ASTRAZENECA PLC
Form 6-K
May 07, 2008

FORM 6-K

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

Report of Foreign Issuer

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For April 2008

Commission File Number: 001-11960

AstraZeneca PLC

15 Stanhope Gate, London W1K 1LN, England

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F X Form 40-F __

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7): _____

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes __ No X

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the Registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82-_____

AstraZeneca PLC

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

1. Press release entitled, "AstraZeneca Settles US Nexium Patent Litigation with Ranbaxy", dated 15 April 2008.

2. Press release entitled, "AstraZeneca First Quarter Results 2008", dated 23 April 2008.

3. Press release entitled, "AstraZeneca PLC - First Quarter Results 2008" (front half), dated 24 April 2008.

4. Press release entitled, "AstraZeneca PLC – First Quarter Results 2008 – Consolidated Income Statement" (back half), dated 24 April 2008.

5. Press release entitled, "AstraZeneca PLC – Annual General Meeting: 24 April 2008", dated 24 April 2008.

6. Press release entitled, "AstraZeneca Submits sNDA for SYMBICORT® for COPD Treatment", dated 30 April 2008.

7. Press release entitled, "Transparency Directive Voting Rights and Capital", dated 30 April 2008.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

AstraZeneca PLC

Date: 02 May 2008

By: /s/ Graeme Musker
Name: Graeme Musker
Title: Secretary & Solicitor

Item 1

AstraZeneca Settles US Nexium Patent
Litigation with Ranbaxy

Companies Also Sign Manufacturing and Distribution Agreements

AstraZeneca today announced it has entered into a settlement agreement in its Nexium patent infringement litigation against Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd. and its affiliates ("Ranbaxy").

The agreement settles the patent infringement litigation filed by AstraZeneca following Ranbaxy's submission to the United States Food & Drug Administration of an Abbreviated New Drug Application for a generic version of Nexium. Under the settlement agreement, Ranbaxy concedes that all six patents asserted by AstraZeneca in the patent litigation are valid and enforceable. Ranbaxy also accepts that four of the patents would be infringed by the unlicensed sale of Ranbaxy's proposed generic product.

The settlement agreement will allow Ranbaxy to commence sales of a generic version of Nexium under a licence from AstraZeneca on 27 May 2014. This date marks the expiry of US Patent Numbers 5,877,192 and 6,875,872. AstraZeneca's patents protecting Nexium have expiration dates that range from 2014 through 2019.

AstraZeneca and Ranbaxy have filed a Consent Judgment with the US District Court for the District of New Jersey reflecting the terms of the settlement agreement. With the Court now having entered the Consent Judgment, the settlement agreement is final, and the patent infringement litigation against Ranbaxy has been dismissed.

Merck & Co., Inc., through KBI Inc. and KBI-E and under the terms of Merck's restructured partnership with AstraZeneca announced in 1998, has also entered into the settlement agreement.

AstraZeneca's Nexium patent infringement litigations against Teva/IVAX and Dr Reddy's Laboratories remain ongoing.

"I believe that this agreement is the right business decision and gives increased clarity and stability to allow us to continue investing substantially in our growing pipeline of new medicines for patients. We continue to have confidence in the strength of our patents and will vigorously defend our intellectual property," said David Brennan, Chief Executive Officer of AstraZeneca.

Manufacturing and Distribution Agreements

AstraZeneca and Ranbaxy have separately entered into agreements under which Ranbaxy will formulate a portion of AstraZeneca's US supply of Nexium from May 2010, including provisions for the manufacture of esomeprazole magnesium, the active pharmaceutical ingredient in Nexium, from May 2009.

AstraZeneca and Ranbaxy have also entered into two separate agreements designating Ranbaxy as the US distributor for authorised generic versions of Plendil (felodipine) and 40mg Prilosec (omeprazole). Ranbaxy will be compensated for its distribution services on standard commercial terms.

In compliance with the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, AstraZeneca will file all of the above agreements with the United States Federal Trade Commission and the United States Department of Justice.

