ASTRAZENECA PLC
Form 6-K
October 29, 2004

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 2004

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 _X_ 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 _X_

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, Repurchase of Shares in AstraZeneca PLC , dated 01 October 2004.

2. Press release entitled, Companies Act 1985 Section 198: Disclosure of Interest in Voting Shares in Public Companies , dated 01 October 2004.

3. Press release entitled, AstraZeneca Annual Business Review , dated 05 October 2004.

4. Press release entitled, AstraZeneca confident of strong performance from growth products and delivery of development pipeline , dated 06 October 2004.

5. Press release entitled, AstraZeneca Receives Action Letter from FDA for EXANTA® (ximelagatran) , dated 08 October 2004.

6. Press release entitled, AstraZeneca s third quarter and nine months results 2004 , dated 20 October 2004.

7. Press release entitled, AstraZeneca PLC: Third Quarter and Nine Months Results 2004 (front half) , dated 21 October 2004.

8. Press release entitled, AstraZeneca PLC: Third Quarter and Nine Months Results: Consolidated Profit & Loss Account (back half) , dated 21 October 2004.

9. Press release entitled, AstraZeneca Notice of teleconference on adoption of IAS / IFRS , dated 22 October 2004.

10. Press release entitled, AstraZeneca Prepares for Adoption of IAS / IFRS , dated 25 October 2004.

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: 29 October 2004

By: /s/ G H R Musker

Name: G H R Musker
Title: Secretary & Solicitor

Item 1

REPURCHASE OF SHARES IN ASTRAZENECA PLC

AstraZeneca PLC announced that on 30 September 2004, it purchased for cancellation 750,000 ordinary shares of AstraZeneca PLC at a price of 2281 pence per share. Upon the cancellation of these shares, the number of shares in issue will be 1,659,190,800.

G H R Musker
Company Secretary
1 October 2004

Item 2

COMPANIES ACT 1985 SECTION 198
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST IN VOTING SHARES IN PUBLIC COMPANIES

ON 1 OCTOBER 2004 WE WERE INFORMED THAT, AS OF 29 SEPTEMBER 2004, BARCLAYS PLC HAD A NOTIFIABLE INTEREST IN THE USD0.25 ORDINARY SHARES OF ASTRAZENECA PLC OF 50,634,731 SHARES WHICH REPRESENTS 3.05 PER CENT OF THE ISSUED ORDINARY CAPITAL OF THE COMPANY.

G H R MUSKER
COMPANY SECRETARY
1 OCTOBER 2004

Item 3

AstraZeneca Annual Business Review

On Wednesday 6 October 2004, AstraZeneca is holding an Annual Business Review for analysts and investors at The Millennium Hotel, 44 Grosvenor Square, W1K.

The presentations start at 08:00BST (09:00CET, 03:00EST) and can be listened to via a global teleconference for which the numbers are in the UK: 0800 279 9640, for Europe: +44(0)20 7019 9504 and for the US: 1 866 850 2201. A live webcast of the presentations will be available on the AstraZeneca website.

These numbers, as well as details of the replay facility available through Tuesday 19 October 2004, are available through the Investor Relations part of the AstraZeneca website at www.astrazeneca.com or direct on www.astrazenecaevents.com.

Item 4

ASTRAZENECA CONFIDENT OF STRONG PERFORMANCE FROM GROWTH PRODUCTS AND DELIVERY OF DEVELOPMENT PIPELINE

AstraZeneca will today express confidence in its future prospects at its annual business review meeting in London and will update analysts on:

- The global performance of recently launched key brands that will drive sales and earnings growth in the

near term, including CRESTOR, NEXIUM, SEROQUEL, SYMBICORT and IRESSA.
- Phase III programmes for CEROVIVE and GALIDA, which are both progressing well.
- 28 New Molecular Entity (NME) projects in Phase I and Phase II development; 60 percent more in Phase II than a year ago.
- 23 high-quality NMEs now in pre-clinical testing as a result of improved productivity in drug discovery.
- A growing presence in emerging markets as another important source of sales and profit growth. AstraZeneca is now the fastest growing major pharmaceutical company in the top eight emerging markets.
- 270 R&D collaboration agreements with external partners signed in the past year.

Sir Tom McKillop, Chief Executive, said: "With $10 billion in annual sales of newer products growing strongly, good progress across the development portfolio and success in emerging markets, AstraZeneca is well-positioned to overcome the recent disappointment on EXANTA and to meet the wider challenges facing the industry."

The company will also confirm that it remains on track to deliver EPS for 2004 around the middle of the $2.00 to $2.15 range announced at the beginning of the year.

