Proventa International's 10th Annual

DRUG DISCOVERY BIOLOGY

STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2023

7th November 2023, Tuesday | **Le Meridien Cambridge**

Assessing, Choosing And Optimizing The Right Set Of Data And Methodologies To Help With Finding Effective Modalities And Techniques For Drug Discovery Biology

NEW FOR 2023:
Strategic Partnerships, Investment & Collaborations

Featuring Industry Leaders and Decision Makers:

Megan Gibbs, Ph.D., BscPharm, FCP
Vice President and Global Head, Clinical Pharmacology & Quantitative Pharmacology
Astrazeneca

Jim G MacKrell
Associate Vice President, Head East Coast (US) Venture Science Team
Eli lilly and Company

Stefan Kirov
VP, Head of Computational Biology
Flare Therapeutics

Karim Azer
VP, Head of Platform & Discovery
Axcella

Joseph Mancini
Vice President-Research
adMare BioInnovations

Marija Tadin-Strapps
Vice President & Head, Target Sciences
Pfizer

Christopher Locher
CEO
Versatope Therapeutics

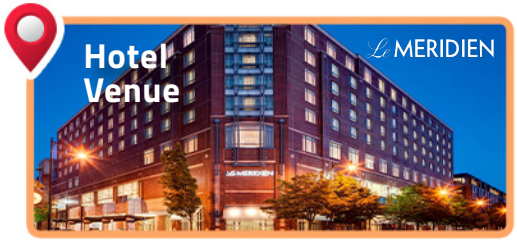
Sridhar Prasad
Head of Protein Science
Ventus Therapeutics

26 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

6 TRACKS

2 KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

1 LOCATION



What Makes Our Strategy Meetings So Unique?

Proud to Partner with:

WuXi AppTec | Sai | PELAGO BIOSCIENCE | Piramal Pharma Solutions | intellegens | revvity signals | BasePair Biotechnologies, Inc. | ARCTORIS | NovAliX | Selvita | Exscientia | NUCHEM SCIENCES

Proventa International's Strategy Meetings are a completely unique experience.

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We're committed to delivering long-term value across our extensive life science network. Through our carefully crafted meetings, collaborative experiences and services Proventa International can offer you the perfect opportunity to meet your business goals, whatever they may be.

Our Vision

To be a platform for creating life-saving therapies and to facilitate the creation of a completely patient centric pharmaceutical industry.

Our Mission

By encouraging key leaders and their companies to put the patient at the very heart beat of every innovation. Sharing valuable insights and strategies to assist in the discovery, development and commercialisation of life saving therapies.

Our Unique Meeting Format

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

These interactive and informal discussion groups are the hallmark of the meeting. The brightest minds in the industry are brought together in 60-minute sessions that enable participants from all over the world to share ideas, challenges and lessons learned.

PERSONALISED AGENDA

Each delegate receives a personalised agenda with the roundtable discussions that you choose. You only attend sessions and meetings that fit your challenges and interests, ensuring your time spent is focused and well-utilised.

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

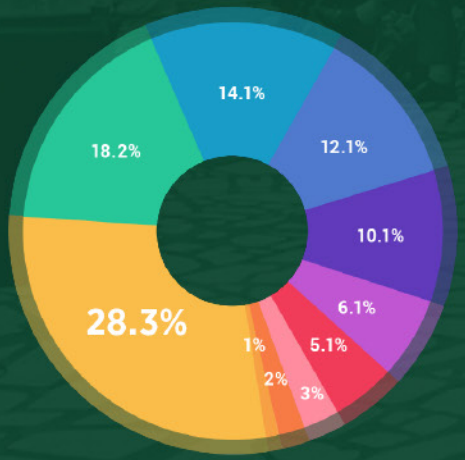
The most effective and time efficient way to assess potential partners at a strategic level. Identify key solution providers that can take your business to the next level and we will help arrange private meetings so you can connect.

STRATEGIC NETWORKING

Strategic networking opportunities form a key benefit of the meeting. Our proven format for building and strengthening alliances to make lasting connections that benefit you.

