

## GSK's Immunology Catalyst

**GSK's Immunology Catalyst is an innovative opportunity for academic researchers to pursue their independent research whilst on sabbatical in a major pharmaceutical company. By inviting academic scientists to work alongside top industry scientists at their site in Stevenage, GSK intend to stimulate scientific conversations, foster new collaborations, and catalyse breakthroughs in immunology.**

The Catalyst supports selected academic researchers with access to the company's research tools and equipment, drug discovery experts, and financial support. This provides researchers experience of working in industry, whilst they remain employed by their university and are encouraged to continue publishing their work.

Interaction between Catalyst members and GSK scientists is key. Catalyst scientists are hosted in existing GSK laboratories with aligned research, scattering them throughout the company.

Catalyst members are invited to GSK seminars and project meetings where their alternative perspective is welcomed. By participating in scientific and strategic discussions the academic

researchers deepen their knowledge of drug discovery and translational research and set the foundations for long-term collaborative relationships.

The programme offers flexibility to suit individuals, with the current six participants (and their nine postdocs and students) spending 20-80% of their time at GSK for up to three years. This team is set to expand with the recruitment of three more postdocs and students in 2017.

In addition to promoting day-to-day interactions, GSK hosts Immunology Network summits twice yearly. These meetings bring together Catalyst members, the GSK immunology community, and a board of internationally renowned academic immunologists for high-level discussions about advancements in the field.

This pioneering model for collaboration is building a world-class network of key experts in the field of immunology, an area where breakthroughs could potentially impact all of GSK's therapeutic areas.

*For more information about Immunology Catalyst, visit: <http://www.gsk.com/en-gb/careers/postgraduates/immunology-catalystpostdoctoral-training-programme/>*

“I believe bringing top class academics in-house will change the way GSK and academia interact. As an ex-academic, I know that the academic world does not always **see what big pharma has to offer:** amazing science, world class research tools and facilities, and opportunities to achieve excellence in project management and development as a leader.”

Dr Paul Peter Tak, Senior Vice President R&D Pipeline, Chair of the Development Steering Team and Chief Immunology Officer, GSK