

ASTRAZENECA PLC
Form 6-K
November 12, 2003

FORM 6-K

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

Report of Foreign Issuer

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For October 2003

Commission File Number: 001-11960

AstraZeneca PLC

15 Stanhope Gate, London W1K 1LN, England

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F

Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1): _____

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7): _____

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes

No

If Yes is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the Registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82-_____

AstraZeneca PLC

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

1. Press release entitled, Front Half of AstraZeneca PLC Third Quarter and Nine Months Results 2003, dated 23 October 2003.
2. Press release entitled, Back Half of AstraZeneca PLC Third Quarter and Nine Months Results 2003, dated 23 October 2003.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

AstraZeneca PLC

Date: 7 November 2003

By: /s/ A C N Kemp

Name: A C N Kemp

Title: Assistant Secretary

Item 1**AstraZeneca PLC****Third Quarter and Nine Months Results 2003**

Strong quarter contributes to a 2 percent increase in nine months sales; Key growth products up 56 percent; Full year earnings expected at or just above top of forecast range.

Financial Highlights

| Group | 3rd Quarter 2003 \$m | 3rd Quarter 2002 \$m | Actual % | CER % | 9 Months 2003 \$m | 9 Months 2002 \$m | Actual % | CER % |
|--------------------|---|---|---------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Sales | 4,803 | 4,282 | +12 | +5 | 13,974 | 12,940 | +8 | +2 |
| Operating Profit | 1,101 | 921 | +20 | +6 | 3,262 | 3,282 | -1 | -7 |
| Profit before Tax | 1,119 | 923 | +21 | +7 | 3,333 | 3,306 | +1 | -6 |
| Earnings per Share | \$0.47 | \$0.39 | +20 | +6 | \$1.40 | \$1.39 | +1 | -6 |

All narrative in this section refers to growth rates at constant exchange rates (CER)

- Sales for the first nine months increased by 2 percent despite the loss of \$1.9 billion in US sales of Prilosec , Zestril and Nolvadex .
- Operating profit for the nine months declined by 7 percent.

Edgar Filing: ASTRAZENECA PLC - Form 6-K

- Sales for key growth and launch products increased by 56 percent to \$6.0 billion in the first nine months.
- Third quarter sales were up 5 percent with double digit growth in Japan, Germany, Italy and Canada.
- Operating profit in the third quarter was up 6 percent.
- Crestor sales were \$88 million for the nine months, including \$56 million in the US in the third quarter following FDA approval on 12 August. In the week ending 10 October, Crestor share of new prescriptions in the US statin market reached 1.9 percent.
- Sales of Iressa were \$136 million for the nine months, including \$54 million in the US since its launch in mid-May.
- Nexium sales reached \$2.5 billion for the nine months, up 86 percent. Third quarter sales in the US (up 114 percent) included some wholesaler stock building.
- Seroquel sales were \$1.1 billion for the nine months, up 31 percent.

Sir Tom McKillop, Chief Executive, said: A 56 percent increase in sales of key growth and launch products in the first nine months of 2003 and the promising early results from the US launches of Iressa and Crestor have more than offset sales lost to generic competition and provide the platform to deliver top-tier financial performance in the future.

London, 23 October 2003

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Media Enquiries: | Steve Brown/Edel McCaffrey (London) | (020) 7304 5033/5034 |
| | Staffan Ternby (Södertälje) | (8) 553 26107 |
| | Rachel Bloom (Wilmington) | (302) 886 7858 |
| Analyst/Investor Enquiries: | Mina Blair-Robinson (London) | (020) 7304 5084 |
| | Jonathan Hunt (London) | (020) 7304 5087 |
| | Staffan Ternby (Södertälje) | (8) 553 26107 |
| | Ed Seage/Jörgen Winroth (US) | (302) 886 4065/(212) 581 8720 |

AstraZeneca PLC

Business Highlights *All narrative in this section refers to growth rates at constant exchange rates (CER) unless otherwise indicated*

Nine Months

For the nine months, sales increased by 8 percent on a reported basis, as the weaker US dollar added 6 percentage points of sales growth to the CER growth rate of 2 percent. Global sales of growth and recently launched products increased by 56 percent to \$5,989 million. Combined R&D and SG&A costs increased by an underlying 5 percent, but were up 12 percent on a reported basis including currency effects. Operating profit was down 7 percent at CER, with exchange movements adding 6 percentage points of improvement to the reported rate, which declined by 1 percent. Earnings per share for the nine months were \$1.40 versus \$1.39 in 2002.

Sales for the nine months in the US were down just 1 percent, despite the loss of \$1.9 billion in US sales of Prilosec, Zestril and Nolvadex. Momentum in the rest of the portfolio remains strong, with US sales excluding these three products up by 47 percent (or by an estimated 36 percent net of wholesaler stock movements). Sales for the first nine months were up 5 percent in markets outside the US, including a strong performance in Asia Pacific markets (up 18 percent). Sales were unchanged in Europe, as volume growth was offset by continued pricing pressure.

Nexium sales increased by 86 percent for the nine months. Sales outside the US were up 75 percent. US sales increased by 88 percent, boosted somewhat by wholesaler stocking in the third quarter. Nexium prescriptions in the US through September were up 52 percent. Market share of total prescriptions in the US PPI market was 23.2 percent in September, surpassing total prescriptions for all omeprazole products.

Sales for Iressa reached \$136 million for the first nine months. Sales in the US since launch in May total \$54 million. Through the end of September more than 22,000 retail prescriptions have been dispensed for Iressa in the US.

Crestor sales for the nine months reached \$88 million, which includes \$56 million in the US market following FDA approval on 12 August. In the week ending 10 October, Crestor share of new prescriptions in the US statin market was 1.9 percent. Crestor has now been approved in 30 countries and launched in 13 to date.