Seniority of Attendees

- Director Level
- President / VP
- Department Head
- Other
- Team Lead
- C-Level
- Scientist
- Academia
- Manager
- Biology Specialist



Biology

- Biology
- R&D
- Drug Discovery
- Bioinformatics
- DMPK
- ADME
- Toxicology
- Structural Biology
- Pre-Clinical

Meet Investors

- Venture Capital
- Private Equity
- Large Pharma/Biotech
- Corporate Venture Capital
- Institutional
- High Net Worth
- Family Office/Private Wealth
- Government Organisation/ Sovereign Wealth Fund
- Angel

Facilitator Faculty

Brenda Wang
Senior Director / Subject Matter Expert in In vivo Pharmacology Discovery Biology
WuXi AppTec

Zhifeng Yu
Director of Assay & DEL Screen
WuXi AppTec

Jason Deng
Senior Director of DEL Biology
WuXi AppTec

Carlos Pedraza
Associate Vice President and Head of Biology (US)
Sai Life Science

Christopher Locher
CEO
Versatope Therapeutics

Diane Joseph-McCarthy
Executive Director, Bioengineering Technology & Entrepreneurship Center
Boston University

Elina Lavit
Vice President of Business Development
OncoNano Medicine

Huseyin Mehmet
Executive Director. New Ventures
University of Massachusetts Medical School

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VP, Head of Platform & Discovery
Axcella

Li Peng
Chief Scientific Officer
Palleon Pharmaceuticals

Marcie Glicksman
Vice President, Biology
EnClear Therapies

Marija Tadin-Strapps
Vice President & Head, Target Sciences
Pfizer

Megan Gibbs, Ph.D., BscPharm, FCP
Vice President and Global Head, Clinical Pharmacology & Quantitative Pharmacology
Astrazeneca

Ming "Tommy" Tang
Director of Computational Biology, Head of CompBio
Immunitas Therapeutics

Pedro Serrano
Senior Director, Head of RNA and Protein Modulation
Takeda

Prashant Nambiar
SVP, Research and Development
Strand Therapeutics

Robert Foti
Senior Director, Preclinical Development
MERCK

Shane Hegarty
Chief Scientific Officer & Co-Founder
AXONIS Therapeutics

Sridhar Prasad
Head of Protein Science
Ventus Therapeutics

Stefan Kirov
VP, Head of Computational Biology
Flare Therapeutics

Yi Xing
Senior Director of Drug Creation, Head of Structural Biology and Rational Design
Seismic Therapeutic

2023 Sponsors

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LEAD SPONSOR

WuXi AppTec provides a broad portfolio of R&D and manufacturing services that enable the global pharmaceutical and healthcare industry to advance discoveries and deliver groundbreaking treatments to patients. Through its unique business models, WuXi AppTec's integrated, end-to-end services include chemistry drug CRDMO (Contract Research, Development and Manufacturing Organization), biology discovery, preclinical testing and clinical research services, and cell and gene therapies CTDMO (Contract Testing, Development and Manufacturing Organization), helping customers improve the productivity of advancing healthcare products through cost-effective and efficient solutions. http://www.wuxiapptec.com

CO-HOST SPONSORS

Sai Life Sciences is a full-service CDMO driven by a vision to support the launch of 25 new medicines with our partners by 2025. Sai Life Sciences provides services to our pharma innovator partners, which accelerate the discovery, development and manufacture of complex small molecule therapeutic agents. Our clients gain clear competitive advantages through shorter time to market and risk minimization using our integrated and high-quality scientific services. Established in 1999, Sai has over 2,000 employees located at six R&D and manufacturing sites in India, the UK and USA. As one of India's fastest growing CDMOs, the company is investing over US $ 150 M in augmenting its R&D and manufacturing capabilities, including setting up a Biology Lab in Cambridge, Mass. (USA) and a Process R&D Lab in Manchester, UK. Sai provides high value integrated services in all areas of chemistry from hit discovery to GMP manufacturing, pharmacology, DMPK, toxicology and formulation development to better support the increasing needs of our customers. Sai Life Sciences is backed by TPG Capital and HBM Healthcare Investments.

Pelago Bioscience is a Discovery Research Partner focusing on biologically relevant systems, unleashing drug discovery projects using the patented CETSA® technology as a core pillar. The Cellular Thermal Shift Assay (CETSA® by Pelago Bioscience) has multiple assay formats that make it a keystone of decision making throughout the drug discovery pipeline. