Sino-American Pharmaceutical Professionals Association

2025 SAPA Annual Conference

Evolving Healthcare Landscape, Emerging BioPharma Opportunities

Saturday
September 27, 2025

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

Full Conference Brochure

Become a SAPA Volunteer

2025 SAPA AC WeChat Group

Greeting Message from the SAPA President

Dear SAPA Members, Colleagues, and Friends,

It is my great honor and privilege to welcome you to the 2025 SAPA Annual Conference! This year's theme, *"Evolving Healthcare Landscape, Emerging BioPharma Opportunities,"* reflects both the challenges and the immense possibilities before us.

Healthcare and biopharma are undergoing profound transformation. On one side, unsettled drug pricing policies - including proposals on tariffs and international reference pricing - are introducing significant uncertainty into how innovation will be valued and reimbursed. On the other side, the rapid rise of artificial intelligence alongside scientific breakthroughs is revolutionizing every stage of drug discovery, development, and patient care. Together, these forces are reshaping our industry's future, bringing both unprecedented challenges and extraordinary opportunities.

SAPA stands uniquely at the crossroads of science, policy, and innovation. Over the past year, we have advanced our mission through impactful programs - investment forums, scientific symposia, career development workshops, and cultural celebrations - that connect professionals, spark collaboration, and empower the next generation of leaders.

The true strength of SAPA lies in you - our members, volunteers, sponsors, and partners. Your commitment sustains our community and ensures SAPA remains a trusted platform where ideas flourish, partnerships thrive, and leadership is cultivated.

As we gather at this year's conference, I encourage you to engage deeply: learn from thought leaders, explore the implications of policy and AI, and envision bold new ways to turn challenges into opportunities. Together, we will navigate the evolving healthcare landscape and unlock new frontiers in biopharma for patients worldwide.

Thank you for your trust, energy, and support. Here's to an inspiring conference and a year of bold progress ahead.

With warmest regards,

Wei Ding, PhD

SAPA Acting President and President-Elect
2025 SAPA Annual Conference Chair
Senior Director, Bioinformatics and Data Sciences, AstraZeneca Rare Diseases

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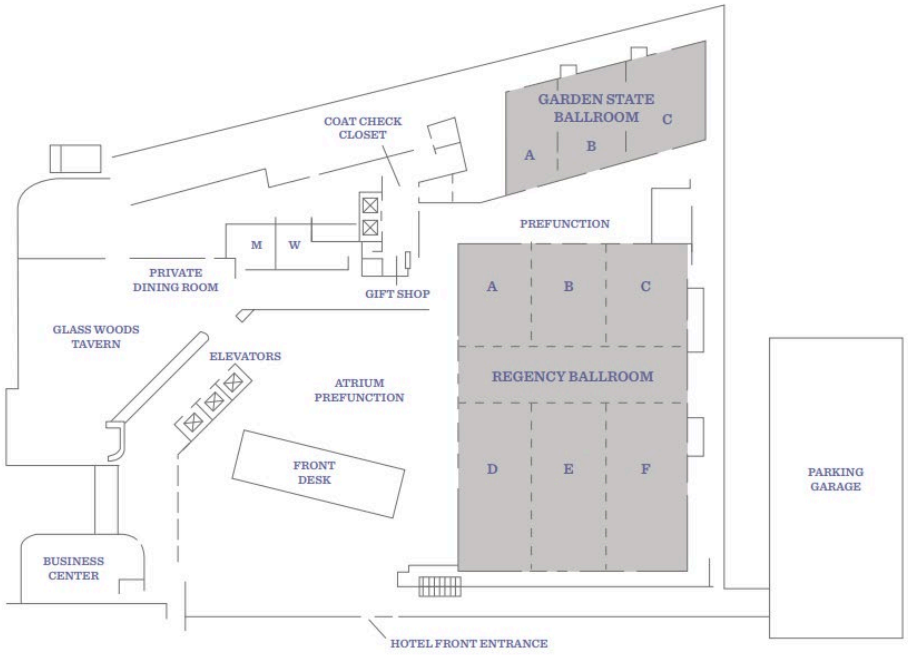
Conference Program at-a-Glance

Saturday, September 27, 2024

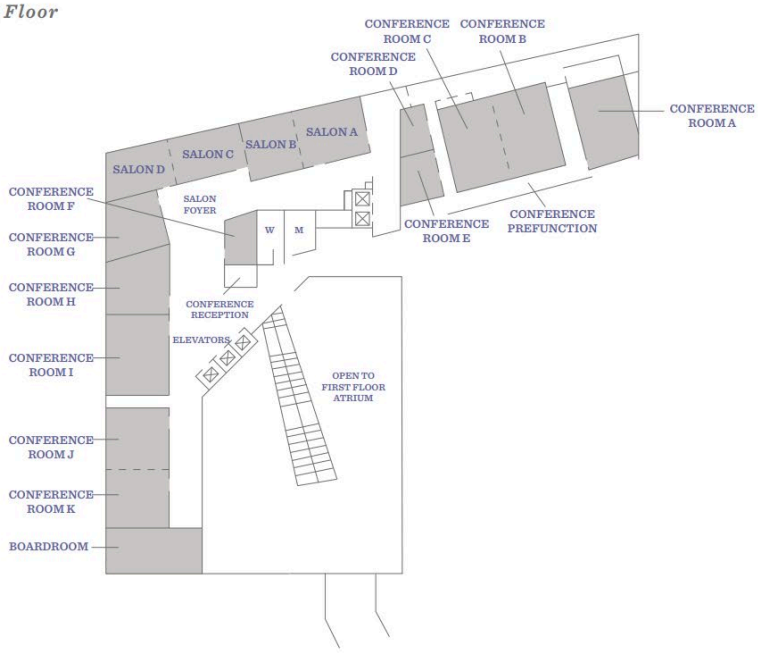
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	**Plenary Session 1**	Regency Ballroom DEF
12:00 – 1:00 PM	**Lunch Break**	
12:10 – 12:50 PM	**Lunch and Learn Session:** From Lab to Patient: The Practical Guide to Operationalizing AI in Life Science	Garden State Ballroom ABC
1:00 – 5:00 PM	**Parallel Session A**: Drug Discovery – Novel Therapies on the Horizon	Regency Ballroom DEF
1:00 – 5:00 PM	**Parallel Session B**: Navigating New Frontiers of CMC In an Evolving Landscape	Regency Ballroom B
1:00 – 5:00 PM	**Parallel Session C (AI Talk)**: Collaborative Intelligence Driving Next-Gen Therapeutics	Garden State Ballroom ABC
1:00 – 5:00 PM	**Parallel Session D: (AI Workshop):** Boost your AIQ—Work Smarter with GenAI	Regency Ballroom C
1:00 – 5:00 PM	**Parallel Session E**: Building Resilience Blueprint: Legal, Investment, and BD Strategies	Conference Room BC (Second Floor)
1:00 – 5:00 PM	**Parallel Session F**: Clinical Development/ Regulatory - Clinical Development, Regulatory Strategy, and Data-Driven Decision Making in the AI Er	Regency Ballroom A
1:00 – 5:00 PM	**Parallel Session G**: Career Development - Voices from Industry: Diverse Paths to Success in Pharma & Biotech	Salon AB (Second Floor)
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM	**Sponsorship Exhibition**	Atrium Prefunction
12:00 – 5:00 PM	**1:1 Partnership Session**	Conference Room I (Second Floor)
5:00 – 6:30 PM	**Reception and Networking**	Brunswick Ballroom (Lower Level)
6:30 – 9:00 PM	**SAPA Annual Gala**	Regency Ballroom DEF

Hyatt Regency Hotel Meeting Space Floor Plan

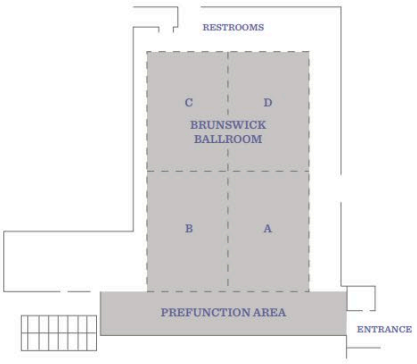
First Floor



Second Floor



Lower Level



About SAPA

美中醫藥開發協會

Sino-AmericanPharmaceutical 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 Office

Acting President and President-Elect	Co-Acting President	Co-Acting President	Immediate-Past President
Wei Ding, PhD	Yongmei Li, PhD	Xiaodong Chen, PhD	Jack Wu, PhD MBA

Vice Presidents and Chapter Presidents

Yuemei Zhang, PhD; Lily Li, PhD; Feng Liu, PhD; Jingdong (Tom) Qin, PhD; Lu Wang, PhD

Executive Council (EC) Members (2024 – 2025)

Tina Zhao, PharmD *
Ellen Chen *
Jiaying Liu, PhD *
Xiaowei Sun, PhD *
Yongle Pang, PhD *
Brian Jiang, MS *
Yong Guo, PhD *
Yu Zhou *
*Department Directors

Xi Cheng, MS, MPH
Jerry Li, PhD
Yangzhou Li, PharmD
Haiying (David) Liu, PhD
Linghua Harris Zhang, PhD MBA
Yannuo Li, PhD
Chengzhe Gao, PhD

Zhiying Li, PhD
Junchi Lu, PhD
Pan Pan, PhD MBA
Yu Tian, PhD
Chuxuan Jessica Wang, MS
Dexi Yang, PhD
Lixia Yao, PhD

Board of Directors (2024 – 2026)

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Xiaodong Chen, PhD
Vince Deng, PhD
Xin Du, PhD
Xiaodong (Frank) Gan, PharmD
Jun-Yan Hong, PhD
Jiangbin (John) Hu, PhD
Charles Li, MS, MBA
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
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Shifeng (Bill) Wei, PhD

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Zhenhua Wu, PhD
Mingde Xia, PhD
Yan Yan, MD, PhD
Jing Yang, PhD
Xiaoyong Yang, PhD
Hancheng Zhang, PhD

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

Former SAPA Presidents

Xiucai Liu, PhD	1993-94	Jisong Cui, PhD	2009-10
Guohua Zhang, PhD	1994-95	Jianji Wang, PhD	2010-11
Jun-Yan Hong, PhD	1995-96	Baoguo Huang, PhD MBA	2011-12
Bill S. Wei, PhD	1996-97	Handan He, PhD	2012-13
Puchun Liu, PhD	1997-98	Jiwen Chen, PhD	2013-14
Junning Lee, PhD	1998-99	Ning Yan, PhD	2014-15
Lihu Yang, PhD	1999-00	Weiguo Dai, PhD	2015-16
Rick Z-X Xu, PhD	2000-01	Lei Tang, PhD	2016-17
Li Chen, PhD	2001-02	Jian Liu, PhD	2017-18
Jianzhong Guo, PhD	2002-03	Xiaole Shen, PhD	2018-19
Min Li, PhD	2003-04	Wansheng Jerry Liu, PhD JD	2019-20
John J. Hu, PhD	2004-05	John Sun, PhD MBA	2020-21
Yusheng Wu, PhD	2005-06	Xiaodong Chen, PhD	2021-22
Charles Ying Wang, PhD	2006-07	Yongmei Li, PhD	2022-23
Hancheng Zhang, PhD	2007-08	Jack Wu, PhD MBA	2023-24
Mingde Xia, PhD	2008-09		

2025 SAPA Annual Conference
Organizing Committee

Conference Chair: Wei Ding, PhD

Conference Co-Chair: Jack Wu, PhD MBA, Xiaodong Chen, PhD, and Yongmei Li, PhD

Junchi Lu, PhD	Wansheng Jerry Liu, PhD JD	Zhiwei Yin, PhD
Brian Jiang, MS	Jerry Li, PhD	Xi Cheng, MS, MPH
Xiaowei Sun, PhD	Ran He, PhD JD	Han Zhang, PhD
Zhou Yu, PhD	Lily Li, PhD	Yu Tian, PhD
Yongle Pang, PhD	Stephen Xue, MS	Linghua Harris Zhang, PhD MBA
Yong Guo, PhD	Jason Zhong, MS, MBA, PMP	
Sherry Song, PhD	Jianjian Guo, PhD	
Dexi Yang, PhD	Haiying Liu, PhD	

SAPA Events: 2024-2025 Year in Review

Date	Chapter	Event	Location
		Conference	
March 8-9, 2024	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP 2024 Annual Conference: Innovating Biopharma Frontier - A Path to Growth and Impact	King of Prussia, PA
June 8, 2024	SAPA-NE	26th SAPA-NE Annual Conference: Pioneer New Era of Pharmaceutical Industry with Innovation of Emerging Modality	Cambridge, MA
June 14-15, 2024	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP @Philly Cell and Gene Therapy Annual Conference	King of Prussia, PA
September 27-28, 2024	SAPA	2024 SAPA Annual Conference: Redefining Medicine: Navigating Resilience, Transforming Lives	New Brunswick, NJ
October 12, 2024	SAPA-DC	2024 SAPA-DC Annual Conference	Washington, DC
December 7, 2024	SAPA-CT	SAPA-CT 2024 Annual Conference	New Haven, CT
March 13-14, 2025	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP 2025 Annual Conference	King of Prussia, PA
June 14, 2025	SAPA-NE	SAPA-NE 2025 Annual Conference	Boston, MA
June 29-30, 2025	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP @Philly Cell and Gene Therapy Annual Conference	King of Prussia, PA
September 27, 2025	SAPA	SAPA 2025 Annual Conference: Evolving Healthcare Landscape, Emerging BioPharma Opportunities	New Brunswick, NJ
October 25, 2025	SAPA-DC	SAPA-DC 2025 Annual Conference: Reflection & Refraction into Future of Medicine	College Park, MD
December 6, 2025	SAPA-CT	SAPA-CT 2025 Annual Conference: New Frontiers, New Drugs, New Opportunities	New Haven, CT
		Scientific Symposium and Talks	
January 11-12, 2024	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP Webinar - BioVerse: Where Science Sparks Business [Episode 005]	Online
February 14, 2024	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP Webinar - BioVerse: Where Science Sparks Business [Episode 006] Physician Scientists' Checklist to Conduct Successful Clinical Development for the Global	Online

Date	Chapter	Event	Location
		Market	
March 13, 2024	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP Webinar - BioVerse: Where Science Sparks Business [Episode 007]: Leverage Commercial Lens to Enable Effective Drug Development and Success	Online
April 11, 2024	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP Webinar - BioVerse: Where Science Sparks Business [Episode 008] Recap of AACR2024	Online
April 20, 2024	SAPA	2024 SAPA Scientific Symposium	Piscataway, NJ
May 8, 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
May 11, 2024	SAPA-DC	SAPA-DC Scientific Symposium: Gene and Cell Therapy in the Modern Era	Baltimore, MD
June 6, 2024	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP Webinar - BioVerse: Where Science Sparks Business [Episode 010]: Recap of ASCO2024 & BIO2024 tidbits	Online
August 14, 2024	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP Webinar - BioVerse: Where Science Sparks Business [Episode 012]: Artificial Intelligence in Drug Development	Online
January 17, 2025	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP BioVerse Webinar Episode 17: Recap of JPM 2025	Online
February 12, 2025	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP BioVerse Episode 18: China-to-West Deals Impact Immuno-Oncology	Online
March 13, 2025	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP BioVerse Episode 19：Current Trends in Obesity Drug Development	Online
March 29, 2025	SAPA-NE	SAPA-NE 2025 Antibody Workshop	Boston, MA
April 9, 2025	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP BioVerse Episode 20：Asia-to-Europe Biotech Licensing Boom	Online
April 27, 2025	SAPA-MW	SAPA-MW 2025 Super IO + ADC Symposium	Chicago, IL
June 1, 2025	SAPA-MW	SAPA-MW AACR Chicago 2025 China Summit	Chicago, IL
June 15, 2025	SAPA-DC	SAPA-DC 2025 Scientific Symposium	Washington DC
June 20, 2025	SAPA-CT	SAPA-CT & Yale AI in Biomedicine Inaugural Symposium	New Haven, CT
October 4, 2025	SAPA-NE	SAPA-NE Scientific Symposium	Boston, MA
Investment and Business Development			
January 7, 2024	SAPA	2024 SAPA JPM Investment Forum @JPM Week	San Francisco, CA
June 22, 2024	SAPA	7th Healthcare Investment Forum & Roadshow	New Brunswick, NJ
July 27, 2024	SAPA-CT & SAPA-DC	MedLaw Forum 2024 [Episode 1] BioSecure and Its Impact to Biopharmas, Contract Services and Investors	Online

Date	Chapter	Event	Location
January 12, 2025	SAPA	SAPA 2025 Investment Forum @ JPM Week	San Francisco, CA
April 24, 2025	SAPA-NE	SAPA-NE 2025 Biotech Startup Roadshow	Cambridge, MA
June 13, 2025	SAPA	SAPA 8th Healthcare Investment Forum and Roadshow	Manhattan, NY

AI and Data Science

February 27, 2024	SAPA	SAPA Data Science Community - How do Large Language Models perform in assisting patients, customers, and health researchers in the real world?	Online
March 3, 2024	SAPA-NE	SAPA-NE 2024 Bimonthly Seminar: Artificial General Intelligence Is the Boost for The Drug Development	Online
July 9, 2024	SAPA	SAPA Data Science Community - Developing Responsible Digital Biomarkers	Online
October 15, 2024	SAPA	SAPA Data Science Community – Enhancing AI with RAG: A Deep Dive into Retrieval-Augmented Generation	Online
December 3, 2024	SAPA	SAPA Data Science Community – A Graph Foundation Model for Zero-Shot Drug Repurposing	Online
March 10, 2025	SAPA	SAPA Data Science Community – Thinking Beyond – Leveraging AI for Career Growth & Innovation	Online
May 21, 2025	SAPA	SAPA Data Science Community – Generative Digital Twins in Healthcare: Synthesizing, Simulating, and Debiasing Multi-Modal Patient Data	Online
July 15, 2025	SAPA	SAPA Data Science Community – Large Language Models for Biomedical Applications	Online
September 13, 2025	SAPA-NE	SAPA-NE AI in Drug Discovery Workshop (Focused Group)	Boston, MA
October 14, 2025	SAPA	SAPA Data Science Community - AI in Drug & Device Development: Navigating FDA's New Regulatory Landscape	Online
November 4, 2025	SAPA-NE	SAPA-NE AI in Drug Discovery Workshop (Expanded Group)	Boston, MA
April 9-10, 2024	SAPA	SAPA Data Science Community - Master Data Pipelines: Dagster & Airflow	Online