15 April 2008

Media Enquiries:		
Chris Sampson	+44 20 7304 5130	(24 hours)
Neil McCrae	+44 207 304 5045	(24 hours)
Steve Brown	+44 207 304 5033	(24 hours)
Investor Enquiries UK:		
Jonathan Hunt	+44 207 304 5087	mob: +44 7775 704032
Mina Blair	+44 20 7304 5084	mob: +44 7718 581021
Karl Hard	+44 207 304 5322	mob: +44 7789 654364
Investor Enquiries US:		
Ed Seage	+1 302 886 4065	mob: +1 302 373 1361
Jorgen Winroth	+1 212 579 0506	mob: +1 917 612 4043
Peter Vozzo (MedImmune)	+1 301 398 4358	mob: +1 301 252 7518

About Nexium
Nexium belongs to a class of medicines known as proton-pump inhibitors (PPIs). It works by binding to, and inhibiting, the acid pumps of a particular type of cell which is found in the stomach. In doing so, it lowers the level of acidity in the stomach and helps to heal erosions in the esophagus or ulcers in the duodenum.

Nexium is an effective treatment for patients with gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), but is particularly appropriate for those suffering from persistent, recurrent GERD which can cause disruptive, long term symptoms. Nexium has been demonstrated to provide enduring relief from the impact of GERD amongst patients.

Nexium was first launched in Europe in 2000 and in 2001 in the US.

About Plendil
Plendil (felodipine) is a calcium antagonist for the treatment of hypertension and angina.

About Prilosec
Prilosec (omeprazole), marketed as Losec in some countries, was the first PPI and is used for the short-term treatment of acid-related diseases.

About AstraZeneca
AstraZeneca is a major international healthcare business engaged in research, development, manufacturing and marketing of prescription pharmaceuticals and supplier for healthcare services. AstraZeneca is one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies with healthcare sales of US $29.55 billion and is a leader in gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, neuroscience, respiratory, oncology and infection product sales. AstraZeneca is listed in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (Global) as well as the FTSE4Good Index.

Broadcast quality footage is available to download from the Media section of our website at:
http://br.thenewsmarket.com/Astrazeneca/br/Login/LoginPreRegistration.aspx
Journalists will be required to register to access this feature.

- Ends -

Item 2

AstraZeneca First Quarter Results 2008

Tomorrow, Thursday, 24 April 2008, AstraZeneca will release First Quarter Results 2008 at 11:00bst.

There will be an analyst teleconference covering the results at 13:00bst for which the numbers are: UK: 0800 279 9640, for Sweden: 0200 897 065, for US: 1 866 850 2201 and for International: +44 (0)20 7138 0827. These numbers, and details of the replay facility available through 17:00bst Friday, 2 May 2008, are available on the Investors section of the AstraZeneca website www.astrazeneca.com.

Item 3

AstraZeneca PLC
First Quarter Results 2008

- Core EPS increased by 9 percent at CER to $1.28.

- First quarter sales increased by 4 percent at CER to $7,677 million.

- Inclusion of MedImmune sales more than offset the decline in Toprol-XL™ sales in the US.

- Strong growth in Emerging Markets, with sales up 11 percent at CER.

- Underlying business performance on track. Core EPS target increased to reflect year to date currency impact.

- Revised target range for Core EPS is $4.45 to $4.75.

- First of 3 planned regulatory filings for the year achieved.

- US Biologics Licence Application for motavizumab submitted in January.

- Settlement agreement with Ranbaxy in Nexium™ patent infringement announced 15 April.

- Agreement gives increased clarity and stability to allow continued investment in our growing pipeline.

- Company will vigorously defend its intellectual property.

