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# Use of a collaborative tool to simplify the outsourcing of preclinical safety studies: an insight into the AstraZeneca–Charles-River-Laboratories strategic relationship

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**Highlights:**

- AstraZeneca entered into a strategic relationship with Charles River Laboratories
- The scope was to outsource preclinical safety packages
- New workflows were implemented through the use of a collaborative tool
- The gain in efficiency has positively impacted the AZ portfolio

*Teaser*: An insight into the AstraZeneca–Charles-River-Laboratories preclinical outsourcing model facilitated by the use of a collaborative tool to gain efficiency and positively impact the AstraZeneca portfolio.

In 2012, AstraZeneca entered into a strategic relationship with Charles Rivers Laboratories whereby preclinical safety packages comprising safety pharmacology, toxicology, formulation analysis, *in vivo* ADME, bioanalysis and pharmacokinetics studies are outsourced. New processes were put in place to ensure seamless workflows with the aim of accelerating the delivery of new medicines to patients. Here, we describe in more detail the AstraZeneca preclinical safety outsourcing model and the way in which a collaborative tool has helped to translate the processes in AstraZeneca and Charles River Laboratories into simpler integrated workflows that are efficient and visible across the two companies.

*Keywords*: Outsourcing; strategic relationship; collaborative tool; preclinical safety studies.

## Introduction

Over the past two decades, the pharmaceutical industry has been faced with new challenging situations impacting productivity and performance [1]. Indeed, the ever-increasing cost of R&D,