Career Development

January 8, 2024	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 42: Unlocking Success: Navigating Your Career Journey	Online
January 14, 2024	SAPA-CT	SAPA-CT & BioCosmo Career Development Camp: How to craft perfect LinkedIn profile in 2024	Online
January 16, 2024	SAPA-CT	SAPA-CT Career Development Camp: Safe and Effective Communication	Online
February 8, 2024	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 43: Hybrid Professionals	Online
February 25, 2024	SAPA	HMSCSSA: Preparing Yourself for A Successful Career in the Life Sciences Industry	Boston, MA
March 2, 2024	SAPA	CDW: Soft Skills Mastery in Turbulent Times-Building a Foundation for Sustainable Career Success	Piscataway, NJ

Date	Chapter	Event	Location
March 7, 2024	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 44: Negotiate a better job offer	Online
April 8, 2024	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 45: Who gets Promoted, Who Doesn't & Why	Online
May 8, 2024	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 46: Turning Adversity into Advantages: Unlocking Potentials from Uncertainties	Online
June 9, 2024	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 47: From Words to Action: Strategies for Impactful Communication	Online
July 8, 2024	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 48: The Body Language Advantage: Leverage Your Nonverbal Cues for Business Prowess	Online
August 8, 2024	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 49: Elevate Your Career in Life Sciences with AI	Online
August 18, 2024	SAPA-CT	SAPA-CT 2024 Career Development Bootcamp	New Haven, CT
September 8, 2024	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 50: The Power of Asking the Right Questions	Online
November 7, 2024	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 51: Exploring Career Opportunities in Pharma Business Development	Online
December 8, 2024	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 52: Find People to Support You: Mentors & More	Online
January 8, 2025	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Special: Exciting Networking Event	Online
February 7, 2025	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 53: Life Sciences Consulting Unveiled: Preparing, Thriving, and Beyond	Online
February 22, 2025	SAPA-NE	SAPA-NE & Moderna 2025 Career Development Workshop	Cambridge, MA
March 8, 2025	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 54: Mastering the Art of Managing Your Boss	Online
April 8, 2025	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 55: Negotiation as an Attitude – Lifelong Practice	Online
April 12, 2025	SAPA	SAPA 2025 Science and Careers Symposium	New Brunswick, NJ
May 3, 2025	SAPA-DC	SAPA-DC 2025 Career Workshop	Gaithersburg, MD
May 8, 2025	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 56: Driving Growth & Trust in B2B Marketing	Online
May 10, 2025	SAPA-CT	SAPA-CT 2025 Biopharma Career Bootcamp	New Haven, CT
June 9, 2025	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 57: Personal Branding 2.0	Online
July 8, 2025	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 58: Relationship Alpha: How to Build Trust, Be Remembered, and Create Opportunity	Online
August 8, 2025	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 59: Career of Business Development in Pharma/Biotech Industry	Online
September 8, 2025	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 60: Networking that Works: Building Authentic Relationships with Confidence for Career Success	Online

Date	Chapter	Event	Location
October 8, 2025	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 61: Bench to Business – Unlocking Opportunities for Scientists in Industry	Online
November 8, 2025	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 62: Strategize Your Career Development as a CEO	Online
December 8, 2025	SAPA	SAPA Career Talk 8@8 Episode 63: Maximize Your Potential – Build Your Communication Toolkit	Online

Community Building

February 12, 2024	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP 2024 Lunar Chinese New Year celebration	Bryn Mawr, PA
February 16, 2024	SAPA	SAPA 2024 Chinese New Year Celebration	Green Brook Township, NJ
April 3-4, 2024	SAPA-GP	DVSF2024 SAPA-GP Song Li Special Award	King of Prussia, PA
June 1, 2024	SAPA-MW	ASCO China Summit @Chicago 2024 (Co-organized with eChinaHealth)	Chicago, IL
June 16, 2024	SAPA-CT	SAPA-CT & CAPA-CT & BioCosmo Annual Summer Barbecue Festival	Shelton, CT
July 13, 2024	SAPA-CT	SAPA-CT Business Development Summer Summit and fishing	Narragansett and Warwick, RI
August 11, 2024	SAPA-NE	The 2024 SAPA-NE Summer Picnic	Brookline, MA
August 25, 2024	SAPA	2024 SAPA Summer Picnic	Piscataway, NJ
August 25, 2024	SAPA-DC	2nd Washington DC Professional Organization Picnic	Gaithersburg, MD
September 8, 2024	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP 2024 Annual Picnic	Collegeville, PA
March 13-14, 2025	SAPA-GP	Song Li Scholarship – 1st High School Students Business Pitch Competition	King of Prussia, PA
July 20, 2025	SAPA-CT	SAPA-CT Team-Building Event: Sea Fishing at Adventure	Narragansett and Warwick, RI
July 26 – August 15, 2025	SAPA-CT	SAPA-CT Inaugural “IBM Skillset Technology Camp for Teens: Gen AI, Data Analytics, Problem Solving & Data Story Telling” with iHub	New Haven, CT; New York, NY; Online
August 8, 2025	SAPA-NE	SAPA-NE 2025 Summer Picnic	Brookline, MA
August 17, 2025	SAPA	SAPA 2025 Summer Picnic	Piscataway, NJ
September 7, 2025	SAPA-GP	SAPA-GP 2025 Picnic/BBQ	Phoenixville, PA

Conference Program

Saturday, September 27, 2024

Plenary Session:

Evolving Healthcare Landscape, Emerging BioPharma Opportunities

9:00 – 12:00 PM

Regency Ballroom DEF

Session Chairs： Wei Ding, PhD, Jack Wu, PhD, Yongmei Li, PhD, and Xlaodong Chen, PhD

9:00 – 9:10 AM

Opening Remarks

Wei Ding, PhD
SAPA Acting President, President-Elect
Senior Director, Head of Bioinformatics and Data Sciences, AstraZeneca

9:10 – 9:35 AM

Ten Years of Healthcare Transformation: Innovation Leading the Way Ahead

Jasmine Cui, PhD, Founder & CEO, InnoCare Pharma

Over the past decade, China's biopharma sector has transformed—propelled by bold regulatory reforms, expanding talent pools, vibrant capital markets, and unmet patient needs. This momentum is now carrying Chinese innovation onto the global stage. Within this rising tide, InnoCare Pharma has moved in lockstep: ten years of science-driven discovery, an integrated R&D-commercial platform, a broad clinical pipeline, and dual-listing success. Looking ahead, InnoCare will accelerate its global reach, bringing life-changing medicines to patients worldwide.

9:35 – 10:00 AM

Generative and Agentic AI in the Pharma Industry: Keys to Success, Pitfalls to Avoid, Navigating through Hype to Surface Real Value

Ron Kim, MBA, SVP, Former CTO, Merck

This presentation will cover key aspects from real-life examples in the Pharma industry around the role and use of emerging forms of AI. Key sections:

1) *History of AI – light hearted look at how the term has morphed over the years to have ever-changing meanings*
2) *What do "Generative AI" and "Agentic" really mean?*

3) *Specific use cases and examples across our industry, and key points in making them successful in benefitting the entire value chain*
    a) *From our own experience, as well as outside 3rd party experts*
    b) *Securing business sponsorship at all levels*
    c) *Really pulling through value – there is more value in transforming than on "cutting heads"*
4) *Pitfalls to avoid given the ever-changing nature of the technology Grandiose vendor or consultant claims- they've only been doing it as long as we have technology without process*
5) *Keys points to consider while we're in the "Hype Cycle"*
    a) *Definitions are continually changing*
    b) *Have your own point of view and calibrate to that*

10:00 – 10:30 AM

Executive Fireside Chat

Nauman Shah, MBA, Global Head, Business Development, Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine
Moderator: **Yongmei Li,** PhD, SAPA Co-Acting President, CEO, Axela Biosciences, Inc

10:30 – 10:45 AM

Coffee Break and Group Photo

10:45 – 11:10 AM

Transforming patients' lives through science: Inventive vignettes from the pharmaceutical industry

Michael Ellis, PhD, SVP, Head of Discovery & Development Sciences, Bristol Myers Squibb
The pace of change across the pharmaceutical and technology ecosystem is rapidly increasing and affords an opportunity for improving effectiveness in our mission to invent new medicines with quality and urgency. Guided by our BMS R&D principles of causal human biology, matching modality to mechanism, path to clinical proof-of-concept, accelerated full development, and maximizing market access, we are leveraging innovative tools and strategies to bring more medicines to more patients faster. These concepts will be illustrated with recent program updates building upon our differentiated position in targeted protein degradation to expand the reach of this platform's pharmacology into new areas of unmet need.

11:10 – 11:50 AM

IQ Fireside Chat - Industry collaboration to develop innovative medicines

Moderator: **Mehran Yazdanian,** PhD, VP R&D Operations
Panelists:
Llorente Bonaga, PhD, Sr. Director Regulatory Affairs CMC, Merck
Maureen Cruz, PhD MPH; Principal, Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
Ken Fraunhoffer, PhD; Scientific Director, Bristol Myers Squibb
Anne Payne, PhD, Sr. Director, Analytical Development, GlaxoSmithKline
Ling He, PhD, Sr. Director, Clinical Bioanalysis, Daiichi Sankyo, Inc
Representatives from the IQ Board of Directors and IQ leadership groups will have a candid conversation about the evolving healthcare landscape in the pharma industry and how IQ enables collaboration to augment the capability of

the whole industry. Topics will include emerging changes, regulatory trends, agency engagement, and success stories.

11:50 – 12:00 PM

SAPA Election Announcement and Closing Remarks

Lunch and Learn

From Lab to Patient: The Practical Guide to Operationalizing AI in Life Science

12:10 – 12:50 PM

Garden State Ballroom

Speaker: **Jian Chen**, President, Edetek Inc

Demystify AI and turn it from pilots into daily practice across discovery, clinical, CMC, and safety. We will show what actually works in regulated settings: plain-language fundamentals, governed data pipelines, retrieval-grounded assistants with citations, deterministic templates, traceable metadata, and risk-based validation that meets GxP expectations. Leave with a practical playbook and sample architectures, plus concrete steps for maintaining validation status over time.

This session is sponsored by: EDETEK LIFE SCIENCE

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

Parallel Session A: Drug Discovery

Novel Therapies on the Horizon

1:00 – 4:50 PM

Garden State Ballroom

Session Chairs： Dexi Yang, PhD and Haiying Liu, PhD

Session Theme: The session brings together leading scientists and innovators from industry and academia to explore the most promising advances in the development of novel therapeutics. The talks of the session will spotlight some cutting-edge topics including immunotherapies, bi-specific antibodies, novel targets for Alzheimer's disease prevention, and AI-driven discovery platforms. Attendees will gain valuable insights not only into new drug targets and modalities, but also into translational strategies, regulatory trends, and clinical breakthroughs that are reshaping the treatment landscape.

1:00 – 1:05 PM

Opening Remarks

1:05 – 1:40 PM

Conducting Clinical Trials in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Understanding the Preanalytic and Logistic Challenges

Russell Weiner, PhD

President of AAPS, Vice President, AstraZeneca

Conducting clinical trials in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) presents unique challenges, particularly when it comes to the preanalytic and logistical aspects of bioassays. These challenges are often exacerbated by infrastructure limitations, including unreliable power supplies, inadequate access to clean water, workforce instability, and social or political unrest. Successfully navigating these obstacles requires not only meticulous planning and problem-solving but also an unwavering adaptability and resilience. It is essential to have contingency plans in place and a proactive mindset to ensure the continuity of care and meet the needs of underserved patient populations. The ability to remain flexible and resourceful in the face of these challenges is crucial to conducting high-quality clinical research in these settings.

1:40 – 2:15 PM

Inventing, Designing and Clinically Developing Glycoimmune Checkpoint Agonist AVD-104 to Restore Vision in Geographic Atrophy AMD

Michael Tolentino, MD

Co-Founder, Scientific Head Consultant to the CEO, Aviceda Therapeutic

Aviceda Therapeutics is clinically developing AVD-104 a glycomimetic nanoparticle that agonizes the main self-associated checkpoint receptors to reprogram the innate immune system of the retina from the neurodegenerative, phagoptotic, inflammatory state to the neuroprotective, maintenance and homeostatic state which can clinically resuscitate stressed photoreceptors and vision, reduce toxic retinal buildup of lipofuscin, and stops phagoptotic mediated retinal cell loss. AVD-104 was invented within the last 5 years but was conceptualized in the 1970's by my mentors, Charles Janeway, J Wayne Streilein,

Elliot Berson. This talk will recount the 50-year history of glycoimmunology, the scientific breakthroughs that lead to founding of Aviceda Therapeutics, Aviceda Glycotech, and Avilect Biosciences, the invention/development of high affinity ligand of SIGLECs (HALOS) glycan-based drug discovery platform and invention, development and first in human administration of AVD-104. In a dose escalating clinical trial AVD-104 improved vision, slowed disease progression, rescued photoreceptor signaling and reduced toxic lipofuscin in patients with center involving geographic atrophy secondary to age-related macular degeneration (AMD). Geographic atrophy has been considered an irreversibly blinding condition making these initial clinical trial findings remarkable. This success gives hope for a functionally effective treatment for the millions of patients worldwide who suffer vision loss from AMD. Furthermore, it serves as a proof of concept for the agonism of the checkpoint receptor family Sialic acid binding IG like Lectin (SIGLEC) and Complement factor H (CFH) to treat not only neuroinflammatory mediated neuro degenerations such as AMD, Alzheimer's and ALS but other systemic inflammatory conditions such as arthritis, fibrosis, and allergies.

2:15 – 2:50 PM

Probing Novel Immune Feedback Modulators for Immunotherapy of Cancer and Beyond

Jun Wang, PhD

Assistant Professor of Pathology, NYU Grossman School of Medicine

Immune-checkpoint blockade has transformed cancer therapy but benefits only a subset of patients. To address PD-1 resistance, we propose three principles: (1) act on immune regulation at the tumor site; (2) target disease-driven tumor–immune feedback modulators; and (3) restore polyclonal T-cell responses. Guided by this framework, we define feedback mechanisms and receptor–ligand biology of the LAG-3 pathway, informing next-generation LAG-3 therapeutics, including for autoimmune settings. We further identify myeloid negative-feedback modulators controlling MHC-I antigen presentation and type-I interferon responses. These findings clarify tissue-level immune regulation mechanisms and support feedback-focused strategies for cancer and autoimmune diseases.

2:50 – 3:05 PM

Coffee Break and Group Photo

3:05 – 3:40 PM

Development of Complex Biologics: Advancements and Opportunities

Sanjeev Ahuja, PhD

Executive Director of Biologics Process Development, Merck

TBD

3:40 – 4:15 PM

Engineering Bispecific Antibodies for Cancer Immunotherapy

Tong Zhang, PhD

Director of Bispecific Antibody, Regeneron

Bispecific antibodies (BsAbs), particularly those targeting T cells, have transformed cancer immunotherapy by redirecting T cells to effectively recognize and eliminate cancer cells. While BsAbs demonstrate remarkable therapeutic potential, their clinical development is often hindered by systemic toxicities. In this presentation, I will discuss Regeneron's innovative approach of utilizing BsAbs to deliver multiple T-cell activating signals for cancer immunotherapy. I will present preclinical data on REGN10597, a PD-1-targeted, receptor-masked IL-2 immunocytokine, and discuss the strategies we have employed to improve the safety profile and therapeutic potential of BsAbs in cancer treatment.

4:15-4:50 PM

APOE4 As a Novel Drug Target for Alzheimer's Disease Prevention

Tal Nuriel, PhD

Assistant Professor, Columbia University, Irving Medical Center

Alzheimer's disease (AD) affects millions of Americans and represents a significant and growing public health crisis. Despite this fact, there are few effective treatment options available for individuals who develop AD or are at risk of developing AD. While pharmaceutical companies are currently focused on treatment strategies that target the hallmark pathologies of AD, amyloid beta and tau, a third potential target has received far less attention. The APOE4 gene variant is the primary genetic risk factor for the sporadic, late-onset form of AD, and targeting APOE4 directly has significant potential not only for treating early AD, but also for preventing the development of AD altogether in APOE4 carriers. In this talk, I will give an overview of APOE4 biology and the potential for targeting APOE4 as a novel therapeutic for AD.

4:50 – 5:00 PM

Closing Remark: Haiying Liu, PhD

Parallel Session B:

Navigating New Frontiers of CMC in an Evolving Landscape

1:00 – 5:00 PM

Regency Ballroom B

Session Chairs： Yong Guo, PhD, Yongle Pang, PhD

Chemistry, manufacturing and control (CMC) is critical to drug development.The evolving landscape of pharmaceutical industry presents constant challenges to pharmaceutical scientists in the CMC area to bring new treatment 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. This session brings scientific and industry leaders to discuss recent advancements in pharmaceutical and manufacturing sciences. For the first time, CMC strategies will be discussed in this session. You will find this session both exciting and thought provoking.

1:00 – 1:05 PM

Opening Remarks

Yong Guo, PhD, MBA, Professor, Fairleigh Dickinson University

1:05 – 1:35 PM

Bridging CMC and Bioanalytical Development: Synergies, Challenges, and Strategic Partnerships in Therapeutic Development

Binodh DeSilva, PhD, Senior Vice President, Ultragenyx Pharmaceutical Inc.

As gene therapy continues to redefine therapeutic frontiers, its development presents a unique convergence of challenges across Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls (CMC), clinical execution, and bioanalytical strategy. This presentation introduces a translational framework that connects CMC variability to clinical outcomes and outlines the evolving bioanalytical methodologies required to support pharmacokinetics (PK) and biomarker development in gene therapy programs.

Drawing on recent case studies, including AAV-based therapies and CAR-T cell therapies—this session explores how early-stage manufacturing constraints, assay development gaps, and regulatory pressures impact dose consistency, immunogenicity, and patient stratification. We will further explore the complexities of non-traditional PK assessment, immunogenicity profiling, and biomarker strategy, highlighting the integration of molecular platforms (qPCR, ddPCR), ligand-binding assays, and cell-based analytics.

This framework empowers cross-functional teams to anticipate development risks, accelerate regulatory readiness, and improve therapeutic outcomes—advancing gene therapy from concept to clinic with greater precision and impact.

1:35 – 2:00 PM

Bioconjugate Control Strategies and Case Studies

Wenhua Wang, PhD, Senior Principal Scientist, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

In the rapidly evolving field of bioconjugate therapeutics development, establishing an effective control strategy that addresses both synthetic and biologic molecules is a complex challenge. This talk will provide insights into the strategic considerations for monitoring critical quality attributes (CQAs) at the most effective points of control and will include several illustrative case studies.