Financial Summary

Group	1st Quarter 2008 $m	1st Quarter 2007 $m	Actual %	CER %
Sales	7,677	6,966	+10	+4
Reported				
Operating Profit	2,257	2,170	+4	-5
Profit before Tax	2,143	2,267	-5	-15
Earnings per Share	$1.03**	$1.02	+1	-9
Core				
Operating Profit	2,765	2,274	+21	+12
Profit before Tax	2,651	2,371	+12	+2
Earnings per Share*	$1.28	$1.07	+19	+9

*Core financial measures are supplemental non-IFRS measures which management believe useful to understanding the Company's performance; it is upon these measures that financial guidance for 2008 is based. See page 8 for a reconciliation of Core to Reported financial measures.

**Included in Reported EPS for Q1 2008 is a ($0.12) charge for impairment of intangible assets related to EthyolTM , a product acquired with MedImmune, arising from an "at risk" launch of a generic product by Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., prior to the conclusion of ongoing patent litigation.

David Brennan, Chief Executive Officer, said: "The first quarter performance puts us on track to achieve our full year financial targets. We have also announced the motavizumab BLA submission in January - the first of three regulatory filings planned for 2008 - and the agreement to settle the Nexium™ patent infringement litigation against Ranbaxy, which has provided increased clarity and stability to allow us to continue the substantial investment in our growing pipeline of new medicines."

London, 24 April 2008

Media Enquiries:	Steve Brown/Chris Sampson (London)	(020) 7304 5033/5130
	Earl Whipple (Wilmington)	(302) 885 8197
	Per Lorentz (Södertälje)	(8) 553 26020
Analyst / Investor Enquiries:	Mina Blair/Karl Hard (London)	(020) 7304 5084/5322
	Jonathan Hunt (London)	(020) 7304 5087
	Staffan Ternby (Södertälje)	(8) 553 26107
	Ed Seage/Jörgen Winroth (US)	(302) 886 4065/(212) 579 0506
	Peter Vozzo (MedImmune)	(301) 398 4358

AstraZeneca PLC

Business Highlights All narrative in this section refers to growth rates at constant exchange rates (CER) unless otherwise indicated

Sales in the first quarter increased by 4 percent at CER, or 10 percent on an as reported basis. Sales in the US were up 5 percent; the inclusion of MedImmune sales in the quarter more than offset the decline in Toprol-XL™ sales in the US market. Sales in the Rest of World were up 4 percent. Sales in Established Markets were up 1 percent despite a 1 percent decline in Western Europe. Sales in Emerging Markets were up 11 percent, driven by strong growth in China and other Asian markets.

Core operating profit in the first quarter was up 12 percent to $2,765 million, as a result of improvement in Core gross margin and continued efficiencies in SG&A and R&D. Reported operating profit, which included restructuring and synergy costs ($117 million), Merck and MedImmune related amortisation ($134 million) and an intangible asset impairment charge as a result of the “at risk” launch of a generic competitor to MedImmune’s oncology product Ethyol™ ($257 million) was $2,257 million, 5 percent lower than last year.

Core earnings per share in the first quarter were $1.28 compared with $1.07 in the first quarter 2007, a 9 percent increase at CER. The increase is the result of the growth in Core operating profit and the benefit of a lower number of shares outstanding, partially offset by increased net interest expense.

Research and Development Update

In the first quarter, the first of three planned regulatory submissions for 2008 was achieved, with the submission of the Biologics Licence Application in the US for motavizumab in January. The filing for saxagliptin is on track for mid-year, with Phase III clinical data to be presented at the upcoming American Diabetes Association meeting. The regulatory submission for Zactima™ is planned for the fourth quarter.

The large lifecycle management programme in support of Seroquel XR™ is nearing completion, culminating in a large number of regulatory submissions in 2008. Regulatory filings in the US and Europe for Seroquel XR™ for the treatment of Bipolar Mania and Bipolar Depression were announced early in the first quarter. The US submission for Seroquel XR™ for the treatment of major depressive disorder (MDD) was made on 29 February. Submissions for MDD in Europe and filings for generalised anxiety disorder (GAD) in the US and Europe will follow later this year. Much of the clinical data supporting the MDD and GAD filings will be presented at the American Psychiatric Association meeting early next month.

