

Dr. Rakesh Verma, Senior Vice President, Prescient Life Sciences

Prescient Life Sciences is a global Life Sciences consultancy with offices in London, New Jersey, San Francisco, Delhi and Beijing. We offer a refreshing change from regular consultancy in that all of our recommendations are supported by necessary evidence. Our *'evidence platform'* sits at the heart of all client engagements, providing our teams of experts with current, detailed and transparent information on disease area and technology landscapes, organisations, stakeholder sentiment and market & environmental dynamics.



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At Prescient, Rakesh has been consulting for multinational companies in the areas of Immunology, Oncology, Biosimilars and Generics, Biologics, Vaccines and Emerging markets. These assignments cover all aspects of product life cycle, market access and entry strategies, market opportunity analysis, business development and licensing.

Prior to joining Prescient Life Sciences, Rakesh had more than 12 years' experience in the biotechnology industry working at various capacities in antibody drug development in oncology in London-based biotechnology companies. As a head of a group in an oncology focused company, Antisoma, he initiated, developed and drove forward concepts and ideas to development stage projects. During his time at Antisoma, he played a key role firstly in the conceptualisation and development of tumour targeting antibody-cytokine fusion protein, secondly in the engineering and characterisation of a humanised anti-MUC1 antibody, and thirdly in the characterisation and development of tumoural angiogenesis targeting antibody and recombinant antibody fragments. Rakesh also engineered and developed recombinant fusion proteins of cancer-specific antibodies with apoptosis inducing proteins with the aim of inducing apoptosis in cancer cells. After working at Antisoma, Rakesh led the discovery and development of candidates for interferon-based HCV treatment development programmes at Riotech.

Rakesh gained an MSc (Immunology) with Distinction from the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, London, and a PhD (Immunology) from Imperial College London in genetically engineering recombinant therapeutic antibody fragments for clinical oncology applications. Rakesh's PhD focused on validating and characterising novel tumour angiogenesis targets for therapeutic purposes and generating recombinant antibody fragments for targeting the tumour angiogenesis. Rakesh's MSc research involved engineering recombinant antibody molecules to target integrin molecules involved in inflammatory diseases. For his post-doctoral research at Imperial College London, Rakesh worked on a xenotransplantation project where experimental systems were engineered to selectively express promoters on specific tissue and organs by engineering mutants of transactivators. Prior to his MSc, Rakesh completed his degree in Veterinary Medicine with Honours and Gold Medal.

Rakesh has been involved in technology transfer to various CMOs and CROs and in managing the outsourced projects. Rakesh has written, reviewed patents and patent applications. He has conducted and managed business development, due diligence and licensing activities. Rakesh was also involved in the setting up of two start-up ventures in the UK.

He is inventor on product-specific patent applications and has authored research articles, scientific reviews and book chapters. Rakesh has made various presentations at international conferences and meetings, and to partners.

CV – Prior to joining Prescient Life Sciences, Rakesh had more than 12 years' experience in the biopharmaceutical industry working as a head of a group in an oncology-focused company, Antisoma, where he initiated, developed and drove forward concepts and ideas to development stage projects. During his time at Antisoma, he played a key role in the conceptualization and development of tumor-targeting antibody-cytokine fusion protein, which is now in clinical development for RCC and Melanoma, secondly in the engineering and characterization of a humanized anti-MUC1 antibody, which is now in clinical development for breast cancer and finally in the characterization and development of tumoral angiogenesis targeting antibody, which was in clinical development for Glioblastoma multiformae. Rakesh was also involved in the generation of recombinant fusion proteins of cancer-specific antibodies with apoptosis-inducing proteins with the aim of inducing apoptosis in cancer cells. He is named as inventor on product-specific patent applications and has authored research articles, scientific reviews and book chapters.

Rakesh is a Vet with a degree in Veterinary Medicine (DVM). In order to further understand disease processes and immune responses, Rakesh gained an MSc (Immunology) with Distinction from Royal Postgraduate Medical School, London, and a PhD (Immunology) from Imperial College London in genetically engineering recombinant therapeutic antibody fragments for clinical oncology applications.

Rakesh has extensive knowledge of the biosimilar industry, biosimilar regulatory developments and challenges and opportunities for complex biosimilars globally, and uses and expands this knowledge daily within Prescient with his outstanding research work and project management responsibilities.