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Singapore: British drug giant AstraZeneca recently announced the appointment of Dr Sean Bohen as its chief medical officer. Dr Bohen will take on the dual title of CMO and executive vice president of global medicines development. He starts on September 15.

Dr Bohen joins AstraZeneca following the exit of Mr Briggs Morrison, who left the drugmaker to join Syndax Pharmaceuticals. AstraZeneca said in a statement that Dr Bohen's appointment will help accelerate the development of new oncology and immunology medicines.

Dr Bohen's previous role was at Genentech, as senior vice president-early stage drug development. He will report to Mr Pascal Soriot, the chief executive who last year staved off a mega-merger approach from Pfizer.

Mr Soriot said in a statement, "Bohen's impressive expertise in key areas of our exciting pipeline, including oncology and immunology, will further strengthen and accelerate the delivery of new medicines for patients." Before joining Genentech in 2003, Dr Bohen worked for close to a decade at Stanford University School of Medicine