Sino-American Pharmaceutical Professionals Association

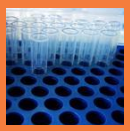
2024 SAPA Annual Conference

Redefining Medicine: Navigating Resilience, Transforming Lives

Friday and Saturday,
September 27 and 28, 2024

Hyatt Regency New Brunswick
2 Albany St., New Brunswick, NJ 08901

https://sapaweb.org




Greeting Message from the SAPA President

Dear SAPA Members and Friends,

It is with immense pride and excitement that I welcome you to the 2024 SAPA Annual Conference! This year's theme, "Redefining Medicine: Navigating Resilience, Transforming Lives," captures the spirit of innovation and adaptability that defines our community.

The past year has been a testament to our collective strength and determination. We have navigated uncertainties, leveraging resilience to push the boundaries of what's possible in medicine and beyond. Our shared journey has been marked by significant milestones, all made possible through the unwavering support of our dedicated members, strategic partners, generous sponsors, and tireless volunteers.

Throughout the year, we have continued to uphold our commitment to excellence by hosting a range of impactful events. Our signature gatherings, including the SAPA Investment Forum at JPM Week, Career Development Workshop, Scientific Symposium, and Healthcare Investment Forum and Roadshow, have provided valuable platforms to advance our mission of promoting science, education, collaboration, and career development. We also celebrated cultural heritage with the Chinese New Year Celebration and engaged in volunteerism through the Summer Picnic, further strengthening our community bonds.

This year, our focus has been on redefining operational efficiency and elevating social impact. We have embraced a vision of resilience, driving transformative changes that have shaped both our organization and the wider field. The launch of an updated SAPA website with a robust ticketing system and our continued investment in mainstream media channels, including LinkedIn and Twitter, reflect our commitment to building a more open, dynamic, and impactful community.

I am profoundly grateful for the dedication and hard work of our leadership team, volunteers, sponsors, and supporters. Your efforts have not only sustained but enriched SAPA's role as a beacon of trust and innovation. As I transition the presidency to our incoming leader, David Cragin, I do so with confidence in the bright future that lies ahead for SAPA.

Together, let us continue to redefine medicine, navigate challenges with resilience, and transform lives. Your engagement and enthusiasm are the driving forces behind our success. As we embark on this new chapter, I invite you to actively participate in our initiatives and contribute to the vibrant tapestry of our SAPA community.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment. Here's to a year of meaningful progress and transformative impact.

With warmest regards,

Jack Wu, PhD, MBA
SAPA President and 2024 SAPA Annual Conference Chair
Senior Director, Search & Evaluation, Takeda Oncology

Table of Contents

Conference Program at-a-Glance

Friday, September 27, 2024

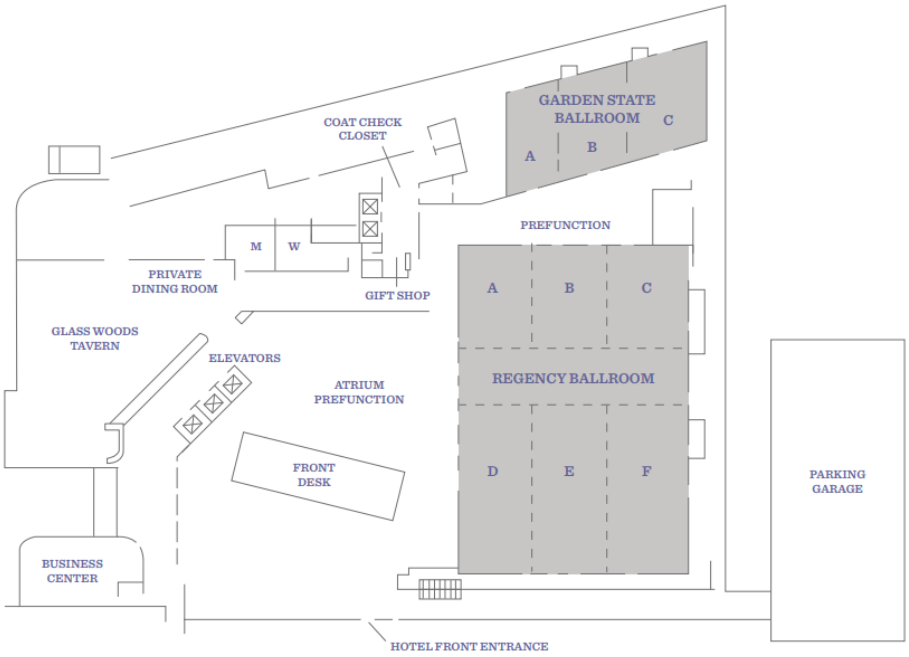
9:00 – 11:45 AM	**Plenary Session 1**	Regency Ballroom DEF & Foyer
11:40 AM – 1:00 PM	Lunch Break and Sponsor Exhibition	Regency Ballroom DEF & Foyer
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch and Learn: Legal Short Course I	Garden State Ballroom
1:00 – 5:00 PM	**Parallel Session A**: Executive and Legal Summit Driving Strategic Growth in Biopharma: Insights from Executives and Legal Considerations	Regency Ballroom DEF & Foyer
1:00 – 5:00 PM	**Parallel Session B**: CMC and Outsourcing: Advancement in Pharmaceutical and Manufacturing Science	Garden State Ballroom
1:00 – 5:00 PM	**Parallel Session C**: Career Development: Beyond Your Comfort Zone: Embracing Career Transitions in Your Professional Journey	Regency Ballroom ABC
12:00 – 5:00 PM	1:1 Partnering Session	Conference I, J, K (2nd floor)
6:00 – 9:00 PM	**SAPA Annual Gala**	Regency Ballroom DEF & Foyer

Saturday, September 28, 2024

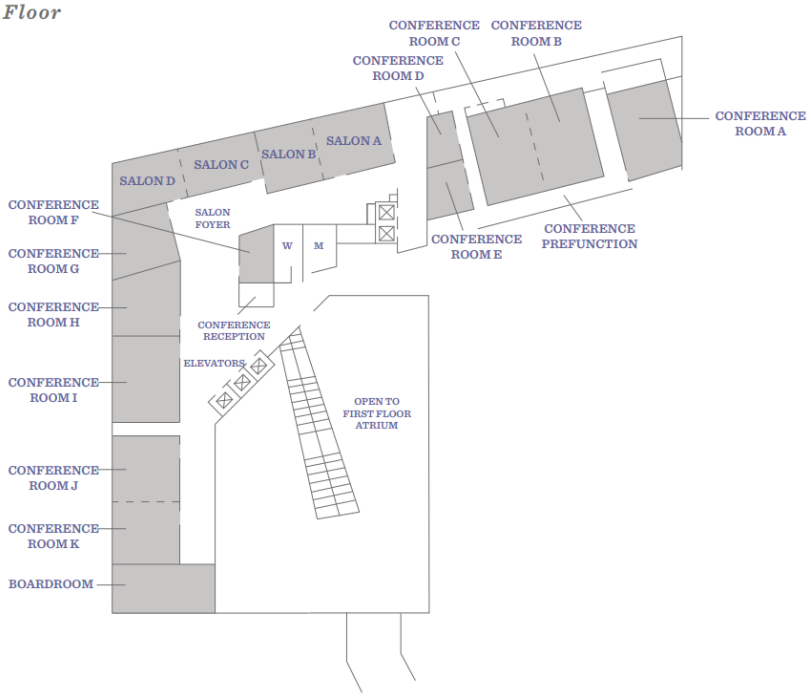
9:00 – 11:30 AM	**Plenary Session 2**	Regency Ballroom DEF & Foyer
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Lunch Break and Sponsor Exhibition	Regency Ballroom DEF & Foyer
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch and Learn: Legal Short Course II	Garden State Ballroom
1:00 – 5:00 PM	**Parallel Session D**: Investment and Business Development: Enhancing Resilience and Accelerating Next-Gen Therapeutics through Investment and Global Partnerships	Regency Ballroom DEF & Foyer
1:00 – 5:00 PM	**Parallel Session E**: Topics in Current Drug Discovery	Garden State Ballroom
1:00 – 5:00 PM	**Parallel Session F**: Clinical Development and Regulatory: Developing Transformational Medicines for Patients Globally	Regency Ballroom ABC
12:00 – 5:00 PM	1:1 Partnering Session	Conference I, J, K (2nd floor)
5:00 – 6:30 PM	**Closing Reception**	Brunswick Ballroom (Lower Level)

Hyatt Regency Hotel Meeting Space Floor Plan

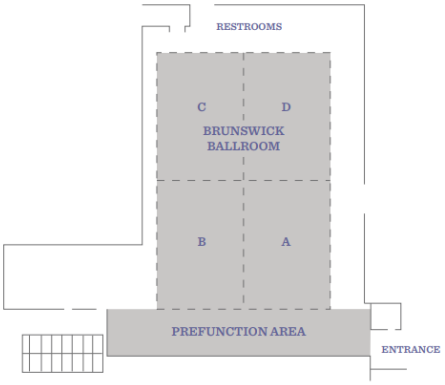
First Floor



Second Floor



Lower Level



About SAPA

美中醫藥開發協會
Sino-American Pharmaceutical Professionals Association

SAPA Mission

As a global organization, SAPA's mission is:

- To promote the advancement of pharmaceutical science and biotechnology;
- To promote entrepreneurship, healthcare investment and business cooperation;
- To contribute to public health education;
- To foster the career growth of pharmaceutical professionals.

Introduction to SAPA

SAPA was founded in 1993 in the US as a non-profit organization and since then has grown rapidly and become one of the most active and well-recognized professional organizations in the US. SAPA is headquartered in the Greater New York area (NJ/NY/CT) with five US regional chapters (SAPA-NE in New England, SAPA-GP in Greater Philadelphia, SAPA-CT in Connecticut, SAPA-DC in Greater Washington DC area, and SAPA-MW in Midwest area). SAPA members are engaged in drug discovery, pre-clinical & clinical development, manufacturing, regulation, marketing, and distribution of pharmaceuticals and biotech therapeutic products.

To fulfill its missions, each year SAPA and its regional chapters organize and sponsor many events including annual conferences, scientific symposia, seminars, workshops, and social activities in the US. These events have been supported and sponsored by many organizations, including major pharmaceutical, biotech and CRO companies.

SAPA Organization Structure

SAPA Board of Directors (BD)

BD Chair and BD Members including SAPA President and Immediate-Past President. Setting up policies and regulations, nominating and approving SAPA officers, and guiding SAPA direction.

SAPA Executive Council (EC)

President, President-Elect, Immediate-Past President, Vice Presidents, EC Members, and Standing Department Heads. Conducting SAPA daily operations, organizing SAPA events and activities.

SAPA Advisory Committee (AC)

Chaired by SAPA Immediate-Past President and over 20 AC Members. Advising, guiding, and supporting.

SAPA Locations

- SAPA Headquarters: New Jersey, USA
- SAPA-CT (Connecticut Chapter): Connecticut, USA
- SAPA-DC (Greater Washington DC Chapter): Greater Washington DC areas, USA
- SAPA-GP (Greater Philadelphia Chapter): Philadelphia and other Pennsylvania areas, USA
- SAPA-MW (Mid-West Chapter): Illinois and Indiana areas, USA
- SAPA-NE (New England Chapter): Boston and New England areas, USA

President

Jack Wu, PhD, MBA

President-Elect

David Cragin, PhD, DABT

Immediate-Past President

Yongmei Li, PhD

Vice Presidents and Chapter Presidents

Weiguo Dai, PhD; Huijuan Li, PhD; Lily Li, PhD; Feng Liu, PhD; Jingdong (Tom) Qin, PhD; Yufeng Li, PhD

Executive Council (EC) Members (2023 – 2024)

Zheng Chen, PhD*
Wei Ding, PhD
Chenchao Gao, PhD*
Chengzhe Gao, PhD
Yong Guo, PhD*
Brian Jiang, MS*
Jay Kang, PhD
Jack Li, MS
Jerry Li, PhD
Jessie Li, MS*
Jiaying Liu, PhD*
Yongle Pang, PhD
Eric Rong
Xiaowei Sun, PhD
Willie Wu, PhD
Stephen Xue, MS
Xiaojiao Xue, PhD*
Lixia Yao, PhD
Dexi Yang, PhD
Aming Zhang, PhD*

**Department Directors*

Board of Directors (2024 – 2026)

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Xiaodong Chen, PhD
Vince Deng, PhD
Xin Du, PhD
Xiaodong (Frank) Gan, PharmD
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Jiangbin (John) Hu, PhD
Charles Li, PhD
Huo (Alex) Li, PhD
Min Li, PhD
Yongmei Li, PhD
Guiqing Liang, PhD
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Wansheng (Jerry) Liu, PhD, JD
Xiaole Shen, PhD
Lei Tang, PhD
Ying (Charles) Wang, PhD
Shifeng (Bill) Wei, PhD
Jian (Jack)Wu, PhD, MBA
Zhenhua Wu, PhD
Mingde Xia, PhD
Yan Yan, MD, PhD
Jing Yang, PhD
Xiaoyong Yang, PhD
Hancheng Zhang, PhD

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Weiqin (Tony) Tong, PhD
Bin Shi, PhD
Bingli Ma, PhD
Bo Liang, PhD
Daming Gou, PhD
Dan Zhang, PhD
Guohua Zhang, PhD
Huimin (Harry) Chen, PhD
Jasmine Cui, PhD
Jian Li, PhD
Jin Wang, PhD
Jingsong Wang, PhD
Junning Lee, PhD
Kenchun (Ken) Li, PhD
Laura Hong, PhD
Li Chen, PhD
Li Yan, PhD
Lihu Yang, PhD
Mark Lin, PhD
Puchun Liu, PhD
Xiaoling Li, PhD
Xiyong Fu, PhD
Yan Xia, PhD
Young Shen, PhD
Yusheng Wu, PhD
Zhongda Zhang, PhD

Former SAPA Presidents

Xiucai Liu, PhD	1993-94	Mingde Xia, PhD	2008-09
Guohua Zhang, PhD	1994-95	Jisong Cui, PhD	2009-10
Jun-Yan Hong, PhD	1995-96	Jianji Wang, PhD	2010-11
Bill S. Wei, PhD	1996-97	Baoguo Huang, PhD, MBA	2011-12
Puchun Liu, PhD	1997-98	Handan He, PhD	2012-13
Junning Lee, PhD	1998-99	Jiwen Chen, PhD	2013-14
Lihu Yang, PhD	1999-00	Ning Yan, PhD	2014-15
Rick Z-X Xu, PhD	2000-01	Weiguo Dai, PhD	2015-16
Li Chen, PhD	2001-02	Lei Tang, PhD	2016-17
Jianzhong Guo, PhD	2002-03	Jian Liu, PhD	2017-18
Min Li, PhD	2003-04	Xiaole Shen, PhD	2018-19
John J. Hu, PhD	2004-05	Wansheng Jerry Liu, JD, PhD	2019-20
Yusheng Wu, PhD	2005-06	John Sun, PhD, MBA	2020-21
Charles Ying Wang, PhD	2006-07	Xiaodong Chen, PhD	2021-22
Hancheng Zhang, PhD	2007-08	Yongmei Li, PhD	2022-23

2024 SAPA Annual Conference

Organizing Committee

Conference Chair: Jack Wu, PhD, MBA

Conference Co-Chair: David Cragin, PhD, DABT and Yongmei Li, PhD

- Larry Cai, MBA, MS
- Jiafan Chen
- Zheng Chen, PhD
- Wei Ding, PhD
- Chaohong Fan, PhD, MD
- Chenchao Gao, PhD
- Chengzhe Gao, PhD
- Yang Ge, PhD
- Yong Guo, PhD, MBA
- Jack Li, MS
- Jessie Li
- Shuai Li, PhD
- Yannuo Li, PhD
- David Liu, PhD
- Jiaying Liu, PhD
- Junchi Lu, PhD
- Pan Pan, PhD, MBA
- Yongle Pang, PhD
- Michelle Ponpipom, RPh, MPH
- Jingwen Song, PhD
- Sherry Song, PhD
- Xiaowei Sun, PhD
- Yu Tian, PhD
- Arda Urai, PhD, MBA
- Jian Wang, PhD
- Layla Wu, PhD
- Li Yan, PhD, MD
- Dexi Yang, PhD
- Aming Zhang, PhD
- Yi Zhao, PhD
- Yu Zhou, MS

SAPA Events: 2023-2024 Year in Review

Time	Chapters	Event	Location
08-Oct-2023	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 39: From Insight to Action: A Strenghts-Based Approach to Performance And Contentment	Online
10-Oct-2023	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP Webinar - BioVerse: Where Science Sparks Business [Episode 002]	Online
21-Oct-2023	SAPA-DC	SAPA-DC Annual Conference:	Washington, DC
08-Nov-2023	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 40: How to be Angry Professionally	Online
Nov 8-9, 2023	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP Webinar - BioVerse: Where Science Sparks Business [Episode 003]	Online
02-Dec-2023	SAPA-CT	10th SAPA-CT Annual Conference	New Haven, CT
02-Dec-2023	SAPA-NE	SAPA-NE 2023 Bimonthly Seminar AI/ML-aided Drug Discovery & Development Workshop	Online
08-Dec-2023	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 41: Peering into the Recruiters Playbook	Online
12-Dec-2023	SAPA	SAPA Data Science - Harnessing RWD in the Pharma Industry	Online
13-Dec-2023	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP Webinar - BioVerse: Where Science Sparks Business [Episode 004] A conversation with Les Funtleyder on Biotech investiment cycles	Online
07-Jan-2024	SAPA	2024 SAPA JPM Investment Forum @JPM Week	San Francisco, CA