Edgar Filing: ASTRAZENECA PLC - Form 6-K

Sales highlights for other important products shaping the successful portfolio transformation include Symbicort , where sales were up 69 percent to \$377 million. The oncology products Casodex (up 30 percent) and Arimidex (up 46 percent) also enjoyed strong sales growth. Seroquel sales to date increased by 31 percent to \$1.1 billion. On 13 October the company announced the successful completion of the EU Mutual Recognition Procedure to extend the use of Seroquel in the treatment of mania associated with bipolar disorder.

Third Quarter

Reported actual sales growth in the third quarter was 12 percent, lifted by the weaker US dollar. Sales in the quarter were up 5 percent at CER. Operating profit was up 6 percent on a CER basis, with reported operating profit up 20 percent as a result of the weaker dollar and hedging gains. Combined R&D and SG&A costs increased by 7 percent at CER (15 percent as reported), chiefly on SG&A in support of product launches. Earnings per share in the third quarter increased by 6 percent at constant exchange rates to \$0.47.

Sales in the US increased by 4 percent, partly as a result of a weak third quarter in 2002 (on destocking of Seroquel and Toprol-XL and wholesaler stocking of Nexium in this quarter, ahead of a September price increase. Generic erosion resulted in continued declines in Prilosec (down 74 percent), Zestril (down 73 percent) and Nolvadex (down 92 percent). US sales excluding these three products increased by 59 percent on a reported basis (or by an estimated 39 percent on an underlying demand basis, adjusted for net stock movements in both the current and year ago quarter).

Sales outside the US increased by 7 percent in the quarter, on strong sales growth from Nexium , Symbicort , Casodex and Seroquel . Good sales growth was achieved in Japan (up 14 percent), France (up 8 percent), Germany (up 12 percent), Italy (up 12 percent) and Canada (up 12 percent).

2

AstraZeneca PLC

Future Prospects All narrative in this section refers to growth rates at constant exchange rates (CER) unless otherwise indicated

Assuming current exchange rates hold for the remainder of the year, the company believes that earnings for the full year will be at or just above the top of the range of \$1.65 to \$1.75 per share.

Disclosure Notice: The preceding forward looking statements relating to expectations for earnings and business prospects for AstraZeneca PLC are subject to risks and uncertainties, which may cause results to differ materially from those set forth in the forward looking statements. These include, but are not limited to: the rate of growth in sales of generic omeprazole in the USA, the successful registration and launch of new products (in particular Crestor , Iressa and Exanta), continued growth of currently marketed products, the growth in costs and expenses, interest rate movements, exchange rate fluctuations and the tax rate. For further details on these and other risks and uncertainties, see AstraZeneca PLC s Securities and Exchange Commission filings, including the 2002 Annual Report on Form 20-F.

3

AstraZeneca PLC

Sales

All narrative in this section refers to growth rates at constant exchange rates (CER) unless otherwise indicated

Gastrointestinal

| | Third Quarter | | CER % | Nine Months | | CER % |
|-----------------|---------------|-------|-------|-------------|-------|-------|
| | 2003 | 2002 | | 2003 | 2002 | |
| Losec /Prilosec | 631 | 1,200 | -52 | 2,037 | 3,508 | -46 |
| Nexium | 1,000 | 481 | +102 | 2,466 | 1,292 | +86 |

Edgar Filing: ASTRAZENECA PLC - Form 6-K

| | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|----|-------|-------|-----|
| Total | 1,649 | 1,696 | -8 | 4,556 | 4,845 | -10 |
|-------|-------|-------|----|-------|-------|-----|

- Sales of Nexium for the nine months grew by 75 percent in markets outside the US, with good growth in Europe (up 68 percent), Canada (up 100 percent), and a strong launch in Australia.
- US sales for Nexium for the nine months were \$1,892 million, an increase of 88 percent. Total prescriptions in the US PPI market grew by 13.5 percent through September; Nexium prescriptions grew by 52 percent. Nexium market share of total prescriptions for PPI products in the US was 23.2 percent in September, surpassing total prescriptions for all omeprazole products combined.
- US sales for Nexium in the third quarter were up 114 percent, as wholesalers increased inventories ahead of a price increase, which went into effect on 15 September. The company estimates that around \$100 million in inventory above normal levels remains with distributors at the end of the third quarter.
- The intravenous formulation of Nexium received its first approval from the Swedish Medical Products Agency in August. Sweden will act as the reference member state as the company seeks approval in the EU under the Mutual Recognition Procedure. An NDA for this formulation was submitted to the US FDA in September.
- US sales of Prilosec were down 74 percent in the third quarter and by 64 percent for the nine months. Total prescriptions in the US were down 66 percent through September. Prilosec share of total omeprazole prescriptions was 31 percent in September.
- Sales of Losec in markets outside the US declined by 18 percent for the nine months, although sales in Japan continue to grow strongly, up 42 percent through September.

Cardiovascular

| | Third Quarter | | CER % | Nine Months | | CER % |
|---------------------|---------------|------|-------|-------------|-------|-------|
| | 2003 | 2002 | | 2003 | 2002 | |
| Seloken / Toprol-XL | 286 | 201 | +37 | 1,034 | 638 | +58 |
| Atacand | 185 | 131 | +29 | 543 | 409 | +23 |
| Plendil | 144 | 147 | -7 | 383 | 350 | +4 |
| Zestril | 116 | 187 | -44 | 342 | 733 | -58 |
| Crestor | 76 | - | n/m | 88 | - | n/m |
| Total | 984 | 840 | +9 | 2,920 | 2,675 | +2 |

- The steady gains in market share of total beta blocker prescriptions for Toprol-XL in the US market continues, reaching 25.6 percent in September. Total prescriptions in the US increased by 27 percent through September. US sales for the nine months were up 76 percent, still above the underlying demand despite some modest destocking in the third quarter.
- Sales of Seloken outside the US increased by 34 percent in the third quarter and by 19 percent for the nine months.
- Total prescriptions for Atacand products in the US were up 11 percent through September, and sales for the nine months were up 30 percent. US sales were up 62 percent in the third quarter, chiefly on destocking in the third quarter of 2002.