2:00 – 2:25 PM

Analytical Development for Biologics: Current Status and Future Outlook in CMC Support

Li Tao, PhD, Senior Scientific Director, Bristol-Myers Squibb

Over the past decade, analytical development for biologics has advanced rapidly, driven by increasingly sensitive and high-resolution instrumentation—particularly in liquid chromatography coupled with mass spectrometry. This presentation will highlight the current landscape of analytical strategies supporting CMC development for biologics, encompassing the entire product lifecycle: from cell line and process development, through commercialization, to post-market lifecycle management. Additionally, it will explore the evolving challenges in characterizing complex modalities such as antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs), multi-specifics, adeno-associated viruses (AAVs), and lipid nanoparticles (LNPs), and discuss potential solutions to address these analytical hurdles.

2:25 – 2:50 PM

Coffee Break and Group Photo

2:50 – 3:15 PM

Polymeric Micelles for Nose-to-Brain Drug Delivery in Neurological Disorder

Hyunah Cho, PhD, Professor, Fairleigh Dickinson University

Intranasal "nose-to-brain" drug delivery route has been discovered as an alternative approach for treating neurological disorders such as migraine (e.g. Onzetra Xsail®) and Parkinson's disease at greater efficacy and improved patient compliance. Intranasally delivered therapeutics can bypass the blood brain barrier (BBB) and reach the central nervous system (CNS) via the olfactory and trigeminal neural pathway. The olfactory pathway is considered to be the most direct "nose-to-brain" pathway. To further improve the efficacy of drug delivery, nanoparticles have been utilized as the emerging vehicles. As the axonal transport of rodents is < 100 nm, nanoparticles in average particle size < 100 nm were detected inside olfactory epithelial cells. As the nasal mucous membrane is negative in charge, zeta potential of the nanoparticle at > 30 mV appears to stabilize the nanoparticles, avoiding agglomeration due to the electrostatic repulsion within the nasal cavity and facilitating the interaction between the nanoparticles and the mucosal cells. It is noteworthy that higher positive zeta potential may cause greater toxicity in nasal mucous membranes. Polymeric micelles are spherically shaped nanoparticles composed of amphiphilic block copolymers, featuring a hydrophobic core and a hydrophilic shell. The most widely adopted hydrophilic block is PEG and the dense brush of PEG on the surface of the micelles ensures that the micellar network embedded with hydrophobic compounds are soluble in water. This presentation will highlight that intranasally delivered disease-targeting

polymeric micelles serve as 1) a targeted delivery platform to regulate neuroinflammation and improve cognitive function in Alzheimer disease-bearing animals while minimizing systemic toxicity and 2) a tumor-targeted, fluorescence-switchable nanocarriers, providing a non-invasive, tumor-specific fluorescence on/off activation for safer and more precise optical image-guided brain tumor surgery.

3:15 – 3:40 PM

Recent Advances in Managing Extractables and Leachables for Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices: Ensuring Safety and Compliance

Dujuan Lu, PhD, Head of E&L, SGS Pharma

Extractables and leachables (E&L) from pharmaceutical packaging, medical devices, and process equipment can potentially pose risks to the safety, efficacy, and stability of pharmaceutical or medical products. Extractables and leachables investigations have received significantly increased emphasis from regulatory agencies in recent years.

This presentation will overview the E&L requirements between different industry guidance, such as USP <1663>/<1664>, USP <665>/<1665>, ISO 10993-18, as well as the ICH Q3E draft guidance for extractable and leachable, which was recently published in August 2025. A few case studies will be presented on the regulatory expectations and typical challenges and issues faced by drug manufacturers during the extractable and leachable analysis which could lead to regulatory authorities raising writing deficiency letters.

3:40 – 4:05 PM

Beyond the Back Office: CMC as a Strategic Lever in Business Development

Junshu Zhao, PhD, MBA, Senior Director, Bristol-Myers Squibb

In the world of external innovation and deal-making, Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls (CMC) has long been viewed as a supporting function—important, but rarely central to the strategy. That view is changing. As deals become more complex and timelines more compressed, CMC has emerged as a strategic lever in business development—critical to accurate valuation, sound contract structuring, and successful post-deal integration.

In this presentation, Dr. Zhao will share how her team brings scientific and operational insight into the heart of the partnering process. Through real-world case studies, she will illustrate how CMC considerations—such as technical feasibility, manufacturing scalability, regulatory risk, and supply chain readiness—can materially add or subtract value from a deal. Attendees will learn how to elevate CMC beyond the "back office" and fully leverage its potential to drive smarter, faster, and more sustainable partnerships.

4:05 – 4:55 PM

Panel Discussion: Challenges and Opportunities in CMC

Moderator: **Yongle Pang**, PhD

Panelists: all speakers

4:55 – 5:00 PM

Closing Remarks

Yongle Pang, PhD, Associate Director, Kymera Therapeutics

Parallel Session C: Collaborative Intelligence Driving Next-Gen Therapeutics

1:00 – 5:05 PM

Garden State Ballroom ABC

Session Chairs： Brian Jiang, MS and Jason Zhong, MS, MBA, PMP

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.

1:00 – 1:05 PM	**Opening Remarks** **Brian Jiang**, MS, Senior Manager, Pfizer
1:05 – 1:35 PM	**Generative & Agentic AI's Real World Impact in Pharmaceuticals** **Gautham Nagabhushana**, MPH, Partner, Hybrid Cloud & Data - Lifesciences, Healthcare, Public Markets, IBM *Generative & Agentic AI is Here! It's no longer an aspirational in terms of delivering value to Pharmaceutical companies. The early adopter pharmaceutical companies have already successfully put initial use cases into production.* *This presentation will provide an overview of what organizations have done to successfully implement, what are the current use cases that are in production at early adopter pharmaceutical companies, plus highlight examples of exciting new developments with AI in the pharmaceutical industry.*
1:35 – 2:05 PM	**How is AI Helping to Get Medicines to Patients?** **Petrina Kamya**, PhD, Vice President, Head of AI Platforms, Insilico Medicine *While many companies leverage AI or are AI-first in their drug discovery and development efforts, questions often arise around how AI helps get medicines to patients. I have three stories to share with you that demonstrate how even an incremental adoption of AI can answer these questions.*
2:05 – 2:35 PM	**End-to-End AI Agents for Clinical Trials: Accelerating Evidence Synthesis, Design, Recruitment, and Outcomes** **Jimeng Sun**, PhD, Professor at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, CEO of Keiji AI *The drug development pipeline is slowed by trial delays, recruitment bottlenecks, and inefficient data workflows — costing sponsors up to millions per day. This talk introduces a new class of domain-trained AI agents designed to transform every stage of the clinical trial lifecycle. Starting with evidence synthesis, the literature mining assistant automates*

systematic review, meta-analysis, and health technology assessment, extracting structured insights from millions of medical publications. The data science assistant enables natural language feasibility analysis, generates compliant R/R/ R/Python code, and integrates seamlessly with standards such as CDISC and OMOP.
For trial design, AutoTrial generates optimized eligibility criteria, while a policy-following document drafting agent creates fully verifiable, regulatory-compliant informed consent forms. Predictive site selection models balance enrollment performance and diversity, while patient-trial matching agents achieve >90% recall and expert-level eligibility assessment accuracy, cutting screening time by over 40%. Downstream, trial outcome prediction models and digital twin simulations support risk mitigation, equitable modeling, and adaptive design decisions.
Validated on large-scale benchmarks such as TrialPanorama and BioDSA-1K, these AI agents consistently outperform generic LLMs, delivering measurable gains in speed, accuracy, and trial success probability. Attendees will see how such AI systems can be integrated into existing pharma workflows to de-risk development, improve decision confidence, and accelerate time-to-market.

2:35 – 2:50 PM

Coffee Break and Group Photo

2:50 – 3:20 PM

Dynamic Personalization: Maximizing HCP Engagement Using a Generalized Reinforcement Learning Framework

Yunpeng Liu, PhD, Senior Director, Analytical AI Clinical Development, Bristol Myers Squibb; Ethan Poris, MS, Associate Director, Analytical AI Clinical Development, Bristol Myers Squibb

In today's competitive pharmaceutical landscape, engaging healthcare professionals (HCPs) with precision and relevance is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity. Traditional email outreach methods often fall short, relying on static rules that fail to adapt to the evolving behaviors of HCPs. But what if we could move beyond rigid segmentation and instead continuously learn and adapt, delivering exactly the content HCPs need, when they need it?
The talk will focus on a novel Reinforcement Learning paradigm to automate content recommendation for HCP emails. Through a combination of NLP, advanced machine learning, scenario planning, and integer optimization, the pipeline utilizes a broad array of HCP characteristics and Omni-Channel interaction history to dynamically recommend email content that is most likely to engage, while still adhering to core business rules. The pipeline also incorporates an epsilon-greedy mechanism to balance exploration and exploitation of the problem space.
The current talk will uncover through replay analysis that an RL-based recommender system for home office emails could result in a significant uplift in customer engagement. This scalable, intelligent solution can be extended across various customer touchpoints within the pharma industry.

3:20 – 3:50 PM

Causal AI Beyond Randomized Trials: Bias Calibration and Federated Target Trial Emulation

Yong Chen, PhD, Professor of Biostatistics, University of Pennsylvania

Randomized controlled trials (RCTs) remain the cornerstone of clinical evidence. Yet in many areas, especially drug repurposing and relabeling, complementary insights from real-world data (RWD) can accelerate discovery and inform decision-making. A key challenge, however, is unmeasured confounding, which can compromise the validity of RWD-based analyses.

	In this talk, I will introduce a Causal AI framework that leverages negative control outcomes (NCOs) to detect and correct hidden biases. This approach strengthens the credibility of causal estimates derived from RWD, offering a rigorous and generalizable path toward supporting evidence for therapeutic development. *To further expand impact, we integrate this framework into federated target trial emulation, enabling multi-site studies without sharing patient-level data. This innovation allows us to generate robust, privacy-preserving evidence across institutions—critical for evaluating rare outcomes, diverse populations, and long-term safety signals.* *Together, these tools establish a distributed and debiased Causal AI approach that can advance drug repurposing, relabeling, and safety surveillance, demonstrating the potential of collaborative intelligence to support next-generation therapeutics.*
3:50 – 4:20 PM	**Biopharma AI Investment Insights** **Daniel Luo**, PhD, Assistant Director, Duke Capital Partners *TBD*
4:20 – 5:00 PM	**Panel Discussion: TBD** Moderator: **Anbo Zhou**, PhD, Senior Scientist, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Panelists: **Gautham Nagabhushana**, MPH, Partner, Hybrid Cloud & Data - Lifesciences, Healthcare, Public Markets, IBM **Petrina Kamya**, PhD, Vice President, Head of AI Platforms, Insilico Medicine **Jimeng Sun**, PhD, Professor at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, CEO of Keiji AI **Yunpeng Liu**, PhD, Senior Director, Analytical AI Clinical Development, Bristol Myers Squibb; Ethan Poris, MS, Associate Director, Analytical AI Clinical Development, Bristol Myers Squibb **Yong Chen**, PhD, Professor of Biostatistics, University of Pennsylvania **Daniel Luo**, PhD, Assistant Director, Duke Capital Partners
5:00 – 5:05 PM	**Closing Remarks** **Han Zhang**, PhD, BD and Licensing Manager, Biocytogen

Parallel Session D: AI Workshop

Boost Your AIQ – Work Smarter with GenAI

1:00 – 5:00 PM

Regency Ballroom C

Session Chairs: Zhiwei Yin, PhD, Xi Cheng, MPH, MS, and Junchi Lu, PhD

Session Overview

Discover the future of building with AI! 🚀 This workshop spotlights **no-code AI tools for productivity** and introduces **Vibe Coding**—a powerful new way to create apps using natural language instead of lines of code. Learn how no-code platforms can streamline your workflow and how vibe coding enables rapid prototyping through hands-on collaboration with AI.

Bring your laptop + charger—and get ready to roll up your sleeves!

1:00 – 1:05 PM	**Opening Remarks**
1:05 – 2:05 PM	**No-Code AI Tools for Productivity** **Zhiwei Yin**, PhD, Associate Director, Bristol Myers Squibb **Xi Cheng**, MPH, MS, Data Scientist, ThinkSnow HealthTech Inc. *Boost your AIQ: Work Smarter with GenAI! This is a hands-on session designed to make the power of Generative AI accessible to everyone—no coding skills required. We'll explore a range of practical low-code and no-code tools that can transform how you work every day: accelerating research, automating repetitive tasks, visualizing complex ideas, and generating content with ease. From organizing knowledge and streamlining workflows to sparking creativity and innovation, this session will provide both inspiration and practical takeaways to help you integrate GenAI into your professional toolkit and immediately see productivity gains.*
2:05 – 3:35 PM	**Rapid Prototyping with Vibe Coding** **Junchi Lu**, PhD, Bristol Myers Squibb *This demo introduces a new approach to AI-powered app development called vibe coding, showcasing its practical application in a clinical trial data analysis tool. Vibe Coding shifts the focus from writing code to using natural language prompts to direct an AI to build functional applications. We will demonstrate an AI app that summarizes and compares key clinical trial data—such as product, phase, and outcomes—across user-defined disease areas. This presentation will cover the core principles of the vibe coding approach, the mindset required to effectively collaborate with an AI, and the skill sets that are essential in this new development paradigm. This method empowers developers and non-technical users alike to rapidly prototype and build sophisticated data applications.*
3:35 – 3:50 PM	**Coffee Break and Group Photo**

3:50 – 5:00 PM	**Join Session C: AI Talk – Panel Discussion (Garden State Ballroom ABC)** Moderator: **Anbo Zou**, PhD Panelists: **Patrina Kamya, PhD**, Vice President, Insilico Medicine **Jimeng Sun**, **PhD**, Professor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, CEO of Keiji AI **Yunpeng Liu**, **PhD**, Senior Director, Bristol Myers Squibb **Ethan Poris**, **MS**, Associate Director, Bristol Myers Squibb **Yong Chen, PhD**, Professor, University of Pennsylvania **Daniel Luo, PhD**, Assistant Director, Duke Capital Partners

Parallel Session E:

Building Resilience Blueprint: Legal, Investment, and BD Strategies

1:00 – 5:00 PM

Conference Room BC (Second Floor)

Session Chairs： Wansheng Jerry Liu, PhD JD, Ran He, PhD JD, Lily Li, PhD and Jun Stephen Xue

Join global leaders where experts will share cutting-edge insights on M&A, licensing, cross-border transactions, IPOs, and investment growth. Explore how to navigate uncertainty in today's shifting legal landscape, gain insider knowledge on ecosystem development, incentives, and funding opportunities fueling life sciences innovation, and discover forward-looking strategies for global business development. With influential voices from Fox Rothschild, THC Lawyers, Sarepta Therapeutics, Middlesex County Economic Development, NJEDA, Choose New Jersey, i2n (Ideas x Innovation), Chipscreen Biosciences, Takeda, Hengrui Pharmaceuticals, Bristol Myers Squibb, Hansoh Pharma, and Pacific Bridge, this session offers a unique opportunity to connect, collaborate, and shape transformative partnerships that transcend borders—an event you won't want to miss.

1:00 - 1:10 PM	**Opening Remarks** **Lily Li**, Ph D, SAPA, VP, SAPA-CT, President
1:10 - 2:50 PM	**Panel Discussion - Building a Winning Legal Strategy in Uncertain Times** *In today's shifting economic and regulatory environment, strong legal strategy is vital to navigating uncertainty and seizing opportunity in biomedical industry. This session begins with two mini-talks on legal strategies in cross-border mergers and acquisitions and the trends of biomedical IPOs in Hong Kong and U.S. Building on these perspectives, a panel of veteran lawyers from Fox Rothschild, THC Lawyers and Sarepta Therapeutics will discuss how expertise across corporate, regulatory, and intellectual property law can be leveraged to create resilient, forward-looking strategies.* Moderator: **Wansheng Jerry Liu**, PhD JD, Partner, Fox Rothschild Panelists: **Gerard P. Norton**, PhD JD, Partner, Fox Rothschild **Mini-Talk: Lega Strategies in Cross-Border Mergers and Acquisitions** **Ran He**, PhD JD, Founder, THC Lawyers **Mini-Talk: Trend of Biomedical IPO in Hong Kong and US Capital Markets** **Tamar R. Gubins**, JD, Partner, Fox Rothschild **Peng Sun**, PhD JD, Senior Director, Senior Patent Counsel, Sarepta Therapeutics
2:50 - 3:00 PM	**Coffee Break and Group Photo**
3:00 - 4:00 PM	**Panel Discussion - Cross Borders: Ecosystem, Innovation, and Incentives** *This session explores how the Mid-Atlantic region is cultivating a dynamic environment for*

growth and collaboration. We will examine strategies for fostering a robust innovation ecosystem, along with the critical role of funding, incentives, and partnerships in driving economic development. Our expert panelists represent leadership from county and state economic development agencies, investment networks, and the life sciences innovation sector.

Moderator: **Sho Islam (Moderator)**, Director, Economic Development Middlesex County, NJ

Panelists:

Bill Noonan, Chief Business Development Officer Choose New Jersey

John Coelho, Senior Advisor NJEDA

Kalindi Bakshi, PhD, Division Head Life Sciences & Food Innovation Middlesex County OBD

Matt Cabry, Director i2n - The Ideas x Innovation Networks

4:00 - 5:00 PM

Panel discussion: Driving strategic innovation, investment synergy, and global expansion through BD/NewCo.

This panel explores how BD and NewCo models can accelerate biotech innovation by aligning investment, forging strategic partnerships, and unlocking cross-border growth. Leaders will share insights on driving synergy, reducing risk, and creating sustainable value in emerging ventures.

Moderator: **Stephen Xue,** General Manager. Chipscreen Biosciences (US) Ltd.

Panelists:

Marc Appel, Managing Partner Pacific Bridge N

Weiyong Sun PhD MBA, Chief Business Officer Hansoh Bio/Hansoh Pharma

Wensheng Du PhD MBA, VP, Head of Global BD Hengrui Pharmaceuticals

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

Yangzi He PhD MBA, Associate Director Corporate Development Bristol Myers Squibb

Parallel Session F: Clinical Development/Regulatory

Clinical Development, Regulatory Strategy, and Data-Driven Decision Making in the AI Era

1:00 – 5:00 PM

Regency Ballroom A

Session Chairs： Xiaowei Sun, PhD, Jerry Li, PhD, and Frank X Gan, PharmD

This session will explore how artificial intelligence is transforming clinical development, regulatory strategy, and data-driven decision making. Presentations will cover emerging opportunities for AI in clinical trials, integration of clinical insights with statistical innovations, good clinical practice considerations at the site level, and risk-based frameworks for regulatory credibility in drug development. Additional focus will be placed on data generation and utilization in trial design and regulatory submissions. The session will conclude with a panel on data-driven drug development, offering multidisciplinary perspectives on advancing innovation in the AI era.