Jan 11-12, 2024	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP Webinar - BioVerse: Where Science Sparks Business [Episode 005]	Online
08-Jan-2024	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 42: Unlocking Success: Navigating Your Career Journey	Online
14-Jan-2024	SAPA-CT	SAPA-CT & BioCosmo Career Development Camp: How to craft perfect Linkedin profile in 2024	Online
16-Jan-2024	SAPA-CT	SAPA-CT Career Development Camp: Safe and Effective Communication	Online
08-Feb-2024	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 43: Hybrid Professionals	Online
12-Feb-2024	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP 2024 Lunar Chinese New Year celebration	Bryn Mawr, PA
14-Feb-2024	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP Webinar - BioVerse: Where Science Sparks Business [Episode 006] Physician Scientists' Checklist to Conduct Successful Clinical Development for the Global Market	Online
16-Feb-2024	SAPA	SAPA 2024 Chinese New Year Celebration	Green Brook Township, NJ
25-Feb-2024	SAPA-NE	HMSCSSA:Preparing Yourself for A Successful Career in the Life Sciences Industry	Boston, MA
27-Feb-2024	SAPA	SAPA Data Science Community - How do Large Language Models perform in assisting patients, customers, and health researchers in the real world?	Online
02-Mar-2024	SAPA	CDW: Soft Skills Mastery in Turbulent Times-Building a Foundation for Sustainable Career Success	Piscataway, NJ
07-Mar-2024	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 44: Negotiate a better job offer	Online
13-Mar-2024	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP Webinar - BioVerse: Where Science Sparks Business [Episode 007]: Leverage Commercial Lens to Enable Effective Drug Development and Success	Online
03-Mar-2024	SAPA-NE	SAPA-NE 2024 Bimonthly Seminar: Artificial General Intelligence Is the Boost for The Drug Development	Online
Mar 8-9, 2024	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP 2024 Annual Conference: Innovating Biopharma Frontier - A Path to Growth and Impact	King of Prussia, PA

Apr 3-4, 2024	SAPA-GP	DVSF2024 SAPA-GP Song Li Special Award	King of Prussia, PA
08-Apr-2024	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 45: Who gets promoted, who doesn't & Why	Online
Apr 09-10, 2024	SAPA	SAPA Data Science Community - Master Data Pipelines: Dagster & Airflow	Online
11-Apr-2024	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP Webinar - BioVerse: Where Science Sparks Business [Episode 008] Recap of AACR2024	Online
20-Apr-2024	SAPA	2024 SAPA Scientific Symposium	Piscataway, NJ
08-May-2024	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 46: Turning Adversit into Advantages: Unlocking Potentials from Unvertainties	Online
08-May-2024	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP Webinar - BioVerse: Where Science Sparks Business [Episode 009]: CMC in Drug Development and Dealmaking of ADC, Radiopharmaceutical, and CGT	Online
11-May-2024	SAPA-DC	SAPA-DC Scientific Symposium: Gene and Cell Therapy in the Modern Era	Baltimore, MD
01-Jun-2024	SAPA-MW	ASCO China Summit @Chicago 2024 (Co-organized with eChinaHealth)	Chicago, IL
06-Jun-2024	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP Webinar - BioVerse: Where Science Sparks Business [Episode 010]: Recap of ASCO2024 & BIO2024 tidbits	Online
08-Jun-2024	SAPA-NE	26th SAPA-NE Annual Conference: Pioneer New Era of Pharmaceutical Industry with Innovation of Emerging Modality	Cambridge, MA
09-Jun-2024	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 47: From Words to Action: Strategies for Impactful Communication	Online
June 14-15, 2024	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP @Philly Cell and Gene Therapy Annual Conference	King of Prussia, PA
16-Jun-2024	SAPA-CT	SAPA-CT&CAPA-CT&BioCosmo Annual Summer Barbeque Festival	Shelton, CT
22-Jun-2024	SAPA	7th Healthcare Investment Forum & Roadshow	New Brunswick, NJ

08-Jul-2024	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 48: The Body Language Advantage: Leverage Your Nonverbal Cues for Business Prowess	Online
09-Jul-2024	SAPA	SAPA Data Science Community - Developing Responsible Digital Biomarkers	Online
13-Jul-2024	SAPA-CT	SAPA-CT Business Development Summer Summit and fishing	Narragansett and Warwick, RI
27-Jul-2024	SAPA-CT & SAPA-DC	MedLaw Forum 2024 [Episode 1] BioSecure and Its Impact to Biopharmas, Contract Services and Investors	Online
11-Aug-2024	SAPA-NE	The 2024 SAPA-NE Summer Picnic	Brookline, MA
14-Aug-2024	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP Webinar - BioVerse: Where Science Sparks Business [Episode 012]: Artificial Intelligence in Drug Development	Online
18-Aug-2024	SAPA-CT	SAPA-CT 2024 Career Development Bootcamp	TBD
25-Aug-2024	SAPA	2024 SAPA Summer Picnic	Piscataway, NJ
25-Aug-2024	SAPA-DC	2nd Washington DC Professional Organization Pinic	Gaithersburg, MD
08-Sep-2024	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP 2024 Annual Picnic	Collegeville, PA
Sep 27-28, 2024	SAPA	2024 SAPA Annual Conference: Redefining Medicine: Navigating Resilience, Transforming Lives	New Brunswick, NJ
12-Oct-2024	SAPA-DC	2024 SAPA-DC Annual Conference	Washington, DC

Conference Program

Friday, September 27, 2024

Plenary Session:
Redefining Medicine: Navigating Resilience, Transforming Lives

9:00 – 11:45 AM

Regency Ballroom DEF & Foyer

Session Chairs : Jack Wu, PhD, MBA, David Cragin, PhD, DABT, and Yongmei Li, PhD

9:00 – 9:15 AM	**Opening Remarks** **Jack Wu**, PhD, MBA, SAPA President Senior Director, Search & Evaluation, Takeda Oncology
9:15 – 9:45 AM	**Future of the Pharmaceutical Industry** **Janet Woodcock**, MD, Former Principal Deputy Commissioner, FDA *Multiple forces are impacting the biopharmaceutical industry. Massive gains in biomedical knowledge are leading to many novel interventions such as gene therapy/gene editing and RNA-based products. At the same time, cost pressures in the US are leading to changes in reimbursement strategies. How will all this come together in the next decade? Will people suffering from illness be able to benefit from advances in scientific knowledge?*
9:45 – 10:15 AM	BMS Executive
10:15 – 10:30 AM	**Coffee Break and Group Photo**
10:30 – 11:00 AM	**Meeting the Challenges of Drug Product Development in an Era of Increasing Modality and Drug Delivery Complexity** **Allen Templeton**, PhD, Vice President, Pharmaceutical Sciences & Clinical Supply, Merck & Co., Inc. *In the rapidly evolving landscape of the pharmaceutical industry, the development of drug products faces unprecedented challenges. We are facing multifaceted obstacles and must use the power of leading-edge science to save and improve lives around the world. The evolution of modalities and routes of administration in the pharmaceutical industry, such as peptides, antibody-drug conjugates, T cell engagers, nucleotide-based therapies, cell and gene therapies, ocular injection, transdermal patches, correlates directly with an increase in the complexity of drug delivery systems requirements. These novel modalities and routes of*

administration demand a departure from traditional development platforms, manufacturing technologies and necessitate strategies to ensure efficacy, safety, and regulatory compliance. We are redefining strategies and leveraging data-driven approaches to foster a culture of continuous innovation, all while staying true to our mission of improving the course of human health. Navigating the complexities of drug development today must always ensure we continue to deliver high-quality and compliant clinical supplies to the right patients at the right time.

11:00 – 11:30 AM

IQ Fireside Chat - Industry Collaboration on Life Science

Opening Remarks: **Siqing (Sherry) Song**, PhD, Principal Scientist, Merck & Co., Inc.

Moderator: **Rosa Sanchez**, AVP, IQ board of director, Merck & Co., Inc.

Panelists:

R. Todd Bunch, PhD, Vice President, Bristol Myers Squibb

Maureen Cruz, PhD, Director - Science, Regulation & Policy, Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

Sean Maguire, VMD, MS, Scientific, Veterinary and NHP Specialist Director, GSK

Islam Younis, PhD, Senior Director, Merck & Co., Inc.

The Innovation and Quality (IQ) Consortium is a not-for-profit organization of pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies that aims to advance science and technology to benefit patients, regulators and the broader R&D community. Member companies collaborate in a pre-competitive environment and augment the capability of the whole industry.

Representatives from the IQ Board of Directors and IQ life science leadership groups will have a candid conversation about the consortium's impact on developing strategies to solve challenges facing the pharma industry. Topics will include regulatory trends, novel modalities and accelerated timelines from life sciences perspective.

11:30 – 11:45 AM

SAPA Election Announcement

Lunch Break and Sponsor Exhibition

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

Regency Ballroom DEF & Foyer

Lunch and Learn: Legal Short Course I

12:00 – 1:00 PM

Garden State Ballroom

Session Speaker **: Ran He**, PhD., JD, Founder and Principal, THC Lawyers

This session is sponsored by: THC Lawyers Tan, He & Co. LLP

The pharmaceutical industry stands at the crossroads of innovation, regulation, and legal intricacies. This two-hour short course, divided into two one-hour sessions on Friday and Saturday noon, will delve into the key legal aspects crucial for success in the healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors.

In the session on Friday noon "Law Prime for Entrepreneurs and Investors in Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Industries", we will focus on the legal frameworks and regulations that entrepreneurs and investors must navigate. Attendees will explore corporate law structures, investment and securities regulations, and critical dos and don'ts for entrepreneurs and investors. This part aims to equip participants with a basic understanding of the legal landscape, ensuring they are well-prepared for their entrepreneurial and investment ventures, and assisting with their further communication with lawyers.

Afternoon Parallel Session

Parallel Session A: Executive and Legal Summit
Driving Strategic Growth in Biopharma: Insights from Executives and Legal Considerations

1:00 – 4:50 PM

Regency Ballroom DEF & Foyer

Session Chairs ： Zheng Chen, PhD, and Chenchao Gao, PhD

In an era where innovation and strategic alliances are pivotal for growth, the pharmaceutical industry is experiencing both opportunities and challenges in maximizing company value. This conference session, "Driving Strategic Growth in Biopharma: Insights from Executives and Legal Considerations" will explore comprehensive strategies and key factors driving sustainable growth in this dynamic landscape. We will highlight best practices for building a diverse and skilled workforce, essential for long-term success. Legal experts will provide critical perspectives on cross-border transactions and M&A deals, ensuring attendees understand the complexities and opportunities these present. Additionally, local government policies and resources will be reviewed to support corporate strategic initiatives.

This session is sponsored by CLEARY GOTTLIEB

1:00 – 1:05 PM

Opening Remarks

Chenchao Gao, PhD, Associate Director, Daiichi Sankyo

1:05 – 1:35 PM

Presentations by executive panelists

1:35 – 2:35 PM

Executive Insights on Pharma/Biotech Growth in New Jersey

Moderator: **Debbie Hart**, CEO, BIONJ

Panelists:

Moushmi Culver, MBA, SVP, Head of Manufacturing Strategy, Business Development & Alliances, Merck & Co., Inc.

Sho Islam, MS, Director, Office of Business Engagement, Middlesex County, NJ

Simon King, Chief People Officer, Daiichi Sankyo Inc

Rong Yang, CEO, Fosun Pharma USA

Join us for an insightful session where industry and government leaders will unveil the dynamics of New Jersey's thriving pharmaceutical landscape. C-suite executives from Merck, Daiichi Sankyo and Fosun Pharma will share their expertise on key topics including talent recruitment, work-life balance in diverse cultures, employee career growth, corporate development, and strategic alliances.

2:35 – 2:50 PM

Coffee Break and Group Photo

2:50 – 3:50 PM

Latest Trends & Hot Topics in Pharma and Biotech Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A)

Moderator: **James Hu**, M&A partner, Cleary Gottlieb

Panelists:

Casarine Chong, JD, MBA, Senior Vice President, Deputy General Counsel, Transactions, Bristol Myers Squibb

Calvin Leung, JD, Partner, Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP

Gabor Szabo, Executive Director, Moelis & Company

This panel will discuss the latest trends and developments of pharma and biotech M&A transactions. Panelists will focus on drivers of pharma deal making and hot areas, pressure points, latest deal terms, antitrust considerations and other business issues that executives should know in order to successfully structure, negotiate and close a transaction.

3:50 – 4:50 PM

Intellectual Property and Corporation Law Perspectives on Entrepreneurship and Cross-border Deal Structuring and Execution

Moderator: **Zheng Chen**, PhD, Director, Alexion, AstraZeneca Rare Disease

Panelists:

Peng Cai, JD, PhD, Counsel, Kim IP Group

Bin Hu Karg, JD, Partner, VCL Law

Zhenggui (Kevin) Li, JD, Special Counsel, McCarter English LLP

Jerry W. Liu, JD, PhD, Partner, Fox Rothschild LLP

In the rapidly evolving biotech and pharmaceutical sectors, mastering the intricacies of deal structuring and intellectual property (IP) management is crucial for driving growth and innovation. This panel discussion will explore essential topics ranging from biotech IP fundamentals to the execution of cross-border transactions. Participants will gain insights into due diligence, logistical considerations, and negotiation strategies that are key to successful deal-making. Through real-world case studies, attendees will have the

opportunity to acquire a comprehensive understanding of the dos and don'ts in navigating these complex transactions.

Parallel Session B: CMC and Outsourcing Advancement in Pharmaceutical and Manufacturing Science

1:00 – 4:50 PM

Garden State Ballroom

Session Chairs : Yong Guo, PhD, Jiaying Liu, PhD, and Aming Zhang, PhD

As more innovative modalities become viable treatment options, pharmaceutical and biotech industries are challenged with shortening development time to bring these new modalities and innovative products to patients faster. Continuous advancement in pharmaceutical sciences and manufacturing technologies are critical to tackle these challenges and meet patient's demand. On the other hand, pharma and biotech industries work more closely with CRO/CDMO sectors to become more flexible and efficient. This session brings executives and experts from the pharm/biotech industry and CRO/CDMO to discuss recent advancement in pharmaceutical and manufacturing sciences, challenges and opportunities for collaboration. You will find this session both exciting and thought provoking.

This session is sponsored by: Crystal Pharmatech

1:00 – 1:05 PM

Opening Remarks

1:05 – 1:35 PM

The Journey of Implementing Continuous Manufacturing for Biologics

Lucy Chang, PhD, Associate Vice President, Merck & Co., Inc.

The biopharmaceutical industry is increasingly facing pressure from numerous challenges. Over the last 5-10 years, the interest, effort and focus on continuous biomanufacturing has significantly increased, with the advantage of reducing the footprint, creating a more flexible manufacturing approach, and reducing facility's complexity for continuous manufacturing. End to end continuous manufacturing, while the holy grail, has not been easy to implement and adopt by the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industry due to various technical and regulatory challenges.

In these presentations, we will discuss Merck's Journey to a fully continuous integrated bioprocess. We will address the regulatory/compliance landscape and challenges to successful implementation of continuous manufacturing including topics such as residence time distribution for material tracking, and validation strategies. The recent health agencies modernization efforts and possible regulatory approaches for new technology development will be discussed.

1:35 – 2:05 PM

Nanoparticle Product Development and Their CMC considerations

Xiuling Lu, PhD, Professor, University of Connecticut

Products containing nanomaterials are of great interests in the recent years, especially after COVID. However, the complexity of nanomaterials has been a challenge for product development for decades. The talk will provide an overview of nanoparticle-based product development and their CMC considerations. Novel cancer nanomedicine development will be introduced as the case examples.

2:05 – 2:35 PM

Overview of the Current Landscape of Long Acting Injectable (LAI) Drug Product Development

Andrew Leithead, Associate Principal Scientist, Merck & Co., Inc.

Long acting injectables offer a powerful approach to improve patient care and reduce global healthcare costs through reduced dose frequency and better medication adherence, particularly for the management of chronic disease. However, LAI product design requires a deep understanding of chemistry, manufacturing, and controls (CMC) aspects, including material properties, formulation, processing, and device characteristics. To effectively achieve extended dosing intervals ranging from weeks to months, LAI formulations require a large dose of drug administered in a small volume which is then released slowly over time to provide a therapeutic effect. The drug release rate is influenced by myriad factors including solubility, depot/particle surface area, excipient properties, and tissue response. As such, LAIs pose unique formulation development challenges that necessitate heavy investment and long timelines to successfully advance into the clinic. Various formulation strategies have been successfully applied to commercial LAI products to control the release of actives across a broad chemical space from hydrophobic small molecules to peptides. Selection of an appropriate formulation technology is guided by the properties of the drug and the desired product profile (i.e., preferred injection volume or site of administration). This presentation will provide an overview of the value proposition for LAIs in the pharmaceutical industry, different types of LAI dosage forms, and the technical challenges impacting formulation development and manufacture.

2:35 – 2:50 PM

Coffee Break and Group Photo

2:50 – 3:20 PM

Leveraging High Resolution Mass Spectrometry and Advanced Analytical Techniques in Biologics CMC Development

Ye Gu, PhD, Co-Founder, CTO, Crystal Bio

Analytical sciences are pivotal in the development of biologics, particularly within the realm of Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls (CMC). Employing phase-appropriate strategies is crucial to ensure that analyses are tailored to each stage of development. The use of advanced techniques, such as high-resolution mass spectrometry, can significantly reduce risks and prevent delays when applied effectively and timely. This presentation will delve into the application of high-resolution mass spectrometry and other state-of-the-art analytical tools throughout various stages of biologics CMC development. It will also present case studies on developability assessment, clone selection, and serum stability studies to highlight the practical impact of these techniques.

3:20 – 4:50 PM

Panel Discussion: Challenges and Opportunities in Collaborating with CDMOs

Moderator: **Jiaying Liu**, PhD, and **Aming Zhang**, PhD

Panelists:

Hong Gao, Senior Principal Scientist II, J&J Innovative Medicine

Ye Gu, PhD, Co-Founder, CTO, Crystal Bio

Wenjie Li, PhD, VP, CMC Division, Shanghai Medicilon Inc.

Parallel Session C: Career Development
Beyond Your Comfort Zone: Embracing Career Transitions in Your Professional Journey

1:00 – 4:50 PM

Regency Ballroom ABC

Session Chairs: David Cragin, PhD, DABT, and Pan Pan, PhD, MBA

Are you feeling the winds of change? This is a dynamic era marked by the Great Resignation, the relentless march of AI, and the seismic shifts caused by mergers and acquisitions. Whether you are a first-time job seeker navigating a competitive environment, an experienced professional considering jumping onto another career track, or a manager aiming for the executive suite, one thing is certain: taking calculated steps is crucial. Come and join us in this session if you are ready to:

- Break into the workforce: Learn essential strategies for landing your first job.
- Shift gears in your career: Discover how to identify your transferable skills, explore new paths, and confidently navigate a career transition.
- Ascend to executive level: Gain insights from seasoned leaders on developing the leadership skills and experiences needed to reach the top tier.

Our distinguished speakers, including senior leaders from established pharmaceutical companies, cutting-edge biotech firms, and talent acquisition partners, will share their personal journeys and the pivotal moments that shaped their careers. They have walked the path you are contemplating, and they will offer some practical advice, drawn from real-world experiences: How do you prepare? What groundwork is essential? How to stand out in the competitive market? Do not miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and actionable steps for charting your course in a dynamic job market.

1:00 – 1:05 PM

Opening Remarks

David Cragin, PhD, Sr Director, Teva Pharmaceuticals

Pan Pan, PhD, MBA, Sr Director, Head of Buesinss Development, OncoC4 Inc.

1:05 – 1:35 PM

How I Went from Bench Scientist to Regulator to Business Development Head

Angus Grant, PhD, EVP of Business Development, Teva Pharmaceuticals

1:35 – 2:05 PM

Charting New Paths: A Journey of Career Growth and Transition

Lian Ma, PhD, VP of Regulatory Affairs, Createrna Science and Technology

Transitioning between diverse professional roles can be both challenging and rewarding.

This presentation explores the pivotal decisions that have shaped the speaker's career journey, beginning with the choice to join the government over the biopharmaceutical industry and the eventual shift to biotech in pursuit of new challenges and growth. The speaker will share practical advice and insights on evaluating career paths, managing transitions, and leveraging skills for career advancement. The aim of this presentation is to inspire attendees to step beyond their comfort zones and seize new opportunities that lie within career transitions.

2:05 – 2:35 PM

Bridging Science and Finance: Navigating the Path to Future Opportunities

Zhen Yang, PhD, Sr Director, Global Business Development & Alliance Management, Hansoh

I will share my unique career journey that integrates a scientific background with financial experience in business development and navigating complex licensing deals to driving value creation in the biotech and pharmaceutical sectors.

2:35 – 2:50 PM

Coffee Break and Group Photo

2:50 – 3:20 PM

From Benchtop to Executive Suite: Strategic Career Planning for Pharmaceutical Professionals

Blair Bu, BMgt, Global Senior Partner, Life Science & Healthcare, IntelliPro

The presentation will provide a comprehensive guide to career development strategies for executives in the pharmaceutical industry. It will focus on essential factors for career planning, including critical skills, significant experiences, and strategic decision-making required to secure and excel in executive roles. The session will equip attendees with insights on navigating the intricacies of career advancement within the dynamic pharmaceutical sector, offering a clear roadmap for developing the competencies needed to achieve leadership positions.

3:20 – 3:50 PM

The Dream Job I Never Knew I Wanted or Could Achieve

Annah Litzenberger, CHRO, Fosun Pharma USA

Discovering your dream job isn't always a straightforward journey. Sometimes, the best career paths are the ones we stumble upon and where others believe in us before we believe in ourselves. I'll share my personal journey of finding a profession that I never imagined possible and that eventually became a source of profound satisfaction. By sharing my story, I hope to inspire others to remain open to new opportunities and embrace the unexpected path and twists and turns that lead to professional and personal joy and fulfillment.

3:50 – 4:50 PM

Panel discussion

Moderators: **David Cragin**, PhD, DABT, Sr Director, Teva Pharmaceuticals and **Pan Pan**, PhD, MBA, Sr Director, Head of Buesinss Development, OncoC4 Inc.

Panelists:

Blair Bu, BMgt, Global Senior Partner, Life Science & Healthcare, IntelliPro Group

Angus Grant, PhD, EVP of Business Development, Teva Pharmaceuticals
Annah Litzenberger, CHRO, Fosun Pharma USA
Lian Ma, PhD, VP of Regulatory Affairs and Pharmacometrics, Createrna Science and Technology
Zhen Yang, PhD, Sr Director, Global Business Development & Alliance Management, Hansoh

SAPA Annual Gala

6:30 – 9:00 PM

Regency Ballroom DEF & Foyer

Saturday, September 28, 2024

Plenary Session
Redefining Medicine: Navigating Resilience, Transforming Lives

9:00 – 11:30 AM

Regency Ballroom DEF & Foyer

Session Chairs: Jack Wu, PhD, MBA, David Cragin, PhD, DABT, and Yongmei Li, PhD

9:00 – 9:15 AM

Opening Remarks

Jack Wu, PhD, MBA
SAPA President
Senior Director, Search & Evaluation, Takeda Oncology

9:15 – 9:45 AM

Toward Universal Druggability

Gregory Verdine, PhD, President and CEO, LifeMine Therapeutics

9:45 – 10:15 AM

Carvykti --- a Paradigm Shifting Therapy for Multiple Myeloma

Ying Huang, CEO, Legend Biotech Corporation

I will discuss the discovery, development, and now commercialization of Carvykti as a therapy for multiple myeloma, as well as lessons learned from partnership between Legend Biotech and Johnson & Johnson in advancing a leading cell therapy.

10:15 – 10:30 AM

Coffee Break and Group Photo

10:30 – 11:00 AM

Redefining Medicine: Navigating Resilience, Transforming Lives - Advancing Drug Development, Regulation, and Pharmaceutical Innovation

Jacques Mascaro, PhD, MBA, Senior Vice President, Oncology Regulatory Science, Strategy and Excellence, AstraZeneca

In the dynamic landscape of drug development, the role of regulatory strategy and execution is critical to advancing patient care and innovation. Achieving excellence in this domain requires active engagement with external partners and health authorities on key scientific issues, shaping the regulatory environment, and driving forward regulatory science and innovation. The complexity of modern product portfolios, characterized by alliances, acquisitions, collaborations, and divestments, underscores the importance of fostering regulatory collaboration across all R&D functions.

Regulatory organizations are at the forefront of this evolution, managing thousands of submissions and approvals while maintaining continuous interactions with major regulatory agencies. These efforts reaffirm Regulatory Affairs' pivotal role in the evolving therapeutic landscape, emphasizing patient-centricity, global regulatory harmonization, digital transformation, and sustainability.

A strong focus on regulatory science and innovation is paramount, particularly in emerging therapeutic modalities, novel technology platforms, modern clinical trials, and new scientific and data-driven approaches. This innovation spans across next-generation propellants, physiology-based biopharmaceutical models, registry-based real-world evidence studies, and groundbreaking developments in computational pathology and ctDNA technologies. Success in these areas is bolstered by robust external engagement, particularly through global collaboration with health authorities and participation in leading scientific forums such as e.g., AACR, AAADV, ASCO, ESMO, CSDR, CSCO, DIA, ESC, KHI, CKD-EPI, NKF, Liver Forum, LITMUS, and Duke-Margolis.

China's regulatory reforms are a significant driver of global innovation, aligning with international standards and optimizing review processes. These reforms not only facilitate global development, particularly in early-stage research, but also enable strategic partnerships with local biotech companies to advance novel therapeutic modalities.

Globally, regulatory agencies are evolving to harmonize with international standards, accelerating drug development by reducing country-specific requirements. The integration of new technologies within Regulatory Affairs, driven by digital disruption, is transforming the global regulatory ecosystem. This shift is poised to revolutionize regulatory submissions, enabling faster, more reliable processes, and significantly shortening timelines over the next five years. These advancements will provide unparalleled opportunities to deliver innovative therapies to patients more swiftly than ever before.

11:00 – 11:30 AM

Will AI Transform Drug Discovery?

James Cai, PhD, VP, Head of Computational Biology and Digital Science, Boehringer Ingelheim

Lunch Break and Sponsor Exhibition

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Regency Ballroom DEF & Foyer

Lunch and Learn: Legal Short Course II

12:00 – 1:00 PM

Garden State Ballroom

Session Speaker**: Ran He**, PhD, JD, Founder and Principal, THC Lawyers

This session is sponsored by: THC Lawyers Tan, He & Co. LLP

The pharmaceutical industry stands at the crossroads of innovation, regulation, and legal intricacies. This two-hour short course, divided into two one-hour sessions on Friday and Saturday noon, will delve into the key legal aspects crucial for success in the healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors.

On Saturday noon, we will have a second session "IP Primer for Pharmaceuticals", which will concentrate on the patent law and the strategies in IP licensing. Participants will gain insights into the pivotal role of patents in fostering innovation, the process of securing patents, and the strategic art of licensing and technology transfer. This segment is designed to provide attendees with a robust understanding of how to leverage intellectual property to drive growth and innovation in the pharmaceutical industry. Join us for this informative course to enhance your legal knowledge and strategic skills in the healthcare and pharmaceutical industries.

Afternoon Parallel Session

Parallel Session D: Investment and Business Development
Enhancing Resilience and Accelerating Next-Gen Therapeutics through Investment and Global Partnerships

1:00 – 4:50 PM

Regency Ballroom DEF & Foyer

Session Chairs: Larry Cai, MBA, MS, and Arda Ural, PhD, MBA

1:00 – 1:05 PM — **Opening Remarks**

Arda Ural, PhD, MBA, Americas Life Sciences Sector Leader, EY

1:05 – 2:35 PM — **Enhancing Resilience and Accelerating Next-Gen Therapeutics through Investment and Global Partnerships**

Moderator: **Arda Ural**, PhD, MBA, MS, Americas Life Sciences Sector Leader, EY

Panelists:

Marian Nakada, PhD, VP Venture Investments, Johnson & Johnson - JJDC

Lorenzo Paoletti, MBA, Managing Director, Biotech Investment Banking, Truist Securities

Dennis Purcell, MBA, Founder and Senior Advisor, Aisling Capital

Diyong Xu, MS, Principal, OrbiMed Advisors

It has not been easy for life sciences companies in the last two years, from challenge in fundraising (lack of funding) for early stage companies, to lukewarm (euphemism) interest from the public market. How will the early stage companies survive this environment? What are the interests of the investors? What role of business development in the survival and growth of the biotech? Come and join the two sub-sessions and hear the insights from different perspectives in this dynamic environment.

2:35 – 2:50 PM — **Coffee Break and Group Photo**

2:50 – 2:55 PM

Opening Remarks

Larry Cai, MBA, MS, CBO, Defand Therapeutics

2:55 – 3:15 PM

Next Level Commercial and Scientific Innovations in China: Cross-Border Opportunities for Biopharmas and Investors in the U.S.

Helen Chen, MBA, Global Sector Co-Head, Healthcare and Life Sciences | Greater China Managing Partner, L.E.K. Consulting

China continues to be the second largest medicine market in the world, forecast to reach $200bn by 2028. It is also where the patients are – 25% of the world's 65+ population, 5 million treated cancer patients annually, 140 million diabetics, and 17 million alzheimer's patients. China is also where innovation is happening. An analysis published in Nature showed that there are 1700 "next generation" products being developed in China in 2024, accounting for 40% of the products in clinical pipeline and three times higher than that from 2021. As a validation of the Chinese science, global research-driven pharmaceutical companies are partnering and acquiring assets from China. This session by Helen Chen, the go-to person for China healthcare and investments and Greater China managing partner for L.E.K. Consulting, will share the current trends and evolution of the Chinese innovation landscape, and the roles that U.S. companies' and investors' can play, political climate not withstanding.

3:15 – 3:35 PM

Lilly catalyze360: Accelerate Breakthrough Science at Scale

Linus Lin, PhD, AVP, Head of Chorus, Eli Lilly and Company

At Lilly catalyze360, we provide resources to accelerate through the lifecycle of biotech partners: capital, world-class lab space, and the best research and development capabilities and expertise. Not only do we bring our capabilities and expertise, but we are also uniquely flexible as partners. We understand that biotechs have a variety of constraints to manage and therefore offer a range of terms to support.

3:35 – 3:55 PM

Business Development for Commercial Stage Products

Alex Wang, MBA, MS, Head of BD, US/China, Zuellig Pharma

In this session, we will have a brief overview of the US FDA approved Rx products and some of BD deals for these products. In addition, we will also look at market entry syratégies and commercialization considerations including regulatory filing, reimbursement and marketing/sales, using the APAC region as example and with an introduction of Zuellig Pharma, one of a prominent distribution and commercial companies in the region.

3:55 – 4:55 PM

Saveur du jour: Creativity and Strategy in Business Development to Help Biotech Navigate Life Sciences Circuit

Moderator: **Larry Cai**, MBA, MS, CBO, Defand Therapeutics

Panelists:

Helen Chen, MBA, Global Sector Co-Head, Healthcare and Life Sciences | Greater China Managing Partner, L.E.K. Consulting

Adam Darity, MPH, Vice President, Strategy & Corporate Development, Genmab

Daniyal Hussain, MBA, MS, Executive Director, Technology BD, GSK

Linus Lin, PhD, AVP, Head of Chorus, Eli Lilly and Company

Alex Wang, MBA, MS, Head of BD, US/China, Zuellig Pharma

To help biotech companies cross the finish line, business development plays an increasing critical role at different development stages of its organization, from creative deal structure to prioritizing strategic focus. The panel will share a holistic view of how business development contributes in the current dynamic environment.

Parallel Session E: Drug Discovery
Topics in Current Drug Discovery

1:00 – 5:05 PM

Garden State Ballroom

Session Chairs: Dexi Yang, PhD, David Liu, PhD, and Yu Tian, PhD

Contemporary and well-respected leaders from academia, the pharmaceutical, and biotechnology industries will discuss novel platform technologies and emerging therapeutic approaches, as well as their outlooks on the horizons of drug discovery and development. Their lectures and talks in the session will cover recent trends and advances in small-molecule drugs, multispecific antibodies, GLP-1, PCSK9, and AI in the development of gene therapies.

1:00 – 1:05 PM

Opening Remarks

Dexi Yang, PhD, Director, QuantX Biosciences

1:05 – 1:45 PM

Immunogenicity Assessment with Potential Integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Development of Gene Therapies

Weiping Shao, PhD, Senior Director, AstraZeneca

The development of gene therapies requires a careful assessment of immune responses to the vector/carrier, and the transgene protein. We have developed an Anti-Drug-Antibody (ADA) immunogenicity assay against expressed transgene IL-12 to support the development of gene therapy candidate with IL-12 coding sequence incorporated into NDV virus. In this presentation, we propose the parameters to be considered and highlight the challenges for developing the immunogenicity assays against expressed biologics with endogenous counterparts. We also explore the potential integration of artificial intelligence (AI) / machine learning (ML) to guide the assay development by predicting drug tolerance, which could help to accelerate the drug development process.