AstraZeneca PLC

- Sales of Atacand outside the US increased by 16 percent in the quarter and by 18 percent for the nine months.
- In August, data presented at the annual meeting of the European Society of Cardiology from the CHARM programme (Candesartan in Heart failure_Assessment of_Reduction in_Mortality and morbidity) demonstrated Atacand reduces both cardiovascular death as well as hospital admissions for heart failure across a broad spectrum of patients with chronic

Edgar Filing: ASTRAZENECA PLC - Form 6-K

heart failure. Atacand is the only Angiotensin Receptor Blocker to increase survival in chronic heart failure patients with left ventricular dysfunction, whether or not they are taking an ACE-inhibitor.

- Sales of Crestor totalled \$88 million in the first nine months. This includes \$56 million in US sales following FDA approval on 12 August. A comprehensive programme of product sampling the Reach for Crestor programme preceded the formal launch on 15 September. In the week ending 10 October, Crestor market share of new prescriptions in the US statin market was 1.9 percent.
- In the early launch markets, the excellent penetration achieved to date for Crestor in the dynamic sector of the statin market (ie new and switch patients) is now leading to a measurable impact on market share for total prescriptions in the class. According to the latest weekly tracking data available, Crestor has achieved a 7.1 percent share of total prescriptions in Canada (private payor market segment). In the Netherlands, Crestor has a 6.5 percent share of total statin prescriptions, whilst in the UK, share of total prescriptions increased to 1.9 percent.
- The company estimates that over 200,000 patients have been treated with Crestor to date; post-marketing surveillance in these markets confirms the excellent safety profile, which is comparable to the other marketed products.

Respiratory

| | Third Quarter | | CER % | Nine Months | | CER % |
|--------------|---------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| | 2003 | 2002 | | 2003 | 2002 | |
| Symbicort | 128 | 72 | +54 | 377 | 194 | +69 |
| Pulmicort | 184 | 149 | +14 | 674 | 575 | +10 |
| Rhinocort | 86 | 79 | +6 | 272 | 223 | +19 |
| Accolate | 20 | 27 | -30 | 76 | 92 | -19 |
| Oxis | 31 | 30 | -10 | 91 | 91 | -12 |
| Total | 485 | 391 | +14 | 1,600 | 1,281 | +16 |

- Symbicort sales increased by 69 percent to \$377 million for the nine months, as the product continues to make inroads into the rapidly growing market for fixed combinations of steroids and beta agonists. In February, Symbicort became the first product in its class to receive EU approval for the treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Later this year, capitalising on the unique pharmacological properties of its budesonide and formoterol components, the company will submit an MAA in Europe for Symbicort as a Single Inhaler Treatment for asthma.
- Total prescriptions in the US for Pulmicort Respules grew by 34 percent through September. This growth, coupled with increases in the average prescription size and price changes, fuelled the 44 percent increase in Pulmicort sales in the US for the nine months. Sales growth in the US in the third quarter for Pulmicort (up 71 percent) is a function of a destocking of Pulmicort, Respules and Pulmicort, Turbuhaler in the third quarter 2002.
- Rhinocort sales in the US were up 29 percent for the nine months, as growth in Rhinocort Aqua continues to more than offset the sales lost from the discontinuation of the Rhinocort Nasal Inhaler formulation. Total prescriptions for Rhinocort Aqua are up 31 percent in the US market through September.

5

AstraZeneca PLC

Oncology

| | Third Quarter | | CER % | Nine Months | | CER % |
|--|---------------|------|-------|-------------|------|-------|
| | 2003 | 2002 | | 2003 | 2002 | |
| | | | | | | |

6

Edgar Filing: ASTRAZENECA PLC - Form 6-K

| | | | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|------|
| Casodex | 230 | 189 | +12 | 647 | 460 | +30 |
| Zoladex | 224 | 206 | - | 630 | 588 | -1 |
| Arimidex | 136 | 95 | +32 | 372 | 239 | +46 |
| Iressa | 70 | 26 | +165 | 136 | 26 | n/m |
| Faslodex | 19 | 11 | +73 | 56 | 19 | +195 |
| Nolvadex | 38 | 85 | -59 | 138 | 342 | -62 |
| | | | | | | |
| Total | 722 | 615 | +9 | 1,993 | 1,688 | +10 |

- Casodex sales outside the US increased by 26 percent for the nine months on good growth in Europe (up 25 percent) and Japan (up 27 percent). The growth outside the US in the third quarter was 32 percent.
- Underlying demand for Casodex in the US is broadly unchanged, reflecting the maturity of the antiandrogen market in the treatment of advanced prostate cancer. Casodex share of total prescriptions in this market was 82.9 percent in September. Reported sales growth rates in the US market are largely a function of fluctuations in wholesaler stock movements. Third quarter sales were down 23 percent versus the stock building that occurred in the third quarter last year. Year to date sales (up 40 percent) indicate that wholesaler inventories remain elevated at the end of September.
- Arimidex sales increased by 46 percent for the nine months as the product continues to gain acceptance as the initial hormonal treatment of early breast cancer in postmenopausal women. Arimidex is the only drug to show improvement over tamoxifen treatment in this setting.
- In the third quarter there was some building of wholesaler inventories in the US for Arimidex. Sales were up 27 percent versus a strong third quarter 2002. Sales for the nine months in the US were up 50 percent broadly in line with the 52 percent increase in total prescriptions through September.
- Sales of Iressa reached \$136 million in the first nine months and \$70 million in the third quarter. Third quarter sales in Japan were \$27 million, the highest quarter so far this year.
- Iressa sales in the US since launch in May total \$54 million, including \$36 million in the third quarter. In September alone more than 6,100 retail prescriptions were dispensed, bringing the total since launch to over 22,000.
- Faslodex sales reflect a steady increase in usage for the treatment of advanced breast cancer in the US market.