1:00 – 1:05 PM	**Opening Remarks**
1:05 – 1:40 PM	**AI Opportunities in Clinical Development** **Hong Xie,** MD, MBA, MS President, ClinX LLC *Clinical development remains the foundation of drug development. With the evolving technology advancement in healthcare, it is both exciting and imperative to implement Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions to enable efficient, effective and safe clinical research.*
1:40 – 2:15 PM	**AI Agents in Clinical Development: Integrating Clinical Insights with Statistical Innovations** **Will Ma,** PhD, Founder & CEO,HopeAI, Inc. *While Large Language Models excel at general knowledge, clinical development demands a more nuanced approach that combines domain expertise with statistical rigor. We present a novel dual-agent system consisting of an AI Clinical Scientist that synthesizes complex clinical evidence, working in tandem with an AI Statistician that implements real-time statistical methods. This AI-augmented approach shows promise for accelerating and strengthening clinical trial design, providing clinical development teams with powerful new tools for evidence-based decision-making.*
2:15 – 2:50 PM	**Good Clinical Practice and AI: Considerations at the Site Level** **Deonna Coleman,** MA, Director Clinical Studies, Office of Research & Sponsored Projects,Kaleida Health *As artificial intelligence (AI) tools become increasingly embedded in clinical trial operations, from patient screening to visit scheduling - the lines of accountability and compliance are being tested in new and complex ways. It is crucial we explore the intersection of AI technologies and Good Clinical Practice (GCP) at the clinical trial site level so that we may continue to leverage new technology while ensuring we uphold high ethical standards.*

2:50 – 3:05 PM	**Coffee Break**
3:05 – 3:40 PM	**Navigating the AI Regulatory Frontier: A Risk-Based Framework for Model Credibility in Drug Development** **Hanrui Zhang,** PhD, ML/AI Reviewer/Researcher, FDA *The use of AI and machine learning is reshaping drug development, but it also introduces new regulatory challenges. This talk will explore the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) recent draft guidance on using AI to support regulatory decisions. We will focus on the agency's proposed risk-based credibility assessment framework, a key tool for ensuring AI models are trustworthy and reliable.*
3:40 – 4:15 PM	**Data Generation and Utilization in Clinical Trial Design and Regulatory Submissions** **Jerry Li,** PhD, TA Lead, Oncology Biostatistics,Bristol Myers Squibb *Data is increasingly viewed as the new currency in our digitized world, and nowhere is this more evident than in the realm of drug development. In the highly regulated pharmaceutical industry, the specifics of what data is generated are crucial to the success of any project. Building on the importance of selecting relevant data, the timing and methods of data generation further shape regulatory strategies and clinical decision-making, directly influencing outcomes.*
4:15 – 4:55 PM	**Panel Discussion: Data Driven Drug Development** Moderator: **Xiaowei Sun, PhD and Frank X Gan, PharmD** Panelists: **Hong Xie,** MD, MBA, MS President, ClinX LLC **Will Ma,** PhD, Founder & CEO,HopeAI, Inc **Deonna Coleman,** MA, Director Clinical Studies, Office of Research & Sponsored Projects,Kaleida Health **Hanrui Zhang,** PhD, ML/AI Reviewer/Researcher, FDA
4:55 – 5:00 PM	**Closing Remarks**

Parallel Session G: Career Development

Voices from Industry: Diverse Paths to Success in Pharma & Biotech

1:00 – 5:00 PM

Salon AB (Second Floor)

Session Chairs： Ran He, PhD; Jianjian Guo, PhD

This session offers a powerful career development program where participants gain resilience and opportunity strategies from senior pharma executives, sharpen their resumes and interview skills with direct HR coaching, and build meaningful connections with leaders from top pharmaceutical, biotech, research, and legal organizations. Attendees also have the chance to apply for exclusive, individualized training on conference day, including personalized CV and application reviews tailored to target roles and live mock interviews with executives and HR leaders.

1:00 – 1:05 PM	**Opening Remarks** **Ran He**, PhD, JD, Founder, THC Lawyers
1:05 – 1:30 PM	**Keynote Speaker:** **Hao Chen,** PhD, Vice President, GSK. *Beyond map: navigating career in uncertain times* *Drawing on roles across vaccines, CMC, and mRNA programs at GSK and earlier experiences in large pharma, Hao Chen will reflect on how to steer a career when the path is unclear, including setting a personal direction amid shifting priorities, building portable skills and "option value," and deciding when to double down or pivot.*
1:30 – 1:50 PM	**Keynote Speaker:** **Lihui Zhao,** PhD, Executive Director Biostatistics, Daiichi Sankyo, Inc.. *Steady Through Change: Timeless Lessons for Early-Career Biopharma Professionals* *From her vantage point leading biostatistics in oncology drug development, Lihui Zhao will outline habits that help early-career professionals stay steady through change, topics may include structuring problems rigorously, aligning endpoints with meaningful questions, collaborating across clinical, data, and regulatory partners, and communicating uncertainty clearly.*
1:50 - 2:20 PM	**Career Workshop - Optimize Your Resume** **Diana Ji,** MHRM, Founder and CEO, Bongene Group *Join a hands-on workshop led by a biotech&life-sciences talent acquisition expert. Learn a recruiter-ready CV checklist, watch a live, step-by-step teardown of preselected real CV from the audience, and get candid answers in an open Q&A. Leave with specific edits, sharper impact statements, and a clear plan for immediate improvements.*
2:20 – 2:50 PM	**Career Workshop - Mock Interview** *Experience a high-impact mock interview with four panelist judges from big pharma leader, HR expert and biotech startup founder. Volunteers, both preselected and onsite—get 5 minutes to answer a real question, then around 10 minutes of targeted feedback. Observe, learn, and take home interview tactics you can use immediately.*

2:50 – 3:00 PM	**Coffee Break**
3:00 – 4:00 PM	**Panel Discussion: Diverse Paths to Success in Pharma & Biotech** *Join a dynamic panel of industry leaders as they share their diverse career journeys in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors. This discussion will highlight perspectives from global pharmaceutical companies, leading Chinese pharmaceutical firm, top consulting, and innovative entrepreneurs. Attendees will gain valuable insights into the many pathways to success across this rapidly evolving industry.* Moderator: **Louis Liu,** PhD, CEO, Hill Research Panelists: **Meade Zhang,** MBA, CHRO, Hengrui Pharmaceuticals **Ming Tang,** PhD, Director of Bioinformatics, AstraZeneca **Huaping Tang,** PhD, Executive Director, GSK **Ruiwei Zhang,** MS, Senior Associate, Charles River Associates **Abita Page**, Senior Manager Talent Sourcing and Engagement, Bristol Myers Squibb
4:00 – 4:55 PM	**Roundtable Discussion: Meet the Professionals** *This roundtable brings together a distinguished group of leaders from across the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, consulting, legal, and talent sectors. Participants will have the unique opportunity to engage directly with professionals who are shaping the future of drug development, innovation, and industry growth* **Lihui Zhao,** PhD, Executive Director Biostatistics, Daiichi Sankyo, Inc. **Hao Chen,** PhD, Vice President, GSK **Louis Liu,** PhD, CEO, Hill Research **Meade Zhang,** MBA, CHRO, Hengrui Pharmaceuticals **Ming Tang,** PhD, Director of Bioinformatics, AstraZeneca **Huaping Tang,** PhD, Executive Director, GSK **Ruiwei Zhang,** MS, Senior Associate, Charles River Associates **Abita Page**, Senior Manager Talent Sourcing and Engagement, Bristol Myers Squibb **Ran He,** PhD, JD, Founder, THC Lawyers **Diana Ji**, MHRM, Founder and CEO, Bongene Group
4:55 - 5:00 PM	**Closing Remarks** **Jianjian Guo**, PhD, Yale University, Incoming McKinsey & Co Associate

Biographies of Speakers and Panelists

Sanjeev Ahuja, PhD
Executive Director of Biologics Process Development
Merck

Sanjeev Ahuja currently serves as the Executive Director of Biologics Process Development group (within Biologics Process R&D function) in Merck at NJ, USA. Sanjeev earned his integrated Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Biochemical Engineering and Biotechnology from Indian Institutes of Technology in Delhi, India and then his PhD in Chemical and Biochemical Engineering from University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). Sanjeev has extensive industrial experience in development and commercialization with expertise in mammalian/microbial processes for proteins, vaccines, and cell therapies. Of note, Sanjeev served as an Adjunct Faculty from 2008-2020 in the Master of Professional Studies program in Biotechnology at UMBC. Moreover, he has published/presented extensively in research areas that have influenced the bioprocessing field, including high titer process development, antibody reduction. and machine learning. Enthusiastic about business-centric disruptive innovation, he is currently steering his team to manage a complexly evolving pipeline while developing next generation fed-batch and continuous-manufacturing bioprocesses.

Marc Appel, MBA, JD
Managing Partner
Pacific Bridge N

Marc Appel, JD, MBA, is an advisor to university innovation programs including Yale's Blavatnik Program, Cornell's tech transfer office, and Dartmouth's Cancer Accelerator. He founded Orange Grove Bio and served as its CEO from 2019 to 2024, also helping launch biotech companies like IpiNovyx Bio and Allonix Therapeutics. Marc was previously a healthcare investor at Marathon Asset Management, Highbridge Principal Strategies, and Eaton Vance, and began his career at McKinsey & Co. He frequently speaks at industry conferences and universities and co-authored a Harvard Business School case on Imprimis Pharmaceuticals. He holds a B.A. from Yale, a J.D. from Harvard Law School, and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School. He is a member of the New York Bar.

Kalindi Bakshi, PhD
Division Head, Life Sciences & Food Innovation
Middlesex County Office of Business Engagement

Kalindi Bakshi leads the Life Sciences and Food Innovation division at Middlesex County's Office of Business Engagement, where she drives strategic initiatives to attract and retain businesses across the region. She collaborates with industry leaders and key stakeholders to foster sustainable growth in sectors such as life sciences, food tech, and advanced manufacturing.

An entrepreneur at heart, Kalindi is the founder of Plantology Fuel and Phirki NYC, ventures that reflect her passion for plant-based nutrition and wellness. She also serves as President of World Vegan Vision, a nonprofit promoting healthy, sustainable lifestyles through community engagement and education.

Kalindi holds a Doctorate in Neuroscience from the City University of New York and completed her post-doctoral fellowship in Psychiatry at Mount Sinai. Her scientific background, combined with real-world business experience, brings a unique, holistic lens to Middlesex County economic development—bridging innovation, public health, and community resilience

Llorente Bonaga, PhD
Sr. Director Regulatory Affairs
Merck

Llorente Bonaga, Ph.D. is an experienced regulatory affairs professional with a combined 25 years of diverse industry experience in global Regulatory CMC (>15 years), drug discovery and small molecule and biological pharmaceutical development, people management and due diligence. He is currently a Senior Director in Regulatory Affairs CMC at Merck leading a team supporting global clinical studies and marketing applications pre-approval CMC RA for small molecules and bioconjugates portfolio for Merck.

Matthew Cabrey, BA
Director
i2n - The Ideas x Innovation Networks

As Director of the Ideas x Innovation Network (i2n), Matt Cabrey (Kay-Bree) leads the team of highly engaged staff and volunteers who are helping startup companies, entrepreneurs, and innovators from across southeastern Pennsylvania to transform their ideas from concept to commercialization. Matt is responsible for overall management of i2n, including engagement of our i2n Partners, which consists of corporate, university, business, civic and community organizations; i2n Supporters, made up of niche professional consultants; and our i2n Entrepreneurs, which consists of early-stage startups, creators and innovators, primarily but not exclusively in the tech sector.

Matt also serves as Project Director of Pennsylvania Global Business Advisors (GBA), helping to drive the awareness, reach, impact and programming of this unique initiative. With highly-engaged staff and volunteers, GBA is helping Pennsylvania businesses to grow globally, and welcomes companies from around the world to Pennsylvania, providing connections, resources and solutions to help them get established and grow in the Commonwealth. From hosting international delegations to providing advice and educational programs that help Pennsylvania-based companies to grow globally, GBA is a valued resource of expertise regionally – and beyond.

Matt has more than 30 years of experience in the economic development, biopharmaceuticals, financial services, marketing and communications, media, and nonprofit sectors. Matt created and co-produced the Emmy-award winning television show Growing Greater Philadelphia with NBC Universal, and more than 150 episodes of the Growing Greater podcast. Matt previously led Select Greater Philadelphia, a regional business attraction marketing organization focused on growing the economic vibrancy of the region by attracting new businesses, jobs and talent. He has held roles with Shire plc, PNC Bank, Keystone Mercy Health Plan, the American Red Cross, and CBS Radio.

A frequent speaker, moderator and advisor, Matt has appeared on numerous media outlets discussing topics ranging from business growth and economic issues to clinical trials and pharmacovigilance, and more. Matt volunteers regularly with business and community initiatives, and currently serves on the Board of the Police Athletic League of Philadelphia, and The Kauders Foundation.

A graduate of Penn State University, Matt earned a BA in journalism with a minor in sociology. He has traveled to more than 60 cities in 18 countries, supported business operations and growth in three countries, and has organized and hosted numerous regional, national and international business initiatives and delegations. A proud native of Philadelphia's Overbrook neighborhood, Matt and his family live in Chester County, PA.

Yong Chen, PhD
FASA, FACMI
The University of Pennsylvania

Yong Chen is a Professor of Biostatistics and Founding Director of the Center for Health AI and Synthesis of Evidence (CHASE) at the University of Pennsylvania, where he leads research in clinical evidence generation and synthesis using real-world data. He also directs the Penn Computing, Inference, and Learning (PennCIL) lab, focusing on developing methods for integrating clinical data. Dr. Chen is one of twenty Commissioners serving internationally on the Lancet Commission on Rare Diseases. He is also a Statistical Editor for the Annals of Internal Medicine, a Statistical Consultant for New England Journal of Medicine-AI, and an Associate Editor for both the Journal of the American Statistical Association – Applications and Case Studies (JASA-ACS) and The Annals of Applied Statistics (AoAS). Dr. Chen's work centers at machine learning/AI for drug discovery. He is an elected Fellow of the American Statistical Association and the American College of Medical Informatics, with joint appointments in Applied Mathematics and at the Penn Institute for Biomedical Informatics

Jian Chen, PhD
Founder, President and CE
EDETEK

Jian Chen is a technology and biotechnology leader transforming how biostatistics and operations are run in clinical development. As founder, President, and CEO of EDETEK in New Jersey, he focuses on making trials more efficient, compliant, and data-driven through real-time integration and processing.

Under his leadership, EDETEK has supported more than 3,000 clinical trials and over 50 successful regulatory submissions across oncology, autoimmune disease, vaccines, CNS, etc. The team contributed to the record-setting development of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines and has deep experience with modern modalities, including immunotherapy, targeted therapies, antibody-drug conjugates, and gene and cell therapies such as CAR-T and TCR.

Looking ahead, Jian sees rising life expectancy increasing demand for better diagnostics and therapies. He envisions R&D that unites biotechnology, information technology, and genomics to tackle complex health needs and advance personalized medicine, while sustaining speed, quality, and regulatory readiness.

Hao Chen, PhD
Vice President
GSK

Hao Chen is the Associate Vice President in the Process R&D organization at Merck & Co., Inc. He leads the drug substance process development and clinical manufacturing for Merck's vaccines and advanced biotechnology pipeline since 2022. Hao joined Merck in 2009 and has had roles of increasing responsibilities in both R&D and commercial manufacturing in biologics development and commercialization till 2018. He then joined GSK Vaccines in Belgium to lead the global drug substance process development and in-process analytics for mRNA as well as cell and viral based vaccines. In his early career, Hao worked on upstream and medium development in various other companies including Amylin Pharmaceuticals and Becton Dickinson. Hao received his MS/BS in Chemical Engineering at Zhejiang University, and PhD in Chemical Engineering at Purdue University. He also holds an Executive MBA from HEC Paris.

Jian Chen, MBA, MS
Founder, President, and CEO
EDETEK

Jian Chen is a technology and biotechnology leader transforming how biostatistics and operations are run in clinical development. As founder, President, and CEO of EDETEK in New Jersey, he focuses on making trials more efficient, compliant, and data-driven through real-time integration and processing.
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Looking ahead, Jian sees rising life expectancy increasing demand for better diagnostics and therapies. He envisions R&D that unites biotechnology, information technology, and genomics to tackle complex health needs and advance personalized medicine, while sustaining speed, quality, and regulatory readiness.

Hyunah Cho, PhD
Professor of Pharmaceutical Science
Fairleigh Dickinson University

Dr. Hyunah Cho is a Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences & Executive Director of Health Innovation and Strategy at the School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Fairleigh Dickinson University. Prior to joining Fairleigh Dickinson University, she served as faculty at the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy in St. Louis and St. John's University.
Dr. Cho eared her B. Pharm and M.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences from Sookmyung Women's University, Seoul, South Korea, and earned her Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
Dr. Cho's research interest lies at the intersection of nanotechnology, advanced drug delivery systems, and cosmetic sciences. Her work primarily explores the development of nano-based drug delivery platforms designed to enhance the efficacy and safety of therapeutic and diagnostic compounds. She has published over 30 peer-reviewed articles in high-impact journals, and she has led a dynamic laboratory that collaborated closely with academic and industry partners in the fields of Pharmaceutical and Cosmetic Sciences.
In addition to her academic involvement, Dr. Cho is a founder and CEO of a startup company, Spill Essentials LLC, which strives to lead the future of skin and personal care by creating innovative, waterless products that are better for people and the planet.

Deonna Coleman, MA
Director Clinical Studies, Office of Research & Sponsored Projects
Kaleida Health

Deonna Coleman is the Director of Clinical Studies, Office of Research & Sponsored Projects at Kaleida Health in Buffalo, NY, where she leads the organization's clinical research operations with authority and vision. With a deep understanding of regulatory strategy, study oversight, and operational leadership, she drives forward clinical research initiatives that shape the future of healthcare delivery.

