JAY T. BACKSTROM MD '82

JAY T. BACKSTROM, MD has more than three decades of experience in drug development and has worked tirelessly throughout his career to advance new medicines for his patients.

Currently, Backstrom is the chief medical officer for the Celgene Corporation, a leading biotech company that focuses on hematology and oncology, as well as immunology and inflammation. In his role, he oversees the clinical, medical, patient safety and regulatory programs worldwide.

He joined the Celgene Corporation 10 years ago as the vice president of clinical research and development, and later served as the senior vice president of clinical research and development for hematology and oncology, and the head of global regulatory affairs before being appointed to his current role as chief medical officer in 2016.

Among the biopharmaceutical industry leaders in advancing new therapies for the treatment of myelodysplastic syndrome, Backstrom has led or provided strategic direction for 15 new drug applications in therapeutic areas such as cardiovascular, infectious disease, and hematology and oncology.

His efforts have been life-changing. Backstrom has contributed to the approvals of practice-changing therapies, particularly in the areas of multiple myeloma, myelodysplastic syndrome, acute myeloid leukemia and for the successful prescription to nonprescription approvals for two smoking cessation products, Nicoderm and Nicorette.

Backstrom's work has been recognized by the U.S. Public Health Service for his contributions to the recruitment and retention of physicians, and he received the Joshua Lederberg Award for Excellence in Clinical Development from the Celgene Corporation.

He is currently a member of the board of directors of SuviCa, Inc., a member of the Scientific Advisory Council for the Center for Innovation in Regulatory Sciences and a patent holder of four U.S. patents.

After earning his medical degree at the Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Backstrom received his master's degree in public health from Saint Louis University.

Lewis Katz School of Medicine