Catalyst Oncology Drug Development Consultants in Europe

Steven Rees, PhD, MBA
Consultant, Catalyst Oncology
Specialties: Cell and Gene Therapy, Product Development, Regulatory Affairs

Steve has 35 years of global regulatory and technical product development experience in the biopharmaceutical industry. He has worked across all product development disciplines (nonclinical, clinical, quality/CMC, regulatory affairs, and global project management) from discovery through to value-added or commercial milestones, including commercialization.

Steve has significant expertise in Cell and Gene Therapy and has consulted on eight gene therapy programs, five cell therapy programs, 11 CAR-T programs, two iPSC programs and numerous biologics and antibody development programs over the course of his career. Prior to becoming an independent consultant, Steve held various senior level positions at AbbVie, AstraZeneca, GSK, Ipsen, Roche and Schering.

Steve holds his PhD in Medical Biochemistry from Burnel University in 1989, a Certificate in Advanced Toxicology and Pathology from St. Bart's Medical School in 1992, and an MBA (Distinction) from Manchester Business School in 2006. He graduated with a BSc in Biochemistry from Southampton University in 1995. He has served on the Board and as CEO or COO for several biopharmaceutical companies.

Paul Elvin, PhD
Consultant, Catalyst Oncology
Specialties: Drug Discovery, Translational Medicine, Small Molecule and Antibody Development

Paul has 30 years of experience in translational research and drug development. He was a Principal Scientist at AstraZeneca where he worked for almost 30 years in oncology drug discovery providing scientific and project leadership for small molecule and antibody approaches. He has experience across all stages of drug discovery from target selection, lead identification and optimization to supporting regulatory submission. In addition, he has experience evaluating licensing opportunities and providing translational science strategy for clinical phase projects.

In 2019 Paul joined the PTEN Research Foundation where, as the Director of Translational Medicine, he leads the Foundation's preclinical drug repurposing studies. Paul received his PhD in biochemistry from Brunel University.

Kate Owen
Consultant, Catalyst Oncology
Specialties: Clinical Pharmacology, Early Clinical Development, Clinical Regulatory Packaging

Kate specializes in providing medical consulting for global oncology programs to the biotech and pharmaceutical industry. Her 25 years of experience spans biologics, medical devices, cell therapy, and artificial intelligence across a range of hematological and solid tumor indications.

Kate started her career in the pharmaceutical industry as a Research Physician at Hammersmith Medicines Research and later joined AstraZeneca where she held a variety of roles with increasing responsibilities over the next two decades. In her last role at Astra Zeneca, she served as the Medical and Science Director where she advanced drug candidates from preclinical development through First-in-Human studies to Phase IIb, with responsibilities for the overall risk-benefit of investigational products, early clinical development planning, planning the clinical aspects of regulatory packages.

Kate graduated from Manchester medical school (MB, ChB) in 1991 with an Intercalated BSc (Hons) in Experimental Immunology and Oncology (Patterson Institute) and trained as an anesthetist until 1999 (FRCA Parts I & II). She holds up-to-date Specialist Registration in Pharmaceutical Medicine (GMC) and in December 2021 completed an M.Sc. (Distinction) in Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (ATMP, i.e., cell and gene therapy) at Manchester University. Her research project was published in Cancer Immunology, Immunotherapy in 2022. Kate lectures locally and internationally and acted as Officer of the Board of Examiners for the Diploma in Pharmaceutical Medicine for the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine, Royal College of Physicians, with whom she still lectures and provides exam guidance.

Shamim Kazmi-Stokes, PhD
Consultant, Catalyst Oncology
Specialties: Preclinical and Clinical Project Management, Oncology Development, Precision Medicine, Immunology

Shamim has 22 years' experience working in clinical research in the drug development industry, including 17 years providing project management for phase I/IIb oncology programs. Having spent the majority of her career in academia or healthcare settings, Shamim is skilled in preclinical and clinical development and has experience leading and managing oncology, rare disease, and pediatric trials.

In addition to her strong background in project and site management, Shamim has experience providing critical review of study documentation for operational feasibility and excellence. Her oncology experience spans programs in precision medicine, rare disease, and pediatric oncology. She has supported oncology programs for NSCLC, CRC, and breast cancer, and managed immunology programs for cancer vaccines, cell therapy, and checkpoint inhibitors.

Shamim received her PhD from the Departments of Oral Medicine and Pathology (Oral AIDS Unit) and Virology from Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospitals in Kings College, London.