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Shire traces its origins back to 1986, when a small team of entrepreneurs founded the company to seek out solutions to address a number of unmet medical needs. Today, Shire is the global biotechnology leader serving patients with rare diseases and specialized conditions. We seek to push boundaries through discovering and delivering new possibilities for patient communities who often have few or no other champions. Relentlessly on the edge of what's next, we are serial innovators with a diverse pipeline offering fresh thinking and new hope. Serving patients and partnering with healthcare communities in over 100 countries, we strive to be part of the entire patient journey to enable earlier diagnosis, raise standards of care, accelerate access to treatment, and support patients.

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In 2017, we developed our first comprehensive Responsibility strategy that outlines concrete and detailed social and environmental commitments and goals—a roadmap for championing Responsibility at Shire. One of our core commitments is specifically to accelerate rare disease diagnosis.

Today, it is estimated that rare diseases affect 300-350 million people worldwide. About half of all rare diseases begin in childhood and many patients endure lifelong suffering. For a child living with a rare disease, an accurate and timely diagnosis can be the key to a longer, healthier life. However, on average, it takes five years before a rare disease patient receives the correct diagnosis. Up to 40 percent of rare disease patients are misdiagnosed more than once or diagnosis is delayed for a variety of reasons.

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[shire.com/who-we-are/responsibility](https://www.shire.com/who-we-are/responsibility)

Eliminating barriers to an accurate and early diagnosis is a paramount challenge that needs to be addressed. That is why Shire teamed up with Microsoft and EURORDIS-Rare Diseases Europe, a patient advocacy organization, to form the Global Commission to End the Diagnostic Odyssey for Children with a Rare Disease (“the Global Commission”), a strategic alliance to address the diagnostic challenges for those living with a rare disease.

Launched in early 2018, the Global Commission is a multi-disciplinary group of experts with the creativity, technological expertise and commitment required to make a major difference in the lives of millions of children and their families. The Global Commission’s goal is to develop an actionable roadmap to help the rare disease field to shorten the multi-year diagnostic journey. This roadmap will offer recommendations designed to address core barriers preventing timely diagnosis impacting all rare disease patients, of which approximately half are children, such as:

- Improving physicians’ ability to identify and diagnose patients with a rare disease in order to begin care and treatment.
- Developing standardized protocols to increase collaboration, efficiency and productivity within healthcare practices.
- Empowering patients and their families to have a more active role in their healthcare.
- Providing high-level policy guidance to help achieve better health outcomes for rare disease patients.

The Global Commission is led by three co-chairs: Shire’s chief executive officer, Flemming Ornskov, M.D., M.P.H., Microsoft’s chief medical officer and EURORDIS’s chief executive officer. The Global Commission brings together a dedicated group of technology innovators, patient advocates, healthcare providers, researchers, family members and other experts from around the world to tackle one of the most serious and heartbreaking challenges within the rare disease space. The intended impact with the Global Commission is to accelerate the time to diagnosis and ultimately improve outcomes for patients and health systems in Massachusetts—and in countless other regions around the world. Shire’s leadership role in the Global Commission is one of most important ways we can contribute our skills and talent to solving this global health challenge.

## FACTS

- 3000+ employees in MA
- \$900+ million spent on capital infrastructure in MA through 2017
- 2 million square feet of labs, manufacturing and administrative space in Massachusetts
- Presense: Cambridge Rare Disease Innovation Hub, Lexington Technology Center of Excellence, North Reading, Burlington, and Milford
- Partnerships with local schools, hospitals, and non-profits including Boston Children’s Hospital, Quincy College, Citizen Schools.