Business Highlights:

- **CRESTOR** is approved in 64 countries and launched in 51 markets, with approval in Japan anticipated before the end of Q4 2004.
- Since launch, more than 10 million prescriptions have been dispensed to over three million patients.
- Extensive post-marketing surveillance continues to show that the safety profile for CRESTOR remains comparable to other marketed statins.
- CRESTOR continues to grow in an increasingly competitive US market. Its share of new prescriptions reached 7.5 percent in the week ending 24th September.

- Since its launch in 2000, **NEXIUM** has grown to become the world's sixth largest pharmaceutical product (MAT Q2 2004 - $4.2 billion).
- The global Proton Pump Inhibitor (PPI) market is currently valued in excess of $20 billion and has grown 7.2 percent MAT, as of Q2 2004. NEXIUM value growth in the same period was 36.8 percent. With strong continued growth in many large markets, such as France, Italy and Germany, NEXIUM is expected to become the leading branded PPI by value in 2005.
- Despite challenging market conditions, including pricing pressure in the US and Europe, new formulations and indications should help sustain growth.
- The NEXIUM intravenous (i.v.) formulation is now being launched in Europe and US approval is expected in early 2005. This should further strengthen the brand's position on hospital formularies.
- New indications for the healing and prevention of NSAID-associated ulcers have already cleared the EU Mutual Recognition procedure, with approval in the US and other markets anticipated in the coming months.

- **SEROQUEL**continues to drive expansion of the atypical antipsychotic market in Europe and the US, with a growth rate strongly ahead of the rest of the market.
- In the US, SEROQUEL is set to become the market leading antipsychotic product in total prescriptions. Market share gains in other major markets have accelerated since the launch of the bipolar mania indication.
- The BOLDER study demonstrates that SEROQUEL is effective in treating people with bipolar disorder and new, recently presented data, shows additional benefit for the rapid cycling population - a treatment-resistant group. Regulatory submissions for bipolar depression in the US are expected during first half 2006 and Europe in 2007.

- **SYMBICORT** is approved in 78 countries and is launched in 62. It continues to gain share from its chief competitor, Seretide/Advair in the market for fixed combination asthma treatments.
- Two recent clinical studies comparing SYMBICORT with salmeterol/fluticasone have shown impressive results:
    - The SUND study, showed superiority of SYMBICORT Adjustable Maintenance Dosing versus a fixed dose of either SYMBICORT or salmeterol/ fluticasone.
    - Data from COSMOS, a new trial, show superiority of SYMBICORT Single inhaler Therapy over fixed dosing of salmeterol/fluticasone.

- The application for SYMBICORT Single inhaler Therapy in Europe is under regulatory review, as are pMDI filings for asthma and COPD.
- In the US, the company has completed its asthma trials and the first New Drug Application (NDA) for asthma is targeted for Q2 2005, followed by a supplementary NDA for COPD in 2007.

- **EXANTA** is the first new oral anticoagulant in almost 60 years.
- EXANTA's first indication (prevention of venous thromboembolic events in elective knee and hip replacement surgery) was approved in May 2004 in the EU and the first launch took place in Germany in June 2004, followed by Sweden, Portugal, Finland, Norway, Iceland and Austria. It is now launched in seven countries and approved in 12 markets.
- At its meeting on 10th September, the Cardiovascular Renal Committee to the US
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA) did not recommend approval of EXANTA. AstraZeneca is continuing discussions with the Agency and awaits a final decision. The FDA's Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA) 10-month deadline is 23rd October 2004.

- **IRESSA**is approved in 32 countries, including Japan and the US. Discussions with the regulatory authorities in Europe are ongoing.
- In April, Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and the Dana Farber Institute in the US released breakthrough research identifying mutations in the tyrosine kinase domain of the EGFR gene in the tumour cells of many Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) patients who responded to IRESSA. However, published reports and emerging analyses from the IDEAL trials indicate that some patients with a dramatic response to treatment with IRESSA do not appear to possess a mutation in the EGFR receptor. Furthermore, mutational status does not explain the stable disease and symptomatic benefit seen by nearly 50 percent of patients treated with IRESSA.
- According to US monthly prescription data, prescriptions have increased by 25 percent since this new EGFR mutation data was announced.
- Comparative trials of IRESSA in refractory NSCLC are on track for delivery early in 2005 and the lifecycle programme for IRESSA in NSCLC and other tumours is well underway.
- Phase III trials are underway in refractory patients with head and neck tumours, (vs. methotrexate), with filings in the US and Europe anticipated in H2 2006. Another Phase II, first-line patient study using IRESSA in combination with chemo-radiation has begun, with results anticipated in 2008.

