

## AstraZeneca boosts drug discovery through partnership

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**Singapore:** Pharmaron, a premier R&D service provider for the pharmaceutical and biotech industries, has formed a drug discovery partnership with AstraZeneca to support their global Innovative Medicines Units.

Under this multi-year agreement, Pharmaron will provide AstraZeneca with discovery services in the areas of chemistry, drug metabolism and pharmacokinetics (DMPK), and efficacy screening. Pharmaron will conduct these services with a team consisting of several hundred scientists in dedicated, state-of-the-art research laboratories located in its newly opened drug discovery service center in Beijing, China. The co-location of screening and chemistry services at a single partner is expected to help AstraZeneca scientists drive their drug discovery programs with greater efficiency. Financial details of the deal were not disclosed.

Manos Perros, head of Infection iMed and sponsor of the collaboration for AstraZeneca, said, "We are pleased to enter this strategic partnership with Pharmaron which we believe will help us progress projects through our R&D pipeline more efficiently. Pharmaron scientists will be integrated into our project teams and play an important role in helping us fulfill our commitment to delivering meaningful medicines to patients worldwide."

Dr Boliang Lou, Pharmaron's chairman and CEO, said: "We are honored to be a strategic partner in the drug discovery area with AstraZeneca, a leading pharmaceutical company. This partnership is an important milestone for Pharmaron as we are strengthening our capacity in the area of fully integrated services as a highly competitive and global player."

Creating novel R&D models for pharmaceutical companies and CROs that nurture pharmaceutical innovation has been Pharmaron's focal point for years, as pharmaceutical companies have been seeking integrated partnerships with the CRO industry to optimize their drug discovery and development pipelines. Pharmaron has thus built technology-based drug discovery service platforms with a focus on key therapeutic areas, as an integrated service partner to the pharmaceutical and biotech companies.