Her career reflects a rapid and well-earned progression through key leadership roles—from Clinical Research Coordinator in oncology to Clinical Regulatory Administrator, to Manager of Clinical Studies—culminating in her current directorship. Deonna's expertise, decisiveness, and ability to navigate complex clinical environments make her a standout leader in the research community. Her mission is to expand clinical research opportunities in Western New York, bringing more cutting-edge treatment options to patients in the community.

Maureen Cruz, PhD, MPH
Principal – Science, Regulation, and Policy
Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

Maureen Cruz is currently a Principal 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. As the lead Science Advisor of the IQ Consortium Secretariat, she manages a multidisciplinary team that supports the IQ Consortium, a global organization that advances science and technology to develop transformational solutions that benefit patients, regulators, and the broader R&D community. Maureen has a PhD in Neuroscience from Georgetown University and an MPH from Columbia University.

Jasmine Cui, PhD
Founder & CEO,
InnoCare Pharma

Dr. Jasmine Cui is the Co-founder, Chairwoman a n d CEO of InnoCare Pharma Ltd. (InnoCare, HKEX: 09969, SSE: 688428). InnoCare is a commercial stage biopharmaceutical company committed to discovering, developing, and commercializing innovative drugs for the treatment of cancer and autoimmune diseases. InnoCare has branches in Beijing, Nanjing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Hong Kong and the Unites States.
Dr. Cui has more than 30 years of experience in drug R&D, manufacturing, commercialization and company management in the pharmaceutical industry. Prior to founding InnoCare, Dr. Cui was the General Manager and Chief Scientific Officer of BioDuro. Before BioDuro, Dr. Cui worked at Merck in the US for 14 years serving as the chair of the early drug development team and other positions. Dr. Cui received her Ph.D. in molecular biology from Purdue University and completed postdoctoral fellowship at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute affiliated with the University of Michigan. She has published over 80 articles, patents, and conference abstracts. Dr. Cui was the 17th and the 1st female SAPA President.

Binodh DeSilva, PhD
Senior Vice President
Ultragenyx Pharmaceutical Inc.

Dr. Binodh DeSilva is a highly respected senior executive with over three decades of leadership in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. As Senior Vice President of Bioanalytical and Biomarker Development at Ultragenyx Pharmaceutical, she drives translational science strategies that accelerate regulatory pathways and enable the development of transformative therapies, including gene therapies for rare diseases.
Her career spans pivotal roles at Procter & Gamble, Amgen, and Bristol Myers Squibb, where she led global teams, steered complex integrations, and restructured high-risk centralized functions into high-performing, scalable models across the U.S. and India. Her strategic insights have consistently delivered operational excellence, budget neutrality, and portfolio diversification.
Dr. DeSilva is a recognized thought leader in bioanalytical sciences, with contributions that have influenced FDA guidance and elevated industry standards. She serves on multiple scientific advisory boards and corporate governance committees, and her commitment to mentorship and innovation has shaped the careers of countless scientists.

Wensheng Du, PhD, MBA
VP, Head of Global BD
Hengrui Pharmaceuticals

Wensheng Du leads global BD activities for Hengrui's innovative oncology portfolio. In this capacity, he spearheads strategic partnerships to drive revenue growth and expand market reach, while implementing key initiatives to enhance brand visibility and market positioning. Before Hengrui, Wensheng was with Viatris, where he led deal sourcing and BD transactions to expand the company's innovative asset portfolio across therapeutic areas. Prior to Viatris, Wensheng was with Pfizer and played critical BD roles for Pfizer's Hospital business and Upjohn portfolio until the creation of Viatris through the merger of Upjohn and Mylan. Earlier, Wensheng held leadership positions in corporate and business development and strategic innovation at other multinational corporations, including International Flavors & Fragrances, Royal DSM and Akzo Nobel. He was instrumental in constructing and completing transactions with transformational impact to the respective organizations. Wensheng began his career in pharmaceutical R&D focusing on early drug discovery at Bristol-Myers Squibb and SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals (now GlaxoSmithKline). He received his BS in Chemistry from Peking University, PhD in Bioorganic Chemistry from the University of Minnesota, and MBA from Cornell University.

Mike Ellis, PhD
SVP, Head of Discovery & Development Sciences
Bristol Myers Squibb

Mike Ellis is Senior Vice President and Head of the Discovery & Development Sciences organization at Bristol Myers Squibb. Mike partners with an interdisciplinary team of scientists toward the invention and evaluation of new medicines. Prior to joining BMS, Mike was a scientific leader at Celgene and Merck Research Laboratories enabling therapeutic opportunities within epigenetics, fibrosis, immunology, neuroscience, oncology, and protein homeostasis. Mike has contributed to the invention of multiple clinical assets and enabling platforms. Mike obtained a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry with honors, magna cum laude, from Wake Forest University, and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Following aRuth L. Kirschstein National Institutes of Health Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of California, Irvine, Mike began his career within the biopharmaceutical industry. Mike received an American Chemical Society (ACS) Young Investigator's Award, served as chair of the Boston Symposium on Organic & Bioorganic Chemistry, a member of the ACS Executive Committee, co-chair of the ACS Pharma Leaders consortium, and chair of the Medicinal Chemistry Gordon

Research Conference. He currently serves as a section editor for Medicinal Chemistry Reviews and as a board advisor in the biotechnology and scientific education sectors.

Ken Fraunhoffer, PhD
Scientific Director
Bristol Myers Squibb

Ken Fraunhoffer is a native of New Jersey. He graduated summa cum laude from Princeton University, conducting research as an undergraduate with Professor Daniel Kahne. Ken moved to Harvard University and received his PhD in organic chemistry, studying with Professor Christina White. He then joined the Chemical Process Development group of Bristol Myers Squibb where he currently works as a Scientific Director. Ken serves as a process chemist, leading internal and external teams of organic chemists, engineers, and analytical chemists to discover and develop novel and scalable synthetic routes/processes towards drug candidates. In addition, Ken is a key collaborator with CMC Teams to effectively drive cross-functional deliverables such as clinical API supply, IND/CTA readiness, specifications, commercial route development, RSM selection, process characterization, PPQ readiness, and NDA preparation.
Ken has been an active member of the chemical community. He served in numerous roles within the North Jersey ACS Organic Topical Group (Chair 2017-2018; Past-Chair 2019-2020). He has been a member of the IQ Consortium Drug Substance Leadership Group since 2022. In addition, he participates in several IQ Working Groups such as API Starting Materials, Primary Stability Batches, and Synthetic PFAS.

Tamar Gubins, JD
Partner
Fox Rothschild

Tamar is a business-oriented attorney with extensive experience guiding companies through every stage of growth, often serving as a substitute or supplement to in-house counsel. She advises emerging and established technology clients on formation, financing, corporate governance, public offerings, technology transactions, and privacy and data security matters. Pragmatic and creative, Tamar provides strategic advice in clear, actionable terms.
Her broad transactional skills include mergers and acquisitions, financing transactions, IPOs, public offerings, equity compensation, and employment and contractor agreements. She represents clients in financings ranging from seed to Series E investments, as well as in high-value acquisitions across diverse industries including healthcare and technology.
Before joining Fox Rothschild, Tamar practiced at Goodwin Procter and served with the ACLU of Northern California, focusing on technology and civil liberties. She also worked in compliance at J.P. Morgan Chase. During law school, she was an editor of the Berkeley Technology Law Journal and a fellow at the Berkeley Center for Law and Technology.

Yangzi He, PhD, MBA
Associate Director, Corporate Development
Bristol Myers Squibb

Yangzi He is Associate Director, Corporate Development at BMS. In his current role, Yangzi is responsible for various strategic transactions including Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A) as well as externalization initiatives including out-licensing, spin-outs and divestitures. Previously at BMS, he managed search & evaluation efforts in oncology and hematology. Yangzi joined BMS through the acquisition of Turning Point Therapeutics where he was responsible for all business development activities. Prior to Turning Point, Yangzi was an investment associate at Vida Ventures, a life sciences investment firm.

Ling He, PhD
Director, Clinical Bioanalysis,
Daiichi Sankyo, Inc

Dr. Ling He received his Ph.D. degree in Analytical Chemistry at the University of Michigan. He is an expert in Clinical Bioanalysis at Daiichi Sankyo, Inc., and has led the functional support for a diverse portfolio of global clinical development programs. Dr. He has worked at various stages (discovery, preclinical and clinical) of pharmaceutical R&D, in both Pharma and CRO companies. His areas of research interests include regulated bioanalysis, lab automation, drug metabolism and clinical pharmacology, with close to 60 authored or co-authored publications (papers and meeting presentations) in technical areas mentioned above. Besides being an expert for small and large molecule bioanalysis, including immunogenicity, he also led clinical DDI studies and sNDA submission, which applied clinical pharmacology and pharmacometrics disciplines to inform study design and improve data interpretation. Dr. He has been serving, as DSI representative, on the Board of Directors and the Translational and ADME Sciences Leadership Group (TALG) of IQ Consortium for more than 10 years.

Petrino Kamya, PhD
Vice President and Global Head of AI Platforms
Insilico Medicine

Petrina Kamya, Ph.D. is Vice President and Global Head of AI Platforms at Insilico Medicine and President of Insilico Medicine Canada. She leads the company's generative AI-driven drug discovery platform, Pharma.AI, applying advanced computational methods to accelerate the design and development of novel therapeutics.
Dr. Kamya holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry and a B.Sc. in Biochemistry from Concordia University. A frequent speaker at international

conferences, she highlights how artificial intelligence is transforming drug discovery and precision medicine.

Ronald Kim, MBA
SVP, Former CTO,
Merck

Ron Kim is a 360 set of senior executive experiences to technology leadership. He was 2x Fortune 100 C-Level technology operator, a former Partner/Managing Director in Global Consulting, and was the IT and CISO lead for Private Equity Firm TPG's $120B portfolio of companies.
From 2020-2025 he served as the Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer at Merck. He oversaw the Chief AI Officer organization, the Chief Data Officer organization, Enterprise Architecture and other critical digital functions.
In this role Ron partnered with colleagues across the business to drive value from digital technologies across Merck's entire value chain and drive better business outcomes. This included AI in research, manufacturing, marketing, and animal health.
Ron received attended the University of Michigan where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science as well as his MBA at the University's Ross School of Business.

Louise Liu, PhD, MBA
CEO
Hill Research

Louise Liu is the CEO of Hill Research, a serial entrepreneur with a Ph.D. and MBA from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and postdoctoral training in biostatistics from Yale University. At Hill Research, she leads a high-caliber team pioneering a generative AI platform that transforms clinical trial operations, aiming to significantly accelerate drug development timelines and improve trial success rates. Under her leadership, the company closed a funding round that was nearly three times oversubscribed, co-led by a leading U.S. state innovation fund and a top-tier AI-focused venture capital firm.
Louise also serves on the Board of Trustees of the UCA Community Foundation, supporting philanthropic efforts within the Chinese-American community. She is an alumna of the Microsoft Accelerator and a recipient of the Massachusetts Innovation Fund. Her leadership and impact have earned her recognition as one of Forbes North America's Top 60 Chinese Americans and a Boston Business Journal 40 Under 40 honoree.

Yunpeng Liu-Lupo, PhD
Senior Director,
Analytical AI Clinical Development,
Bristol Myers Squibb

I am passionate about leveraging machine learning and AI to empower business decisions across the lifecycle of drug development and commercialization. I currently lead efforts to optimize clinical operations and accelerate drug development through AI. In my most recent position, I led a team of data scientists and data engineers to develop and deploy ML models that generate HCP engagement recommendations, the adoption of which significantly increased revenue and efficiency. In my previous roles I had also spearheaded computational design of mRNA vaccines and conducted comprehensive data analyses to support the development of new vaccine candidates. My academic background includes a PhD in Computational and Systems Biology, during which I developed algorithms to identify new drug candidates for cancer treatment.

Dujuan Lu, PhD
E&L Global Leader
SGS Pharma

Dr. Dujuan Lu obtained her BS in Chemistry from Nanjing University and PhD in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh. Since 2015, she serves as the head of the extractables and leachables (E&L) team at the SGS Pharma, a world-leading GMP-accredited Contract Research Organization. Prior to joining SGS, she worked at Fresenius Kabi as a research scientist, leading E&L projects to support transfusion and infusion medical device and parenteral products. She has extensive CRO and pharmaceutical/medical device industry experience with more than 1000 E&L projects on a broad range of packaging systems, including process materials, pharmaceutical finished packaging, and medical devices. As a subject matter expert in the E&L field, she is frequently presenting at various conferences as invited speakers and technical session chairs with over 50 international conference presentations, including AAPS, CPhI, E&L USA, E&L Summit, Pittcon, ASMS, etc.. She was named one of the top 60 most influential people working in the pharmaceutical industry in the Medicine Maker's 2020 power list.

Will Ma, PhD
Founder & CEO
HopeAI

Will Ma is the founder and CEO of HopeAI, a Mayo Clinic Platform_Accelerate company on a mission to bring hope to patients through AI-accelerated clinical development. HopeAI has developed AI assistants that combine clinical insights with statistical innovations, enabling faster and more precise clinical trials. Prior to founding

HopeAI, Will had over 10 years of experience in clinical development, including working as a statistician at Sanofi and BMS, and serving as a faculty member at Moffitt Cancer Center.

Gautham Nagabhushana, PhD
Executive
IBM

Gautham Nagabhushana is an Executive at IBM where is serves as a Partner within the Hybrid Cloud and Data practice. He has deep expertise in the pharmaceutical industry, having worked at Eli Lilly, Pfizer, and Boehringer Ingelheim, as well as in consulting roles at IBM. He has served as an Ambassador for AI & Analytics, advising C-level leaders at top pharmaceutical companies on implementing AI solutions, including Agentic and Generative AI. Gautham has led numerous large-scale transformation programs, reshaping business processes and operations in collaboration with senior executives.

His experience spans Commercial Operations (Sales, Marketing, Market Access), Medical Affairs, and Real-World Evidence across multiple therapeutic areas globally. Recently, he co-developed an educational curriculum for executives on Agentic & Generative AI, covering current capabilities and the organizational foundations needed for effective deployment.

Gautham has co-authored whitepapers, blogs, and participated in industry panels, podcasts, and webinars, including one last month where he was interviewed by Endpoints News. He holds a B.A. in Economics and Biological Sciences from the University of Chicago and an MPH in Biostatistics from Yale University.

William Noonan
Special Counsel
McCarter English LLP

Bill Noonan is the Chief Business Development Officer at Choose New Jersey, New Jersey's leading nonprofit economic development organization.

Bill manages a team of business development officers and oversees the International Offices to identify growth opportunities, nurture client relationships and develop strategies to promote interest in New Jersey as an ideal business location.

Bill has deep connections within New Jersey's technology ecosystem including the Jersey City/Hoboken startup community. Prior to joining Choose New Jersey, Bill served as the Senior Director of SPHERE Technology Solutions – an IT company specializing in cybersecurity – responsible for marketing, sales and business development.

Gerard Norton, PhD, JD
Partner
Fox Rothschild

Gerard P. Norton, Ph.D., is a partner in the Princeton office of Fox Rothschild, a national law firm. He is the founding Chair of the firm's Intellectual Property Department and has guided clients through their most consequential intellectual property disputes and transactions. Leader of the firm's Pharma & Biotech Group, Gerry is a seasoned litigator whose career is defined by resolving complex patent and business disputes for clients across the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, chemical, and medical device industries. He advises and represents Fortune 100 companies, universities, emerging companies and nonprofits in guarding their IP assets and innovation. A leader at the firm for many years, Gerry previously served as Managing Partner of the Princeton office and was a member of the Executive Committee. Gerry held a post-doctoral fellowship with Merck after he earned a B.A. in biology from Fordham College and a Ph.D. in Microbiology, Virology and Immunology from Mount Sinai School of Medicine. He went on to earn a law degree from Fordham University School of Law.

Tal Nuriel, PhD
Assistant Professor
Columbia University
Irving Medical Center

Dr. Tal Nuriel is an Assistant Professor in the Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer's Disease and the Aging Brain at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center. Dr. Nuriel received his PhD from Weill Cornell and perform his postdoctoral work in the lab of Dr. Karen Duff at Columbia. Dr. Nuriel's lab investigates the physiological and pathological biology of apolipoprotein E ε4 (APOE4), the primary genetic risk factor for late-onset Alzheimer's disease (AD). Dr. Nuriel's previous work has uncovered novel ways that APOE4 alters neuronal activity, endosomal-lysosomal processing, and bioenergetic regulation in AD-vulnerable brain regions. Dr. Nuriel and his team are currently working to extend these findings using a wide range of cutting-edge approaches, including multi-omics, MRI, and bioinformatics. The ultimate goal of Dr. Nuriel's research is to understand why APOE4 carriers are at an increased risk of developing AD and to identify novel treatment strategies that can prevent or slow the development of AD in this important, at-risk population.

Anne Payne, PhD
Sr. Director, Analytical Development
GlaxoSmithKline

Anne has been working in analytical development in the pharmaceutical industry for over 20 years with experience across modalities. She currently leads a group of predominantly supporting DS and DP development of small and biopharm molecules at GSK. Anne started her career at Merck and held various analytical positions in late-stage development of small molecules, vaccines, and biologics, including being the DS site analytical lead for the approval and launch of Keytruda. At Janssen, Anne was the Analytical Owner responsible for multiple commercial product lines. Anne spent almost 5 years at GSK as a team leader in DSPA-US where her responsibilities included leading the early phase analytical development team and being the analytical lead for the mafodotin drug-linker for the ADC Blenrep. Anne has been active in industry groups, particularly the IQ consortium where she served as the chair of the Analytical Leadership Group for 2021 and the organizing committee for the IQ CMC Summit for two years. Anne has a key focus on driving strong and collaborative partnerships across functions and divisions, using broad analytical experience across modalities and phases of development to tackle new challenges, and a keen interest in external interactions and influence.

Ethan Poris, MS
Associate Director, Analytical AI Clinical Development
Bristol Myers Squibb

Since joining Bristol Myers Squibb in 2021, I've leveraged data science to drive innovation across multiple high-impact projects and high-performing analytics teams—from developing predictive models that enabled operations to decrease cell therapy turnaround times for critical patient treatments, to creating bottom-up product development cost forecasting pipelines that enhanced portfolio optimization, to most recently building suggestion engines to drive HCP engagement and significantly increase revenue across our brand portfolio. I'm now excited to transition to my new role in which I'll be optimizing clinical operations to accelerate drug development and ultimately improve patient outcomes. Before joining BMS, I received my BSc in Cognitive Psychology and a Master's in Business Analytics from Ivey Business School.