CNS

| | Third Quarter | | CER % | Nine Months | | CER % |
|----------|---------------|------|-------|-------------|-------|-------|
| | 2003 | 2002 | | 2003 | 2002 | |
| Seroquel | 345 | 196 | +71 | 1,059 | 788 | +31 |
| Zomig | 83 | 68 | +12 | 245 | 234 | -2 |
| | | | | | | |
| Total | 433 | 272 | +52 | 1,324 | 1,045 | +23 |

- In the third quarter Seroquel sales in the US increased by 79 percent versus the third quarter 2002 when high wholesaler inventories were being unwound. Sales for the nine months were up 25 percent, still somewhat below the growth in prescriptions, which increased by 35 percent through September. Market share of total prescriptions in the US reached a new high at 20.6 percent of the antipsychotic market.
- Sales of Seroquel in markets outside the US increased by 54 percent for the nine months, with good growth in Japan (up 118 percent) and in Europe (up 42 percent). Sales outside the US grew by 50 percent in the third quarter.
- On 13 October the company announced successful completion of the EU Mutual Recognition Procedure involving 14 European countries to extend the use of Seroquel in the treatment of mania associated with bipolar disorder. The US NDA for this use is currently undergoing regulatory review.

AstraZeneca PLC

- Sales of Zomig outside the US increased by 8 percent for the nine months and by 13 percent in the third quarter, fuelled by the growth in Zomig , Rapimelt and launches of Zomig™Nasal spray in 8 markets to date.
- Zomig sales in the US were down 12 percent for the nine months and up 10 percent in the third quarter on variations in wholesaler stock movements.
- Zomig Nasal Spray received FDA approval on 30 September. Also in September, AstraZeneca entered into a marketing and distribution agreement with Medpointe Inc, a specialty pharmaceutical company, to promote and sell the Zomig family of prescription products in the US beginning 1 January 2004, including Zomig Nasal Spray.

Pain, Infection and Other Pharma

| | Third Quarter | | CER % | Nine Months | | CER % |
|-----------|---------------|------|-------|-------------|-------|-------|
| | 2003 | 2002 | | 2003 | 2002 | |
| Merrem | 88 | 75 | +9 | 242 | 216 | +8 |
| Diprivan | 105 | 104 | -5 | 339 | 326 | -1 |
| Xylocaine | 47 | 43 | +2 | 135 | 128 | +1 |
| Marcaine | 23 | 19 | +16 | 65 | 54 | +14 |
| Total | 414 | 344 | +12 | 1,188 | 1,043 | +8 |

- Sales of Diprivan for the nine months were up 8 percent in the US on growth in the propofol market, and were down 9 percent outside the US.

Geographic Sales

| | Third Quarter | | CER % | Nine Months | | CER % |
|--------|---------------|-------|-------|-------------|-------|-------|
| | 2003 | 2002 | | 2003 | 2002 | |
| USA | 2,271 | 2,190 | +4 | 6,703 | 6,787 | -1 |
| Europe | 1,662 | 1,379 | +3 | 4,863 | 4,167 | - |
| Japan | 297 | 251 | +14 | 833 | 663 | +18 |
| RoW | 573 | 462 | +16 | 1,575 | 1,323 | +17 |

- US sales were down just 1 percent for the nine months. Excluding the three products experiencing generic competition, underlying demand for the rest of the portfolio is estimated at a robust 36 percent (adjusted for wholesaler stock movements).
- Sales in Europe were unchanged for the nine months, as strong sales growth in Nexium , Symbicort , Seroquel and the oncology products was offset by declines in Losec , Zestril and the disposal of Marlow Foods at the end of May.
- Sales growth in Japan for the nine months was fuelled by Losec (up 42 percent) and the oncology product range (up 21 percent), in particular Casodex and Iressa .

Operating Review

All narrative in this section refers to growth rates at constant exchange rates (CER) unless otherwise indicated

Nine Months

Reported sales grew by 8 percent and operating profits declined by 1 percent. At constant exchange rates, sales grew by 2 percent and operating profit declined by 7 percent. The full benefit of the weakening dollar fell through to operating profit as a result of the Euro strengthening (which benefits sales) more than the Swedish krona and sterling (which increases costs) together with realised gains on currency hedges.

Operating margin at 23.3 percent was 2.1 percentage points lower than last year. Overall, currency was neutral on margins. Gross margin improved by 0.8 percentage points to 75.6 percent including a benefit from lower proportional payments to Merck offset by an increase in underlying cost of sales. R&D and SG&A growth continues to be tightly managed (5 percent growth in CER terms), with R&D and SG&A costs as a percentage of sales increasing by 0.4 and 1.6 percentage points respectively. Other operating income remains significantly lower than last year and accounts for 0.8 percentage points of the margin decline.

Third Quarter

Reported sales grew by 12 percent and operating profits by 20 percent. At constant exchange rates, sales grew by 5 percent and operating profit by 6 percent. The greater benefit of currency on profits over sales is a result of the weaker dollar producing a smaller impact on costs than sales combined with an increase in gains on currency hedges.

