Dr. Christopher O'DONNELL, Novartis Pharma

Dr. O'Donnell is an internationally recognized cardiologist-investigator and leader of population science research to advance prevention and treatment of cardiovascular and metabolic diseases. He received his Doctor of Medicine and Public Health degree from Harvard University and completed residency (Internal Medicine) and fellowship (Cardiology) at the Massachusetts General Hospital, where he served on faculty for two decades. From 1996-2015, he was employed in the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and its landmark Framingham Heart Study (FHS). He served as Associate Director and Scientific Director of Genomics at FHS, and became a Tenured Senior Investigator and Chief, Cardiovascular Epidemiology and Human Genomics Branch, NHLBI Intramural Research. From 2015-2021, he was Chief of Cardiology and Director, Center for Population Genomics, VA Boston Healthcare System. As Co-PI and Chief Scientist of the US VA Million Veteran Program, he directed the science program of the largest US biobank. Dr. O'Donnell is a highly regarded leader of international genomics consortia and research networks, including the Cohorts for Heart and Aging Research in Genomic Epidemiology (CHARGE) Consortium. His research team has discovered multiple novel gene variants for atherosclerosis, coronary artery disease, obesity and other cardiometabolic diseases and risk factors. In 2020, he became Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School. In March 2021, he joined Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research as Global Head, Cardiovascular and Metabolism Translational Medicine. In Novartis, he oversees a translational medicine drug discovery program addressing large unmet needs in treatment and prevention of cardiometabolic diseases, and he provides leadership in the application of genomics to drug discovery and translation. He has authored >700 peer-reviewed articles and other publications, including reports in high impact journals such as NEJM, JAMA, and Nature. He is listed multiple times since 2017 in the top 1% on the Clarivate Analytics Most Highly Cited Researchers lists.