



Andrew Witty

Sir Andrew Philip Witty (born 22 August 1964)^[1] is a British business executive. He is the chief executive officer (CEO) of UnitedHealth Group. He was the CEO of GlaxoSmithKline from 2008 and 2017. He served as chancellor of the University of Nottingham in England from 2013 to 2017.^[2]

Early life

Witty attended Malbank School (originally the "Nantwich and Acton Grammar School") in Nantwich, and then gained a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Nottingham.^{[1][3]}

Career

Witty joined Glaxo UK in 1985 as a management trainee.^[4] He held various positions in the UK, including director of pharmacy & distribution in Glaxo Pharmaceuticals UK.^[5]

He was a vice president and general manager of marketing of Glaxo Wellcome Inc., a subsidiary of GlaxoSmithKline with responsibility for strategy development, marketing execution and new product positioning. He was an economic adviser to the governor of Guangzhou, China, from 2000 to 2002.^[6]

He was appointed president, Pharmaceuticals Europe of GlaxoSmithKline plc in January 2003^[6] and succeeded Jean-Pierre Garnier as CEO following his retirement in May 2008. He was paid an annual salary of £948,000 and received bonuses and other compensation amounting to £2,180,000 for this role.^{[7][8]}

In February 2009, he pledged to make a major change in the way GSK pharmaceuticals are priced, in an attempt to make vital drugs more affordable in countries with the lowest incomes. At the same time he announced that GSK would place certain patents in a pool so that they were freely available for others in the search for new drugs.^[9]

From 2010 until 2015, Witty was on the business advisory board of Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, David Cameron.^[10]

Sir
Andrew Witty



Witty in 2023

Born	Andrew Philip Witty 22 August 1964
Education	<u>University of Nottingham</u> (BA)
Occupation(s)	CEO, <u>UnitedHealth Group</u>
Predecessor	David Wichmann
Spouse	Caroline Hall
Children	2 ^[1]

In October 2012 it was announced that he had been appointed the chancellor of the University of Nottingham with effect from 1 January 2013, having maintained strong ties with the university since graduation.^[11] Witty announced his retirement from the role of chancellor in November 2017.^[12]

In July 2013, the People's Republic of China announced that they were investigating allegations of fraud perpetrated by GSK going back to 2007 and involving billions of Chinese renminbi.^[13] Witty stated "It appears that certain senior executives in the China business have acted outside our processes and controls to both defraud the company and the Chinese health care system. To see these allegations about people working for GSK is shameful. For me personally they are deeply disappointing."^[14]

From 2013 to 2015, Witty was on the UNAIDS–Lancet Commission for Defeating AIDS and Advancing Global Health, co-chaired by Joyce Banda, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and Peter Piot.^{[15][16]} From 2015 until 2016, he was a member of the UN High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines, led by Ruth Dreifuss and Festus Mogae.^[17]

In November 2015, Witty's leadership of GSK was criticised by Neil Woodford, who said that "he's not doing a very good job". Woodford called for GSK to be split into four companies.^[18] In March 2016, Witty announced that he was to step down as chief executive.^[19]

From 2017 until 2018, Witty led the National Health Service's Accelerated Access Collaborative.^{[20][21]}

In July 2018, Witty became CEO of Optum, a division of UnitedHealth Group.^[22] In November 2019, he was named president of UnitedHealth, in addition to his role as CEO of Optum.^[23]

From April 2020 to December 2020, Witty took a leave of absence from Optum to assist the World Health Organization in developing a vaccine for COVID-19.^{[24][25]} In May 2020, he was appointed to the expert advisory group for the UK Government's Vaccine Task Force, chaired by Patrick Vallance.^[26]

Witty became CEO of UnitedHealth Group in February 2021.^[27]

In April 2021, he was also appointed to the Pandemic Preparedness Partnership (PPP), an expert group chaired by Vallance to advise the G7 presidency held by the government of Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Boris Johnson.^[28]

In 2023, Witty's total compensation from UnitedHealth Group was \$23.5 million, representing a CEO-to-median worker pay ratio of 352-to-1.^[29]

On 15 May 2024, a class action lawsuit was brought by the City of Hollywood Firefighters' Pension Fund alleging that Witty and two other UnitedHealth Group executives were involved in insider trading in 2023.^[30]

Brian Thompson death

On 6 December 2024, in aftermath of the murder of the former CEO of UnitedHealth Group's child company, UnitedHealthcare, Brian Thompson^[31] a video was leaked in which Witty stated that "Our role is a critical role, and we make sure that care is safe, appropriate, and is delivered when people need it" and that the insurer will continue to prevent "unnecessary care" and advised that people refrain from discussing anything with the media. Some online comments made death threats in response.^[32]

Corporate membership

Corporate boards

- G1 Therapeutics, non-executive director (since 2017)^[33]
- Synthego, member of the advisory board (since 2017)^[34]
- Hatteras Venture Partners, advisor^[35]

Non-profit organizations

- Imperial College Business School, chair of the advisory board (since 2020)^[36]
- Duke Institute for Health Innovation (DIHI), member of the global advisory board^[37]
- Singapore Land Authority Board, member^[6]

Recognition

Witty was knighted in the 2012 New Year Honours for services to the economy and the UK pharmaceutical industry.^[38] He was also conferred the Honorary Citizen of Singapore in 2018.^[39]

See also

- List of health insurance executives in the United States

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