



Dr. Phil Sanderson is with the Therapeutics for Rare and Neglected Diseases program at NCATS. His current responsibilities include programs aimed at developing drugs to treat and prevent malaria, ALK2 kinase inhibitors for the treatment of the heterotopic ossification disorder Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva and related diseases, and engineered fibroblast growth factor type 1 for treatment of corneal endothelial dystrophies. Prior to joining the NIH, Phil spent 20 years at Merck in the department of Medicinal Chemistry. There he gained experience in a broad range of therapeutic areas and target classes, and contributed to the identification of development candidates for the treatment of HIV infection, thrombosis, Parkinson's disease, cancer and schizophrenia. He was responsible for leadership of the AKT inhibitor discovery program and co-chaired the early development team which advanced allosteric AKT kinase inhibitor MK2206 to Phase II clinical trials for the treatment of cancer.

Prior to joining Merck, Phil was a post-doctoral research associate in the Department of Chemistry at Columbia University. Phil has a Bachelor's degree with First Class Honors in Natural Sciences and a PhD in Organic Chemistry, both from Cambridge University.