- For advanced breast cancer, Phase II studies using IRESSA plus hormonal treatments (tamoxifen and ARIMIDEX), are underway, with results anticipated 2006/7.
- A Phase II study involving first-line patients with colorectal cancer is ongoing, with results anticipated in 2006.
- Exploratory trials are underway in oesophageal, pancreatic, glioblastoma, ovarian and thyroid tumour types, with data emerging.

- **ARIMIDEX:** The five-year analysis from the ARIMIDEX, Tamoxifen, Alone or in Combination (ATAC) study will be presented at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Congress in December 2004 and should confirm the position of ARIMIDEX as a gold standard treatment for early breast cancer.

Development Pipeline and New Indications

In addition to reviewing the performance of key growth products, the company will provide an update on its development pipeline. It will also confirm continuing progress with GALIDA and CEROVIVE, which are in Phase III clinical testing and will report that 28 NME projects are now in Phase I/II, an increase of nine over last year. Of these, 15 projects are currently in Phase I and 13 projects are currently in Phase II.

There are 23 NMEs in pre-clinical testing. To broaden its therapeutic approaches and enhance its capability to discover novel differentiated treatments, the company has signed 270 new R&D collaborations with external parties in the past year, bringing the total number of active agreements in place to more than 1700.

Cardiovascular

In the US, it is estimated that one in three individuals born in 2000 will develop type 2 diabetes during their lifetime. By 2025 there will be twice as many diabetics in South East Asia compared to North America. The future market value for type 2 diabetes (including the insulin market) is forecast to be greater than $18 billion by 2012 in the top seven markets***.*** Over the next 30 years, the prevalence of atrial fibrillation is expected to double worldwide and the anti-thrombotic market is expected to reach $15 billion by 2010. Diabetes, atrial fibrillation and thrombosis are all targets for AstraZeneca.

- **GALIDA** is currently in Phase III testing for type 2 diabetes mellitus. A PPAR alpha-gamma agonist, GALIDA has demonstrated metabolic effects including

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- improvement in both glycemic control as well as dyslipidaemia. Further data supports the potential for GALIDA to prevent macrovascular complications.
- Following worldwide regulatory authority review of the safety and toxicology for the entire PPAR class, AstraZeneca has agreed to extend long-term follow up clinical studies to two years, resulting in the filing date moving from 2006 into 2007.
- **AZD6140:** now in Phase II testing, has been shown in early studies to be a more effective platelet inhibitor than clopidogrel. In contrast to the latter, its effects are rapidly reversible, allowing acute invasive or surgical treatment for patients, if needed. AstraZeneca is targeting treatment of patients with coronary artery disease.
- **AZD7009**: an atrial repolarisation delaying agent (ARDA), has a novel mechanism of action with unique separation of effects on the atrium and ventricle of the heart. It restores normal heartbeat in patients with atrial fibrillation in a dose dependent way. AZD7009 is now in Phase II testing. Two formulations are currently being developed: the i.v. formulation for atrial fibrillation conversion and the oral formulation for chronic treatment.
- **AZD0837**: an oral direct thrombin inhibitor follow-up to EXANTA is in Phase II studies that will determine its overall efficacy and safety profile.
- **AZD9684**: a CPU inhibitor for the treatment of thrombosis is in Phase II trials.

Neuroscience

AstraZeneca aims to be a leader in neuroscience, by continuing to deliver a range of life-changing medicines in the three key areas of psychiatry, analgesia and neurology. The neuroscience market is currently estimated to be worth over $85 billion.

- **CEROVIVE**: (NXY-059) is a neuroprotectant with free radical trapping properties acting at several points in the acute cerebral ischemic cascade. It is in phase III clinical trials to determine its effect on disability and neurological recovery in acute ischemic stroke patients.

- **AZD1080:** an inhibitor of neurofibillary tangle formation to modify the progression of Alzheimer□s disease pathology, is currently in pre-clinical testing.
- **AZD3102:** a human monoclonal antibody for the modification of Alzheimer□s disease progression, developed in collaboration with Dyax, is in pre-clinical development.
- **AZD7371:** a serotonin modulator with the potential to relieve symptoms of overactive bladder is in Phase II clinical exploration.

- **AZD4282:** a modulator of NMDA receptor for the treatment of neuropathic pain is presently in Phase I clinical studies.
- **AZD9272:** a novel neuropathic pain treatment, discovered in collaboration with NPS pharmaceuticals, has shown some highly promising sustained analgesic effects in pre-clinical models.

Oncology

AstraZeneca aims to maintain its position as a world leader in cancer treatment through the successful introduction of novel approaches, with candidate drugs currently in the pipeline. The company has over 20 different anti-cancer projects, including 13 NMEs in its portfolio. The company intends to build a leading position in cell cycle inhibitiors, anti-invasives, and anti-angiogenics, building on its current strong portfolio. Discovery investment is focused on increasing the number of candidate drugs and providing strong translational science support to products in late stage Discovery and Development. As a result of the company□s collaboration with Abgenix Inc., antibodies will be part of the development portfolio from 2006. The oncology market is estimated to reach $64 billion by 2014.