Nauman Shah, MBA
Global Head of Business Development
Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine

Nauman Shah leads a global team charged with driving business development strategy and pursuing transformational acquisitions, licensing, and partnership opportunities to advance Johnson & Johnson's mission to save and improve lives.
Working closely with the external biotech innovation ecosystem and financial community, Nauman helps evolve Johnson & Johnson's strategic portfolio by identifying and sourcing external innovation opportunities to accelerate positive patient impact and create value for the company. A member of the Innovative Medicine Group Operating Committee, Nauman has extensive experience successfully activating engagement, collaboration, and talent development across large, cross-functional teams.
Nauman joined Johnson & Johnson in 2003 and has since held various leadership positions. He previously led Johnson & Johnson MedTech's Strategic Customer team. Formerly the Chief of Staff to the former Chairman and CEO, Nauman was directly involved in the company's strategic planning process and executing enterprise growth initiatives.
Prior to joining Johnson & Johnson, Nauman worked at Pfizer/Pharmacia. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biological Basis of Behavior from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Business Administration in Finance from Temple University. He graduated from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania after completing the General Management Program.

Weiyong Sun, PhD, MD, MBA
Chief Business Officer
Hansoh Bio/Hansoh Pharma

Dr. Weiyong Sun, serving as the Chief Business Officer (CBO), currently leads Global Business Development and Alliance Management at Hansoh Pharmaceutical Group. Over the past four years, he and his team have accomplished over 20 licensing and collaboration deals, including two licensing agreements with GSK on ADCs in 2023, one small molecule GLP-1 out-licensing to Merck (MSD) in 2024, and recently GLP-1/GIP dual peptide out-licensing to Regeneron in 2025. Dr. Sun also plays a pivotal role in supporting Hansoh R&D by evaluating and accessing new technologies, platforms, and modalities.
Before joining Hansoh, Dr. Sun dedicated 19 years to Daiichi Sankyo, where he spent the initial five years in Tokyo R&D, contributing to activities ranging from target discovery to clinical development. Transitioning to the US Business Development division, he successfully identified, evaluated, and negotiated numerous partnership opportunities.
Dr. Sun holds an MD from Peking University Medical School, as well as master's and doctoral degrees in Cell Biochemistry from the University of Tokyo. Additionally, he earned an MBA from Columbia Business School.

Peng Sun, JD, PhD
Senior Director, Senior Patent Counsel
Sarepta Therapeutics

Peng Sun is Senior Director, Senior Counsel at Sarepta Therapeutics, Inc in Cambridge, MA. Peng's practice focuses on IP transactions and licensing, patent portfolio development and strategy, as well as IP risk management and due diligence. In addition to his core legal

responsibilities, Peng brings significant commercial experience supporting the launch of Elevidys, Sarepta's gene therapy for Duchenne muscular dystrophy, and has played a key role in advancing clinical programs in Limb-Girdle Muscular Dystrophies (LGMDs) and siRNA therapeutics.

Prior to joining Sarepta, Peng practiced with an international law firm in Washington, DC. Peng holds a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center, and a Ph.D. in Molecular Medicine from University of Maryland Baltimore.

Jimeng Sun, PhD
Health Innovation Professor
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Dr. Jimeng Sun is Health Innovation Professor at the Siebel School of Computing and Data Science and the Carle Illinois College of Medicine at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He is internationally recognized for pioneering research at the intersection of artificial intelligence and healthcare, with a particular focus on accelerating clinical trials, improving predictive modeling, and transforming drug development.

A co-founder of an AI-driven clinical trial optimization platform, Dr. Sun develops domain-specific AI agents that streamline literature mining, trial design, patient recruitment, site selection, and outcome prediction. His research spans clinical AI systems, drug discovery and development, AI for clinical trials, and machine learning for biosignals, producing widely adopted models such as RETAIN for interpretable predictions, AI-based patient-trial matching systems, trial outcome predictors, and molecular optimization frameworks.

With more than 500 publications in leading venues including Nature and NEJM AI, over 40,000 citations, and an h-index of 101, Dr. Sun's work has directly influenced clinical practice through collaborations with major healthcare institutions and industry partners such as IQVIA, Medidata, and GE Healthcare. He has been named one of the Top 100 AI Leaders in Drug Discovery and Advanced Healthcare and maintains active collaborations with Massachusetts General Hospital, Beth Israel Deaconess, Northwestern, Vanderbilt, and OSF Healthcare.

Dr. Sun holds a B.S. and M.Phil. in Computer Science from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and a Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University.

Ming Tang, PhD
Director of Bioinformatics
AstraZeneca

Ming Tommy Tang is a computational biologist with over 12 years of experience in genomics, epigenomics, and single-cell transcriptomics. He earned his PhD from the University of Florida, trained at MD Anderson, and held non-tenure-track faculty roles at Harvard and Dana-Farber. At AstraZeneca, he leads epigenetics bioinformatics for oncology. A former wet-lab biologist, Tommy is passionate about open science and helping biologists gain computational skills. With over 100K followers across social media platforms, he aims to transform bioinformatics education. Learn more at divingintogeneticsandgenomics.com.

Li Tao, PhD
Senior Scientific Director
Bristol Myers Squibb

Dr. Tao is currently a Senior Scientific Director of Biophysical and Biochemical Characterization within Biologics Development at Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS). Since joining BMS over 27 years ago, he has contributed to both Drug Discovery and Development organizations, gaining extensive hands-on experience across major analytical platforms including liquid chromatography, capillary electrophoresis, mass spectrometry, optical spectroscopy, and biophysical analysis.

For the past 15 years, Dr. Tao has led biochemical and biophysical characterization efforts for biologics throughout development and life cycle management, supporting CMC development and regulatory filing activities for Yervoy, Opdivo, Empliciti, Opdualag, and numerous clinical programs. At BMS, he served as chair or co-chair for several councils and forums, including the Biologics Comparability Council, CQA Council, Biologics Forum, Attributes-PK Working Group, and the Analytical Discovery-Development Forum.

Dr. Tao also led the CMC development team for nivolumab (Opdivo®) from Phase I through Phase III. From 2012 to 2022, he taught short courses at scientific conferences such as ASMS, Pittcon, and EAS.

Dr. Tao earned his BS and MS degrees from the University of Science and Technology of China and his PhD from the University of Florida.

Michael Tolentino, MD
Co-Founder, Scientific Head & Consultant to the CEO
Aviceda Therapeutic

Dr. Tolentino is a serial bio/health tech entrepreneur, therapeutic inventor, drug developer, clinical trialist, venture investor, board member, health/biotech/pharma company advisor, associate clinical professor of ophthalmology, and admissions committee member at University of Central Florida Medical School. He has invented, developed or taken to the clinic 9 platform technologies:

1) Vitrectomy surgery and silicone oil for retinal detachments.
2) Antibody Drug Conjugate (Mab GFAP: Ricin A Toxin)
3) Anti-VEGF therapies for retinal diseases (Avastin, Lucentis, Macugen, Eyelea, Beovu)
4) Anti-angiogenic/anti-VEGF AAV gene therapy.
5) RNA interference (siRNA). (OPKO Health: Bevasiranib, Panther Pharmaceuticals)
6) Glycomimetic anti-fibrotic proteins. (Promedior /Roche : PRM 167/151)

7) Glycomimetic checkpoint modulators/ high affinity ligand of Siglecs (HALOS) platform. (Aviceda Therapeutics: AVD-104, Aviceda Glycotech).
8) Non-viral extrahepatic oligonucleotide. (Avilect Biosciences)
9) Implantable continuous intraocular pressure monitor. (QuraMed)
He is co-founder and former/ current board member for Aviceda Therapeutics, Aviceda Glycotech, Avilect Biosciences, TrueBlue Protection, Panther Pharmaceuticals, Vision Integrated Partners and Acuity Pharmaceuticals (OPKO Health Nasdaq: OPK).
He has raised over 300 million dollars and exited 2 companies for > 2 billion dollars. He recently raised 207 million dollars in an upsized Series C round for Aviceda Therapeutics where he served as co/founder, inventor, CSO, CTO, CIO, COO and subject matter expert board member. He has been a principal investigator in over 140 Clinical trials. He has > 100 peer reviewed publication and delivered over 500 international lectures.
He received his Research Training at Harvard Medical School from Judah Folkman, Charles Janeway, Ted Dryja, Elliot Berson, Napoleon Ferrara, Frederic Jakobiec, Anthony Adamis, Joan Miller, Robert D'Amato, Yihai Cao, Pat D'Amore, Miguel Refojo, and Felipe Tolentino. He was faculty at the University of Pennsylvania department of cell, molecular biology and gene therapy and Principal investigator in his own NIH funded lab. He, obtained his surgical retinal fellowship, at the University of Pennsylvania, his ophthalmology residency at Harvard Medical School. He received his MD from UMASS Chan School of Medicine, a degree in computer science/business from Brown University and his high school diploma from Deerfield Academy.

Jun Wang, PhD
Assistant Professor of Pathology
NYU Grossman School of Medicine

Dr. Jun Wang is currently an Assistant Professor of Pathology at NYU Grossman School of Medicine. Dr. Wang possesses around two decades of expertise in immunotherapy, focusing on the discovery of novel immune receptor-ligand pathways and their utilization for treating cancer and other human diseases. In addition to his early experience with anti-4-1BB immunotherapy, he has characterized FGL1/LAG-3, Siglec-15, MHC-I membrane inhibitors, SARS-CoV-2 myeloid receptors, and myeloid feedback modulators, as potential mechanisms of immune evasion and targets for Immunotherapy of cancer and autoimmune diseases. He is the founder and scientific advisor for Remunix Inc., an advisor for BMS and Hanmi Pharmaceutical Ltd., an advisor and scientific co-founder for Rootpath Genomics, and a co-founder of BioSpark Group.

Wenhua Wang, PhD
Senior Principal Scientist
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Wenhua Wang is a Senior Principal Scientist in the Formulation Development Department at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Prior to joining Regeneron, she spent several years at Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) and Genentech. With over a decade of experience in biologics drug formulation, Dr. Wang specializes in developing formulations for innovative modalities, including antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs). She earned her Ph.D. in Biophysics from the University of Rochester.

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 of business development opportunities.
Previously, he was the Head of Global Business Development, Search & Evaluation at Antengene, resulting in numerous strategic partnerships with biopharma companies, including Merck, Bristol Myers Squibb, BeiGene, Haisoh Pharma, etc. Before that, he was the U.S. Head of Business Development at Adlai Nortye USA Inc. 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.

Hong Xie, MD, MBA, MS
President
ClinX LLC

Dr. Xie is a veteran oncology drug developer with >25 years of experience in both early and late clinical development, having led studies for every stage of the clinical development continuum. She has held leadership positions with increasing responsibilities at BeiGene, Johnson and Johnson, AstraZeneca, GSK and Merck & Co. Her experiences encompass targeted therapies, epigenetic modulators, immune-oncology (checkpoint inhibitors and cancer vaccines), chemo prevention, monoclonal antibodies, antibody drug conjugates, radio-conjugates, bispecifics (including T cell and NK cell engagers) to cell therapies. She has provided end-to-end clinical development plans for dozens of programs including complex biologics with novel mechanisms, as well as strategic support for due diligence for both in-licensing and out-licensing business development opportunities.

Mehran Yazdanian, PhD
VP R&D Operations
Teva Pharmaceuticals

Mehran Yazdanian is the Vice President of R&D Operations and Biosimilars at Teva Pharmaceuticals and the R&D Site Head for Teva's West Chester, PA facility. He leads CMC project managers to develop and implement strategies for development of innovative biologicals and biosimilars for a seamless transition of activities from clone selection to regulatory submission. He received his BS in biochemistry and MS and PhD in pharmaceutics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Ruiwei Zhang, MS
Senior Associate
Charles River Associates

Ruiwei majored in Biotechnology at Nankai University and earned an MSc in Epidemiology from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. Over the past eight years, she has worked across various sectors of the healthcare industry, starting in HEOR at a MedTech company. She later transitioned into strategy consulting with a focus on Life Sciences, specializing in Healthcare Analytics, Commercial Strategy, Pricing & Market Access, as well as Life Sciences Litigation.

Meade Zhang, MS
CHRO
Hengrui Pharmaceuticals

Meade is a seasoned HR leader with over 30 years of experience driving human capital strategy in complex, global environments. He has a proven track record in top-tier Fortune 500 companies, including Unilever, AstraZeneca, and Procter & Gamble, with extensive leadership experience across China, North America, and Asia. His executive roles include serving as CHRO for two listed companies in China, Vice President of HR for North Asia at Unilever, and VP of HR for China & Hong Kong at AstraZeneca. At P&G, he held several senior global and regional HR leadership positions. He is renowned for his strategic approach to building world-class organizations and leading large-scale transformational change.

Tong Zhang, PhD
Director of Bispecific Antibody
Regeneron

Dr. Tong Zhang is a Director of Bispecific Antibodies at Regeneron Pharmaceutical, Inc. Dr. Zhang has extensive expertise in early-stage technology development, with a focus on the engineering of bispecific antibodies and cytokine therapeutics.

Hanrui Zhang, PhD
ML/AI Reviewer/Researcher
FDA

Dr. Hanrui Zhang is an AI/ML Reviewer and Researcher at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER), Office of Clinical Pharmacology (OCP). In this role, she focuses on the evaluation and application of artificial intelligence and machine learning in drug development and clinical trials, contributing to the agency's efforts to ensure trustworthy and effective use of emerging technologies in healthcare. Dr. Zhang received her Ph.D. in Computational Medicine and Bioinformatics from the University of Michigan, where she specialized in developing machine learning approaches for complex biomedical problems. Her research interests include precision medicine, digital health technologies, explainable AI, out-of-distribution detection, and real-world evidence, with a broader goal of advancing safe and reliable AI systems for healthcare and regulatory decision making. She has earned recognition in multiple international bioinformatics competitions, including first place in the 2020 Allen Institute Cell Lineage DREAM Challenge. At the FDA, Dr. Zhang and her team were awarded the 2024 FDA Overall Impact Award for Outstanding Contributions to AI/ML Regulatory Review. Their work exemplifies the integration of scientific rigor and translational impact to support patient-centered drug development.

Junshu Zhao, PhD, MBA
Senior Director, CMC Strategy &
Business Development
Bristol Myers Squibb

Junshu Zhao is Senior Director of GPS Business Development and CMC Strategy at Bristol Myers Squibb, where she leads cross-functional technical due diligence for external innovation opportunities across diverse therapeutic modalities. She plays a pivotal role in integrating CMC insights into asset valuation, contract structuring, and deal execution to enable seamless integration of external assets into BMS's development pipeline.

With over 14 years of experience in drug development, Junshu has led multidisciplinary teams advancing small molecules, biologics, and ADCs from preclinical stages through commercialization. She was recognized with BMS's R&D Palmer Award for Excellence in Drug Development for establishing mini-tablets as a pediatric formulation platform.

Beyond her technical and strategic contributions, Junshu is a passionate advocate for inclusion and global collaboration. As a leader in BMS's PAN Asian Network, she launched the Geographical Expansion Podcast, which promotes cultural fluency and market insights across BMS's global footprint.

Junshu holds a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and an MBA from Columbia Business School, where she graduated with Dean's Honors with Distinction (top 5%).

Lily (Lihui) Zhao, PhD
Executive Director Biostatistics
Daiichi Sankyo, Inc.

Before joining Daiichi Sankyo, Lily was director of biostatistics at Pfizer for 2 years before serving as director of biostatistics at Novartis oncology. Pharmaceutical industry biostatistician leader with proven track record of directing statistical activities on multiple compounds from NDA/sNDA submission to approval. Lead complex initiatives with positive company-wide impact through subject-matter expertise in clinical trial process and independent research, great analytical, problem solving and negotiation abilities, and strong program and talent management skills.

Biographies of Session Chairs and Moderators

Xi Cheng, MS, MPH
Senior Healthcare Data Scientist
ThinkSnow HealthTech Inc.

Xi Cheng is a healthcare data scientist with a Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Data Analytics from the Georgia Institute of Technology (2023) and a Master of Public Health in Global Health Management from Tulane University (2011).

Currently, Xi serves as a Senior Healthcare Data Scientist at ThinkSnow Medical Technology Co., Ltd. where she leads and manages data-driven projects for clients in the pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors. In this role, she oversees the development and implementation of advanced analytics solutions that improve clinical and operational outcomes.

Xi's previous experience includes working with the FDA/CDER's Clinical Data Science Team, where she focused on new drug safety analyses and helped streamline the evaluation of New Drug Applications. Xi also served as a Health Economist Consultant at Abt Associates Inc., conducting health economic evaluations for major global health initiatives funded by USAID, World Bank and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Wei Ding, PhD
SAPA Acting President and President-Elect
Senior Director
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 60 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.

Frank X Gan, PharmD
SVP, Clinical Development
ImmuneOnco Biopharmaceuticals (Shanghai),

Frank Gan has more than 25 years of drug research and development experience in both academic and biopharmaceutical settings. He has contributed to the development of clinical research strategies and successfully led the global clinical research programs in metabolic disease and oncology areas during his tenure at Merck, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Janssen, and Nerviano Medical Sciences. Currently, he oversees the design and execution of the global regulatory and clinical development strategies in the USA for ImmuneOnco, ensuring clinical studies are conducted in compliance with GCP and delivered on time and within budget. He holds BS and MS degrees in pharmaceutical sciences as well as a PharmD degree.

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.

Jianjian Guo, PhD
25' PhD in Cell Biology at Yale

Jianjian is currently a PhD candidate in Cell Biology from Yale University (2025) and a B.S. in Biosciences from the University of Science and Technology of China (2019). Outside research in establishing novel cell therapies for solid cancers, she has multiple leadership roles, including President of the Association of Chinese Students & Scholars at Yale (May 2021–June 2022) and founder and chair of BioCosmo since April 2022. At the Sino-American Pharmaceutical Professionals

Association-Connecticut, she is an executive member and leads career development initiatives. She is also an incoming McKinsey Associate.

Ran He, PhD, JD
Founder
THC Lawyers

Dr. Ran He is a lawyer licensed in the United States (NY and CA) and Canada and the Founder of THC Lawyers, a fast-growing international law firm with offices in Manhattan, Silicon Valley, Toronto and Vancouver. Dr. He has extensive experience in technology law, capital markets and venture consulting, and commercial litigation. Dr. He has successfully represented global pharmaceutical companies, NASDAQ-listed corporations, Chinese state-owned enterprises (SOEs), Chinese listing companies, and other high-profile clients in complex commercial and IP transactions, IPO and dispute resolution across North America.