Operating margin at 22.9 percent was 1.4 percentage points higher than last year. Gross margin improved by 1.5 percentage points to 75.5 percent, almost all of which was attributable to currency. The benefits from lower proportional payments to Merck were largely offset by a provision for disposal of a surplus manufacturing facility. R&D and SG&A increased by 7 percent at CER, predominantly through higher SG&A, which as a percentage of sales increased by 2 percentage points. Other income added 1.1 percentage points to the margin.

Wholesaler Stocking

Wholesaler stocking continues to have an effect on our reported sales. As we reported last quarter, speculative wholesaler purchases made ahead of anticipated price increases in the first quarter had unwound to some extent. We estimated that wholesaler inventories had fallen to around \$200 million above normal. This quarter we estimate that there has been some further wholesaler stocking and that wholesaler inventories now stand at approximately \$300 million above normal, Nexium and Toprol-XL accounting for most of this amount.

Interest

Interest income was \$18 million in the third quarter (\$2 million for 2002) and \$71 million for the nine months (\$24 million for 2002).

Taxation

The effective tax rate was 27.5 percent for both the third quarter and the nine months 2003. The comparable rates for 2002 were 26.3 percent and 26.8 percent respectively.

Cash Flow

Cash generated from operating activities before exceptional cash outflows in the nine months fell to \$3,532 million from \$4,135 million in the comparative period. This decline was caused by an increase in working capital, due to the settlement of several significant creditor balances, and higher debtors, partly due to a larger proportion of sales occurring towards the end of the period. Cash expenditure on exceptional items was \$387 million compared to \$74 million in 2002, following the payment of \$355 million in settlement of the Zoladex investigation disclosed in the half year press statement. Tax paid was \$1,007 million, \$329 million higher than the same period in 2002 due to earlier payment of US taxes. Net capital expenditure totalled \$1,002 million for the nine

Edgar Filing: ASTRAZENECA PLC - Form 6-K

months to date, which is broadly comparable with the comparative period in 2002. The cash inflow in respect of acquisitions and disposals of \$80 million relates to the disposal of Marlow Foods in the second quarter.

After accounting for dividends paid of \$770 million and net share repurchases of \$501 million there is a \$59 million increase in net cash funds. The net cash funds at 30 September 2003 were \$3,903 million.

Share Repurchase Programme

During the quarter 6.9 million ordinary shares were repurchased for cancellation at a total cost of \$296 million, bringing the total for the year to 15.5 million shares at a total cost of \$607 million.

The total number of shares repurchased for cancellation since the beginning of the programme now stands at 81.1 million at an aggregate cost of \$3,412 million. The total number of shares in issue at 30 September 2003 is 1,706 million.

Upcoming Milestones and Key Events

29 January 2004 Announcement of 2003 Full Year results

Sir Tom McKillop
Chief Executive

9

Item 2

Consolidated Profit & Loss Account

| For the nine months ended 30 September | 2003 \$m | 2002 \$m |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sales | 13,974 | 12,940 |
| Cost of sales | (3,412) | (3,267) |
| Distribution costs | (116) | (102) |
| Research and development | (2,409) | (2,177) |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | (4,907) | (4,337) |
| Other operating income | 132 | 225 |
| Operating profit | 3,262 | 3,282 |
| Net interest and dividend income | 71 | 24 |
| Profit on ordinary activities before taxation | 3,333 | 3,306 |
| Taxation | (917) | (886) |
| Profit on ordinary activities after taxation | 2,416 | 2,420 |
| Attributable to minorities | (15) | (12) |

Edgar Filing: ASTRAZENECA PLC - Form 6-K

| | | |
|--|--------|--------|
| Net profit for the period | 2,401 | 2,408 |
| Dividends to shareholders | (436) | (398) |
| Profit retained for the period | 1,965 | 2,010 |
| Earnings per Ordinary Share | \$1.40 | \$1.39 |
| Diluted earnings per Ordinary Share | \$1.40 | \$1.39 |
| Weighted average number of Ordinary Shares in issue (millions) | 1,713 | 1,736 |
| Diluted average number of Ordinary Shares in issue (millions) | 1,714 | 1,739 |

10

Consolidated Profit & Loss Account

| For the quarter ended 30 September | 2003 \$m | 2002 \$m |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sales | 4,803 | 4,282 |
| Cost of sales | (1,175) | (1,113) |
| Distribution costs | (41) | (37) |
| Research and development | (812) | (757) |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | (1,744) | (1,468) |
| Other operating income | 70 | 14 |
| Operating profit | 1,101 | 921 |
| Net interest and dividend income | 18 | 2 |
| Profit on ordinary activities before taxation | 1,119 | 923 |
| Taxation | (308) | (242) |
| Profit on ordinary activities after taxation | 811 | 681 |

Edgar Filing: ASTRAZENECA PLC - Form 6-K

| | | |
|--|--------|--------|
| Attributable to minorities | (8) | (6) |
| Net profit for the period | 803 | 675 |
| Dividends to shareholders | - | - |
| Profit retained for the period | 803 | 675 |
| Earnings per Ordinary Share | \$0.47 | \$0.39 |
| Diluted earnings per Ordinary Share | \$0.47 | \$0.39 |
| Weighted average number of Ordinary Shares in issue (millions) | 1,710 | 1,728 |
| Diluted average number of Ordinary Shares in issue (millions) | 1,711 | 1,730 |