- **ZD6474:** a potent, once daily oral inhibitor of vascular endothelial growth factor receptor (VEGFR) signalling, has additional activity against epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) signalling. Currently in Phase II development, ZD6474 is approaching completion of trials as monotherapy (vs. IRESSA) and in combination with cytotoxic chemotherapy.

- **AZD2171:** a once daily, oral inhibitor of vascular endothelial growth factor receptor (VEGFR) signalling. Highly potent, without activity against EGFR, the compound is currently in Phase I development and has potential for activity in a wide range of tumours, as well as for combining with other anti-cancer agents. The first presentation of pre-clinical data for AZD2171 was made earlier this year at the AACR Meeting in Orlando and showed that continuous once daily, oral treatment with AZD2171 is generally well-tolerated in patients with advanced cancers and liver metastases.
- New data evaluating AZD2171 in combination with mechanistically distinct anti-tumour therapies demonstrate that, when administered in combination, AZD2171 and the EGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitor gefinitib produce greater inhibition of tumour growth in vulval tumour xenografts than with each treatment alone.
- Emerging Phase I clinical data support the pre-clinical data indicating that AZD2171 has the potential to be □best in class□.

- **AZD4054:** a specific endothelin-A receptor antagonist has Phase II trials underway in hormone resistant prostate cancer (HRPC). Phase I trial results indicate no antagonism of endothelin-B receptor, which is important since pro-apoptotic signalling is driven through this receptor.
- **AZD3409:** an oral, selective prenyltransferase inhibitor, has potential in numerous tumour types. Phase I trials in volunteers have shown inhibition of laminin and K-ras prenylation. The latter data are important for differentiation. Phase I trials in patients started in March 2004.

- **AZD6244:** a potent and selective oral MEK inhibitor, is biologically active in patients and in a wide range of human tumour xenografts, at doses that are well-tolerated.
- **AZD5438:** a Cyclin Dependent Kinase (CDK) inhibitor went from CD nomination to first human dose in five months with proof of mechanism in healthy volunteers within 12 months of nomination. It is now in patient trials.
- **AZD1152:** an Aurora Kinase Inhibitor for solid tumours disrupts mitosis and cellular division in tumour cells and patient trials are set to start Q2 2005.
- **AZD0530:** a highly selective, oral, once-daily selective SRC kinase inhibitor with potential for activity in a wide range of tumours. It has the potential to have a significant impact on the treatment of cancer and has a range of potential therapeutic benefits, including: an anti-invasive and anti-metastatic agent; use in combination treatments with other novel agents, chemotherapy and hormonal therapy; and in the treatment of leukaemia and metastatic bone disease. Phase I studies are ongoing and proof of mechanism has been demonstrated (markers of bone resorption).

Gastrointestinal

AstraZeneca aims to maintain its number one position in GI treatments through high quality innovation and productivity in the research and development of new GI therapies.

- **AZD0865**: a novel gastric acid inhibitor is currently in Phase II and is being investigated for acid-related GI disease.
- **AZD7371:** a serotonin modulator, has the potential to relieve visceral hypersensitivity in patients with irritable bowel syndrome and is currently in Phase II.

Respiratory and Inflammation (R&I)

The successful introduction of novel approaches to areas of inflammatory disease such as asthma, COPD and rheumatoid arthritis aim to build the company□s position

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in R&I, a world market estimated to be worth over $30 billion. The rheumatoid arthritis market alone is estimated to reach $10 billion by 2012.

- **AZD8309:** a chemokine receptor antagonist, is in Phase I for rheumatoid arthritis and COPD.
- **AZD3342:** a protease inhibitor, is in pre-clinical testing for COPD.
- **AZD3778:** a chemokine receptor antagonist, is in Phase I for asthma / rhinitis.
- **AZD6703:** treats inflammatory diseases by inhibiting p38 kinase**,** a mechanism linked to a variety of inflammatory diseases. This compound has improved pre-clinical safety margins compared to competitor compounds.
- **AZD9056:** a $P2X^7$ ion channel blocker, has multiple inflammatory disease applications. It is now in Phase II for rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis and in Phase I for COPD.

Dr Jan M Lundberg, Head of Global Discovery Research, said: □Through our efforts to increase our productivity and quality in Discovery and Early Development, I am pleased to report excellent progress over the past 12 months. With around 50 percent more projects at Phase I and II compared to last year, we have every reason to be optimistic about the future.□

Emerging Markets

AstraZeneca will highlight the growing importance of emerging markets as a source of sales and profit growth. Since 2001, the company has added more than 2000 sales representatives and 500 other new staff to strengthen its position in emerging markets. AstraZeneca is now the fastest growing major pharmaceutical company in the top eight emerging markets, with an annual growth rate of 25 percent since 2002.

