

AstraZeneca's BioVentureHub and IBM to collaborate on strengthening digital health expertise

19 February 2019

AstraZeneca announced today that it has established a new collaboration with IBM Sweden through the BioVentureHub. From now on, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) connected to IBM Sweden or AstraZeneca's BioVentureHub will be offered access to the other partner's open innovation platform. The collaboration aims to stimulate growth of SMEs, support knowledge exchange between the life science and digital technology industries, and strengthen digital health expertise.

AstraZeneca is embracing data science, AI and machine learning technologies to advance its fundamental understanding of diseases, to increase R&D productivity and to get better medicines to patients faster. Against this backdrop, the BioVentureHub and IBM Sweden intend to act on a shared ambition to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and skills between the life science and technology sectors.

"We are seeing more and more life science companies going digital and digital companies going life science; and there is often a lack of complementary skills and know-how. Our exciting collaboration with IBM will provide SMEs and research groups with a unique, non-competitive, collaboration environment that can contribute with both pockets of expertise and foster breakthrough digital health solutions. Besides supporting growth strategies for Swedish SMEs, we also hope the collaboration will help attract international digital health companies to Sweden," says Magnus Björsne, CEO, AstraZeneca BioVentureHub.

Through the collaboration, the BioVentureHub will become a selected IBM startup community partner. This gives companies in the BioVentureHub the opportunity to enter the "Startup with IBM" premium-level program and receive support and guidance in how to digitalize their business ideas, including up to €120,000 per year in free credits to host their solutions, as well as, to add exciting IBM digital services like Watson, Blockchain, Watson IoT and Security. Similarly, technology-focused SMEs in IBM Business Partner programs in Sweden gain the opportunity to access life science infrastructure and expertise through services offered by the BioVentureHub.

"We are committed to driving change through innovation and digital transformation. The BioVentureHub is playing an important role to unlock knowledge exchange to fuel the growth of the Swedish life science ecosystem. By adding our digital technology capabilities and solutions into this mix at an early stage, this new collaboration provides us with a unique opportunity to help SMEs on the path to transformative growth in digital health," says Ola Brogårdh, Chief Digital Officer IBM Nordic.

AstraZeneca established the BioVentureHub in 2014 as an open innovation ecosystem to further strengthen competitiveness and dynamism in the Scandinavian life science industry. Based on an innovative public-private partnership model and located at the heart of AstraZeneca Gothenburg, the BioVentureHub gives emerging biotech & medtech companies and academic groups from Sweden and abroad a unique opportunity to co-locate with—and tap into—the power of AstraZeneca's world-class scientists and state-of-the-art lab facilities and infrastructure, and with each other.

"I am very pleased about this collaboration and the potential it has both for science and for emerging life science and technology companies. AstraZeneca is prioritising digital health as part of our global company strategy. Key to this are collaborations with digital technology companies who can help us to transform healthcare, with the overall focus to improve patient outcomes in our key disease areas," says Cristina Duran, Chief Digital Health Officer R&D AstraZeneca.

===

About IBM Sweden

For more information please visit <https://www.ibm.com/se-en>

About AstraZeneca's BioVentureHub

For more information please visit www.azbioventurehub.com

About AstraZeneca

AstraZeneca (LSE/STO/NYSE: AZN) is a global, science-led biopharmaceutical company that focuses on the discovery, development and commercialisation of prescription medicines, primarily for the treatment of diseases in three therapy areas - Oncology, Cardiovascular, Renal and Metabolism, and Respiratory. AstraZeneca operates in over 100 countries and its innovative medicines are used by millions of patients worldwide. Please visit astrazeneca.com and follow the company on Twitter [@AstraZeneca](https://twitter.com/AstraZeneca).

= = =

For more information, please contact:

Christina Malmberg Hägerstrand
Media Relations Director
AstraZeneca AB, Nordics-Baltics+46 72 855 93 29
christina.malmberghagerstrand@astrazeneca.com

= = =