Dr Andrew Mortlock

After a first degree in chemistry, I stayed in Oxford to study for a PhD in organic synthesis under the supervision of Professor Stephen Davies, developing novel bifunctional chiral auxiliaries as chiral enolate equivalents. In 1991 I moved to the University of California at Berkeley where I carried out post-doctoral work with Professor Clayton Heathcock, working on the successful syntheses of the marine natural products papuamine and haliclonadiamine.

In 1992, I returned to the UK to join ICI Pharmaceuticals (later Zeneca Pharmaceuticals and now AstraZeneca) at Alderley Park in Cheshire, working initially on the endothelin antagonist programme, which led to the selection of three ET_A-selective inhibitors for clinical evaluation. In 1995 I transferred to the Cancer research group where I was involved in a range of anti-cancer projects involving kinase, protease, integrin, GPCR, nuclear hormone receptor and protein-protein interaction targets. From 1999 to 2003 I led the medicinal chemistry team which developed AstraZeneca's first Aurora kinase inhibitor, AZD1152.

In 2003, I was appointed as Director of medicinal chemistry also had responsibility for the portfolio of lead generation projects within the global cancer group, In 2006, I moved out of the Discovery group to take up a position within the Global Development function with responsibility for a portfolio of projects in Oncology (from pre-clinical through to Phase IIb).

In 2008 I became Vice President for Oncology Research where I lead a group of more than 300 people, including chemistry, bioscience and drug metabolism based at Alderley Park (UK) and Reims (France).

In 2010 I was appointed to my current role as Vice President for Oncology Projects with responsibility for all AstraZeneca's small molecule oncology projects from start of lead optimization through to the end of Phase IIb clinical studies.

During my career I have been an author on more than 50 scientific papers, patents and presentations.