Dr. He is particularly skilled in advising companies in the biomedical and technology sectors. His practice extends beyond legal representation, as he provides strategic consultation to established and start-up companies, with a special focus on innovation and capital market. Dr. He brings a unique perspective on the intersection of technology, law, and business to his clients.

Dr. He is a frequent speaker at industry-leading conferences, and teaches at law school and business school. Before becoming a lawyer, Dr. He earned a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in drug development, and was admitted to law school with one of the first few full LSAT score among Chinese students.

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

Sho is the Director of Middlesex County's Office of Business Engagement (OBE). He leads strategic initiatives to support business growth and industry success through strong collaboration with key stakeholders and partners. OBE connects businesses with grants, incentives, talent acquisition, site selection, and partnerships with universities and industry associations across New Jersey.

Brian Jiang, MS
Senior Pharmaceutical IT Manager
Pfizer

Brian Jiang is the senior pharmaceutical IT manager at Pfizer, where he is accountable for digital computing and engineering for drug research and development. In addition, he is also an active member and lead in a few non-profit and API organizations.

Yongmei (Maggie) Li, PhD
CEO
Axela Biosciences Inc.

Dr. Yongmei (Maggie) Li is the CEO of Axela Biosciences, a company dedicated to translating breakthrough scientific discoveries into transformative therapies and medical devices. She previously served as CEO of EmerTher Company, focusing on the application of superparamagnetic bead technology in the biomedical field, and spent over a decade at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals as a Senior Principal Scientist in drug metabolism and pharmacokinetics. Dr. Li holds a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois College of Pharmacy, has authored 20+ scientific publications, contributed to two book chapters, and holds more than 10 patents. An active leader in the life sciences community, she also served as President of SAPA and SAPA-CT, promoting scientific excellence and cross-cultural collaboration.

Lily Li, PhD
SAPA, VP
SAPA-CT, President

Dr. Lily Li is a seasoned Cell and Developmental Biologist with over 30 years of experience spanning research, academia, and leadership. After earning her Ph.D. in Cell and Developmental Biology from Temple University, she has remained a driving force in advancing biomedical innovation, STEM education, and community engagement. Her publications have garnered wide recognition, including a "Faculty of 1,000 Must Read" in Developmental Biology and the most-downloaded paper of the year in STEM CELLS. A dedicated educator and leader, she had secured and distributed multimillion-dollar grants from NASA, federal and state agencies, and private foundations, notably directing statewide NASA STEM initiatives across 26 Connecticut institutions. Beyond academia, she is deeply committed to STEM advocacy, currently serving as President of SAPA-CT, where she has strengthened industry-academic partnerships, secured 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, and launched impactful programs such as the BioPharma Career Bootcamp and AI Symposium. Recognized with numerous institutional honors for teaching, scholarship, and service, Dr. Li continues to mentor future leaders and build sustainable infrastructures that turn connections into careers and ideas into real-world impact.

Jerry Li, PhD
TA Lead
Oncology Biostatistics
Bristol Myers Squibb

Dr. Li has over 15 years' drug development experience and over 8 years' biomedical academic research experience. Dr. Li is currently a TA Lead in Oncology at Global Biostatistics and Data Sciences (GBDS), BMS. Dr. Li manages a group of talented people and leads the BMS sponsored studies of BioNTech and BMS partnered bispecific anti-

PD-L1 and VEGF, which is a high priority program for both companies. This asset is another hot topic after the Immuno-oncology era. The program covers multiple indications and many phase 3 registration studies.

Prior to BMS, Jerry spent 8 years at Merck, where he held positions with increasing responsibilities in multiple therapeutic areas including oncology, immunology, infectious disease, neurosciences. Most noticeably, he led the statistical support for Keytruda, a blockbuster immuno-oncology drug in multiple indications including cervical cancer, hepatocellular carcinoma, colorectal cancer and relapsed or refractory (R/R) classical Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Jerry joined Merck from CDER, U.S. FDA.

Prior to joining the industry, Jerry was an assistant professor at Columbia University conducting biomedical research. Jerry holds dual PhD degrees in statistics and molecular cell biology

Haiying Liu, PhD

Director of Clinical Biomarkers
CSL Behring

Haiying Liu, PhD, is currently serving as Director of Clinical Biomarkers at CSL Behring. With a track record of advancing biomarker strategy and developing novel biomarker assays, he is an experienced and motivated leader in clinical biomarker development. Before taking on his present position, he oversaw a number of biomarker projects at Johnson & Johnson, Biogen, and Merck in a variety of disease areas, including immunology, obesity, retinal disease, hypertension, diabetes, atherosclerosis, and oncology.

Wansheng Jerry Liu, PhD, JD

Partner & Chair of China Practice
Fox Rothschild LLP, Princeton, New Jersey

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 the Delegate of the New York Intellectual Property Law Association (NYIPLA) to the CNIPA/U.S. Bar Liaison Council and General Counsel of the USTC Alumni Association of Greater New York (USTCAAGNY). He is an honoree of 2022 Outstanding 50 Asian Americans in Business by the Asian American Business Development Center in New York and has been selected to the "IAM Patent 1000" list (2020-2025) and the list of ranked attorneys by Chambers USA for Intellectual Property (2025).

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 the Senior Manager, GPS Analytics Development at Bristol Myers Squibb. She focuses on helping drive the development and scaling of business analytics solutions, predictive risk assessment, and forecasting tools for the BMS Global Supply Chain organizations.

Junchi joined BMS from Guidehouse Life Sciences Consulting, where she worked as a senior consultant working on multiple brand, market, and development strategy projects. Junchi has dedicated her career to the intersection of life science technologies, digital health innovations and advanced analytics. Her passion lies in building creative analytical solutions that make a meaningful impact in supporting patients' well-being. Before joining BMS, Junchi led many commercial strategy projects with a primary focus on FemTech, digital health, CAR-T therapy, and a diverse range of therapeutic products.

Junchi holds the Doctoral Degree in Electrical Engineering from University of Notre Dame, where she developed the first of its kind of far-infrared and mid-infrared medical devices for diagnostics and therapeutic applications.

Junchi leads the SAPA (Sino-American Pharmaceutical Professionals Association) Communication – External Media Practice and serves the SAPA 8@8, Data Science & Medical Device & Diagnostics Community (MDDC).

Yongle Pang, PhD

Associate Director, Bioanalytical
Kymera Therapeutics

Dr. Pang is currently the Associate Director of Bioanalytical at Kymera Therapeutics (MA). In this role, he serves as the bioanalytical project lead, collaborating closely with internal teams and external CRO partners to develop and implement bioanalytical strategies that support Kymera's project portfolio. Before joining Kymera, Dr. Pang was a Principal Scientist in the DMPK department at GSK (PA), where he was responsible for designing and delivering fit-for-purpose bioanalytical data to support discovery-stage DMPK projects. Prior to his time at GSK, he worked as a Staff Scientist in the regulated bioanalysis department at Covance (WI), focusing on bioanalytical method development and validation for a wide range of drug candidates. Dr. Pang holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Michigan State University, where his research involved developing enzyme-containing membranes for rapid monoclonal antibody digestion prior to mass spectrometry analysis. He has extensive experience in LC/MS-based bioanalysis for both small and large molecules in

GLP and non-GLP environments. He has contributed to many peer reviewed publications. He is also an active reviewer for journals in the areas of bioanalysis and analytical chemistry.

Siqing (Sherry) Song, PhD
Principal Scientist
Merck

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).

Xiaowei Sun, PhD
Senior Scientist, Translational Medicine
Bristol Myers Squibb

Xiaowei Sun is a Senior Scientist in Translational Medicine at Bristol Myers Squibb. She works in the Material Science group, supporting biomarker assay development as well as PK/PD method development and validation. Her work ensures the delivery of high-quality reagents to advance diverse biomarker platforms, PK/PD method development, validation, and sample analysis. The group plays a critical role in bridging program transitions from discovery to clinical development.

Before joining BMS, Xiaowei was a Senior Scientist at Frontage Laboratories, specializing in PK/PD LC-MS method development, validation, and sample analysis. She brings deep expertise in bioanalytical sciences and translational research, with a strong interest in connecting laboratory innovation to clinical application.

Xiaowei earned her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Miami University, where she studied protein–ligand interactions, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at The Ohio State University on multi-omics research in metabolic syndrome and obesity.

Beyond her scientific work, Xiaowei has been active in SAPA since 2021, where she led the Communication Team (WeChat platform) before becoming Head of Membership in 2024. At BMS, she also serves as a Global Project Manager for the PAN organization, fostering collaboration and organizational development.

Yu Tian, PhD
Senior Scientist
Merck

Dr. Yu Tian received his bachelor's and master's degree from Donghua University in Shanghai focusing on polymer physics, then acquired his PhD degree from University of Delaware investigating the biophysics of designer peptide self-assembly. After graduation, Dr. Yu Tian conducted over 3 years of postdoctoral research in the research group of Professor Matthew Tirrell and Professor James LaBelle at the University of Chicago. During this period, he was focusing on the designing and synthesis of cell-permeable stapled peptides to drug the protein-protein interaction targets. Dr. Yu Tian is currently a senior scientist at Merck's biologics development function. With expertise is in biophysics and biomedical engineering, he has worked on multiple early-stage and late-stage candidates from the aspects of molecular characterization, formulation and process development, as well as the regulatory filing.

Jun (Stephen) Xue, MS
General Manager
Chipscreen Biosciences (US) Ltd.

Jun (Stephen) Xue is General Manager of Chipscreen Bioscience (US) Ltd., the U.S. subsidiary of Shenzhen Chipscreen Biosciences Co., Ltd. (688321.SH). As the company's first U.S. employee, he leads operations, staff recruitment, and coordination of clinical and business development/Investment activities across internal teams and external partners. With over 25 years in the pharmaceutical industry, Stephen has held roles at Roche, Sanofi, BMS, Celgene, Galderma, and Eli Lilly, contributing to multiple FDA NDAs and European MAAs across immunology, oncology, dermatology, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. Before joining Chipscreen, Stephen started his entrepreneurial ventures that deepened his understanding of business building, strategic growth, and collaboration. He also brings experience in biotech investment, having supported the growth and financing of life science companies—which achieved IPO. Earlier in his career, Stephen was among the first generation of Merck China employees, where he began in sales and marketing before transitioning to global roles. Stephen holds an M.S. in Computer Science (minor in Statistics) and a B.S. in Biochemistry.

Dexi Yang, PhD
Director of Medicinal Chemistry
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, 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, 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.

Zhiwei Yin, PhD
Associate Director
Bristol Myers Squibb

Dr. Zhiwei Yin is an Associate Director at Bristol Myers Squibb within the Analytical AI for Clinical Development (AICD) group, where he focuses on leveraging artificial intelligence to support clinical trial design and operations. Previously, he served as a Senior Manager in the Business Insights & Technology – Analytical AI & Predictive Solutions team, leading initiatives that applied modeling and AI to enhance health care provider engagement with BMS medications. Before transitioning into data science, Dr. Yin built extensive expertise in small molecule drug R&D, with research spanning process development, crystallization, material science, and pre-formulation. Passionate about data, he has driven the creation of digital capabilities for high-throughput experimentation, portfolio management, and business decision-making. Dr. Yin earned his PhD in Chemistry from the City University of New York and received computer science training at New York University.

Han Zhang, PhD
BD & License Manager
Biocytogen

Han Zhang holds a Ph.D. in Biomedical Informatics from the University of Pittsburgh with expertise in statistical modeling, artificial intelligence and immuno-oncology. He is currently a Business Development and Licensing Manager at Biocytogen, leading outlicensing and partnership activities for antibody discovery platforms and assets. His prior experiences include translational pathology analysis at Bristol Myers Squibb, co-founding genetic testing startup Hilife 100 and advisory role at Annoroad Gene Technology.

Jason Zhong, MBA, MS, PMP
Senior Software Solutions Architect
Tokio Marine

Jason Zhong is a Senior Software Solutions Architect at Tokio Marine with over two decades of experience in enterprise architecture, software modernization, and AI-driven innovation. He has led major modernization initiatives across healthcare, insurance, and finance, transforming legacy systems into scalable, cloud-native platforms and delivering cloud-based solutions that improved efficiency and reached millions of users. Earlier in his career, he pioneered SaaS solutions and model-driven enterprise frameworks that accelerated solution delivery and earned multiple industry awards. Jason holds an MBA in Finance from the University of Hartford, an M.S. in Computer Science from Western University, and a B.S. in Space Physics from Peking University. Certified in AWS Cloud, SAFe Agile, and Machine Learning, he continues to bridge enterprise architecture with emerging AI technologies to drive digital transformation.

Anbo Zhou, PhD
Senior Scientist
Molecular Profiling and Data Science
Regeneron

Dr. Zhou is a Senior Scientist in Molecular Profiling and Data Science at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, where he specializes in computational genomics and infectious disease research, including developing COVID-19 antibodies, with increasing LLM applications in his research pipeline. He earned his Ph.D. in Quantitative Biomedicine from Rutgers University, where his research focused on complex diseases and population genetics

SAPA Service Excellence Award

The following individuals have been selected by the President Office as the recipients of the 2025 SAPA Awards.

SAPA Distinguished Achievement Award
Jasmine Cui

SAPA Presidential Service Excellence Award
Jack Wu

SAPA Distinguished Contribution Award
Binodh DeSilva, Russell Weiner

SAPA Service Excellence Award
Ellen Chen, Xiaodong Chen, Xi Cheng, Yong Guo, Brian Jiang, Yannuo Li, Jerry Li, Lily Li, Yongmei (Maggie) Li, Jiaying Liu, Haiying Liu, Feng Liu, Junchi Lu, Pan Pan, Yongle Pang, Jindong Qin, Xiaole Shen, Xiaowei Sun, Lu Wang, Zhou Yu, Han Zhang, Linghua Harris Zhang, Yuemei Zhang, Tina Zhao

SAPA Special Recognition Award
Zixian Deng, Yang Ge, Jianjian Guo, Ran He, Yifei Huang, Siyu Jiang, Shuai Li, Dengpan Liang, Yannan Liu, Jerry W. Liu, Wen Shi, Rita Song, Sherry Song, Feiyi Sun, Yu Tian, Yang Wang, Lu Wang, Aiguo Xu, Shengjie Xu, Stephen Xue, Dexi Yang, Zhiwei Yin, Danni Zhang, Terry Zheng, Jason Zhong, Anbo Zhou

SAPA-CT Service Excellence Award
Xin Huang, Shaoke Lou, Kaiyuan Tang, Yunli Zhang, Huijuan Zhong

SAPA_DC Service Excellence Award
Jiatong Liu, Zining Wang, Ruofan Wang, Xiangyang Zhang, Chuanwen Lu

SAPA-GP Service Excellence Award
Zhiyi Cui, Guangyu Dong, Bill Lu, Ying Zhou, Namila

SAPA-MW Service Excellence Award
Haipeng Cheng, Wenan Qiang, Jingdong Qin, Jun Wei

SAPA-NE Service Excellence Award

Kejie Li, Tao Long, Wenyu Wang, Tan Yan, Yi Zhang

SAPA Corporate Sponsor Recognition Award

Alexa, Ascendia, Biocytogen, Bristol Myers Squibb, Choose New Jersey, EDETEK, Exclcirc, Fosun USA, Fox Rothchild, GenScript, Hengrui, Hill Research, Insilicom, Johnson & Johnson, Medicilon, Merck & Co., PharmaLegacy, Pharmaron, Protheragen, THC Lawyers, TRiCBiO, Wiskind Cleanroom, Wuxi Apptec, Wuxi XDC

2025 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 recognizing 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.

Eric Su

Eric is from Cambridge, Massachusetts, and is interested in studying Neuroscience at Harvard College. He is planning to play for the varsity men's volleyball team as well as trying new clubs and activities ranging from running to music. In his free time, he enjoys playing spikeball, writing, cooking, and trying new restaurants. Eric wants to attend medical school in the future.

Steve Wang

Steve is incredibly excited to be a freshman studying Biomedical Engineering at Johns Hopkins University this year and cannot wait to take grasp of the research opportunities, intellectual development, and life-long friends that await him in these next four years. He is dedicated to the development of biological treatment and pushing the frontier of knowledge that we have about our own bodies.

When he isn't working on classwork or behind the lab bench, he loves listening to music, watching independent films, playing his electric guitar, and acting in local theatre productions. Most of all, he loves the people around him unconditionally, and that is what ultimately drives him in the biological and pharmaceutical field.

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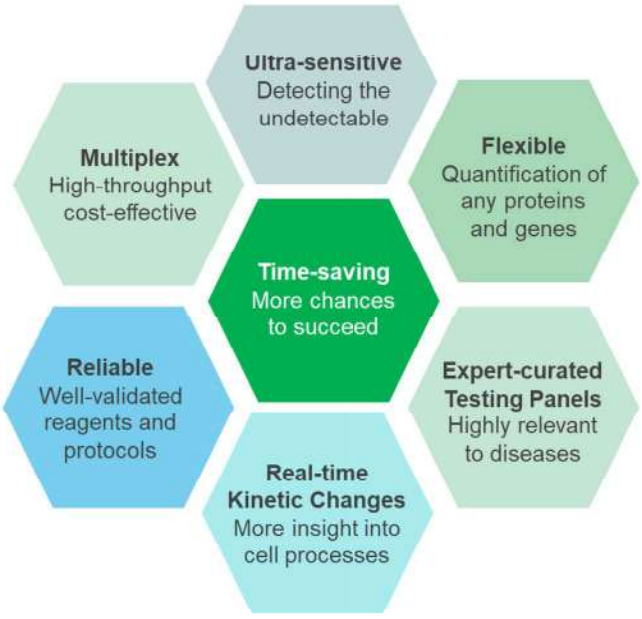

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USA: pauli.wang@exclcirc.com

Website: www.exclcirc.com

Exclcirc (Suzhou) Biomedical co., Ltd. was established in August 2023 in Suzhou BioBAY, focusing on circRNA technology platform research and development and innovative drug development. The company is a dual-driven biotechnology enterprise, integrating both independent drug discovery and CRO services. While developing from the proprietary pipeline development, Exclcirc provides full-process CRO services from circRNA design to POC/PCC, and has established substantive collaborations with leading domestic and global top 10 MNCs, research institutes, and hospitals.