Top priorities for AstraZeneca are Mexico and China, which according to IMS are ranked as the ninth and tenth largest pharmaceutical markets respectively.

The pharmaceutical market in Mexico is worth nearly $10 billion, three quarters of which is in the private market. AstraZeneca has doubled its sales in Mexico since 2001, to nearly $200 million in 2003. Leadership positions have been achieved in gastrointestinal, cardiovascular and hospital antibiotic therapeutic areas. CRESTOR was launched in Mexico in June of last year, and is close to achieving market leadership in volume terms.

China's pharmaceutical market is worth $7.4 billion, up 20 percent in 2003. This market is projected to exceed $23 billion by 2012. AstraZeneca is ranked number

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one in the hospital market for prescription drugs. Sales in the first half 2004 were $98 million. AstraZeneca sales have grown at an average annual rate of 34 percent over the last two and a half years.

Dr Dong Yin, Vice-President, Strategic Planning and Marketing, AstraZeneca China, said: "This is an extremely dynamic market for AstraZeneca. We have the right strategy and the ability to deliver profitably, which is reflected by the fact that we are one of the fastest growing multinational companies in China."

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07.45 (BST) Wednesday 6th October 2004

Trade Marks

The following brand names are trademarks of the AstraZeneca group of companies: EXANTA, NEXIUM, SYMBICORT, IRESSA, GALIDA, CEROVIVE, CRESTOR, SEROQUEL, ARIMIDEX.

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Notes to Editors:

For copies of the presentations from today's annual business review and an up-date copy of AstraZeneca's development pipeline please visit www.astrazenecaevents.com from 07.45 BST on Wednesday 6th October 2004. Interviews with Sir Tom McKillop Chief Executive, Dr Jan M Lundberg, Head of Global Research, Brent Vose, VP Head of Oncology and Infection TA and Dr Dong Yin, Vice President, Strategic Planning and Marketing, AstraZeneca China, will be available in video, audio and text on: www.astrazenecaevents.com or www.cantos.com from 08.00 BST. Photos of Sir Tom McKillop and Dr Jan M Lundberg are available on www.newscast.co.uk. Broadcast footage of AstraZeneca products and activities is available on www.thenewsmarket.com/astrazeneca.

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 Review 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.

Item 5

AstraZeneca Receives Action Letter from FDA for EXANTA® (ximelagatran)

October 8, 2004 Wilmington, DE AstraZeneca (NYSE:AZN) announced today that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) did not grant approval for the investigational oral anticoagulant EXANTA® (ximelagatran). The company had submitted a New Drug Application (NDA) for EXANTA for the prevention of strokes in patients with atrial fibrillation, for the prevention of blood clots in patients undergoing knee-replacement surgery, and for the long-term secondary prevention of blood clots following standard treatment of a clot.

Following receipt of the letter, the company is considering how to proceed further with the FDA.

EXANTA has been approved by European regulatory authorities for the prevention of blood clots in patients undergoing hip- and knee-replacement surgery, and has been launched in seven European markets. AstraZeneca continues to believe in the benefit/risk profile of EXANTA and will work with European and other regulatory authorities towards further approvals.

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This press release contains forward-looking statements with respect to AstraZeneca's business. By their nature, forward-looking statements and forecasts involve risks and uncertainties 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. For a discussion of those risks and uncertainties, please see the company's Annual Report/Form 20-F for 2003.

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Item 6

AstraZeneca s third quarter and nine months results 2004

Tomorrow, Thursday, 21 October 2004 AstraZeneca will be releasing its third quarter and nine months results for 2004 at 11:00 (BST), 12:00(CET), 06:00(EST).

There will be an analyst teleconference at 13:00(BST), 14:00(CET)08:00 (EST), for which the numbers are in the UK: 0800 559 3272, for Europe +44 (0)20 7984 7576 and for the US: 1 866 239 0753. These numbers, as well as details of the replay facility available through Friday, 29 October 2004, are available on the Investor Relations part of the AstraZeneca website at www.astrazeneca.com or www.astrazenecaevents.com.

Item 7

AstraZeneca PLC
Third Quarter and Nine Months Results 2004 (front half)

A strong third quarter with sales up 7 percent and Earnings per Share up 19 percent.

