



Andra S. Stevenson, Ph.D.'01 is Global Senior Director for Medical & Scientific Affairs at Merck & Co, Inc.

After earning his bachelor's degree in biology and sociolinguistics at the University of Vermont, he worked as a research technician in the UVM Department of Pharmacology before eventually enrolling as a Ph.D. candidate. As a researcher in Professor Mark Nelson's lab, Dr. Stevenson focused on calcium signaling in vascular smooth muscle to gain a better understanding myogenic tone and blood vessel regulation. Moreover, changes in intracellular calcium are associated with rapid signaling events that lead to muscle contraction and relaxation. His groundbreaking research demonstrated the importance of how calcium regulates gene expression in vascular smooth muscle cells.

In 2001 as a Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. Stevenson joined the Somlyo Lab at the University of Virginia School of Medicine, one of the most well-regarded research groups in the field of vascular biology. Andra became an Assistant Professor of Research at UVA in 2005, and in late 2006, took on a role in industry as a Senior Research Biologist at Merck, where he managed a team of scientists supporting various therapeutic areas/disease areas.

During Dr. Stevenson's tenure at Merck, he has held a variety of role with increasing responsibilities across several therapeutic areas (TAs), including hypertension, heart failure, respiratory and diabetes. In 2015, Andra moved from Discovery Sciences (MRL) to US Medical Affairs as a Medical Affairs Director to support the Merck Field Organization and subsequently, in 2016, he returned to MRL within the Global Center for Scientific Affairs as a Research Scientific Director to support clinical trial activities. After several years, Andra held the dual position of Scientific Director for Medical Affairs and US Regional Director of Medical Affairs, where he was responsible for establishing US strategy for Heart Failure as well as strategic execution activities for 4 additional therapeutic areas (Diabetes, Thrombosis, Respiratory, and Liver Disease). Today, Dr. Stevenson is the Senior Director in Global Medical and Scientific Affairs overseeing Heart Failure TA but has had other responsibilities in the role of thrombosis lead. He is the recipient of a number of industry awards and is a member of many scientific societies, including the American Heart Association, American College of Cardiology, American Diabetes Association, European Society of Cardiology, European Association for the Study of the Liver, European Association for the Study of Diabetes and The Association of Black Cardiologists.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Stevenson has been committed to mentoring junior scientists, including students of color. Dr. Stevenson has mentored over a 100 of mentees in conjunction with various organizations in both the private and public sectors and through these affiliations he has had a privilege and honor of giving back to young scientists. Dr. Stevenson has been a role model for young scientists and has served to advance patient care by supporting the development of a diverse pipeline of world-class researchers and leaders.

Dr. Stevenson has four children with his wife, Fumi, and currently lives in New Jersey.