

Karen Godbold



Member of the IHI JU Science and Innovation Panel

Head of Global Public-Private Partnerships

Pfizer

Strategic and results-driven with over two decades of experience leading global public-private partnerships, digital transformation and innovation in biomedical research. Proven ability to navigate complex matrix environments, collaborate with cross-functional stakeholders and deliver high-impact programmes across industry, academia and others. Recognised for shaping Pfizer's collaborative research agenda, spearheading flagship IMI/IHI projects and driving capability development. Passionate about data-driven innovation, patient-centric solutions and building inclusive scientific communities.

Karen has been with Pfizer for over 20 years, during which time she has held various roles across Pfizer UK, EU, and global in commercial, marketing, digital, strategy, and more recently in research & development. She holds an MSc and BSc (Hons) and is currently the Global Head of Public Private Partnerships at Pfizer. In this role, she oversees a diverse portfolio of external research collaborations, leading Pfizer's strategic pre-competitive research initiatives through public-private partnerships, fostering innovation and ensuring successful collaboration with external partners. Additionally she leads Pfizer's early discovery research (pre-clinical) search and evaluation in the UK. She also represents Pfizer on the Milner Innovation Board and ABPI Pre-Clinical Research Board, is Chair of the Research Innovation Strategy (RIS) core group at EFPIA and a member of the EFPIA IHI Legal sub-team.

Prior to this role Karen has played a key role in Pfizer Digital, launching and scaling the 'Marketing Automation and Personalisation' programme across 10 markets, including the US, EU and China. Prior to this, she was the global Strategy Lead, responsible for various core capability initiatives, including the 'Dare to Try' Programme and prelaunch capability effort. Previously at Pfizer, she worked in the European regional team managing alliance partnerships and developing HTA stakeholder engagement. Karen's early Pfizer career involved leading successful partnering initiatives with the UK's National Health Service.

Before joining Pfizer, Karen worked at AstraZeneca and at the Cambridge Plant Breeding Institute, supporting their genomics program. Karen is a STEM ambassador, mental health first aider and is Green Belt Lean Six Sigma qualified.