1:45 – 2:25 PM

State-dependent Synaptic Regulation by GLP-1 in Energy Homeostasis

Zhiping Pang, PhD, MD, Professor, Rutgers University

Central nervous system (CNS) control of metabolism plays a pivotal role in maintaining energy homeostasis. Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1, encoded by Gcg), secreted by a distinct population of neurons located within the nucleus tractus solitarius (NTS), suppresses feeding through projections to multiple brain targets1-3. Although GLP-1 analogs are proven clinically effective in treating type 2 diabetes and obesity4, the mechanisms of GLP-1 action within the brain remain unclear. Here, we investigate the involvement of GLP-1 receptor (GLP-1R) mediated signaling in a descending circuit formed by GLP-1R neurons in the paraventricular hypothalamic nucleus (PVNGLP-1R) that project

to dorsal vagal complex (DVC) neurons of the brain stem in mice. PVNGLP- 1R→DVC synapses release glutamate that is augmented by GLP-1 via a presynaptic mechanism. Chemogenetic activation of PVNGLP-1R→DVC neurons suppresses feeding. The PVNGLP-1R→DVC synaptic transmission is dynamically regulated by energy states. In a state of energy deficit, synaptic strength is weaker but is more profoundly augmented by GLP-1R signaling compared to an energy-replete state. In an obese state, the dynamic synaptic strength changes in the PVNGLP-1R→DVC descending circuit are disrupted. Blocking PVNGLP-1R→DVC synaptic release or ablation of GLP-1R in the presynaptic compartment increases food intake and causes obesity, elevated blood glucose, and impaired insulin sensitivity. These findings suggest that the state-dependent synaptic plasticity in this PVNGLP-1R→DVC descending circuit mediated by GLP-1R signaling is an essential regulator of energy homeostasis.

2:25 – 2:40 PM

Coffee Break and Group Photo

2:40 – 2:45 PM

Opening Remarks

Yu Tian, PhD, Senior Scientist, Merck & Co., Inc.

2:45 – 3:20 PM

The Development and Utility of Next Generation Multispecific Altibody

Yang Shen, PhD, Executive Director, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals

Antibody has evolved as one of the most successful classes of protein therapeutics with broad application, high specificity and strong potency. Due to the complexity of disease biology, which often involves multiple targets, pathways and cells, bispecific and multispecific antibodies have emerged as attractive platforms to achieve enhanced efficacy and hence become the focus of development in both preclinical and clinical settings. The effort of developing multispecific alternative format antibody (Altibody) and its utility will be discussed in this presentation.

3:20 – 4:00 PM

Discovery of The Highly Potent and Orally Bioavailable Cyclic Peptide PCSK9 Inhibitor MK-0616

Thomas Tucker, Principal Scientist, Department of Medicinal Chemistry, Merck & Co., Inc.

Proprotein convertase subtilisin-like/Kexin type 9 (PCSK9) is a clinically well-validated and critically important target for treating high LDL-cholesterol and potential coronary artery disease. Two antibody-based and one siRNA based anti-PCSK9 therapeutics have been approved by the FDA for treating high LDL-cholesterol levels and have demonstrated excellent clinical efficacy for lowering LDL levels and preventing adverse cardiac events. However, all of these therapies are parenterally delivered and to date an efficacious, orally dosed anti-PCSK9 therapeutic has not been approved. We focused our efforts on discovering and optimizing novel, orally bioavailable cyclic peptide agents based on leads derived from an mRNA display screening campaign. From the mRNA display screening, we were able to identify moderately potent inhibitor leads. Guided by structural data, we were able to optimize our early leads to enhance metabolic stability, potency, and engineer out several unfavorable off-target activities to provide advanced next generation development candidates. Using an enabled formulation-based approach, we demonstrated acceptable oral bioavailability and good overall pharmacokinetics for these molecules, and using a

Target Engagement assay were able to build clear PK/PD relationships in primates. Final optimization of candidate molecules to address formulation-related issues led to the discovery of MK-0616, which is currently undergoing clinical investigation as an LDL-cholesterol-lowering agent. In this talk, we will detail the systematic optimization of these molecules guided by structural data, leading to the discovery of the clinical compound.

4:00 – 5:00 PM

Fireside Chat: Hot Topics in Drug Discovery

Moderators: **Haiying Liu**, PhD, Director, CSL Behring, and **Dexi Yang**, PhD, Director, QuantX Biosciences

Panelists:

Zhiping Pang, PhD, MD, Professor, Rutgers

Weiping Shao, PhD, Senior Director, AstraZeneca

Yang Shen, PhD, Executive Director, Regeneron

Thomas Tucker, Principal Scientist, Merck & Co., Inc.

Parallel Session F: Clinical Development and Regulatory Developing Transformational Medicines for Patients Globally

1:00 – 5:00 PM

Regency Ballroom ABC

Session Chairs: Li Yan, PhD, MD and Michelle Ponpipom, RPh, MPH

This session is sponsored by: NOVOTECH™ Biotech's Partner at Every Phase

1:00 – 1:05 PM

Opening Remarks

Li Yan, PhD, MD, Managing Director, US Chinese Anti-Cancer Association

1:05 – 1:35 PM

Finding a Gem in the Rough

Francisco Leon, PhD, MD, CEO, Tolerance Bio

1:35 – 2:05 PM

Gene therapy for ophthalmic indications - Industry perspectives on clinical trial designs and drug development

Kenji Fujita, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Atsena Therapeutics

2:05 – 2:35 PM

FDA Regulatory Perspectives: Clinical Trial Designs and Drug Development for Gene and Cellular Products

Chaohong Fan, MD, PhD, Lead Physician, Oncology Team Leader, CBER, FDA

2:35 – 2:50 PM

Coffee Break

2:50 – 3:20 PM

Oncology Drug Development: New Frontiers and FDA Considerations in a Rapidly Evolving Landscape

Jian Wang, PhD, MS, Executive Director, Global Head of Translational, Oncology Regulatory Science Strategy & Excellence, AstraZeneca

As biomarkers gain significance in elucidating the efficacy and risks of cancer treatments, the regulatory framework governing approvals for biomarker-targeted therapies and in vitro diagnostic (IVD) devices detecting biomarkers undergoes continuous evolution. This presentation delves into regulatory trends in oncology biomarker utilization, exploring recent US IVD regulatory advancements and FDA approvals for biomarker subgroups. Importantly, it examines their impact on oncology drug development programs and pivotal considerations for approvals within biomarker-defined patient populations.

3:20 – 3:40 PM

How Best to Develop Innovative Medicines for Patients around the Globes

Scott Schliebner, MS, MPH, VP and Global Head, Drug Development Consulting, Novotech

3:40 – 4:00 PM

Companion Diagnosis in Global Trials

Christopher Ung, Chief Scientific Business Officer, CellCarta

4:00 – 5:00 PM

Panel discussion: Globalization of Clinical Development in a Precision Medicine Era

Panel Discussion:

Moderators: **Li Yan**, PhD, MD, Managing Director, US Chinese Anti-Cancer Association and **Michelle Ponpipom**, RPh, MPH, Executive Director - Global Regulatory Affairs, Merck & Co., Inc.

Panelists:

Joseph Eid, Biopharma Executive, Joseph Eid Biopharma Consulting LLC

Chaohong Fan, MD, PhD, Lead Physician, Oncology Team Leader, CBER, FDA

Kenji Fujita, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Atsena Therapeutics

Francisco Leon, PhD, MD, CEO, Tolerance Bio

Scott Schliebner, MS, MPH, VP and Global Head, Drug Development Consulting, Novotech

Christopher Ung, Chief Scientific Business Officer, CellCarta

Jian Wang, PhD, MS, Executive Director, Global Head of Translational, Oncology Regulatory Science Strategy & Excellence, AstraZeneca

Reception 5:00 – 6:30 PM

Brunswick Ballroom (Lower Level)

Biographies of Speakers and Panelists

Blair Bu, BMgt
Global Senior Partner
Life Sciences & Healthcare, IntelliPro Group

Blair Bu serves as the Global Senior Partner for Life Sciences and Healthcare at InteilliPro Group. With over a decade of experience in executive search, Blair has cultivated deep expertise in the global healthcare sector, specializing in pharmaceuticals and medical devices. Her strategic insights encompass critical markets such as China, the United States, Singapore, and Europe, facilitating impactful international collaborations. Blair's leadership plays a pivotal role in advancing the firm's global initiatives and enhancing its footprint in the life sciences and healthcare sectors.

Todd Bunch, PhD
Vice President
Bristol Myers Squibb

Dr. R. Todd Bunch is currently a Scientific Vice President with Bristol Myers Squibb where he is Head of Nonclinical Safety Evaluation and Veterinary Sciences. He currently directs, coordinates, and integrates the nonclinical safety evaluation of drug candidates across all therapeutic areas.

Dr. Bunch received a BA in Chemistry, with a concentration in Afro-American studies from Williams College, and a Ph.D. in Pharmacology/Toxicology from the Medical College of Virginia / Virginia Commonwealth University. He then worked as a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Toxicology at Dartmouth Medical School, where he studied methods to increase the effectiveness of cancer chemotherapies.

Dr. Bunch has over 20 years of pharmaceutical industry experience and worked at G.D. Searle/Pharmacia/Pfizer and Amgen prior to joining BMS. While at BMS he has been involved in the development and/or life cycle management of several drugs, including atazanavir, dasatinib, elotuzumab, ipilimumab, and nivolumab. Throughout his career he has also worked to improve pharmaceutical drug development science and regulations through HESI, PhRMA and ICH, and other consortia. Dr. Bunch has authored/co-authored over 30 publications and is a member of various industry societies.

Dr. Bunch resides in Pennsylvania and enjoys fishing, cycling, and attending local sporting events with his wife of 26 years and his son.

James Cai, PhD
VP, Head of Computational Biology and Digital Science
Boehringer Ingelheim

Dr. James Cai is VP, Head of Computational Biology and Digital Sciences USA, and the Global Head of Computational Biology - Immunology, Respiratory (I&R), and Cancer Immunotherapy and Immunoregulation (CIIM) at Boehringer Ingelheim. In these roles, James and his team apply modern computational and AI/ML approaches to the creation of novel insights from large scale human data that advance our current and next-generation drug pipeline.

James earned his Ph.D. in Molecular & Cell Biology from Cornell University where he studied the mechanism of DNA replication and repair. He also completed a Master's degree in Biomedical Informatics from Columbia University, where he received multidisciplinary training in computer science, medical informatics, statistics, machine learning and computational genomics. He was a NIH/NLM Biomedical Informatics fellow at Columbia University before he joined the pharma industry.

James joined Roche in Nutley, NJ in 2001 as a bioinformatics scientist, performing data analysis as well as developing algorithms and tools in Discovery Research. Over the years, he served as leaders in various functions and capacities, always at the intersection of science, computation and large-scale data. He led bioinformatics data analysis that helped multiple drug projects advance into clinical trials and developed several large informatics applications and omics databases that are stilled widely used today. In 2014, he joined the newly formed Roche Innovation Center New York in NYC, serving as the head of Data Science, and turned his focus on data science challenges in early Clinical Development and Translational Research. His team was responsible for clinical data analysis in biomarker selection, patient stratification and reverse translation of clinical data for the discovery of novel targets. As a champion of innovative technologies, he helped Roche establish many modern computational capabilities in drug discovery and development, including the first large scale whole exome sequence analysis pipeline, the introduction of NLP and text analytics, and later the use of Real-World Data (RWD) in R&D, scRNA-seq analysis, and AI/Deep Learning.

Peng Cai, PhD, JD
Counsel
Kim IP Group

Dr. Peng Cai is a scientist-turned-attorney practicing in the fields of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical development at Kim IP. Peng focus his practice on U.S. and international patent prosecution and patent portfolio management, including opinion work and IP due diligence.

Prior to join KIM IP, Peng worked as a patent attorney with McCarter and English.

Prior to Peng's private practices, Peng worked as a scientist and attorney at Merck in global pharmaceutical development including early phase development and commercialization. During his pharmaceutical tenure, Peng has engaged in numerous successful development and commercialization of drug products, including Victrelis®, Noxafil®, Temodal®, Vytorin®, Steglator®, and Steglujan®.

In addition to his experiences in intellectual property law, Peng's knowledge and expertise covers food and drug law, regulatory requirements for marketing authorization filing, and regulatory compliance.

Peng obtained his JD from Seton Hall Law School, and his PhD in Chemistry from Rutgers University. He is licensed to practice law in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and District of Columbia.

Lucy Chang, PhD
Associate Vice President
Merck & Co., Inc.

Lucy Chang is currently the Associate Vice President leading Keytruda Franchise, New Modality and Early phase Bio in Global regulatory CMC biologic at Merck. She is responsible for the regulatory strategy, global submission for biologics portfolio from development to commercialization at Merck. She has provided leadership/sponsorship to the implementation of innovative regulatory strategies to support growth of our Biologics portfolio. Lucy is also responsible for supporting all the new technology development and facility for the future for Biologics at Merck, leading various engagement with global HAs to pave the regulatory pathway for implementation.

Lucy Chang obtained her Ph.D. in Pharmaceutics from University of Connecticut and has more than 20 years of experience in biologics/vaccine field across multinational pharmaceutical companies, which includes GSK, Pfizer, Teva, Actinum and Sanofi.

Helen Chen, MBA
Global Sector Co-Head, Healthcare and Life Sciences | Greater China
Managing Partner, L.E.K. Consulting

Helen Chen is Global Sector Co-Head for Healthcare and Life Sciences for Asia Pacific and a Greater China Managing Partner of L.E.K. Consulting based in Shanghai. Helen was a member of L.E.K.'s Global Leadership Team from 2012 to 2016, and was named one of Consulting magazine's Global Leaders in Consulting in 2019.

Helen has over 30 years of consulting and industry experience in the U.S. and Asia markets and has lived in China since 2000. She helps companies expand their presence in China and Asia, and leverages Asia's innovation to improve their global businesses. For companies anchored in China and Asia, Helen advises on their drive to innovation and globalization.

Helen is a frequent speaker and author on the opportunities and issues in China's healthcare and life sciences sectors. Her expert commentary has appeared in Bloomberg, Financial Times, The Wall Street Journal, Forbes Asia and the South China Morning Post, and in industry publications including BioCentury, In Vivo, Scrip and BioWorld.

Prior to joining L.E.K., Helen was an associate director of finance at Genentech (now Roche) and a sales planner at Abbott Laboratories (now Abbvie). Helen received her A.B. cum laude in applied mathematics from Harvard University.

Casarine Chong, JD, MBA
Senior Vice President, Deputy General Counsel, Transactions, Bristol Myers Squibb

Casarine (Cassie) Chong is Senior Vice President, Deputy General Counsel, Transactions for Bristol Myers Squibb. Cassie and her organization provide strategic and business-enabling support of all significant transactions, including mergers & acquisitions, venture investments and strategic licenses and collaborations, as well as support for global alliance management and strategic corporate and operational contracting. Cassie is a member of the BMS Law Department senior leadership team and the Strategy & Business Development senior leadership team, and Executive Sponsor of the BMS Law Department's Pro Bono Committee.

Cassie has strong legal experience in the biopharma industry. She was previously with AbbVie, where she was the Section Head of R&D, Alliance Management and Transactions, and a member of the AbbVie Legal Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Cassie began her in-house legal career at Abbott Laboratories, and prior to Abbott, Cassie was a Corporate & Securities associate at the Chicago office of Mayer Brown LLP. Cassie earned her JD from the Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law and her MBA from the Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management.

Maureen Cruz, PhD
Director - Science, Regulation & Policy
Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

Maureen Cruz is currently a Director of Science, Regulation, and Policy at Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP. Maureen is a strategy consultant with close to 20 years of professional experience in project management, biomedical research, and

scientific communication. Maureen works with leaders in the global pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries to advance science and address emerging regulatory and compliance challenges by providing technical, strategic, and project management services.
Maureen has worked with clients to establish and manage multi-stakeholder research collaborations, address regulatory compliance issues, engage with global health authorities, and convene in scientific workshop and conference settings. Maureen has a PhD in Neuroscience from Georgetown University and an MPH from Columbia University.

Adam Darity, MPH
Vice President, Strategy & Corporate Development
Genmab

Adam is Vice President, Strategy & Corporate Development at Genmab leading corporate strategy and M&A. Earlier this year, Genmab completed its first ever company acquisition with the purchase of ProfoundBio. Previously, Adam had roles in strategy and business development at Merck as well as in equity research covering life science tools, diagnostics and medtech at Citibank. He holds an AB in Biology from Brown University and an MPH in Health Policy and Management from Columbia University.

Joseph Eid
Biopharma Executive
Joseph Eid Biophamra Consulting LLC

Dr. Joseph Eid received his medical degree at the St. Joseph University School of Medicine in Beirut, Lebanon. He completed his fellowship in hematology and medical oncology at the Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. He was recruited to the faculty at RWJMS and appointed Assistant Professor of Medicine and Pathology.
In 2004, Dr. Joseph Eid joined the pharmaceutical industry and has worked on drug development and commercialization at Roche, Merck, BMS, Hengrui Pharma/Luzsana Bio and Dragonfly Therapeutics.
He is a Board member at St Jude Research Hospital and Angle PLC and liquid biopsy UK based company.

Chaohong Fan, PhD, MD
Lead Physician
Food and Drug Administration

Dr. Fan is a lead oncology medical officer with 19 years of experience at the Center of Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) and the Center of Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
Dr. Fan serves as a team leader at the oncology division and acted as a branch chief at the Malignant Hematology Branch at the Office of Therapeutic Products (OTP), CBER. OTP facilitates the development and approval of cellular and gene therapeutic products with curative potential for cancer and rare diseases.
Dr. Fan is an internist, hematologist, and medical oncologist certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM). She received an M.D. from Zunyi Medical College, and a M.Sc. in medical genetics from Hunan Medical University, China. She also holds a Ph.D. in medical genetics from Umea University in Sweden. Prior to joining the FDA, Dr. Fan conducted research in gene mapping and cloning for neurogenetic disorders, including Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), at Northwestern University in Chicago, USA. Her regulatory expertise focuses on clinical trial design and development of cellular and gene therapies in oncology.