11

Consolidated Balance Sheet

| | 2003 | 2002 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| | \$m | \$m |
| As at 30 September | | |
| Fixed assets | 10,058 | 9,023 |
| Current assets | 12,996 | 11,557 |
| Total assets | 23,054 | 20,580 |
| Creditors due within one year | (7,095) | (6,916) |
| Net current assets | 5,901 | 4,641 |
| Total assets less current liabilities | 15,959 | 13,664 |
| Creditors due after more than one year | (348) | (491) |
| Provisions for liabilities and charges | (2,046) | (1,596) |
| Net assets | 13,565 | 11,577 |
| Capital and reserves | | |
| Shareholders funds and minority interests | 13,565 | 11,577 |

| Consolidated Cash Flow Statement | 2003 | 2002 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| For the nine months ended 30 September | \$m | \$m |
| Cash flow from operating activities | | |
| Operating profit | 3,262 | 3,282 |
| Depreciation and amortisation | 900 | 700 |
| (Increase)/decrease in working capital and other non-cash movements | (630) | 153 |
| Net cash inflow from operating activities before exceptional items | 3,532 | 4,135 |
| Outflow related to exceptional items | (387) | (74) |
| Net cash inflow from operating activities | 3,145 | 4,061 |
| Returns on investments and servicing of finance | 49 | 42 |
| Tax paid | (1,007) | (678) |
| Capital expenditure and financial investment | (1,002) | (1,034) |
| Acquisitions and disposals | 80 | - |
| Equity dividends paid to shareholders | (770) | (820) |
| Net cash inflow before management of liquid resources and financing | 495 | 1,571 |
| Net purchase of shares | (501) | (871) |
| Exchange and other movements | 65 | 56 |
| Increase in net cash funds in the period | 59 | 756 |
| Net cash funds at beginning of period | 3,844 | 2,867 |
| Net cash funds at end of period | 3,903 | 3,623 |

Notes to the Interim Financial Statements**1 BASIS OF PREPARATION AND ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The unaudited financial statements for the nine months ended 30 September 2003 have been prepared in accordance with UK generally accepted accounting principles. The accounting policies applied are those set out in AstraZeneca PLC's 2002 Annual Report and Form 20-F.

These interim financial statements do not constitute statutory accounts of the group within the meaning of Section 240 of the Companies Act 1985. Statutory accounts for the year ended 31 December 2002 have been filed with the Registrar of Companies. The auditor's report on those accounts was unqualified and did not contain any statement under Section 237 of the Companies Act 1985.

As part of AstraZeneca's objective to align with best accounting practice, cash discounts arising from prompt payments of invoices were reclassified from cost of sales to sales for the year ended 31 December 2002. Comparatives were reclassified and additional detail at product and territorial level are available on the AstraZeneca website. Both sales and cost of sales were reduced by \$213m in the first nine months of 2002. Neither profits nor assets were affected.

2 JOINT VENTURES AND ASSOCIATES

The group's share of joint ventures' sales for the nine months to 30 September 2003 amounted to \$ 189m and \$184m for the comparative period. Share of joint ventures' operating profits for the nine months to 30 September 2003 and for the comparative period, were \$nil.

3 NET CASH FUNDS

The table below provides an analysis of net cash funds and a reconciliation of net cash flow to the movement in net cash funds.

| | At 1 Jan 2003 \$m | Cash flow \$m | Other non-cash \$m | Exchange movements \$m | At 30 Sept 2003 \$m |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Loans due after 1 year | (328) | 18 | - | 6 | (304) |
| Current instalments of loans | (314) | 319 | - | (5) | - |
| Total loans | (642) | 337 | - | 1 | (304) |
| Short-term investments | 3,962 | (490) | - | 38 | 3,510 |
| Cash | 726 | 28 | - | 28 | 782 |
| Overdrafts | (202) | 119 | - | (2) | (85) |
| | 4,486 | (343) | - | 64 | 4,207 |
| Net cash funds | 3,844 | (6) | - | 65 | 3,903 |
| Issue of AstraZeneca PLC Ordinary Shares | | (31) | | | |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Repurchase of AstraZeneca PLC Ordinary Shares | 532 |
|--|-----|

| | |
|--|------------|
| Net cash inflow before management of liquid resources and financing | 495 |
|--|------------|

13

4 NINE MONTHS TERRITORIAL SALES ANALYSIS

| | Nine Months 2003 \$m | Nine Months 2002 \$m | % Growth | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|----------------------|
| | | | Actual | Constant Currency |
| USA | 6,703 | 6,787 | (1) | (1) |
| Canada | 519 | 423 | 23 | 15 |
| North America | 7,222 | 7,210 | - | (1) |
| France | 1,058 | 820 | 29 | 9 |
| UK | 394 | 476 | (17) | (25) |
| Germany | 623 | 503 | 24 | 5 |
| Italy | 680 | 551 | 23 | 4 |
| Sweden | 229 | 210 | 9 | (8) |
| Europe others | 1,879 | 1,607 | 17 | 1 |
| Total Europe | 4,863 | 4,167 | 17 | - |
| Japan | 833 | 663 | 26 | 18 |
| Rest of World | 1,056 | 900 | 17 | 18 |
| Total | 13,974 | 12,940 | 8 | 2 |

5 THIRD QUARTER TERRITORIAL SALES ANALYSIS

| | 3 rd Quarter 2003 \$m | 3 rd Quarter 2002 \$m | % Growth | |
|--|---|---|----------|----------------------|
| | | | Actual | Constant Currency |

Edgar Filing: ASTRAZENECA PLC - Form 6-K

| | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| USA | 2,271 | 2,190 | 4 | 4 |
| Canada | 189 | 150 | 26 | 12 |
| North America | 2,460 | 2,340 | 5 | 4 |
| France | 370 | 287 | 29 | 8 |
| UK | 120 | 151 | (21) | (29) |
| Germany | 233 | 174 | 34 | 12 |
| Italy | 230 | 172 | 34 | 12 |
| Sweden | 77 | 72 | 7 | (10) |
| Europe others | 632 | 523 | 21 | 5 |
| Total Europe | 1,662 | 1,379 | 21 | 3 |
| Japan | 297 | 251 | 18 | 14 |
| Rest of World | 384 | 312 | 23 | 17 |
| Total | 4,803 | 4,282 | 12 | 5 |