On 31 March, AstraZeneca announced its decision to stop the Crestor™ JUPITER clinical study early based on a recommendation from an Independent Data Monitoring Board and the JUPITER Steering Committee, which met on 29 March. The study will be stopped early because there is unequivocal evidence of a reduction in cardiovascular morbidity and mortality amongst patients who received Crestor™ when compared to placebo.

The JUPITER study team has initiated activities to close this large multi-centre study. Over 15,000 trial participants will be scheduled by their investigator for final assessments at over 1,200 sites in 26 countries. Data from these visits will generate 80,000 pages of case report forms. We plan to complete the analysis in the fourth quarter of this year.

Enhancing Productivity

The Company remains on track to deliver two-thirds of the total programme benefits of $1.4 billion per annum by the end of this year, with the full amount to be delivered by 2010.

As part of this programme, AstraZeneca undertook major restructuring in many of its European sales and marketing organisations in 2007. As a result, the Company is now delivering about the same level of sales with smaller sales forces in its largest marketing companies in Western Europe.

The R&D organisation is now actively involved in the implementation of our agreement with Cognizant to provide centralised Data Management services for the whole of AstraZeneca Clinical Development. This agreement is the largest such contract within the pharmaceutical industry and will deliver economies of scale and cost savings that will help R&D deliver its commitment to improving productivity and efficiency.

A further $117 million in costs associated with the Company-wide restructuring and synergy programmes were charged to the first quarter accounts, bringing cumulative charges since the inception of the programmes to $1,083 million.

AstraZeneca PLC

Future Prospects

Based on an assessment of the underlying business performance in the first quarter and the outlook for the remainder of the year, the Company believes it is on track to achieve the full year targets. The target range for Core earnings per share has been increased to $4.45 to $4.75 to reflect the currency benefits realised in the first quarter relative to the currency assumptions upon which the targets were based.

Disclosure Notice: The preceding forward-looking statements relating to expectations for earnings and business prospects for AstraZeneca PLC are subject to risks and uncertainties, which may cause results to differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements. These include, but are not limited to: the rate of growth in sales of generic competitors to Toprol-XL™ in the US market, the rate of growth in sales of generic products in the PPI market in the US, continued growth in currently marketed products (in particular Crestor™, Nexium™, Seroquel™, Symbicort™ and Arimidex™), the growth in costs and expenses, interest rate movements, exchange rate fluctuations, and the tax rate. For further details on these and other risks and uncertainties, see AstraZeneca PLC's Securities and Exchange Commission filings, including the 2007 Annual Report on Form 20-F.

AstraZeneca PLC
Sales

All narrative in this section refers to growth rates at constant exchange rates (CER) unless otherwise indicated

Gastrointestinal

	First Quarter		CER %
	2008	2007	
Nexium™	1,238	1,308	-9
Losec™/ Prilosec™	252	279	-16
Total	1,510	1,607	-10

- In the US, Nexium™ sales in the first quarter were $736 million, a 15 percent decline compared with last year. Volume was broadly unchanged compared with the first quarter last year; dispensed retail unit demand was essentially flat, whilst an increase in non-retail volume was offset by trade destocking during the quarter. Net prices during the first quarter are slightly lower than those realised in the fourth quarter 2007; the price variance versus the first quarter 2007 reflects the back-loaded phasing of the lower prices realised over the course of last year.

- Nexium™ sales in other markets were up 1 percent, as sales growth in Canada and in Emerging Markets exceeded the declines in Nexium™ sales in Western Europe.

- The Company expects a mid-single digit sales decline for worldwide sales of Nexium™ for the full year.

- Prilosec™ sales in the US were down 13 percent in the first quarter. Losec™ sales in other markets were down 17 percent despite modest increases in Japan and China.

Cardiovascular

	First Quarter		CER %
	2008	2007	
Crestor™	772	628	+16
Seloken™ / Toprol-XL™	190	444	-60
Atacand™	346	296	+7
Plendil™	66	65	-6
Zestril™	59	80	-33
Total	1,571	1,653	-11

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