Kenji Fujita, MD
Chief Medical Officer
Atsena Therapeutics

Dr. Kenji Fujita is Chief Medical Officer at Atsena Therapeutics. He is responsible for overseeing clinical and regulatory aspects of an IRD pipeline which includes two clinical programs.
Kenji had over 15 years of industry experience, taking roles of increased responsibility at Merck, Alexion, and Alnylam. He has worked in all phases of clinical development across numerous therapeutic areas, including ophthalmology, neurology, metabolic, and cardiovascular disease.
Kenji's clinical background is in cardiology. He received his MD from Harvard Medical School, followed by residency in internal medicine and fellowship in cardiology at Columbia University. He is board certified in Internal Medicine, Cardiovascular Diseases, and Nuclear Cardiology and maintains an appointment as Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.

Hong Gao, PhD
Senior Principal Scientist II
J&J Innovative Medicine

Hong Gao has over 17 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry. Currently as analytical development scientific integrator at J&J Innovative Medicine, Hong serves as the analytical single point of contact in CMC project teams. Hong has experience supporting end-to-end development of compounds with various modalities and dosage forms, including synthetic small molecules and peptides, and oral solid, liquid parental and dry powder inhalation formulations. Hong has broad experience in method development /validation, specification and retest/shelf-life strategy, and managing activities at CDMOs and CROs. Hong has extensive experience in authoring IND/NDA/WMA submissions and responses to agency questions. In addition, Hong is responsible of analytical risk management as well as budget planning and monitoring for outsourcing.
Prior to J&J, Hong worked in the analytical development at Merck

for over 10 years. Hong earned her Bachelor & Master of Chemistry from Tsinghua University, China; PhD in Chemistry from The University of California, Berkely.

Angus Grant, PhD
EVP BD
Teva

Angus currently serves at the Executive Vice President of Business Development at Teva Pharmaceuticals, since August 1, 2023. He most recently held executive leadership positions at BeiGene, a global, commercial-stage biotechnology company, where he led corporate strategy and operations globally, and at Celgene. Angus also served as CEO of the Dementia Discovery Fund (DDF), a specialist venture capital fund focused on therapeutics for age-related dementias and neurodegenerative disease.

Earlier in his career, Dr. Grant worked in business development and regulatory roles at Novartis Oncology, Merck KGaA, Rhone Poulanc-Rohrer, and SmithKline Beecham.

In 2006, Angus joined Celgene and held various leadership over his 12 years, starting as the VP or North American Regulatory, moving to the UK to support the integration of Pharmion and build out EU regulatory in 2008, moving back to the US in 2011 to build alliance management while executing deals, to support the tremendous deal growth ending as Corporate VP Business Development. Angus led deals ranging from R&D and commercialization collaborations to early equity investments, supply collaborations, M&A such as $9B Juno acquisition in 2018, and licensing both globally and regionally.

Angus departed Celgene to serve as CEO of Dementia Discovery Fund (DDF), inspired by their mission to invest in and build the early-stage biotech companies most likely to develop transformative treatments for neurodegenerative diseases, to the benefit of the millions of people suffering from this health crisis of the 21st century that has longed lacked effective treatments.

Dr. Grant received his undergraduate degree from the University of Richmond and a Ph.D. in anatomy and immunology from the Medical College of Virginia, and he completed his postdoctoral training at the National Cancer Institute and then served as a Senior Staff Fellow in the Division of Cell and Gene Therapies at the Food and Drug Administration before going into industry. Dr. Grant currently serves as the Chairman of the Board for Toronto Innovation and Acceleration Partners. He is a published scientist, co-authoring more than 15 articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

Ye Gu, PhD
Co-Founder, CTO
Crystal Bio

Dr. Gu is co-founder, CTO, & head of US BD of Crystal Bio. Prior to joining Crystal Bio, Dr. Gu held pivotal leadership positions in various biotech companies, where she is responsible for process and analytical development as well as CMC operations. Before her tenure in biotech, she spent over a decade as group head, project leader and scientist in large pharmaceutical companies Boehringer Ingelheim and Vertex. Dr. Gu was trained in Analytical Chemistry, boasting over 16 years of professional experience within the biopharmaceutical realm. As a seasoned protein biochemist, Dr. Gu has spearheaded numerous projects across Discovery, Pre-clinical, and Clinical stages of research and development. Her comprehensive expertise encompasses all facets of biotherapeutics discovery and development, including hits generation, candidate selection, production, analytical science, characterization & bioassays, pCQA/CQA, and CMC strategies.

Debbie Hart, MS
President & CEO
BioNJ

Ms. Hart worked alongside New Jersey's biopharmaceutical industry leaders to establish BioNJ in 1994. Dedicated to BioNJ's mission to help our Members help Patients, Ms. Hart is recognized as a respected thought leader and influential advocate. Under Ms. Hart's leadership, BioNJ has become the trusted voice of the life sciences industry in New Jersey – working directly with legislative leaders in both Trenton and Washington D.C. to advance the life sciences industry, foster medical innovation and patient access while ensuring health equity and healthcare affordability. Most recently, she was named by Governor Murphy as the Chair of the New Jersey Commission on Science,Innovation and Technology.

Ms. Hart was named one of the world's 100 Most Influential People in Biotechnology by Scientific American Worldview; a PharmaVOICE 2021 Red Jacket Honoree and to PharmaVOICE's 100 Most Inspiring People list with repeat appearances on ROINJ's Influencers Power Lists; ROI-NJ's Healthcare Influencers; ROI-NJ's Women in Business List for multiple years; NJBIZ's Manufacturing 50; as well as #10 NJBIZ's 2024 Healthcare Power List; one of New Jersey's top CEOs by COMMERCE Magazine and for the 12th time in 2024 to the NJBIZ Power 100, a listing of the 100 most influential people in New Jersey business.

Ran He, PhD, JD
Founder and Principal
THC Lawyers

Dr. Ran He is a lawyer licensed in the United States (NY and CA) and Canada (ON and BC). With a comprehensive litigation experience in both Canada and the United States in complex cases, Dr. He brings a wealth of expertise to his practice areas, particularly in commercial litigation and IP litigation. Dr. He acted for world leading pharmaceuticals, NASDAQ listed corporations, Chinese SOEs and many significant clients in major litigations in North America.

In additional to his legal practice, Dr. He provides strategic consultation to consulting firms, venture capital funds and start-ups in the U.S. and China, with a special focus on biotechnology and healthcare industry. Benefited from a

multi-discipline and multi-country background, Dr. He provides clients with strategic advice that combines innovation, prudence and global perspective.

Before becoming a lawyer, Dr. He received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Nankai University, followed by a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, a post-doctoral fellowship in Johns Hopkins Hospital. Dr. He received his Juris Doctor degree from Osgoode Hall Law School, when he was admitted as the only full LSAT score in Canada in that year and graduated with the top scholarship in litigation stream. Dr. He teaches at law school in Canada, and business schools in Asia.

James Hu, JD
Partner, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

James Hu is an M&A partner of the Wall Street law firm Cleary, Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, based in New York. He regularly advises investors, boards of directors, senior executives, and founders on strategic, legal, and business matters in all types of M&A transactions, including public company mergers, corporate carve-outs, leverage buyouts, minority investments, and distressed situations. James advises on transactions across the industry spectrum, with substantial experience in the life science, pharma and biotech sector.

In 2023, James was one of four M&A lawyers selected by Bloomberg Law in its "They've Got Next: The 40 under 40" award and was separately named a Life Sciences Rising Star by Law360. He is also recognized in several publications including The Legal 500 U.S. (M&A: Large Deals $1BN+), IFLR 1000 and Super Lawyers.

James is an adjunct professor at Cornell Law School and Cornell Tech, where he teaches an M&A class since 2020, and a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. James also serves on the board of trustees at the Museum of Chinese in America.

He received his J.D. from Cornell Law School in 2012, fifth in his class, and his LLB from Nanjing University in 2007.

Ying Huang, PhD
CEO
Legend Biotech Corporation

Ying Huang has served as CEO of Legend Biotech Corporation (LEGN) since November, 2020. He brings over 9 years of experience in research and development at a major pharmaceutical company and 12 years of experience as a biotechnology analyst on Wall Street.

Under Ying's leadership, Legend has grown to be the largest, independent cell therapy company in the world by market capitalization ($8B) with over 2,000 employees and operations in 3 continents. Legend's lead product, Carvykti, an autologous BCMA targeting CAR T therapy developed jointly with Johnson & Johnson, is approved in the US, EU, and Japan. Legend is developing multiple autologous and allogeneic cell therapies for hematologic malignancies, solid tumors, and autoimmune diseases.

Ying was a Managing Director and Head of Biotech Equity Research at Bank of America Merrill Lynch where he led a team of analysts covering US biotech industry. His knowledge and expertise have been recognized by the Institutional Investor survey as a top ranked biotechnology analyst on Wall Street. Ying has been a biotech analyst since 2007 and previously worked at Wachovia, Credit Suisse, Gleacher, and Barclays before joining Bank of America Merrill Lynch. Besides providing investment research to investors, Ying and his team conducted due diligence for many successful initial public offerings (IPOs) and follow-on offerings in the biotechnology sector.

Prior to his Wall Street career, Ying was a Principal Scientist at Schering-Plough in the

Department of Chemical Research focusing on small molecule drug discovery in the therapeutic areas of cardiovascular and central nervous system. He is the coauthor of multiple patents and peer reviewed publications.

Ying received his Ph.D. in Bio-organic Chemistry from Columbia University under Professor Ronald Breslow.

Daniyal Hussain, MBA, MS
Executive Director of Technology Business Development, GSK

Daniyal is the Executive Director of the Technology Business Development organization at GSK. He focuses on novel platforms, data generation technologies and artificial intelligence in relation to drug discovery and development. Previously he was at Valo Health, a Flagship Pioneering company, as an early employee and helped grow the company to 180 people with raises totaling >$500M. At Valo Daniyal has established data partnerships, in-licensed assets, acquired platforms and formed strategic partnerships. Prior to Valo he was in AstraZeneca's Immuno-Oncology strategy group. He has an MBA and MPH from Columbia, and undergraduate degrees in Chemical Engineering and Economics from the University of Pennsylvania.

Sho Islam, MS
Director, Office of Business Engagement
Middlesex County

Sho leads the Office of Business Engagement (OBE) at Middlesex County's Department of Economic Development. OBE, in partnership with stakeholders, is responsible for fostering continued success and growth of businesses and industries in Middlesex County, NJ.

Prior to joining Middlesex County, Sho was the Business Advocate, and Food and Beverage industry lead at New Jersey Department of State's Business Action Center (NJBAC). Sho was also the Director of Business Development at Advance Connecticut (AdvanceCT), where he originated the organization's business attraction efforts in the life sciences industry. Additionally, Sho successfully led domestic and international business attraction effort in various industries as a Business Development

Officer at Choose New Jersey (ChooseNJ). Sho started his career with Rutgers University's Food Innovation Center, with a focus on business development, entrepreneurship, innovation commercialization, strategic business consulting, and project management.
Sho received a B.S. in Environmental Business Economics, M.S. in Food and Business Economics, and M.S. in Public Affairs, from Rutgers University.

Bin Hu Karg, JD
Partner
VCL Law

Bin Hu Karg is a corporate and technology transactions attorney with over a decade of experience specializing in the life sciences industry.
Bin's corporate practice focuses on representing life sciences, technology and growth business enterprises at all stages of development, guiding them from inception into fundraising and eventually exiting through IPOs or mergers and acquisitions. She acts as an outside general counsel to start-ups, and as they expand, continues to serve their increasingly sophisticated legal needs. Her areas of expertise include fundraisings, mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, joint ventures, SEC compliance, public offerings and other corporate and securities law matters.
Bin's technology transactions practice focuses on advising pharmaceutical and biotech companies on technology, IP and commercial transactions throughout the entire process of drug development and commercialization. She has significant experience in negotiating technology licensing, co-development and commercialization, master service agreements with contract research organizations for pre-clinical and clinical studies, biologics development and manufacturing, collaborative and sponsored research, distribution arrangements, material transfer agreements, and nondisclosure agreements.
Bin is also well recognized for her extensive experience in cross-border transactions. Having counseled foreign companies in conducting business in the U.S. as well as domestic buyers and investors in investments and acquisitions in Asia and Europe, she is well positioned to be a trusted advisor to her clients in carrying out their global strategies.
Bin graduated from Columbia Law School. She is admitted to practice law in New York and Texas. Her working languages are English and Chinese. She can also carry on basic conversations in German.

Simon King
Chief People Officer
Daiichi Sankyo Inc

Simon King is the Chief People Officer for the Biopharmaceutical Company Daiichi Sankyo Inc. He studied Genetics at the University of Edinburgh and started his career in the R&D function of ICI Pharmaceuticals, initially as a systems analyst. It was during this time that he developed his passion for developing people and organizations and made the transition to Human Resources. Simon worked for AstraZeneca for 26 years in increasingly senior HR roles. He spent the first 12 years of his career in the UK and then moved to the US in 1998, where he has been ever since. In April 2013, Simon moved to Bristol-Myers Squibb, as the Global R&D HR VP and then became the Global Head of Talent and Workforce Innovation where he was accountable for attracting and developing talent and developing the BMS organization and culture.
Simon has two passions professionally. The first is to help bring new medicines to patients and the second is to build talent. He has received two CEO awards for his contributions.
Simon is married to Fiona and has two children, Molly and Sam. He is a black belt in Kenpo Karate, runs half marathons, skis and kayaks whitewater.

Andrew Leithead
Associate Principal Scientist
Merck & Co., Inc.

Andrew Leithead (note to moderator: pronounced Luh-theed) received his B.S. in Materials Science and Engineering in 2010 from Drexel University, where his undergraduate research centered around moisture absoprtion and delamination of bilayer tablets. He joined Merck full-time in 2011 as part of the RNA Therapeutics team developing various processes for the formulation and delivery of siRNA, including polymer conjugate, peptide conjugate, and lipid nanoparticle platforms. Andrew transitioned to the Discovery Pharmaceutical Sciences department in late 2013, where he has since supported physicochemical evaluation and formulation development of small molecules and peptides for preclinical safety and efficacy studies. Over the past several years, Andrew's focus has been on the discovery-stage evaluation of molecules for long-acting injectable applications, including development of formulations with line-of-sight to GLP toxicology and first-in-human (FIH) clinical studies.

Francisco Leon, PhD, MD
CEO
Tolerance Bio

Francisco Leon, MD, PhD, is the Chief Scientific Officer and co-founder of Provention Bio.

- *Basic and clinical immunologist by training, specialized in Autoimmunity*
- *Drug developer at Bristol Myers-Squibb, MedImmune/AstraZeneca, and Centocor/Janssen, with 20+ years' experience. Former CEO, Chief Medical Officer and co-founder of Celimmune, acquired by Amgen*
- *Led or participated in early development of 5 drugs which reached the market*
- *Former NIH/NIAD research fellow, co-authored approx. 100 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and patents*

Calvin Leung, JD
Partner
Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP

Bar Admission: Québec, 2015 | Ontario, 2020 | New York, 2020 Calvin is a partner in our Montreal office and is a member of Osler's Emerging and High Growth Companies Group. He practices in corporate law with a focus on corporate finance, particularly in venture capital and growth capital, emerging and high growth companies, private equity and mergers and acquisitions.

He works with companies at all stages of their life cycle and leads a range of Canadian and international transactions, including negotiated and contested acquisitions and divestitures, strategic investments, recapitalizations, reorganizations, and other commercial and corporate matters. As part of his practice in venture and growth capital and private equity, he advises investment funds on their formation and on their investments and divestiture of portfolio investments.

Calvin is listed as a "one to watch" lawyer in mergers and acquisitions law in the ranking of Best Lawyers in Canada for the year 2021. Calvin is called to the bar in Québec, Ontario and New York.

Wenjie Li, PhD
VP CMC Division
Shanghai Medicilon Inc.

Dr. Wenjie Li is currently the Vice President of the CMC Division at Shanghai Medicilon Inc. He earned his Bachelor's degree in chemistry from Peking University and both his Master's and Ph.D. degrees in organic chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh. Following his graduation, Dr. Li worked at Merck Research Laboratories and Boehringer Ingelheim Research Institute in the U.S., where he focused on process research and development for new medicines and led several projects in process development and CMC management. He later joined Kingchem Life Sciences Co., STA of WuXi AppTec, Kelun Pharmaceutical Research Institute, and TransThera Biosciences. With nearly thirty years of experience in the pharmaceutical, biopharmaceutical, and CDMO industries, Dr. Li specializes in process development and CMC management for both innovative and generic medicines. He has authored numerous papers in leading international journals and holds several patents.

Zhenggui(Kevin) Li, JD
Special Counsel
McCarter English LLP

Zhenggui "Kevin" Li is a member of McCarter & English's Corporate practice group as well as a member of the firm's inter-disciplinary International practice group. Kevin advises large and medium-sized companies in mergers and acquisitions, whether on the buyer's side or on the seller's side. Kevin counsels companies and their executives on company restructuring, compliance and reporting, and various types of general corporate matters. Kevin also handles financing matters, including venture capital transactions, representing either investment funds or start-up companies, and secured and unsecured loan transactions, representing both lenders and borrowers. In his capacity as a member of the firm's international practice group, Kevin is constantly involved in the firm's

international business initiatives and serves on the firm's legal team in representing various types of cross-border transactions. Prior to joining the firm, Kevin worked as an associate engaged in general civil practice, with an emphasis on commercial and bankruptcy litigation. He researched legal issues, prepared pleadings and conducted discovery involving a variety of matters. Kevin regularly appeared in various state and federal courts in the States of New Jersey and New York. Kevin has ten years of business experience in international trade. Prior to law school, he had worked in various capacities for major international conglomerates headquartered in

Beijing, People's Republic of China, with a focus on the Sino-U.S. import and export business. Kevin is thus well-versed in all aspects of international business transactions, including issues related to customs classification and clearance, freight forwarding and

cargo insurance coverage, letter of credit and other commercial credit arrangements. He is also quite familiar with the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (UNCISG) and customary international trade terms promulgated by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC INCOTERMS).

Linus Lin, PhD
AVP, Head of Chorus
Eli Lilly

Dr. Linus S. Lin is the Head of Chorus, an early development unit that specializes from IND enabling to lean clinical Proof of Concept (POC). Chorus is housed within the Lilly catalyze360 organization with the mission to enable biotech ecosystem and accelerate breakthrough science to medicine.

Previously at Lilly, he held the positions of Site Head & General Manager, Lilly China Research and Development Center (LCRDC), a diabetes focused R&D center based in Shanghai, and Head, Lilly China Innovation Partnerships (LCIP), an externally focused organization to engage biotech and academic collaborators in China.

Prior to Lilly, Dr. Lin led the Chemistry Service Unit at WuXi AppTec, the top discovery CRO brand in the industry. He started his industry career as a medicinal chemist at Merck Research Laboratories. Over a 15-year span at Merck, he led multiple drug discovery teams delivering 9 preclinical candidates, including 4 completing PhI studies and one completing PhIII studies.

Dr. Lin received his BS in Chemistry from Peking University, obtained his PhD in Organic Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and completed his NIH postdoctoral Fellowship with Nobel laureate Prof. E. J. Corey at Harvard University. His scientific contributions included 120+ peer-reviewed manuscripts and published patents.

Annah Litzenberger
CHRO
Fosun Pharma USA

Annah serves as CHRO of Fosun Pharma USA where she's responsible for the People Strategy that balances the employees' needs and the company's interest. She's a strategic partner that enables the business to achieve their goals through innovation and an entrepreneurial mind-set. She and her team ensure the company has the talent, culture and commitment necessary to meet its strategic plans for growth, and the leadership necessary to achieve its global objectives.

Prior to joining us, Annah was VP, Head of HR at Xilio. Prior to that she was GSK's Global Head of Talent and Inclusion & Diversity for Pharma R&D and the Head of HR at TESARO. Before entering the Biotech/Pharma industry, Annah spent over 15 years at Santander Bank in a range of HR roles of increasing responsibility, most recently serving as SVP, Head of Learning and Organizational Development.

Annah holds a B.S. in Criminal Justice, with minors in Psychology and Political Science from Kutztown University and is certified as a Senior Certified Professional in Human Resources (SHRM-SCP).

Annah's married to her husband Mike, and they have 2 daughters. When not at work, she loves spending time with family and friends, and being anywhere that's warm and sunny!

Xiuling Lu, PhD
Professor
University of Connecticut

Xiuling Lu, Professor at the University of Connecticut, Associate Director of Center for Pharmaceutical Processing Research. She was appointed as a Research Assistant Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from 2008 to 2011 prior to joining the School of Pharmacy at the University of Connecticut. Dr. Lu's research is focused on innovative nanotechnologies that target difficult-to-treat cancers, optimization and evaluation of drug formulations and pharmaceutical processing, as well as the use of versatile imaging tools to improve pharmaceutical product quality. Dr. Lu has been active in both translating potential therapeutics to the clinic and commercializing nanomedicines. One of her patents was licensed to a startup pharmaceutical company for commercialization. Her research is supported by NIH, American Cancer Society, NSF, FDA etc. Dr. Lu received American Association of University Professors-UConn Excellence in Research and Creativity: Early Career Award in 2016 and Dean Robert L. McCarthy Faculty Service Award in 2019 as well as 2023 Research Advising Award. Dr. Lu was elected as the American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences (AAPS) Fellow in 2023.

Lian Ma, PhD
VP of Regulatory Affairs and Pharmacometrics
Createrna Science and Technology

Dr. Lian Ma is dedicated to accelerating the development and accessibility of novel medications for unmet medical needs through innovative approaches. As the Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Pharmacometrics at Createrna Science and Technology, she leverages her extensive expertise to drive forward-thinking strategies in drug development. Before joining Createrna, Dr. Ma spent over a decade at the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). She began as a reviewer and later advanced to a leadership role in the Division of Pharmacometrics within the Office of Clinical Pharmacology at the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. Her contributions at the FDA have influenced regulatory decision-making for drug products across diverse therapeutic areas, including oncology, hematology, metabolic and endocrine disorders, gastroenterology, hepatology, rare diseases, and medical imaging. Dr. Ma has also been actively involved in regulatory policy development and numerous research projects focusing on trial design, dose selection, and optimization for pediatric rare diseases and oncology drug development. Dr. Ma holds a Ph.D. from Oregon State University, an M.S. and B.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences from Peking University, and a certificate in Drug Development and Regulatory Sciences (ACDRS) from the UCSF Schools of Pharmacy and Medicine.

Sean Maguire, VMD, MS
Scientific, Veterinary and NHP Specialist Director, GSK

Sean Maguire, V.M.D., M.S., MRCVS is Scientific, Veterinary and NHP Specialist Director, Laboratory Animal Science & Governance in Pre-Clinical Sciences, GSK, Collegeville, Pennsylvania. Dr. Maguire received his veterinary degree from the University of Pennsylvania and earned his master's degree in chemistry from Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Dr. Maguire has extensive experience in drug discovery and development animal care and use programs and in vivo animal models with a special interest in innovative animal model development and implementation. He is the chair of the GSK IACUC and is board certified in laboratory animal medicine (DACLAM) and serves as a Council Member for AAALAC. He has been involved with the IQ since 2016.

Jacques Mascaro, PhD, MBA
Senior Vice President, Oncology Regulatory Science, Strategy & Excellence
AstraZeneca

Jacques Mascaro, PhD, MBA, is a respected leader in biopharmaceuticals, with 30+ years of global R&D experience. Since 2020, he has been the Senior Vice-President for Oncology Regulatory Science, Strategy and Excellence at AstraZeneca. Mascaro's academic credentials include a Master's in Pharmacy, a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Aix-Marseille II, France, and a Post-Doctorate Diploma in Clinical

Pharmacy. Additionally, he holds an MBA from the Open University Business School, UK, and a Master of Music from the Berklee College of Music.

His career has spanned Regulatory Affairs, Clinical Development, Quality and Compliance, Pharmacovigilance, CMC-Manufacturing-Supply Chain, and General Management, with expertise in Oncology, Neurology, and Immunology.

He supported the non-for-profit sector when he enhanced the European activities of the Drug Information Association (DIA) in Basel, Switzerland, fostering dialogue among authorities, academia, patients, and sponsors. Currently, Mascaro also serves as the Elected Chairman of the Board of Accumulus Synergy, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving communication and collaboration within the life science-regulatory ecosystem for the benefit of patients worldwide.

Mascaro is an active member of prestigious organizations, including ASCO, ESMO, AACR, the New York Academy of Sciences, TOPRA, RAPS, and the Drug Information Association (DIA).

Marian Nakada, PhD
VP Venture Investments
Johnson & Johnson - JJDC

Marian Nakada has over 30 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry, starting her career at the laboratory bench at Centocor and moving to a research leadership role before Centocor's acquisition by Johnson & Johnson. She later transitioned to Janssen business development and eventually joined JJDC in 2013.

Marian has a A.B. in Biology from Harvard and a Ph.D. in Pharmacology from the University of Pennsylvania. She has authored 62 peer reviewed publications and 14 book chapters and is a past reviewer for the NIH Pharmacology Study Section. She is currently on the Boards of Navitor and a stealth NewCo and is a Board Observer for ONL Therapeutics, Aetion, Iterative Health, Arkuda Therapeutics and Rome.

Marian is also a grass roots co-founder of IgniteVC that is working to champion change through its diversity & inclusion efforts. Outside work, Marian is a Board Member at InnerCity Weightlifting whose mission is to amplify the voice and agency of people who have been most impacted by systemic racism and mass incarceration.

Zhiping Pang, PhD, MD
Professor
Rutgers University

Dr. Pang received his Ph.D. at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas before moving to Stanford to complete a postdoc training. Both his PhD and postdoctoral training were with Dr. Thomas Südhof, the 2013 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine. In November 2011, he moved to Rutgers University in New Jersey to start his independent research career. He is a Full Professor in the Department of Neuroscience and Cell Biology at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and the Child Health Institute of New Jersey. Research in his laboratory focuses on studying synaptic modulation in the mammalian system. Using mouse models, he is interested in understanding the molecular, cellular, synaptic, and circuit functions of neuropeptides in the central nervous system in health and diseases such as obesity and eating disorders. Using human neuronal models derived from pluripotent stem cells, his research focuses on delineating the synaptic mechanism underlying mental disorders such as schizophrenia and autism. He is also keen to develop novel technologies that untangle the molecular mechanism of synaptic transmission, including neuropeptide release and signaling. He has published more than 110 peer-reviewed papers.

Lorenzo Paoletti, MBA
Managing Director
BioTech

Lorenzo Paoletti has served as a Managing Director in the Biotech Investment Banking team at Truist Securities since 2021. Lorenzo has 16+ years of Life Sciences IB experience, covering primarily the Biotech landscape.Lorenzo has been focused his entire career on Life Sciences Investment Banking and has executed more than $60 billion of cumulative capital raises in a lead capacity across equity, equity-linked, debt and product financings. Moreover, Lorenzo has substantial M&A expertise, having advised on transactions totaling more than $20 billion over his career. Key select deals executed on a bookrunner or lead agent capacity include:CARGO Therapeutics ($318M IPO – 2023), RayzeBio ($358M IPO – 2023), Praxis Precision Medicines ($68M Follow-on – 2023), Tourmaline Bio ($75M PIPE – 2023), Verona Pharma ($150MM Follow-on – 2022), OmniAb spin from Ligand and subsequent merger with Avista Public Acquisition Corp. II ($884MM – 2022), Concert Pharma ($55MM Follow-on – 2022), AbSci ($230MM IPO – 2021), VectivBio ($147MM IPO – 2021), Editas Medicine ($231MM Follow-on – 2021), AbCellera ($555MM IPO – largest Biotech IPO in 2020).Prior to joining Truist, Lorenzo helped spearhead the Biotech Investment Banking effort at Credit Suisse. At Credit Suisse, Lorenzo relaunched the Biotech franchise, executing on average a deal per month across capital raises and advisory. Before Credit Suisse, Lorenzo was a Managing Director covering the Biotech sector on the Investment Banking team at RBC Capital Markets. During his six years at RBC, Lorenzo was Chairman of the Associate Review Committee and Member of the NYU Undergraduate and MBA Recruiting team. Lorenzo holds a Bachelor of Science with High Honors in Economics from Butler University and an MBA from the New York University Stern School of Business.

Dennis Purcell, MBA
Founder and Senior Advisor
Aisling Capital

Mr. Purcell is the Founder of Aisling Capital LLC, a major life sciences venture capital firm based in New York City and has previously served as the Fund's Senior Managing Partner and

Advisor. Prior to the formation of Aisling Capital, Mr. Purcell served on the Executive Committee and as Managing Director of the Life Sciences Investment Banking Group at Chase H&Q, formerly Hambrecht and Quist. During his time in the industry, he has invested in, raised capital for, and advised hundreds of life sciences companies.

Mr. Purcell currently serves on the board of directors of Real Endpoints, Ichnos Pharmaceuticals, Summus Global and Embera Pharma. He is Chairman of the Board of

Shorla Oncology. He is also an advisor to Better Health, Cellevolve and xCellerate. He has previously served on the Boards of numerous public and private Life Sciences

companies.

In addition, Mr. Purcell serves as an Executive-in-Residence at Columbia University and as an Endowment Committee member at the University of Delaware, where he also serves on the Pharmaceutical Innovation Board.

Mr. Purcell is also very involved with industry organizations, serving on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of New York Bio as well as the Investor Advisory

Board of the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO), where he serves as CoChairman helping BIO develop policy positions that affect the industry. Other industry

affiliations include the Health Care Board for the Partnership for New York City, New York State Bio Defense Initiative, and the Alliance for Regenerative Medicine Foundation. He also serves on the Board of Life Science Cares.

Mr. Purcell has been honored for his work in the biotech industry by Genetic Engineering News, Forbes, Irish American Magazine, Reed Elsevier, and the University of Del-aware. He received his B.S. from the University of Delaware and his MBA from Harvard University.

Scott Schliebner, MS

VP and Global Head, Drug Development Consulting
Novotech

Scott is a strategic, innovative, and commercially-oriented life sciences executive with ~30 years experience across the biopharma, CRO, medtech, and non-profit sectors. Through his leadership, vision, and strategic

mindset, Scott takes people, teams, and organizations further than they would otherwise go.

With a strategic and consultative approach to building and growing life sciences businesses, Scott has developed relationships, partnerships, and collaborations to drive commercial success. He enjoys creating, building, and transforming life science businesses. Scott is passionate about leveraging data and technology to infuse innovation into life sciences companies. His thought leadership efforts include leveraging RWE/RWD, technological innovation, and patient-focused paradigms to accelerate clinical drug development.

Active as a Commercial Officer, Clinical Executive, Strategic Advisor, Board Member, patient advocate, and mentor, Scott supports e-clinical technology start-ups, biotech and medical device firms, CROs, investors, incubators, and patient advocacy organizations. Scott is regularly invited to speak on topics such as patientfocused research, clinical research outsourcing dynamics, oncology and rare disease drug development, leveraging real world evidence, and building innovative research paradigms to engage with challenging patient populations. He received a Master's Degree in Public Health in Biostatistics from the University of Utah School of Medicine and completed a Graduate Research Fellowship at The National Institutes of Health/NINDS.

Rosa Sanchez, PhD

Associate Vice President, DMPK
Merck & Co., Inc.

Rosa started her career as a bench scientist providing DMPK laboratory support, including research in the discovery and development of drugs that are now commercial products. She obtained a Ph.D. in Toxicology and progressed into Principal Investigator roles, representing DMPK lead in cross-functional discovery and development teams. Rosa assumed leadership roles with increased managerial responsibility and representation in Discovery Governance committees. Rosa is currently Associate Vice President and Global DMPK Head in the Department of Pharmacokinetics, Dynamics, Metabolism and Bioanalytics (PDMB), where she leads an organization with footprint in Boston, London, San Francisco and West Point, providing support in a variety of program from the lead identification stage through candidate selection and clinical development. Her team provides clinical dose projections for preclinical candidates across modalities (small molecules, peptides, biologics, etc.) and therapeutic areas. Her team also supplies expert input through clinical development, filing and life-cycle management.

Rosa and her team have contributed support and scientific expertise to the selection and clinical development of multiple preclinical candidates including the approval of several products, such as DELSTRIGO, LAGEVRIO, WELIREG, PREVYMIS and more recently, WINREVAIR. Rosa has been a co-author in over 50 publications and is currently a member of the Board of Directors in the International Consortium for Innovation and Quality (IQ)

Weiping Shao, PhD

Senior Director & Head of Regulatory Bioanalysis
AstraZeneca

Dr. Weiping Shao is currently Sr. Director and Head of Regulatory Bioanalysis at AstraZeneca, where he leads regulated bioanalysis and scientific innovation to support the development of biologics modalities from pre-clinical to clinical across all therapeutic areas. Weiping brings more than 20 years of experience and leadership in pharmaceutical / biotech industry, including his previous role as Vice President, Head of Biologics Services at a global CRO, and Director, Head of Bioanalytical

Operations at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. He has built and led cross-functional organizations that support biologics development, bioanalytical services and biomarker discovery. Weiping has published over 45 peer reviewed HQ/HI manuscripts/ commentaries, filed US patents, co-authored industry White Papers and Best Practices. He holds leadership roles at ISBER organization, chairs conferences and has given numerous presentations. He earned his Ph.D. from Nanjing University and completed his post-doctoral Fellowship in Biochemistry at University of California, San Diego.

Yang Shen, PhD
Executive Director
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals

Yang Shen, Ph.D., joined Regeneron in 2018 and currently serves as Executive Director, Antibody Engineering in Bispecific Department and Co-Chair of Protein Therapeutics, Pipeline & Technology Section at Regeneron. Yang founded Antibody Engineering Group and played instrumental role in establishing Altibody platform. He and his team work on designing, producing and screening alternative format molecules to deepen our understanding of biology and create new therapeutic opportunities at Regeneron. He received his Ph.D. in Structural Biology from Columbia University. Prior to joining Regeneron, Yang held increasing roles at ImClone Systems and Eli Lilly between 2008 and 2018.

