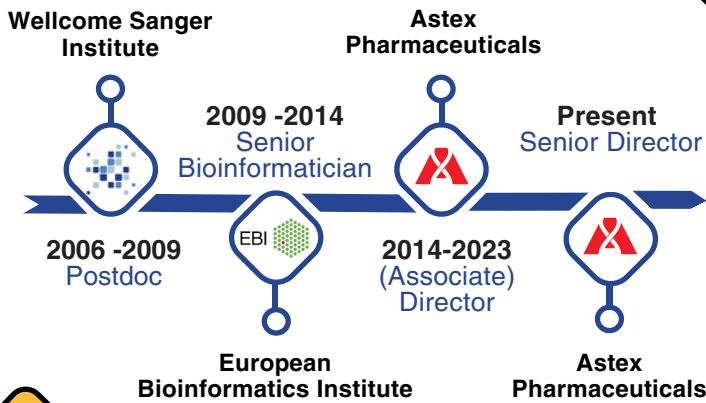


# Sanger to Success

Insights from Our Early Career Researcher (ECR) Alumni

## Harpreet Saini



### My Advice to ECRs:

Develop an understanding of both computational and experimental work. If your project includes both components and you are able to generate experimental data as well as analyse it computationally, you are far more empowered. This is an especially valuable skill set as the field becomes increasingly multidisciplinary.

### My Current Role

I lead the bioinformatics team at Astex, a pharmaceutical company that focuses on drug discovery. My team supports new targets and biomarker identification for oncology and neuroscience discovery and development programs, by leveraging cutting-edge multi-omics technologies and computational methods.

### My Sanger Science

I developed a computational method to predict and annotate transcript boundaries of microRNAs based on a large-scale analysis of various transcription features.

The method is available as part of the miRbase database. The microRNA transcript annotations are also publicly available through DAS sources that can be visualised using the [Ensembl genome browser](#).

### Sanger's Influence

My postdoctoral experience was extremely valuable and allowed me to develop strong skills in genomics. Prior to Sanger, my background was focused entirely on protein structure prediction, and moving to Sanger provided a great opportunity to expand into genomics and work within multidisciplinary teams. Having experience in both protein-focused and genomics research has been a significant advantage for me and gave me strong and versatile skill set that is highly applicable to drug discovery environments, such as the pharmaceutical industry.