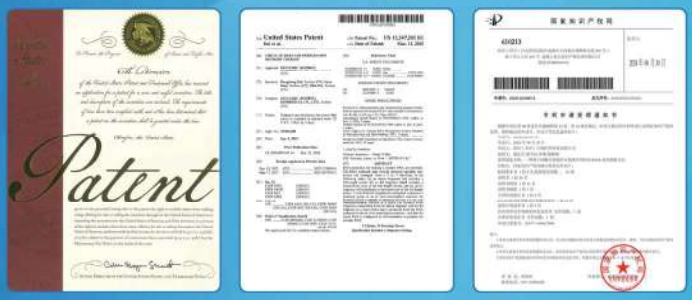
Dr. Dongsheng Dai
CEO

1.Former Chief Scientist at multiple publicly listed companies.
2.Principal Investigator and Chief Scientist of major national research programs.
3.Industry Professor of Jiangsu Province.

Prof. Ge Shan
CSO

1.Secured and led research funding exceeding RMB 50 million.
2.To date, four types of circ RNA in animal cells were discovered in worldwide, two of which were discovered by Shan's lab

TIE **Pure-TIE**



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4.CAR-NK Therapies

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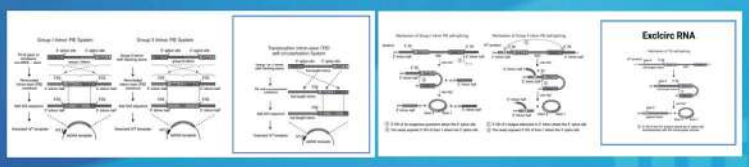

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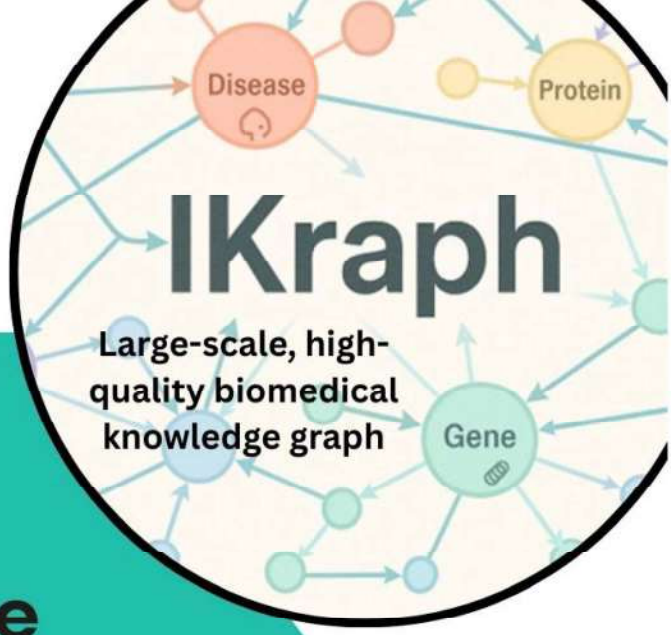

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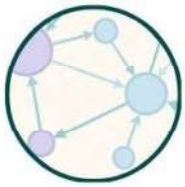

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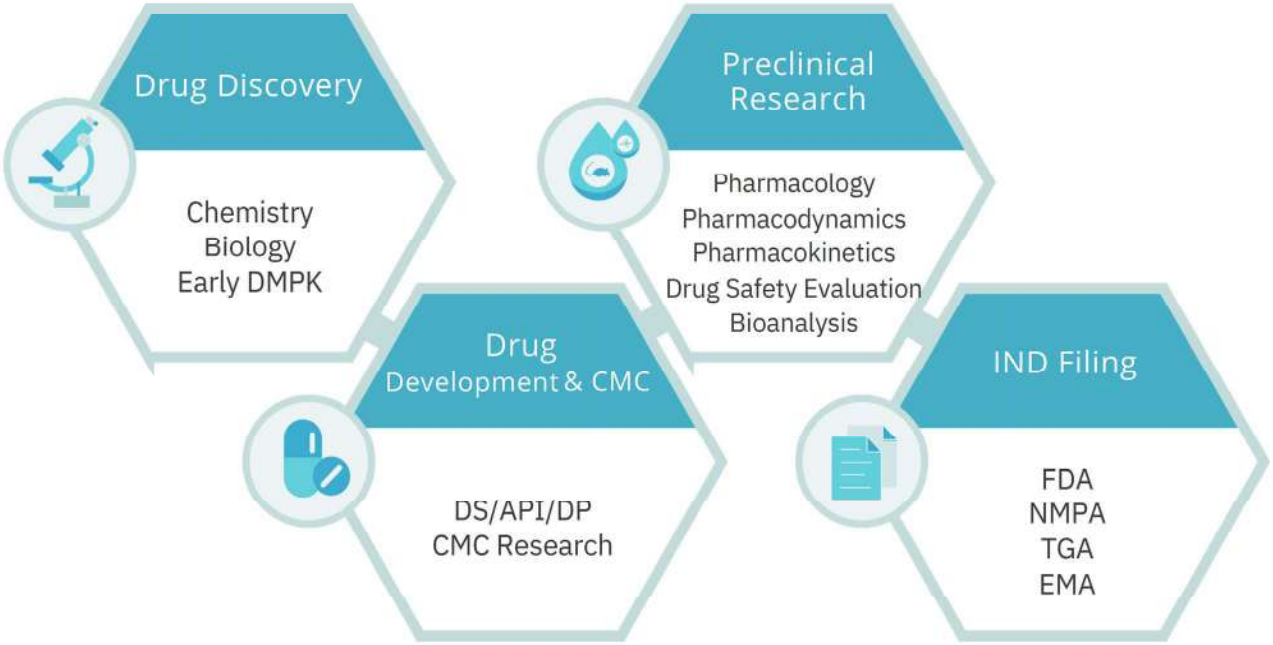

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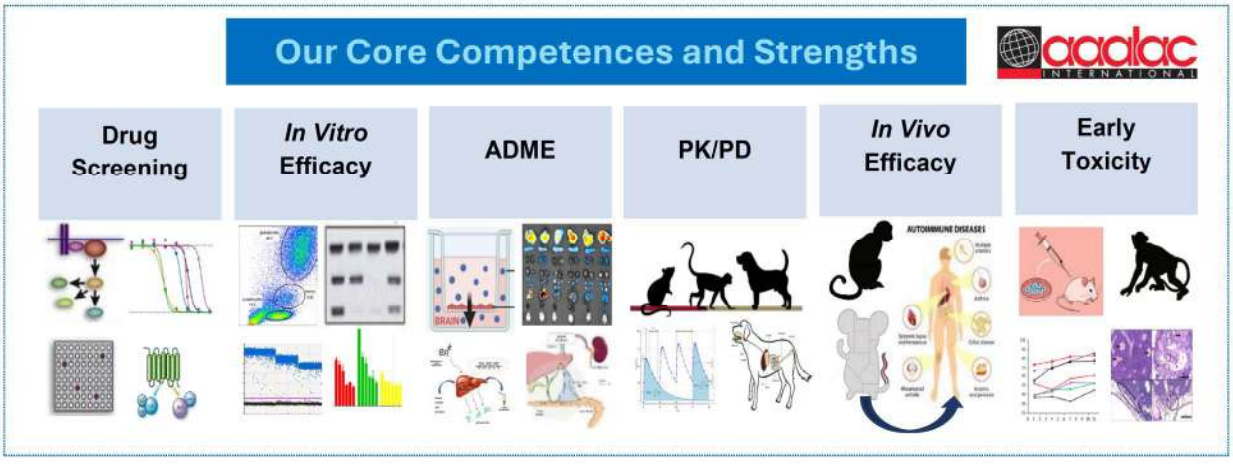

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Supporting Global Clinical Drug Development

Pharmaron is a global life science CRO that provides clinical research and development services to customers around the world. Our services cover regulatory affairs, medical writing, clinical pharmacology and pharmacometrics, clinical operation, project management, medical monitoring, biometrics, pharmacovigilance, site management services (SMO), subject recruitment, site start up (SSU), real world research (RWR), medical device services, quality assurance, and clinical bioanalysis.

Pharmaron provides biometrics services ranging from Phase I to Phase IV in a wide variety of therapeutic areas. Our global biometrics teams support the needs of local and international multi-center clinical trials, often working together to enable our client's rapid access to accurate, timely, and reliable clinical trial data and quality statistical analysis services.

- Innovative study design and simulation
- Database design and programming
- Case Report Form (CRF, eCRF) design
- Protocol, SAP and shells development
- Data visualization and review
- CDISC standards and TFLs
- Medical coding
- Clinical Study Report (CSR)
- DMC support and interim analysis
- Multi-study data integration (ISS/ISE)
- Meta analysis
- Real-world evidence (RWE)
- IND/NDA/BLA submissions

Email Liang.wang-clinical@pharmaron.com, **phone** 781 918-8286; **or** Benjamin.riedlinger@pharmaron.com

Protheragen

Bridging Innovation with Global Opportunities, Driving BD Success

Headquartered in New York, Protheragen is a US-based company specializing in the global pharmaceutical and biotechnology fields. We are dedicated to providing our clients with exceptional business development and transaction intermediary services, helping companies with innovative assets to achieve breakthrough growth.

Core Services

Our core services aim to precisely connect innovative assets with potential partners worldwide, efficiently facilitating diverse strategic collaborations including, but not limited to:

- Out-licensing
- Co-development
- Equity Financing
- Mergers & Acquisitions

Protheragen has a dynamic and integrated team with deep industry insights, extensive international network, and exceptional execution capabilities.

Contact us to embark on your successful global business development journey.

Flexible Cooperation Model

We adhere to a flexible and efficient cooperation model, excelling at building wide-ranging industry connections, and actively facilitating in-depth collaborations among all parties.

- We are committed to providing asset owners with a financially stress-free and low-risk path to collaboration.
- To initiate cooperation, the asset owner simply needs to provide non-confidential materials (e.g., business plan deck) and agrees to let us introduce the assets to potential investors or partners.
- Given the complexity and challenges of cross-border transactions, to maximize cooperation efficiency, we prefer not to spend time discussing cooperation terms at the outset. Typically, we will negotiate specific terms and details once the third-party partner demonstrates a clear intent to collaborate.

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PDO2.0 platform with native TME preservation
for Target Discovery and Drug Screening

Patient-derived tumor organoids combined with functional genomics to discover real, actionable targets for next-generation therapies. Our integrated platform significantly accelerates the development of novel drugs and immunotherapy products.

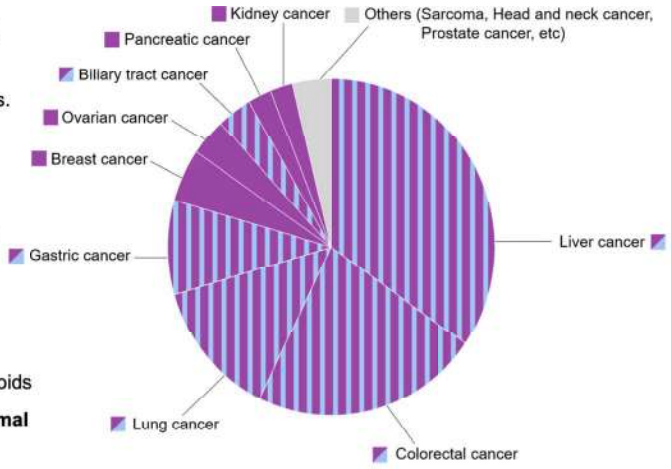
A "Living" biobank: patient derived *ex vivo* models

65%–93% alignment with clinical outcomes.

Over 1,500 tumor ***ex vivo*** models.

Matched healthy and tumor tissues Includes both common and rare cancer types.

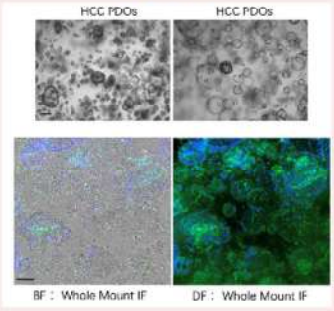
Featuring **PDO1.0**, **PDO2.0**, and **PDOX** models.



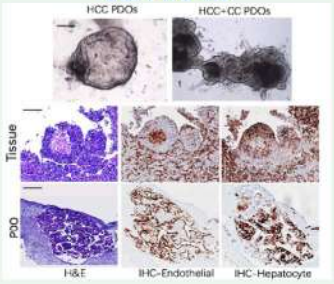
Patient-derived **tumor** organoids

Patient-derived adjacent **normal** tissue organoids

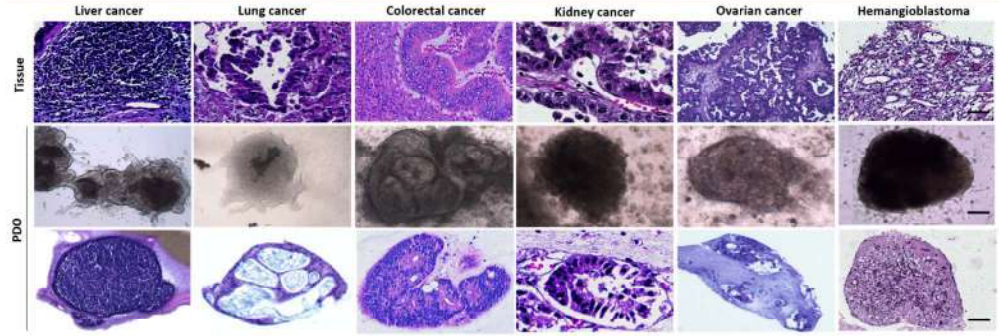
PDO 1.0



Our PDO 2.0



PDO 2.0 vs 1.0 Technology Comparison



Traditional PDO 1.0

Simple spherical structures, limited TME preservation

PDO 2.0 (ALI-PDO)

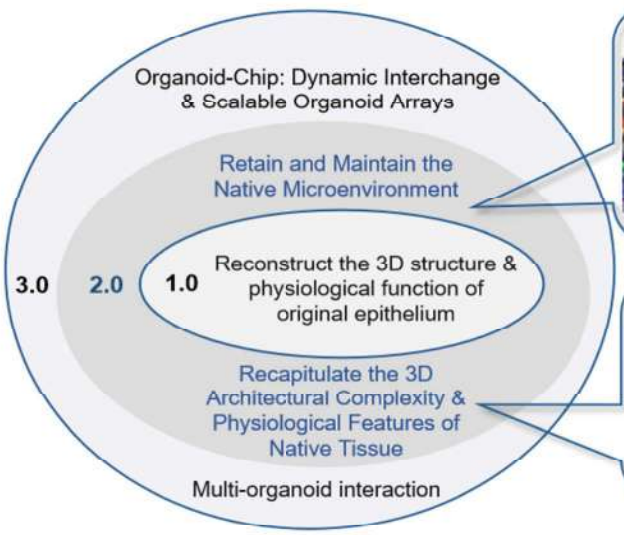
Complex architecture, complete immune landscape

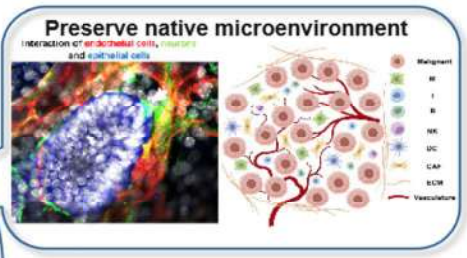
Traditional PDO 1.0
- Simple spherical structures
- Limited immune cells
- Basic culture medium
- No TME preservation

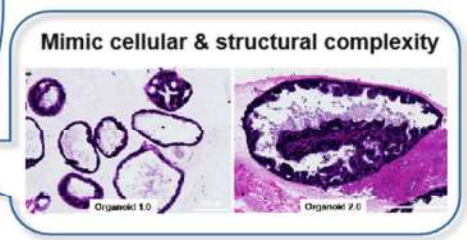
PDO 2.0 (ALI-PDO)
- Complex architecture
- Complete immune landscape
- ALI culture system
- 90%+ TME preservation

ALI-PDO: Patient-derived organoid models with accurate TME

Accurately replicating the native human microenvironment, including the tumor microenvironment (TME), to provide precise *ex vivo* models for advanced biomedical research.







High Efficiency & Success Rate Rapid and reliable model establishment.

Comprehensive MOA Studies Insights into tumor-immune interactions within TME.

Therapeutic Evaluation Supports chemoradiotherapy and targeted therapy assessment.

Combination Therapy Insights Enables MOA and efficacy studies of immunotherapy regimens.

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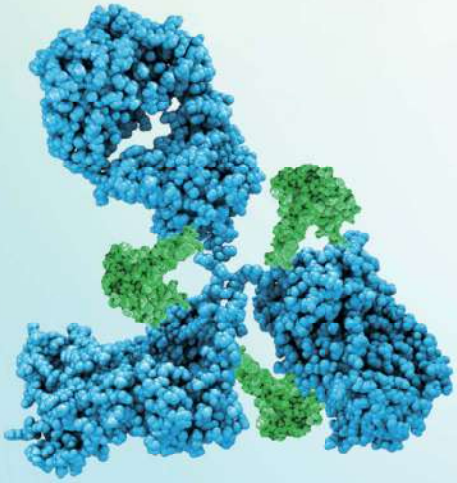
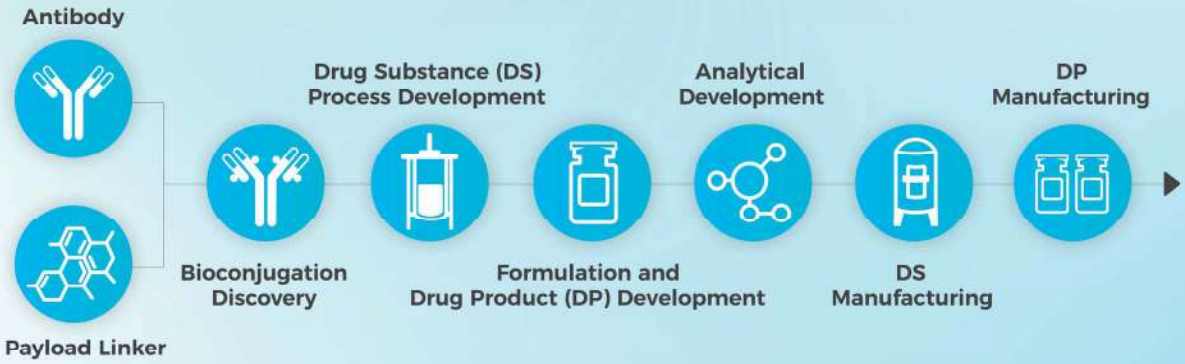


*Comprehensive **CRDMO** services from Intermediates to Bioconjugates*



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