14

6 NINE MONTHS PRODUCT SALES ANALYSIS

| | World | | | | US | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| | Nine Months 2003 \$m | Nine Months 2002 \$m | Actual Growth % | Constant Currency Growth % | Nine Months 2003 \$m | Actual Growth % |
| Gastrointestinal: | | | | | | |
| Losec | 2,037 | 3,508 | (42) | (46) | 785 | (64) |
| Nexium | 2,466 | 1,292 | 91 | 86 | 1,892 | 88 |
| Others | 53 | 45 | 18 | 9 | 18 | 38 |
| Total Gastrointestinal | 4,556 | 4,845 | (6) | (10) | 2,695 | (15) |
| Cardiovascular: | | | | | | |
| Zestril | 342 | 733 | (53) | (58) | 65 | (85) |
| Seloken | 1,034 | 638 | 62 | 58 | 765 | 76 |
| Atacand | 543 | 409 | 33 | 23 | 197 | 30 |
| Plendil | 383 | 350 | 9 | 4 | 156 | 7 |
| Tenormin | 246 | 275 | (11) | (17) | 14 | (67) |
| Crestor | 88 | - | n/m | n/m | 56 | n/m |

Edgar Filing: ASTRAZENECA PLC - Form 6-K

| | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| Others | 284 | 270 | 5 | (7) | 13 | (7) |
| Total Cardiovascular | 2,920 | 2,675 | 9 | 2 | 1,266 | 5 |
| Respiratory: | | | | | | |
| Pulmicort | 674 | 575 | 17 | 10 | 348 | 44 |
| Rhinocort | 272 | 223 | 22 | 19 | 202 | 29 |
| Symbicort | 377 | 194 | 94 | 69 | - | - |
| Accolate | 76 | 92 | (17) | (19) | 49 | (22) |
| Oxis | 91 | 91 | - | (12) | - | - |
| Others | 110 | 106 | 4 | (7) | - | - |
| Total Respiratory | 1,600 | 1,281 | 25 | 16 | 599 | 30 |
| Oncology: | | | | | | |
| Zoladex | 630 | 588 | 7 | (1) | 128 | (18) |
| Casodex | 647 | 460 | 41 | 30 | 187 | 40 |
| Nolvadex | 138 | 342 | (60) | (62) | 40 | (83) |
| Arimidex | 372 | 239 | 56 | 46 | 153 | 50 |
| Iressa | 136 | 26 | n/m | n/m | 54 | n/m |
| Faslodex | 56 | 19 | 195 | 195 | 55 | 189 |
| Others | 14 | 14 | - | (7) | - | - |
| Total Oncology | 1,993 | 1,688 | 18 | 10 | 617 | (5) |
| CNS: | | | | | | |
| Seroquel | 1,059 | 788 | 34 | 31 | 796 | 25 |
| Zomig | 245 | 234 | 5 | (2) | 110 | (12) |
| Others | 20 | 23 | (13) | (26) | - | n/m |
| Total CNS | 1,324 | 1,045 | 27 | 23 | 906 | 18 |
| Pain, Infection and Other Pharma: | | | | | | |
| Diprivan | 339 | 326 | 4 | (1) | 170 | 8 |
| Merrem | 242 | 216 | 12 | 8 | 40 | (22) |
| Local anaesthetics | 344 | 311 | 11 | 4 | 83 | 9 |
| Other Pharma Products | 263 | 190 | 38 | 29 | 114 | 100 |
| Total Pain, Infection and Other Pharma | 1,188 | 1,043 | 14 | 8 | 407 | 19 |
| Salick Health Care | 200 | 170 | 18 | 18 | 200 | 18 |
| Astra Tech | 144 | 108 | 33 | 13 | 11 | 38 |
| Marlow Foods | 49 | 85 | (42) | (47) | 2 | - |
| Total | 13,974 | 12,940 | 8 | 2 | 6,703 | (1) |

n/m not meaningful

Other Pharma Products include contract manufacturing for Prilosec OTC

7 THIRD QUARTER PRODUCT SALES ANALYSIS

| | World | | | | US | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| | 3 rd Quarter 2003 \$m | 3 rd Quarter 2002 \$m | Actual Growth % | Constant Currency Growth % | 3 rd Quarter 2003 \$m | Actual Growth % |
| Gastrointestinal: | | | | | | |
| Losec | 631 | 1,200 | (47) | (52) | 206 | (74) |
| Nexium | 1,000 | 481 | 108 | 102 | 786 | 114 |
| Others | 18 | 15 | 20 | 13 | 7 | 75 |
| Total Gastrointestinal | 1,649 | 1,696 | (3) | (8) | 999 | (13) |
| Cardiovascular: | | | | | | |
| Zestril | 116 | 187 | (38) | (44) | 22 | (73) |
| Seloken | 286 | 201 | 42 | 37 | 189 | 39 |
| Atacand | 185 | 131 | 41 | 29 | 60 | 62 |
| Plendil | 144 | 147 | (2) | (7) | 67 | (9) |
| Tenormin | 81 | 85 | (5) | (12) | 1 | (80) |
| Crestor | 76 | - | n/m | n/m | 56 | - |
| Others | 96 | 89 | 8 | (5) | 4 | 33 |
| Total Cardiovascular | 984 | 840 | 17 | 9 | 399 | 18 |
| Respiratory: | | | | | | |
| Pulmicort | 184 | 149 | 23 | 14 | 87 | 71 |
| Rhinocort | 86 | 79 | 9 | 6 | 66 | 12 |
| Symbicort | 128 | 72 | 78 | 54 | - | - |
| Accolate | 20 | 27 | (26) | (30) | 11 | (39) |
| Oxis | 31 | 30 | 3 | (10) | - | - |
| Others | 36 | 34 | 6 | (6) | - | - |
| Total Respiratory | 485 | 391 | 24 | 14 | 164 | 28 |
| Oncology: | | | | | | |
| Zoladex | 224 | 206 | 9 | - | 44 | (21) |
| Casodex | 230 | 189 | 22 | 12 | 55 | (23) |
| Nolvadex | 38 | 85 | (55) | (59) | 4 | (92) |
| Arimidex | 136 | 95 | 43 | 32 | 52 | 27 |
| Iressa | 70 | 26 | 169 | 165 | 36 | n/m |
| Faslodex | 19 | 11 | 73 | 73 | 18 | 64 |
| Others | 5 | 3 | 67 | 67 | - | - |
| Total Oncology | 722 | 615 | 17 | 9 | 209 | (9) |

