



# *Darrin Cowley*

*Class of 1984*

“Anyone can accomplish anything they set their minds to” – that mantra rings true for Darrin James Cowley, Ph.D and 1984 Century graduate. From a struggling high school student, later diagnosed with dyslexia, to the vice president of Quality Supply Biologics and Development Quality for a major pharmaceutical company, Darrin allowed his neurodiversity to motivate him to accomplish great things on a global scale.

After graduating from NDSU with a Master’s degree in Zoology, Darrin earned his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Creighton University School of Medicine, followed by post-doctoral work in Cell Biology at the University of Louisville in Kentucky.

During his career, Darrin has contributed to the development, filing, and commercialization of a wide range of new medicines including tablets, biological molecules, novel vaccines, and, more recently, advancements in cell therapy. He has been instrumental in the approval of more than 25 new therapies launched around the world. In addition, he has contributed to the approval of new delivery devices providing patients with the ability to self-dose medication. He has also been responsible for simplifying and streamlining the application process for writing new drug and biological license applications for regulatory approval.

One of Darrin’s most significant contributions to the medical world includes his role as Quality Lead for AstraZeneca’s Covid-19 vaccine; under his guidance and leadership, AstraZeneca was able to develop, manufacture, release and distribute Vaxzevria (a Covid-19 vaccine) in less than 10 months, a process that typically takes 4-7 years. During the pandemic, AstraZeneca produced more than 3 billion doses of vaccine that were distributed in more than 180 countries across all seven continents at no profit for the company during the pandemic. This distribution has been estimated to have saved more than 6 million lives globally.

In addition to numerous invitations to present at national and international conferences, Darrin’s expertise and exemplary work done during the pandemic called him to represent AstraZeneca at two congressional hearings and has earned him several awards and honors: The Executive Vice President’s Award, the CEO Award, and the Global Operations Award.

Though his work has had a global impact, Darrin, a scientist with a passion for making a difference in people’s lives, is a family man above all else – a loving, caring, passionate, faith-based person who surrounds himself with family and great friends. Darrin and his wife Linda have 2 children, Abby and Jill and call Longmont Colorado home.