Financial Highlights (before Exceptional Items)

Group	3rd Quarter 2004 $m	3rd Quarter 2003 $m	Actual %	CER %	9 Months 2004 $m	9 Months 2003 $m	Actual %	CER %
Sales	5,265	4,803	+10	+7	15,627	13,974	+12	+6
Operating Profit	1,261	1,101	+15	+16	3,451	3,262	+6	+2
Profit before Tax	1,274	1,119	+14	+15	3,521	3,333	+6	+2
Earnings per Share Before Exceptional Items	$0.55	$0.47	+17	+19	$1.52	$1.40	+9	+5
Statutory (FRS3)	$0.72	$0.47	+53	+56	$1.69	$1.40	+21	+16

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

- Third quarter sales increased by 7 percent to $5,265 million and operating profit increased by 16 percent to $1,261 million.
- Sales outside the US increased 8 percent whilst US sales increased by 6 percent. Growth in total sales is estimated to be 11 percent after adjustment for US wholesaler de-stocking. Stock levels are now normal.
- Sales for the nine months increased by 6 percent and operating profit by 2 percent.
- Sales of the key growth products were $8,018 million for the nine months, estimated to be up 35 percent after adjusting for wholesaler stock movements in the US.
- Third quarter earnings per share of $0.72 includes a benefit of $0.17 from exceptional items.
- Provisions of $80 million have been charged against operating profit following the non-approval of Exanta in the US.
- Nexium third quarter sales decreased 6 percent; a 34 percent increase outside the US was more than offset by a 17 percent decline in the US, principally as a result of wholesaler stock building in 2003.
- Crestor sales were $260 million in the quarter, bringing year to date sales to $596 million. Since launch

more than 11 million prescriptions have been dispensed worldwide.

- Seroquel® sales were $529 million in the third quarter, and have reached $1.9 billion over the last twelve months. In September, Seroquel® became the market leader in new prescriptions in the US atypical antipsychotic market.
- The Group now anticipates earnings per share (before exceptional items) of around $2.10 for the full year, inclusive of the Exanta® provisions.

Sir Tom McKillop, Chief Executive, said: "Despite the recent disappointment with Exanta®, the business is performing well in the second half. A continuing strong performance in the fourth quarter should yield full year pre-exceptional earnings of around $2.10 per share, and will provide an effective platform for growth in 2005."

London, 21 October 2004

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	Staffan Ternby (Södertälje)	(8) 553 26107
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Analyst/Investor Enquiries:	Mina Blair/Jonathan Hunt (London)	(020) 7304 5084/5087
	Staffan Ternby (Södertälje)	(8) 553 26107
	Ed Seage/Jörgen Winroth (US)	(302) 886 4065/(212) 579 0506

Photos of Sir Tom McKillop, Chief Executive and Jonathan Symonds, Chief Financial Officer are available on www.newscast.co.uk.

Broadcast footage of AstraZeneca products and activities is available on www.thenewsmarket.com/astrazeneca.

AstraZeneca PLC

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

Third Quarter

Sales in the third quarter were $5,265 million, up 10 percent on a reported basis, including a positive exchange benefit of 3 percent. Sales outside the US were up 8 percent at CER. In the US, third quarter sales were up 6 percent versus a strong third quarter 2003 which included wholesaler stock building. Inventories in the US are now at target levels in aggregate. Adjusting for inventory movements, US sales were up an estimated 15 percent, bringing the growth rate for Group sales to 11 percent in the quarter. On this same basis, global sales of key growth products were up 35 percent over last year, indicating continued momentum in the business.

Expenditures in R&D and SG&A were $2,760 million in the third quarter, up 4 percent at CER versus the third quarter 2003. As expected, this rate of growth is significantly lower than the 13 percent increase at CER reported at the half year. Operating profit increased by 16 percent in the third quarter. Earnings per share (before exceptional items) in the third quarter was $0.55 versus $0.47 in 2003. Exceptional gains of $0.17 per share were recorded in the third quarter arising from the disposal of the Advanta joint venture and an exceptional tax credit.

Nexium™ sales were up 34 percent outside the US. In the US, sales were down 17 percent due to wholesaler destocking in the current quarter set against significant wholesaler stock building in the third quarter 2003 ahead of a September price change. Dispensed tablet volume in the US increased by 17 percent over 2003.

Crestor™ sales were $260 million in the third quarter, including $162 million in the US. Since launch 11 million prescriptions have been dispensed worldwide. Crestor™ share of new prescriptions in the US statin market was 7.6 percent in the week ending 8 October.

Sales of oncology products were up 18 percent in the quarter. Arimidex™ sales increased 58 percent. Iressa™ sales were $113 million versus $70 million (up 57 percent) in the third quarter 2003.

Seroquel™ sales were up 51 percent to $529 million in the quarter. Sales outside the US were up 33 percent. The 59 percent increase in the US was flattered by a weak third quarter 2003. US prescription growth remains strong, up 31 percent year to date. Sales in the last twelve months are now just under $1.9 billion.

