oncology, vaccinology and precancer research from across the University of Oxford, we aim to unlock the potential of cancer vaccines and bring hope to patients worldwide."

Science and Technology Secretary Peter Kyle said: "Cancer is a disease that has brought pain and heartbreak to every family in the country, including my own. But through our world-leading universities and businesses working in lockstep, like Oxford and GSK are doing here, we can harness science and innovation to transform what's possible when it comes to diagnosing and treating this disease. As part of our Plan for Change, the Government is determined to back our £108 billion life sciences sector to deliver research like this – which could transform our health – whilst boosting our economy too."

Building on GSK's ongoing relationship with Oxford, this collaboration will continue to combine GSK's expertise in the science of the immune system and global development capability with Oxford's cutting-edge research, clinical capabilities and world-leading scientists.

In 2021, GSK and Oxford established the Institute of Molecular and Computational Medicine. The Institute, based at the University of Oxford, has demonstrated progress at improving the success and speed of research and development of new medicines, specifically in the field of neurodegeneration, building on insights from human genetics and using advanced technologies such as functional genomics and machine learning.

Press release

For media and investors only



The Directors of the GSK-Oxford Cancer Immuno-Prevention Programme will be Professor Sarah Blagden, University of Oxford, and Dr Timothy Clay and Dr Ramon Kemp, GSK.

About the University of Oxford

Oxford University has been placed number 1 in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings for the eighth year running, and number 3 in the QS World Rankings 2025. At the heart of this success are the twin-pillars of our ground-breaking research and innovation and our distinctive educational offer.

Oxford is world-famous for research and teaching excellence and home to some of the most talented people from across the globe. Our work helps the lives of millions, solving real-world problems through a huge network of partnerships and collaborations. The breadth and interdisciplinary nature of our research alongside our personalised approach to teaching sparks imaginative and inventive insights and solutions.

About GSK

GSK is a global biopharma company with a purpose to unite science, technology, and talent to get ahead of disease together. Find out more at [gsk.com](https://www.gsk.com).

Oxford enquiries

For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact Christopher McIntyre, University of Oxford press office at news.office@admin.ox.ac.uk or on +44 (0)1865 280528.

Interview opportunities are available with Professor Sarah Blagden, Professor of Experimental Oncology at the University of Oxford, who is the Oxford Director for the GSK-Oxford Cancer Immuno-Prevention Programme.

GSK enquiries

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|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Media: | Tim Foley | +44 (0) 20 8047 5502 | (London) |
| | Sarah Clements | +44 (0) 20 8047 5502 | (London) |
| | Kathleen Quinn | +1 202 603 5003 | (Washington DC) |
| | Lyndsay Meyer | +1 202 302 4595 | (Washington DC) |
| Investor Relations: | Annabel Brownrigg-Gleeson | +44 (0) 7901 101944 | (London) |
| | James Dodwell | +44 (0) 20 8047 2406 | (London) |
| | Mick Readey | +44 (0) 7990 339653 | (London) |
| | Camilla Campbell | +44 (0) 7803 050238 | (London) |
| | Steph Mountifield | +44 (0) 7796 707505 | (London) |
| | Jeff McLaughlin | +1 215 751 7002 | (Philadelphia) |
| | Frannie DeFranco | +1 215 751 4855 | (Philadelphia) |

Cautionary statement regarding forward-looking statements

GSK cautions investors that any forward-looking statements or projections made by GSK, including those made in this announcement, are subject to risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ materially from those projected. Such factors include, but are not limited to, those described under Item 3.D "Risk factors" in GSK's Annual Report on Form 20-F for 2023, and GSK's Q3 Results for 2024.

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No. 3888792

Registered Office:

79 New Oxford Street

London

WC1A 1DG

References

1 Borden ES, Buetow KH, Wilson MA and Hastings KT (2022) Cancer Neoantigens: Challenges and Future Directions for Prediction, Prioritization, and Validation. *Front. Oncol.* 12:836821.