**Robert Wilkinson Ph.D., Director of Oncology Research at MedImmune Ltd, Cambridge UK**

Dr Wilkinson is an experienced scientist with over 20 years of experience in academic and pharmaceutical industry. He has a strong track record in delivering multiple anti-cancer candidate drugs (both, small and large molecule) into the clinic, harnessing novel technologies and directing large multidisciplinary teams.

Dr Wilkinson is authority on the modulation of the immune responses in a cancer setting and is a pioneer of Immuno-oncology (IO) drug discovery, as well as being an advocate of basic and translational tumour immunology research. Based in Cambridge at MedImmune, the biologics arm of AstraZeneca (AZ), he oversees pre-clinical research ranging from target identification to candidate drug selection and translational support. The Department utilises the latest biotherapeutic technologies incl. mono- and bispecific antibodies, antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs), novel protein mimetics, oncolytic virotherapy and oligonucleotides. Dr Wilkinson has made significant contributions in the discovery of several novel IO therapies including recently approved anti-PD-L1 antibody durvalumab (ImfinziTM). Other IO molecules discovered and or developed by his group incl. MEDI1873, a GITRL agonist (Phase I) and MEDI9197 (3M-052), a TLR7/8 agonist (Phase I).

From 2001-2012, Dr Wilkinson held several leadership roles within AstraZeneca and made significant contributions to the discovery and delivery of several small molecules into the clinic; including Barasertib/AZD1152 (an Aurora B kinase inhibitor), AZD538 (a CDK2 inhibitor). Furthermore, he established and oversaw a translational sciences pharmacology group which provided support across the AZ early development oncology portfolio.

Dr Wilkinson received a PhD in Experimental Immunology from The University of Birmingham Medical School and then spent several years within Cancer Research Technology (the drug discovery arm of Cancer Research UK), where he established a tumour immunotherapy group and was key to the successful collaboration with Antisoma Plc., which led to the out-licensing of two candidate anti-cancer antibodies. Dr Wilkinson has co-authored over 60 peer reviewed scientific papers in the field of drug discovery, immunology and cancer, and is a strong contributor to British cancer research community having held honorary lectureships in translational science/medicine at several leading UK universities and has successfully co-supervised >10 PhD or post-doc programs. Dr Wilkinson is an Executive Committee member for the British Association of Cancer Research (BACR) and Industrial Committee member for the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC).