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# AstraZeneca announces the establishment of a commercial cell therapy manufacturing and supply base and innovation center in Shanghai.

Release date: March 19, 2026

*They also signed multi-party cooperation agreements to jointly build a Sino-British innovation ecosystem.*

**Shanghai, March 19, 2026** – AstraZeneca today announced plans to establish a commercial cell therapy manufacturing and supply base and innovation center in Shanghai, becoming the first leading global biopharmaceutical company with end-to-end cell therapy capabilities in China. On the same day, the company signed a multi-party cooperation memorandum of understanding with the Shanghai Science and Technology Commission and leading UK research and financial institutions.

**Iskra Reic, Executive Vice President and Head of International Business at AstraZeneca,** said, “Today, we are delighted to further our collaboration and investment in Shanghai, continuously enhancing our ability to deliver breakthrough therapies to patients in China and beyond. As one of China’s leading biomedical hubs, Shanghai has built a robust pathway from basic research and translational development to advanced manufacturing, fostering a vibrant innovation ecosystem. Based on this, we will launch a new ‘Shanghai-UK Life Sciences Innovation Ecosystem Collaboration’ with our partners to drive joint research, commercialization, and business expansion, enabling innovations from both the UK and Shanghai to benefit patients worldwide.”

AstraZeneca will build a dedicated commercial cell therapy manufacturing and supply base in the Lingang New Area of the Shanghai Free Trade Zone for the commercial production and supply of autologous CAR-T cell therapies in China and other Asian markets. This includes AZD0120, a BCMA/CD19 dual-target CAR-T cell therapy developed using Gracell Biotech's FastCAR rapid production platform, which is currently undergoing clinical trials in the fields of multiple myeloma and autoimmune diseases. The company will also establish the AstraZeneca Gracell Cell Therapy Innovation Center in Shanghai Zhangjiang High-Tech Park, covering early-stage research, viral vector and plasmid development, analytical testing, clinical manufacturing, and registration support.

On the same day, AstraZeneca, together with the Shanghai Municipal Science and Technology Commission, the University of Glasgow, King's College London, and HSBC, announced the launch of the "Shanghai-UK Life Sciences Innovation Ecosystem Collaboration Program." This program aims to link China's innovative momentum with leading global scientific, research, and financial resources. By focusing on collaborative research and clinical studies, it will accelerate the development of innovative solutions to address global health challenges. Simultaneously, it will focus on supporting business expansion capabilities, accelerating the growth of startups and growth-stage companies, providing financing support, and expanding market channels, helping innovative achievements originating from Shanghai reach the world and benefit more patients.

*Disclaimer: This article discusses products/indications that have not yet been approved in mainland China. AstraZeneca does not recommend the use of any unapproved medicines.*

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## Regarding AstraZeneca

AstraZeneca (LSE/STO/NYSE: AZN) is a science-driven global biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of prescription medicines in oncology, rare diseases, and other biopharmaceutical fields including cardiovascular, renal and metabolic, respiratory, and immunological diseases. Headquartered in Cambridge, UK, AstraZeneca operates

in more than 125 countries, bringing innovative medicines to millions of patients worldwide. For more information, please visit [www.astrazeneca.com](http://www.astrazeneca.com).

## About AstraZeneca China

China is AstraZeneca's second-largest market globally and a strategic hub for its global innovation. The company has two global strategic R&D centers in China, having led nearly 20 global clinical trials to date; four manufacturing and supply bases, providing high-quality innovative medicines to more than 70 markets worldwide; and regional headquarters in five locations for commercial operations. AstraZeneca's China headquarters is located in Shanghai, with over 17,000 employees in China. Since 2023, the company has entered into 17 collaborations with 15 Chinese partners. Since entering China in 1993, AstraZeneca has brought more than 40 innovative medicines to the country, covering oncology, respiratory, cardiovascular, nephrology and metabolism, digestive, rare diseases, vaccines and immunology. By 2025 alone, the company's innovative medicines will benefit 68 million patients in China.

*Source: Press release (Internal approval number: CN-180522)*

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