

Mitchell Harris joins Genomics plc as Chief Strategy Officer

Genomics plc strengthens leadership team with the addition of Mitchell Harris as Chief Strategy Officer and Professor Gil McVean as Chief Information Officer

9 March 2020, OXFORD, UK – Genomics plc, the data science company specialising in genomic prevention, the use of genome-wide genetic approaches to understand an individual's risk for common diseases, and the use of human genetic information to improve drug development, today announces that Mitchell Harris has joined the company as Chief Strategy Officer and a member of the senior leadership team. In addition, Professor Gil McVean has now commenced his role as Chief Information Officer (CIO) and a member of the senior leadership team.

Mitchell Harris named Chief Strategy Officer

Mitchell Harris joined Genomics plc from Abcam, where he was Global Head, Emerging Business Lines and had previously been Head of Proteins Portfolio Commercial and Business Development. Prior to this, he was a Principal at QuantumBlack – the AI and advanced analytics arm of McKinsey & Company – and Engagement Manager at McKinsey & Company, where he was part of the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Products Practice.

Mitchell brings to Genomics substantial commercial expertise within strategy, transactions, and operations. At Abcam he was a key senior leader involved in diversifying the product portfolio into high growth adjacencies. At McKinsey, Mitchell specialised in advising globally significant corporate and private equity clients on strategy, investment, and business model design; with a focus on life sciences and other high-tech industries. He was also part of the public and social sector practice, advising governments and social sector organisations on strategy, innovation, and economic growth.

Mitchell also has a deep understanding of the policy and public affairs landscape. Prior to McKinsey, Mitchell was a fast stream civil servant at the UK Cabinet Office. Additionally, from 2012 - 2015, Mitchell was a Policy Fellow within the University of Cambridge's Centre for Science and Policy, focused on life sciences, innovation ecosystems, and value creation for health systems.

Mitchell Harris said: "I am thrilled to be joining Genomics plc and to work alongside world leaders in human genetics and data science. This is an exciting and pivotal time for the company's growth as we accelerate and deepen our impact within drug development and genomic prevention. I hope that together with patients, healthcare systems, and our partners, we can play an important role in the quest for a new, more sustainable, and more equitable model of drug development and healthcare."

Professor Gil McVean assumes CIO role

Following the announcement of his appointment in September last year, Professor Gil McVean has now commenced his role as Chief Information Officer and a member of the senior leadership team. Gil, already a director and a founder of the company, will take the lead in shaping and implementing the company's data strategy, drawing on his experience as world leader in the analysis of population-scale genomic data.

His distinguished academic work in human genetics and his work in big data and machine learning as the founding Director of the Big Data Institute at the University of Oxford, will help Genomics maximise its impact on the rapidly evolving landscape of using genomic insights to transform drug discovery and precision health.

Professor Gil McVean said: “I am pleased to be joining Genomics plc, alongside Mitchell and such a dynamic team. As a founder of Genomics, it is exciting to see how the company has grown and how together we are using genetic information to bring benefits to healthcare systems, the life sciences industry and, ultimately, patients.”

Professor Sir Peter Donnelly, CEO of Genomics, said: “We are delighted to be welcoming Mitchell and Gil to their new roles at Genomics. With both Mitchell and Gil joining us, we are confident that we have a strong and experienced management team to facilitate our growth in 2020 and beyond. Mitchell’s depth of knowledge and experience of the sector will enable him to support Genomics plc’s position at the forefront of this emerging field and help to deliver solutions to make healthcare and life sciences more efficient and effective. While Gil can draw on his world-leading expertise in big data, machine learning, and human and statistical genetics, to embrace the rapidly advancing world of genomic data which promises to transform healthcare.”

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ABOUT GENOMICS PLC

Genomics plc was formed in 2014 by four leading scientists at the University of Oxford, including Professor Sir Peter Donnelly (then Director of the Wellcome Centre for Human Genetics) and Professor Gil McVean (then Director of Oxford’s Big Data Institute). Its vision is to use genomic insights to transform drug discovery and precision health.

Genomics plc has developed the most powerful engine of its kind in the world linking genetic variation to changes in thousands of human measurements and disease outcomes, together with its own breakthrough machine learning algorithms that use this data at scale to learn directly about human biology.

Genomics exploits its core technology and world-leading analytical expertise in two synergistic directions. In drug development, it uses powerful genetic approaches to find novel drug targets and identify the patient groups who will most benefit from them. In precision health, the company is pioneering genomic prevention, the use of genome-wide genetic approaches to understand an individual’s risk for common diseases, deploying these tools in healthcare to change the paradigm to a “prevention first” model.

Backed by some of the leading investors in life sciences, Genomics has an expert cross-disciplinary team of 70 people, primarily scientists and software engineers, with offices in Oxford and Cambridge UK. For additional information about Genomics plc, please visit www.genomicsplc.com.

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