A comprehensive review of the performance of key brands, as well as an update of the Group's expanding Research and Development pipeline was presented at the Annual Business Review meeting held on 6 October.

Nine Months

For the nine months, sales increased 12 percent on a reported basis, including a positive exchange benefit of 6 percent. Sales outside the US were up 7 percent at CER. US sales were up 4 percent, which is considerably below the estimated underlying growth rate of 12 percent.

Strong third quarter operating profit growth lifted year to date operating profits to a 6 percent increase on a reported basis, including a positive exchange benefit of 4 percent. Earnings per share (before exceptional items) was $1.52 compared with $1.40 last year.

Future Prospects

The pattern of good sales growth, combined with the slowing rate of growth in R&D and SG&A expenses evidenced in the third quarter results, should continue in the fourth quarter and should give rise to strong earnings growth versus a comparatively weak fourth quarter last year. For the full year the Company now anticipates earnings per share (before exceptional items) of around $2.10.

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 US, continued growth in currently marketed products (in particular CrestorTM, NexiumTM, SeroquelTM, SymbicortTM, ArimidexTM and IressaTM), 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 Annual Report and Form 20-F Information 2003.

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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 %
	2004	2003		2004	2003	
Losec /Prilosec	430	631	-34	1,501	2,037	-32
Nexium	951	1,000	-6	2,777	2,466	+10

Total	1,407	1,649	-17	4,342	4,556	-10

- Third quarter sales for Nexium™ in the US were down 17 percent, as the excess stocks at the end of the second quarter were normalised during this quarter, as compared with the significant wholesaler stocking that occurred in the third quarter 2003 ahead of a September price change. Thus nine months reported sales in the US (up 2 percent) do not correlate with the estimated underlying growth of 22 percent.

- Sales of Nexium™ outside the US were up 34 percent for the quarter and 32 percent for the nine months on strong performance in all major markets.

- The intravenous formulation for Nexium™ is now being launched in Europe, and US approval is expected in early 2005. On 16 September, the Group announced successful completion of the Mutual Recognition Procedure (MRP) in the European Union for new indications for NexiumTM, including the healing of gastric ulcers and, for patients at risk, the prevention of gastric and duodenal ulcers associated with NSAID therapy. Approvals in the US and other markets are anticipated in the coming months.

- Prilosec™ sales in the US were down 62 percent in the third quarter and 63 percent year to date, in line with the decline in prescriptions.

- Outside the US, sales of Losec™ were down 20 percent in the quarter and 13 percent for the nine months, although year to date sales increased in Japan (up 21 percent) and China (up 25 percent).

Cardiovascular

	Third Quarter		CER %	Nine Months		CER %
	2004	2003		2004	2003	
Seloken/ Toprol-XL	353	286	+22	1,006	1,034	-5
Atacand	214	185	+13	639	543	+10
Plendil	102	144	-30	361	383	-10
Zestril	105	116	-12	327	342	-12
Crestor	260	76n/m		596	88n/m	
Total	1,208	984	+20	3,456	2,920	+12

- Sales of Toprol-XL™ in the US were up 35 percent in the third quarter, as sales in the quarter were broadly in line with the underlying demand. Year to date prescription growth is 19 percent. Year to date sales (down 7 percent) still compare unfavourably with the wholesaler stock building which occurred in the first nine months of 2003. Patent litigation is progressing in the US against three companies seeking FDA approval to sell generic metoprolol succinate. Further information about this litigation is set out in Note 4 to these interim financial statements.

- Sales of Seloken™ outside the US were down 2 percent in the quarter and up 2 percent for the nine months.

- Atacand™ sales outside the US were up 15 percent in the third quarter and 17 percent for the nine months.

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- Atacand™ sales in the US were up 7 percent in the quarter and down 4 percent for the nine months. Total prescriptions through August declined by 3 percent.

- Review of regulatory applications in the EU and the US seeking approval for Atacand™ in the treatment of chronic heart failure are ongoing.

- Crestor™ sales in the third quarter were $260 million, including $162 million in the US, an increase over the corresponding figures in the second quarter of $207 million and $113 million respectively.

- Crestor™ has now been approved in 64 countries and launched in 51. Since launch more than 11 million prescriptions have been dispensed.

- Following a positive recommendation from an advisory committee to the Ministry of Health in Japan, Crestor is on track for approval before the end of 2004.

- Growth in the US statin market has accelerated through 2004 as a result of increased promotional efforts and the publication of new guidelines calling for more intensive treatment of elevated cholesterol. New prescriptions for statins in the third quarter grew 18 percent, as compared with just 6 percent growth for the full year 2003. Crestor™ share of new prescriptions in this expanding market for the week ending 8 October was 7.6 percent, a 0.9 point recovery from early July. Market share in the dynamic segment (new and switch patients) was 14.7 percent in the latest week.