Gabor Szabo, MBA
Executive Director
Moelis & Company

Gabor Szabo is an Executive Director at Moelis & Company's New York office focused on life sciences M&A. Gabor has over 15 years of investment banking experience and has advised on over $125bn worth of M&A transactions across various industries with a focus on healthcare. His experience includes domestic and cross border public and private M&A, licensing/collaboration, restructuring, defense and special committee assignments. Previously Gabor was an Associate in the New York-based Healthcare team at Greenhill & Co. and formerly was on Morgan Stanley's M&A team in London. He graduated cum laude with a B.S. in Finance from Iona College and holds an M.B.A. from INSEAD.

Allen Templeton, PhD
VP-Pharmaceutical Sciences & Clinical Supply
Merck & Co., Inc.

As Vice President of Pharmaceutical Sciences & Clinical Supply at Merck, Allen is responsible for leading drug product formulation development as well as clinical supply manufacture and distribution. Allen earned a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2000 under the direction of Royce W. Murray. He has published over 60 research articles, served as co-inventor on 11 patents and authored over 120 presentations in the area of pharmaceutical product research. He has organized a number of symposia and training courses on diverse topics within the field of pharmaceutical research. Dr. Templeton is an active member in a number of professional organizations, including the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS), International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) and the American Chemical Society (ACS). He served on various leadership positions with AAPS and ACS, including the board of directors for AAPS and was named as a Fellow of the Association in 2015 for his scientific accomplishments. He was elected to both the 2010-2015 and 2015-2020 terms of the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) expert committee on physical analysis.

Thomas Tucker
Principal Scientist, Department of Medicinal Chemistry
Merck & Co., Inc.

After completing my education, I joined the Medicinal Chemistry Department of Rorer Central Research (now a part of Sanofi-Aventis) in 1984. In 1989, I moved to Merck Research Laboratories in West Point, PA. I began my career at Merck working in the peptide/peptidomimetic space , transitioned into small molecule therapeutics for about 17 years, then moved on to conjugate based siRNA Delivery, and finally then back into the peptide drug discovery space in 2012 . I am currently a Principal Scientist in the Peptide /Modalities Drug Discovery Team at MRL West Point. I am the author/co-author of over 50 publications, an inventor on over 70 patents, and have presented frequently at various external meetings. During my career, I have been directly associated with two molecules that have become FDA approved drugs, both in the HIV antiviral therapeutic space: the first-generation non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor StocrinTM / SustivaTM (Efavirenz); and the second-generation non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor PifeltroTM (Doravirine). I also was a key contributor to the design and synthesis of MK-0616, an oral cyclic peptide therapeutic that is currently undergoing Ph 3 clinical trials. My current research interests are focused on the design and development of novel peptide therapeutics.

Christopher Ung
Chief Scientific Business Officer
CellCarta

Christopher Ung is the Chief Scientific Business Officer at CellCarta, a leading biomarker CRO specializing in oncology services. With 25 years of experience in personalized medicine, Christopher has deep technical, regulatory, and strategic expertise in biomarker development, particularly in oncology across the US, China, and Europe. He led the development of HercepTest™, widely recognized as the first companion diagnostic.

Christopher has established four laboratories—two in China and two in the US—and possesses extensive knowledge of pathology laboratories and clinical trials. At CellCarta, he directs technical and strategic programs in computational pathology, spatial biology, and biomarker initiatives for ADC and cell therapy programs. In China, his decade-long experience includes serving the companion diagnostic and translational biomarker needs of the clinical trial market.

An accomplished speaker, Christopher has presented at numerous conferences and hosted interviews with notable figures such as Dr. Carl June, Dr. Scott Gottlieb, and Dr. James Rothman. His contributions continue to drive innovation and advancements in the field of personalized medicine.

Gregory Verdine, PhD
President & CEO
LifeMine

Gregory Verdine is a leader in the discovery, development and commercialization of new drug modalities. A passionate and accomplished inventor of novel approaches and drug classes to engage targets widely believed intractable, Greg coined the phrase "drugging the undruggable" to describe his life mission. LifeMine is the brainchild of Greg, who as a venture partner of WuXi Healthcare Ventures, led the founding team that brought the company from concept to reality. In his role as President and CEO of LifeMine, Greg is leading the company through its ramp-up and march toward the clinic.

Greg is highly regarded for having moved seamlessly between roles as an academic scientist, biotech entrepreneur, investor, and company executive. As Erving Professor at Harvard University and Harvard Medical School, he made seminal contributions to understanding mechanisms of DNA repair and epigenetic DNA methylation and he invented a new drug modality called stapled peptides. As an entrepreneur, Greg has founded multiple, public biotech companies including Variagenics, Enanta, Eleven Bio, Tokai, Wave Life Sciences, and Aileron, and a private company, Gloucester Pharmaceuticals, that was acquired by Celgene. These companies have succeeded in achieving FDA approval for three marketed drugs. As a venture investor, Greg has served as Venture Partner at AppleTree, TPG, Third Rock and WuXi Healthcare Ventures, and is currently a Venture Partner on the investing team at Andreessen Horowitz (a16z) Health + Bio.

Greg has served on the board of directors of Enanta Pharmaceuticals, Wave Life Sciences, Warp Drive Bio, and FOG Pharmaceuticals. Having led the formation and financing of Wave Life Sciences, Warp Drive Bio and FOG, Greg took a role in managing these companies as their president, chief executive officer and chief scientific officer.

Greg earned his Ph.D. in chemistry from Columbia University, a B.S. in chemistry from St. Joseph's University and served as an NIH postdoctoral fellow in molecular biology at MIT and Harvard Medical School.

Alex Wang, MBA, MS
Head of BD, US/China
Zuellig Pharma

Alex is currently the Head of US/China Business Development with Zuellig Pharma, a distribution and commercialization company with $16 billion annual revenue and approximately 15,000 employees in 13 markets in the APAC region. Prior to joining Zuellig Pharma, Alex had been with Pfizer, Merck KGaA and Abott as well as Everest Medicines in various positions including Pfizer Anti-infective Global Franchise Leader and Abbott POCT Diagnostics APAC Head. Alex has worked in diverse geographic locations in Canada, US, Japan, Vietnam, Singapore, and China.

Jian Wang, PhD
Executive Director, Global Head of Translational, Oncology Regulatory Science Strategy & Excellence
AstraZeneca

Jian is the Global Head of Translational, Oncology Regulatory Science Strategy & Excellence at AstraZeneca, where he spearheads transformative initiatives. With over 13 years of distinguished service in the Office of New Drugs and Office of Translational Science at CDER,FDA, Jian brings extensive expertise in drug and biological product reviews, guidance & policy development, and regulatory science.

During his tenure as Associate Director for Regulatory Science in the clinical Office, Jian led the FDA guidance development on clinical trial design and indication-specific guidelines. Additionally, he contributed to the FDA guideline on surrogate endpoints for drug development, as well as the guideline on acceptable imaging biomarkers as clinical outcomes for drug development. He also contributed to various FDA guidances related to clinical pharmacology and model- informed drug development. Under his leadership, regulatory science initiatives garnered multiple prestigious FDA awards.

Jian holds a Ph.D. in Molecular Pharmacology & Clinical Pharmacogenomics and an M.S. in Regulatory Science from the University of Southern California. His contributions have been recognized with FDA and national accolades, and he has authored over 70 articles in esteemed peer-reviewed journals and book chapters. Additionally, he has organized numerous FDA workshops and international conferences during his tenure at FDA and AstraZeneca. Jian is a Fellow of American College of Clinical Pharmacology, and serves as an adjunct professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and sits on the university's Regulatory Science Advisory Board.

Janet Woodcock, MD
Former Principal Deputy Commissioner
FDA

Janet Woodcock retired in Feb 2024 after a long Federal career at FDA. She had most recently served as Principal Deputy Commissioner. From 2021-2022 she was Acting FDA Commissioner, and in 2020-2021 was therapeutic lead for Operation Warp Speed. Dr. Woodcock worked as CDER Director for over 20 years during two terms. In between she served as Deputy Commissioner and in other roles. She previously headed the Office of Therapeutics at CBER.

Diyong Xu, MS
Principal, OrbiMed

Diyong is a Principal on the Private Equity team and has been with OrbiMed since 2012. Prior to joining OrbiMed, Diyong was an investment banking analyst in the healthcare group at Lazard where he focused on M&A, financing, and strategic advisory for biotech, diagnostics, and pharma clients in the U.S., Japan, and E.U. Diyong earned his M.S. degree in Management Science and Engineering from Stanford University and M.S. degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology from Dartmouth College. He holds a B.S. degree in Biology from Zhejiang University in China.

Rong Yang, MBA
CEO
Fosun Pharma USA

Rong Yang is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Fosun Pharma USA and the SVP and Partner of Fosun Pharma. He is responsible for expanding Fosun Pharma's presence in the US, driving overall business and organizational growth, and representing the company in front of external stakeholders.

Prior to Fosun Pharma, Rong was with Bayer Group for nearly 20 years in a variety of senior positions across the United States and Europe. As Vice President he headed Bayer's US Specialty and Hematology sales and marketing team; he also served as Head of Business Insight and Analytics and was a member of Bayer's Executive Committee in the United States; as VP of Strategy and Finance, he oversaw Bayer pharmaceuticals Americas P&L across US, Canada and Latin America with more than 5 billion USD revenue and more than 30 legal entities across the continent. Before moving to the US he was Bayer Pharma's Country Group General Manager for Czech Republic and Slovakia based in Prague, Czech Republic. Earlier in his career, he took various portfolio and commercial roles in Germany and Austria. Rong has lived and worked in five different countries across three continents. Currently, he also serves as a Director on the Board of Nature's Sunshine, a NASDAQ-listed company.

Rong holds a Bachelor's degree in Art from Beijing Foreign Studies University and a Master of Business Administration from Harvard University.

Outside of work, Rong likes family time with wife Vesna and daughter Zarja (9 years old). He enjoys hiking, reading, and watching soccer games.

Zhen Yang, PhD
Senior Director
Hansoh

Dr. Yang is currently Senior Director of Global Business Development and Alliance Management at Hansoh, one of China's leading pharmaceutical companies. Zhen is at the forefront of driving the company's strategic business development initiatives. He has closed more than 10 deals since joining Hansoh in 2019. Before Hansoh, Dr. Yang worked for Merck, where he led teams focusing on the preclinical and clinical development of various projects. Transitioning from a scientific role, Zhen later worked as a biotech equity analyst in an Investment Bank to broaden his expertise in the financial industry. Currently, Dr. Yang is also pursuing a part-time JD to enhance his ability to navigate complex legal aspects of business development. Dr. Yang received his Ph.D. from the University of Houston, College of Pharmacy.

Islam Younis, PhD
Senior Director
Merck & Co., Inc.

Dr. Younis is the cardiometabolic diseases therapeutic area lead head in the Department of Quantitative Pharmacology and Pharmacometrics at Merck and Co, Inc. Islam started his career in the Office of Clinical Pharmacology, US Food and Drug Administration as reviewer and later became the Team Leader of the Antiviral Team and the Animal Rule Team. He also worked as Clinical Pharmacology Director and Senior Director at Astellas Pharma and Gilead Sciences, respectively. Dr. Younis is a well-known leader in the area of Clinical Pharmacology with numerous publications and presentations at national and international meetings. Dr. Younis is currently the vice chair of the IQ Clinical Pharmacology Leadership Group. Islam is a pharmacist by training and holds MSc and PhD degrees in Pharmaceutical Sciences in addition to three graduate degrees in Public Health, Drug Development and Regulatory Sciences and Pharmacoepidemiology. He is also an adjunct Associate Professor at the George Washington University, School of Medicine.

Biographies of Session Chairs and Moderators

Larry Cai, MBA, MS
CBO
Defand Therapeutics

Mr. Cai held executive level positions over the past decades. Prior to taking the role of Chief Business Officer at Defand Tx, he was the VP of BP at Axter Therapeutics, Exe. Director of BD&L at Fosun Pharma USA, Head of BD (New England) at Qilu Pharmaceuticals, just to list a few. Mr. Cai led many projects in company creation, in-licensing, co-development, and divestiture for innovative, 505b2, and high-end generics in a variety of therapeutic areas.
Mr. Cai studied Chemistry at Peking University and obtained his Bachelor of Science from the University of Mississippi, and Master of Science from The Ohio State University. Mr. Cai received his MBA degree from Babson College, the consecutive No. 1 ranked entrepreneurship program by US News and World Report. He was elected as the President of SAPA-NE for 2017-2018 and recognized at one of Top 50 most influential people of color in life sciences by GK50 in 2017.

Zheng Chen, PhD
Director
Alexion, AstraZeneca Rare Disease

Zheng Chen is a cross-functional team and project lead; whose expertise includes both biologics and small molecule CMC leadership and development. She currently works at Alexion, AstraZeneca Rare Disease, as a Director & CMC Team Lead in the Product Development and Clinical Supply Organization. Over her 18+ years' career in the pharmaceutical industry, Zheng has participated, managed, or led the development of diverse modalities and developed 50+ assets in various phases, spanning from pre-clinical through post-marketing. Prior to Alexion/AZ, she had held various roles with increasing responsibilities at major pharmaceutical companies, including BMS/Celgene, Merck, and Eli Lilly. Since joining Alexion/AZ, she has been multiple biologics projects and CMC initiatives, including leading a late-stage team for BLA readiness, developing country specific CMC strategy, leading a LCM team with successful process demonstration on 10X scale-up capability and leading a team developing an early phase non-platform asset with clinical trial design in scope. Previously, she was also one of the key members in ZEPOSIA® filing team and supported both ZEPOSIA® and ONUREG® post launch life cycle management activities. Zheng received her Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Michigan, and both MSE and BSE from Tsinghua University.

David Cragin, PhD
Senior Director
Teva Pharmaceutical

Dr. Dave Cragin, DABT, is Senior Director of Product Science in Environment, Health, Safety and Sustainability at Teva Pharmaceutical. He contributes to the overall leadership of EHS&S functions and also he leads a team that creates safety data sheets and occupational exposure limits to support efforts to protect employee safety and acceptable daily exposures for quality operations. He's also a subject matter expert on beta lactams, titanium dioxide, and iron oxide. Previously he served as a Director in Quality Assurance and multiple other roles for Merck & Co. Outside of Teva, he teaches risk assessment and critical thinking for the Peking University, and Beijing Normal University. Dr. Cragin is a Trustee of the Toxicology Education Foundation, is Past-President of the Mid-Atlantic Society of Toxicology, and a Councilor for the Philadelphia Association for Critical Thinking. He received his Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology from University of California, Davis, his B.S. in Zoology from the University of Rhode Island, and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology. He is President-Elect of SAPA.

Wei Ding, PhD
Head of Bioinformatics and Data Science
AstraZeneca

Dr. Wei Ding's the head of Bioinformatics and Data Science, Alexion AstraZeneca. With more than two decades of experience in the healthcare industry and academia, he has been leading data science and translational medicine efforts for advancing drug development and clinical research.
Before joining AstraZeneca, Dr. Ding held significant positions in various organizations. He served as the VP of Data Science at Dotlab, held roles as the CSO and Head of Research/Bioinformatics at Admera Health, acted as the Clinical Genomics Lead at Mount Sinai, and held the position of Principal Scientist at Schering Plough/Merck. In addition, he also served as an adjunct professor at Kean University. Dr. Ding has published over 40 peer reviewed papers and patents.
Dr. Ding obtained his Ph.D. in Biophysics from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and B.S from the University of Science and Technology of China.

Chenchao Gao, PhD
Associate Director, Global Project Management & Leadership,
Daiichi Sankyo

Dr. Chenchao Gao is a Global Cross-functional Leader at Daiichi Sankyo, collaborating extensively with Alliance Teams from Merck and previously with AstraZeneca. Prior to joining Daiichi Sankyo, Dr. Gaoserved as a Clinical Regulatory Senior Specialist at Seagen, where he played a pivotal role in securingFDA approvals for multiple oncology drugs, including Tukysa and Adcetris. His career also includes significant contributions at Genentech, where he was instrumental in obtaining FDA approvals for four new Investigational New Drug (IND) applications under the TECENTRIQ program. Earlier in his career, Dr. Gao was an ORISE Fellow at the FDA. He holds a Ph.D. in Pharmacology from Rutgers University and is currently pursuing an Executive MBA at Columbia Business School.

Yong Guo, PhD
Professor
Fairleigh Dickinson University

Dr. Guo is currently Professor of Pharmaceutical Science and Chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU). Dr. Guo holds a Ph.D degree in Chemistry from the State University of New York at Buffalo as well as a MBA degree in Pharmaceutical Management from Fairleigh Dickinson University. As a founding faculty member, he has made significant contributions to the establishment and accreditation of the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D) program at FDU. Prior to his academic career, Dr. Guo spent almost 15 years in drug development in the pharmaceutical industry and contributed to the development and regulatory approval of several innovative drugs. Dr. Guo's research interest includes chromatographic theories, in-vitro drug release, drug stability and quality assessment.

Yongmei Li, PhD
CEO
Axela Biosciences

Dr. Yongmei (Maggie) Li is the CEO of Axela Biosciences, a company committed to accelerating the translation of groundbreaking discoveries into life-saving therapies and medical devices. Axela excels in providing advanced bioassay platforms, preclinical and clinical testing services, and a wide range of high-quality laboratory essentials that fuel innovative research and development.

