

Novo Nordisk and the University of Oxford partnership for diabetes research

Diabetes affects an estimated 4.5 million people in the UK and when poorly managed can result in complications such as heart disease, stroke, blindness, and premature mortality. To accelerate the discovery of new treatments for both the disease and its complications, the University of Oxford has partnered with Novo Nordisk, a Danish pharmaceutical company with over 90 years of experience in developing medicines for diabetes.

The decade long commitment will see the company invest £115 million into a new Novo Nordisk Research Centre Oxford, a university-based research facility focussing on early stage research into type 2 diabetes. This will be located within the University of Oxford's biomedical campus, bringing Novo Nordisk scientists into close contact with 2,500 university researchers. To promote cross-institutional working Novo Nordisk has also committed funding for collaborative projects involving researchers from both organisations.

World-leading academics with insight into the disease biology and mechanisms will inspire Novo Nordisk employees with new directions for their work. In turn, academic researchers will benefit from the drug discovery resources and expertise of a pharmaceutical company with extensive experience developing medicines in this therapeutic area.

This partnership builds upon 15 years of successful collaboration between the two organisations. Novo Nordisk was a founding partner of the Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism, a tripartite organisation connecting the university with industry and the NHS. The company also supports the development of the next generation of leaders in the field through its postdoctoral fellowship programme for basic scientists and clinicians based at the University of Oxford.

Through sharing their complementary skills and expertise, Novo Nordisk and the University of Oxford hope to generate new, innovative treatments for the growing number of people with diabetes.

“Our vision is that the **unique combination of industrial and academic know-how** will eventually lead to a new generation of treatments to improve the lives of people with type 2 diabetes”

Mads Krogsgaard Thomsen, Chief Science Officer and Executive Vice President of Novo Nordisk