- Crestor™ sales in Europe ($157 million year to date) reflect good progress in the launches in France (3.4 percent value share at 30 weeks) and in Italy (8.0 percent value share at week 26). In the latest month, Crestor™ share of total statin prescriptions in the Netherlands is 9.9 percent, 11.4 percent in Canada and 3.5 percent in the UK.

Respiratory

	Third Quarter		CER %	Nine Months		CER %
	2004	2003		2004	2003	
Symbicort	185	128	+39	578	377	+37
Pulmicort	211	184	+12	737	674	+4
Rhinocort	87	86	-	268	272	-4
Accolate	31	20	+55	84	76	+8
Oxis	25	31	-22	76	91	-25
Total	574	485	+15	1,861	1,600	+8

- Sales of Symbicort™ increased 39 percent in the third quarter and 37 percent for the nine months. Sales in the last twelve months reached $750 million.

- In the US, sales of Pulmicort™ Respules™ in the quarter (up 17 percent) and for the nine months (up 14 percent) are below the estimated underlying growth of 20 percent as a result of wholesaler destocking compared with the same period in 2003.

- Total prescriptions in the US market for intranasal steroids to treat allergies are flat year to date, as are prescriptions for Rhinocort™ Aqua. Sales for the nine months are down 7 percent due to wholesaler inventory movements.

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Oncology

	Third Quarter		CER %	Nine Months		CER %
	2004	2003		2004	2003	
Casodex	258	230	+7	736	647	+5
Zoladex	236	224	+1	675	630	-1
Arimidex	221	136	+58	578	372	+45
Iressa	113	70	+57	309	136	+117
Faslodex	24	19	+26	73	56	+28
Nolvadex	30	38	-26	99	138	-35
Total	885	722	+18	2,481	1,993	+15

- Casodex™ sales outside the US were up 6 percent in the quarter and 11 percent for the nine months. Japan continues to be the main driver for growth, with sales up 27 percent for the nine months.

- Casodex™ sales in the US for the nine months remain below last year's level (down 10 percent) compared with estimated sales growth of 7 percent as a result of stocking differences between the periods.

- Arimidex™ sales continue to benefit from increased usage in the treatment of early breast cancer. Total prescriptions for Arimidex™ in the US increased 43 percent through September. US sales growth for the nine months was 42 percent (up from the 29 percent reported at the half year) as a result of strong third quarter growth (up 67 percent).

- Arimidex™ sales for the nine months also grew strongly in Europe (up 55 percent) and in Japan (up 36 percent).

- Sales of Iressa™ in the US were $59 million in the quarter and $159 million for the nine months. Retail prescriptions in the third quarter were 63 percent higher than last year and 8 percent ahead of the second quarter 2004. Sales in Japan were up 15 percent in the quarter and 30 percent for the nine months. Sales in other markets reached $53 million for the nine months.

- Sales for Faslodex™ for the nine months were up 28 percent on launches following European marketing approval in March of this year. US sales were up 13 percent.

Neuroscience

	Third Quarter		CER %	Nine Months		CER %
	2004	2003		2004	2003	
Seroquel	529	345	+51	1,465	1,059	+35
Zomig	81	83	-4	267	245	+2
Diprivan	126	105	+18	374	339	+5
Local anaesthetics	128	121	+4	398	344	+7
Others	16	17	-12	54	54	-9
Total	880	671	+29	2,558	2,041	+20

- Seroquel™ sales outside the US increased 33 percent in the third quarter on strong growth in Europe (up 44 percent) fuelled by the launches for the bipolar mania indication. Nine month sales were up 28 percent.
- Prescriptions for atypical antipsychotics in the US increased 9 percent through September; Seroquel™ prescriptions were up 31 percent. In September, Seroquel™ share of new prescriptions reached 26.4 percent, overtaking risperidone to become the leading product in new prescriptions.
- Third quarter sales of Seroquel™ in the US were in line with underlying demand. The 59 percent growth rate reflects wholesaler destocking in the third quarter 2003. Sales for the nine months were up 37 percent.
- Zomig™ sales in the US were down 9 percent in the third quarter, and up 2 percent for the nine months. Outside the US, third quarter sales were down 2 percent and up 3 percent for the nine months.

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Geographic Sales

	Third Quarter		CER %	Nine Months		CER %
	2004	2003		2004	2003	
US	2,407	2,271	+6	6,974	6,703	+4
Europe	1,858	1,662	+7	5,661	4,863	+3
Japan	352	297	+9	1,018	833	+9
RoW	648	573	+12	1,974	1,575	+16