



**Michael Barratt, PhD** grew up in England, initially in the suburbs of Manchester, but following several family moves finished high school in a town at the end of the London Underground called Amersham (known by movie buffs as one the locations where *Four Weddings and a Funeral* was filmed). He studied Biochemistry at Exeter College, Oxford University where Molecular Cell Biology on chromatin-directed signaling. Michael was a keen soccer player, captaining his College before suffering a serious knee injury that ended up, after several surgeries, curtailing his playing career. Nevertheless, his passion for following his home team, Manchester United, endures to this day.

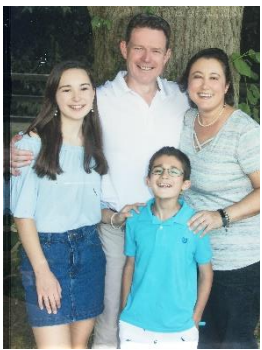
After completing a Wellcome Trust Postdoctoral Fellowship in London, Michael moved to New Jersey in 1995 to begin a career in industry, initially in the Dermatology Division of Unilever Research, where he met his future wife Marieann (a 'Jersey Italian'). His time at Unilever was, among other things, a period of significant international travel and many memorable experiences (and jetlag!) along the way; India, Japan, China, South Africa, and the UK were frequent destinations, and there were times when he spent more time away than at home. Needless to say, it was highly formative period in his life, opening his eyes to different cultures and the value of diverse opinions that have helped shape the person he is today.

In 2003, Michael joined Pfizer Global R&D in Ann Arbor, Michigan - known in the pharmaceutical industry as the site where Lipitor was discovered. Shortly after joining Pfizer to lead target/early lead discovery for Anadern, Michael was tasked with setting up a new Department, Molecular Pharmacology, building a team of 40 scientists that was charged with developing 'confidence in mechanism' - the molecular basis for pharmacologic activity - of preclinical through Phase 3 drug candidates. These included small molecule therapeutics - kinase inhibitors, enzymes, selective ion channel modulators, GPCRs and nuclear hormone receptors, as well as biotherapeutics, across five Pfizer therapeutic areas (neuroscience, cardiovascular disease, antibacterials, dermatology and inflammatory diseases). Following a major acquisition and the closure of the Ann Arbor site in 2007, Michael relocated to St. Louis with Pfizer to help establish its Indications Discovery Unit (IDU) - a group whose mission was to use a combination of computational, preclinical and clinical approaches to identify and evaluate new indications for 600+ Pfizer drugs and clinical development candidates; it was during this role that Michael edited the first book published on the subject of Drug Repositioning.

Michael joined Jeffrey Gordon's group in the Center for Genome Sciences and Systems Biology in 2011 after becoming acquainted with Jeff through an academic-industrial collaboration that had been established between Washington University and the Pfizer IDU. Michael worked with Jeff to set up an international consortium funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to study the role of the gut microbiome in childhood undernutrition. As Michael recalls, at the time, the gut microbiome was almost unheard of in the pharmaceutical industry, but he recognized - in large part through the work of Jeff's lab - its potential to have far-reaching therapeutic implications at the intersection of drugs and food. These aspirations are today coming to fruition through Proof-of-Concept clinical studies, made possible by our talented students and postdocs in the lab, and through longstanding collaborations with investigators around the world, especially our close colleagues and friends led by Dr Tahmeed Ahmed at the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research (icddr,b) in Bangladesh.



Michael with Dr. Tahmeed Ahmed on a recent visit to icddr,b Bangladesh.



Michael, his wife Marieann and children Laura and Matthew.

Michael and his wife Marieann, who is a science teacher at Community School, live in Chesterfield and have two wonderful children. Laura is a senior at Lafayette High School and currently in the process of applying to colleges to study Biology/Neuroscience. Matthew is 13 and attends Rockwood Valley Middle School. Given his ASD diagnosis, much of their time as parents is devoted to providing the support he needs. When possible, the family likes to hike, golf and travel to keep in touch with family in Florida and the UK.