Edgar Filing: ASTRAZENECA PLC - Form 6-K

| | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| CNS: | | | | | | |
| Seroquel | 345 | 196 | 76 | 71 | 251 | 79 |
| Zomig | 83 | 68 | 22 | 12 | 32 | 10 |
| Others | 5 | 8 | (38) | (51) | (2) | n/m |
| Total CNS | 433 | 272 | 59 | 52 | 281 | 64 |
| Pain, Infection and Other Pharma: | | | | | | |
| Diprivan | 105 | 104 | 1 | (5) | 47 | (4) |
| Merrem | 88 | 75 | 17 | 9 | 15 | (21) |
| Local anaesthetics | 121 | 155 | (22) | (28) | 32 | (26) |
| Other Pharma | 100 | 10 | n/m | n/m | 55 | n/m |
| Total Pain, Infection and Other Pharma | 414 | 344 | 20 | 12 | 149 | 32 |
| Products | | | | | | |
| Salick Health Care | 66 | 57 | 16 | 16 | 66 | 16 |
| Astra Tech | 50 | 37 | 35 | 16 | 4 | 33 |
| Marlow Foods | - | 30 | n/m | n/m | - | n/m |
| Total | 4,803 | 4,282 | 12 | 5 | 2,271 | 4 |

n/m not meaningful

Other Pharma Products include contract manufacturing for Prilosec OTC

16

Shareholder Information

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MEETINGS

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Announcement of fourth quarter and full year 2003 results | 29 January 2004 |
| Announcement of first quarter 2004 results | 29 April 2004 |
| Annual General Meeting 2004 | 29 April 2004 |
| Announcement of second quarter and half year 2004 results | 22 July 2004 |
| Announcement of third quarter 2004 results | 21 October 2004 |

DIVIDENDS

Edgar Filing: ASTRAZENECA PLC - Form 6-K

The record date for the first interim dividend paid on 6 October 2003 (in the UK, Sweden and the US) was 22 August 2003. Ordinary Shares traded ex-dividend on the London and Stockholm Stock Exchanges from 20 August 2003. ADRs traded ex-dividend on the New York Stock Exchange from the same date.

The record date for the second interim dividend for 2003 payable on 6 April 2004 (in the UK, Sweden and the US) will be 20 February 2004. Ordinary Shares will trade ex-dividend on the London and Stockholm Stock Exchanges from 18 February 2004. ADRs will trade ex-dividend on the New York Stock Exchange from the same date.

Future dividends will normally be paid as follows:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| First interim | Announced in July and paid in October |
| Second interim | Announced in January and paid in April |

TRADEMARKS

The following brand names used in this interim report are trade marks of the AstraZeneca group of companies:

Accolate Arimidex Astra Tech Atacand Casodex Crestor Diprovan Exanta Faslodex Iressa Losec Marcaine Merrem Nexium Nolvadex Oxis Plendil Prilosec Pulmicort Pulmicort Respules Pulmicort Turbuhaler Rhinocort Rhinocort Aqua Seloken Seroquel Symbicort Tenormin Toprol-XL Xylocaine Zestril Zoladex Zomig

ADDRESSES FOR CORRESPONDENCE

| Registrar and Transfer Office | Depository for ADRs | Registered Office | Swedish Securities Register Centre |
|---|---|---|---|
| The AstraZeneca Registrar Lloyds TSB Registrars The Causeway Worthing West Sussex BN99 6DA Tel: +44 (0)121 433 8000 | JPMorgan Chase Bank PO Box 43013 Providence RI 02940-3013 US Tel: 1 (781) 575 4328 | 15 Stanhope Gate London W1K 1LN UK Tel: +44 (0)20 7304 5000 | VPC AB PO Box 7822 S-103 97 Stockholm Sweden Tel: +46 (0)8 402 9000 |

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

In order to utilise the Safe Harbor provisions of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, AstraZeneca is providing the following cautionary statement. This Interim Report contains forward-looking statements with respect to the financial condition, results of operations and businesses of AstraZeneca. By their nature, forward-looking statements and forecasts involve risk and uncertainty because they relate to events and depend on circumstances that will occur in the future. There are a number of factors that could cause actual results and developments to differ materially from that expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. These factors include, among other things, the loss or expiration of patents, marketing exclusivity or trade marks; exchange rate fluctuations; the risk that R&D will not yield new products that achieve commercial success; the impact of competition; price controls and price reductions; taxation risks; the risk of substantial product liability claims; the impact of any failure by third parties to supply materials or services; the risk of delay to new product launches; the difficulties of obtaining and maintaining governmental approvals for products; and the risk of environmental liabilities.