Before founding Axela Biosciences, Dr. Li was the CEO of Emerther Company, which is specialized in nano-scale superparamagnetic bead products for diagnostics. Following Emerther's merger with Axela, she continued to lead the organization in pioneering biotechnological solutions.

Prior to her entrepreneurial journey, Dr. Li had over a decade of experience at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc., where she served as a Senior Principal Scientist. In this role, she led a team of scientists in drug metabolism and pharmacokinetics, significantly contributing to new drug development and playing an important role in global regulatory submissions. Her scientific contributions include over 20 published articles and two book chapters.

Dr. Li holds a Ph.D. in Pharmacognosy (Natural Product Chemistry) from the University of Illinois School of Pharmacy and earned both her Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Pharmacy from West China University of Medical Sciences.

Beyond her corporate leadership, Dr. Li has been actively involved in the Sino-American Pharmaceutical Professionals Association (SAPA), where she served as President for 2022-2023 and has held various other leadership roles. Her extensive experience in the pharmaceutical industry, combined with her commitment to community involvement, reflects her dedication to advancing biotechnology and making a positive impact on society.

Haiying Liu, PhD
Director
CSL Behring

Haiying Liu, PhD, is the Director of Clinical Biomarkers at CSL Behring. He is an experienced and motivated leader in clinical biomarker development, with a proven track record of driving biomarker strategy and establishing clinic-ready biomarker assays. Prior to his current role, he led various biomarker initiatives across multiple disease areas at Johnson & Johnson, Biogen, and Merck, including immunology, obesity, retinal disease, hypertension, diabetes, atherosclerosis, and oncology.

Jiaying Liu, PhD
Associate Principal Scientist
Merck & Co., Inc.

Dr. Jiaying Liu is currently an associate principal scientist in Sterile & Specialty Dosage department in Merck & Co. Inc, leading crossfunctional program teams on drug product development of various biologics modalities and small molecule long-acting injectables for subcutaneous delivery. She got her PhD degree in biomedical engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University, where she studied novel nano/microparticulate systems of polymers or inorganic material for delivery of nucleic acids, protein and adjuvants for gene therapy and cancer vaccines, which resulted in many publications in esteemed peer-reviewed journals and patents. Prior to joining SSP, she started in Merck in Oral Formulation Sciences Department in 2019 and has since led and contributed to the development of many oral drug products, including two that are already FDA approved, Welireg for VHL disease, and Monulpiravir, the oral anti-COVID-19 capsules. Outside of work, she is an active volunteer in many scientific and professional organizations. In SAPA, she is leading the Global Communication department of 50 volunteers. Besides, she is the secretary and the incoming vice chair of AAPS Excipient Community.

Jerry W. Liu, JD, PhD
Partner
Fox Rothschild LLP

Jerry Liu is a Partner and the firmwide Chair of China Practice Group of Fox Rothschild LLP, a 1000-lawyer U.S. law firm. He practices in wide areas of intellectual property and corporate laws, including patent and trademark prosecution, litigation and legal opinions, contract review, formation of business entities, and business transaction, etc. He serves clients from individuals and start-up companies to Fortune 500 companies, including assisting a number of major Chinese pharmaceutical companies in IP protection and conducting business in the U.S., and has handled due diligence for U.S. big pharma or research institute's investment, M&A and licensing deals valued from multi-million to multi-billion dollars.

Prior to law practice, Jerry worked as a Senior Research Investigator in process development at Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. Besides SAPA President in 2019-2020 and Editor-in-Chief of Rutgers Law Record in law school, Jerry is serving as Co-Delegate of the CNIPA Committee of the New York Intellectual Property Law Association (NYIPLA) and General Counsel of the USTC Alumni Association of Greater New York (USTCAAGNY). He was selected to the "IAM Patent 1000" list (2020-2023) and is an honoree of 2022 Outstanding 50 Asian Americans in Business by the Asian American Business Development Center in New York.

Jerry obtained Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry with Professor Sir Derek H. R. Barton (Nobel Prize, 1969) from Texas A&M University, J.D. from Rutgers University School of Law, and B.S./M.S. in Chemistry/Polymer Science from University of Science and Technology of China (USTC). A frequent speaker on IP laws and FDA regulations, Jerry has over 20 scientific and legal publications and four U.S. patents.

Junchi Lu, PhD
Senior Manager
Bristol Myers Squibb

Junchi Lu is a seasoned life sciences professional with nearly a decade of expertise in medical devices, diagnostics, and therapeutics. She currently serves as Senior Manager of Strategy & Business Excellence Analytics at Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS), where she helps build core data science and analytical capabilities for the BMS Global Supply Chain. Junchi collaborates with stakeholders to address key business questions and supports long-range planning to meet patient needs.

Before BMS, Junchi worked as a Senior Consultant at Guidehouse Life Sciences, focusing on digital health, brand, market, and development strategy projects. She is passionate about leveraging life sciences technologies, digital health innovations, and advanced analytics to create solutions that improve patient care. Her work has centered on FemTech, digital health, CAR-T therapy, and various therapeutic products.

Junchi holds a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame, where her research focused on medical devices using nanophotonics.

Pan Pan, PhD, MBA
Senior Director, Head of Business Development
OncoC4

Dr. Pan Pan has a rich and diverse experience spanning over a decade in Business Development. During this period, he actively contributed to the remarkable growth of strategic partnerships within the biopharmaceutical industry, while witnessing development setbacks due to misalignment among alliance partners. Dr. Pan has dedicated his efforts to accelerating drug development in oncology and immunology through strategic planning and partnering. His primary objective is to forge collaborations that maximize program value using innovative models.

His track record in establishing successful partnerships includes Kelun's groundbreaking ADC license to Merck, resulting in $1.4 billion in total payments. He orchestrated the Akeso-Summit partnership for Ivonescimab (PD-1/VEGF bsAb), securing a landmark upfront of $500M and total payments of $5B. Dr. Pan's prior scientific experience as a protein engineer at Arkema Inc complements his business acumen. Dr. Pan firmly believes that a solid foundation for a successful partnership lies in sound scientific and business assessments. His ability to deftly navigate both scientific and business domains is owed to his educational background. He holds a PhD in Chemistry from Stony Brook University, an MBA from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and an MS & BS from the School of Pharmacy at Peking University.

outsourcing dynamics, oncology and rare disease drug development, leveraging real world evidence, and building innovative research paradigms to engage with challenging patient populations. He received a Master's Degree in Public Health in Biostatistics from the University of Utah School of Medicine and completed a Graduate Research Fellowship at The National Institutes of Health/NINDS.

Yongle Pang, PhD
Principal Scientist
GSK

Dr. Pang is currently a Principal Scientist in the DMPK department at GSK (PA, USA). His job duty includes the design and delivery of fit-for-purpose bioanalytical data to support discovery projects. Prior to joining GSK, he was a staff scientist in the regulated bioanalysis department at Covance (WI, USA), where he was responsible for bioanalytical method development and method validation of a variety of drug candidates. Dr. Pang is a graduate of Michigan State University (Ph.D. in Chemistry, MI, USA), where he developed enzyme-containing membranes for rapid monoclonal antibody digestion prior to mass spectrometry analysis. He has extensive experience in LC/MS-based small molecule and large molecule bioanalysis in the GLP and non-GLP environment. He has a great passion for bioanalysis and contributes to various peer-reviewed publications. He is also an active reviewer for journals in the bioanalysis and analytical chemistry area.

Michelle Ponpipom, RPh, MPH
Executive Director, Regulatory Affairs Oncology, Merck & Co., Inc.

Michelle Ponpipom is an Executive Director in Global Regulatory Affairs, Oncology at Merck & Co., Inc. and leads a team of global regulatory strategy professionals across the late-stage bladder cancer program. She has diverse experience in developing global regulatory strategy for oncology products spanning from early development to registration, including immuno-oncology, antibody drug conjugates, and combination therapies. At Merck, she secured global marketing authorizations and leveraged FDA expedited programs including accelerated approval, RTOR and Project ORBIS. In addition to oncology drug-development, she has developed and implemented a strategy & business operations organization to drive end-to-end strategic planning and execution at Merck. Michelle graduated from Rutgers University College of Pharmacy and holds an MPH in epidemiology from University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

Siqing (Sherry) Song, PhD
Principal Scientist
Merck & Co., Inc.

Sherry Song is a Principal Scientist at Merck's regulatory CMC department and is responsible for developing regulatory CMC strategies for projects from First-in-Human (FIH) studies to post-approval commitments.
Sherry holds a B.S. in Chemistry from University of Science and Technology of China (USTC) and Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. With over 20 years of experience at Merck, Sherry has contributed to the commercialization and second-source qualification of various products. She is passionate about fostering diversity and inclusion and actively participates in Merck Asia Pacific Association (APA) NJ chapter. In addition to her role at Merck, she serves as the 2024 past-Chair of the Analytical Leadership Group (ALG) within the International Consortium for Innovation and Quality (IQ).

Yu Tian, PhD
Senior Scientist
Merck & Co., Inc.

Yu Tian received his B.S. and M.S degrees in Polymer Physics from Donghua University in 2011 and 2014. He obtained his Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from University of Delaware in 2018, where he conducted the research about solution self-assembly biophysics of peptides under the supervision of Professor Darrin Pochan and Professor Kristi Kiick. From 2018 to 2022, he worked as postdoctoral scholar with Matt Tirrell and James LaBelle at the University of Chicago, with research focus of the design and synthesis of stapled peptides to explore apoptosis pathways in oncology. Yu Tian is currently a senior scientist at Merck as biophysics expert in biologics formulation development.

Arda Ural, PhD, MBA, MS
Americas Life Sciences Sector Leader
EY

Arda Ural is the EY Americas Life Sciences Sector Leader. Prior to joining EY, he was a Managing Director at a strategy consulting firm for six years, where he led the Life Sciences M&A Practice. Earlier, he worked as a VP of Strategic Marketing and a BU Lead at an American medical technology company. He also served as the SVP Marketing & Sales for a startup biotechnology company which went public.
Arda started his career with a pharmaceutical company in Istanbul and subsequently relocated to New York, where he held leadership roles in product commercialization and new product development.
He earned a PhD in General Management and Finance and an MBA from Marmara University and his MSc and BSc in Mechanical Engineering from Boğaziçi University. Arda serves on several Advisory Boards at BIO, BioNJ and NJIT Biomedical Engineering.

Yuhan Wei, MS
Scientist II
Ingenus Pharmaceuticals

Yuhan Wei currently is Scientist II in the Analytical R&D group of topical and transdermal products at Ingenus Pharmaceuticals. He has five years of experience in chromatography and extensive analytical skills of method development and validation.

Jack Wu, PhD, MBA
Senior Director, Search & Evaluation
Takeda Oncology

Dr. Wu is the Senior Director of Search & Evaluation at Takeda Oncology, where he is responsible for driving the global oncology product pipeline strategy through search and evaluation, due diligence, and the execution of business development opportunities.
Previously, he was the Head of Global Business Development, Search & Evaluation at Antengene, where he led in- and out-licensing initiatives, resulting in over 15 strategic partnerships with biopharma companies, including Merck, Bristol Myers Squibb, BeiGene, Haisoh Pharma, Calithera, LegoChem, and Celularity.
Before that, he was the U.S. Head of Business Development at Adlai Nortye USA Inc., responsible for identifying and executing preclinical and clinical-stage business development opportunities. He also managed partnerships with Novartis, Merck, and Eisai.
Dr. Wu's experience also includes managing commercial partnerships at ATCC and leading the global commercial team at GenScript's Discovery Biology Business Unit.
He holds an MBA from Columbia University and a PhD from North Carolina State University.

Li Yan, PhD, MD
Managing Director
US Chinese Anti-Cancer Association

Li Yan, MD/PhD, Managing Director, US Chinese Anti-Cancer Association and Adjunct Professor of Yonsei University. Dr. Yan is a seasoned drug developer. His corporate executive experience spans from global pharmaceutical to start-up biotech companies. As Chief Medical Officer at Brii Biosciences, he and his team successfully developed the first COVID therapeutics approved in China. Prior to Brii, he was Vice President and Global Oncology Head Unit Physician of GSK, and he held executive positions at Merck and Johnson and Johnson. He led and contributed to the development and approval of many medicines including Keytruda™ for China. His passion is to bring innovative medicines to transform patients' lives, especially those in underprivileged communities. He firmly believes in the power of global collaboration. Li is a graduate of Peking University Medical College where he served as an adjunct professor, and University of Kansas Medical School. He received his post graduate training at Harvard Medical School and is an alumnus of Harvard Business School Enterprise Leadership program.

Dexi Yang, PhD
Director
QuantX Biosciences

Dr. Dexi Yang got his BS and MS in Nanjing University. He received his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from The Ohio State University in 2008, where he worked on the total synthesis of chaparrinone and polyandranes in Prof. David J. Hart's group. In 2009, he joined Prof. Glenn C. Micalizio's group at The Scripps Research Institute in Florida as postdoctoral researcher and completed the total synthesis of alkaloid (-)-205B. After working at Dartmouth College for 1 year, he joined Merck in 2014 as a medicinal chemist in Kenilworth, NJ. He has designed and synthesized many drug candidates, mainly in the areas of infectious disease, cardiovascular and CNS, and three compounds (MK-3866, MK-3402 and MK-6552) are in clinical stages. He resigned from Merck and joined QuantX Biosciences in 2023, where he has been leading several projects covering broad areas such as oncology and autoimmune. He has co-authored >20 publications, >10 patents and recently two books: Current Drug Synthesis, Chemistry and Pharmacology of Drug Discovery. In addition to science, Dr. Yang has an expertise in portrait and theater photography, and took the roles of leading photographer in many events in SAPA, NJPAC, ACS, Merck, and Carnegie Hall.

Aming Zhang, PhD
Head of Analytical development & QC
Pyxis Oncology

Aming Zhang is currently the Head of Analytical Development & QC at Pyxis Oncology, where he is responsible for all the CMC analytical related development and deliverables supporting company's ADC and I/O biologics pipeline. Prior that, Aming worked for several leading biopharmaceutical and biotech companies including GSK, Regeneron and Amgen, and has accumulated over a decade of experience in various stages of Biologics CMC development. He received his PhD in Chemical Engineering from University of Virginia in 2011, and his BS in Chemical and Biochemical engineering from Zhejiang University, China.

2024 SAPA Scholarship and Excellence in Education for Life Sciences

The SAPA Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program was established in 1999. The Scholarship is dedicated to recognize and support excellence on the part of outstanding high school students, and to encourage the finest high school graduates in the US to develop careers in Life Sciences. This year's scholarship is sponsored by Bristol Myers Squibb. Each scholarship awards a one-time fund of $1,000 towards tuition payment.

John Hu

John Hu is a first-year pharmacy student at Rutgers's Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy. In addition to biology and pharmacy, John has a strong passion and background in computer science. He is interested in AI in drug development and has plans on joining the pharmaceutical industry after graduation. At Rutgers, he plans on joining the PharmD Honors research program, where he'll pursue cancer research in drug delivery, pharmacokinetics, and nanotechnology. In high school, he was very involved in technology clubs. John was the Co-Founder and Vice-President of Computer Building Club, where he collaborated with Township Board of Education to obtain 20 computers for students to use. He took management and leadership roles to create a learning curriculum for students and taught them computer hardware and software. John was also the President of Robotics club. He placed 2nd at NJ States VEX Robotics Virtual Skills programming competition, which made school history. As a result, he was featured in township news and social media. He also organized the club's first fundraiser, fundraising $366. Outside of school, John is very active and loves to get involved. He enjoys hanging out with friends, mountain biking on the trails, and playing volleyball and soccer at the gym.

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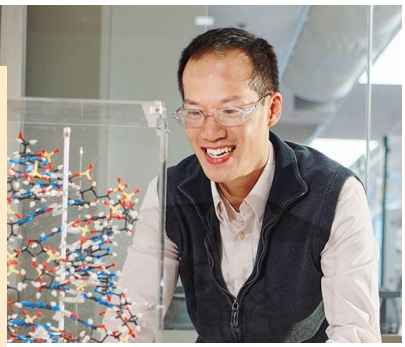

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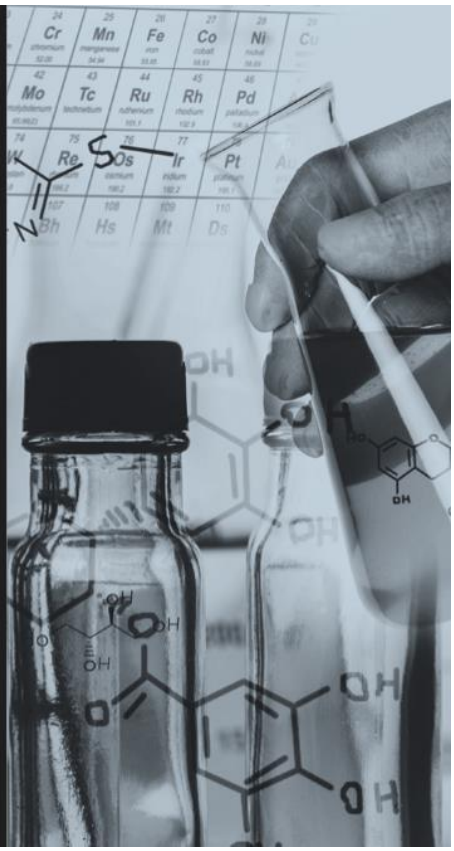

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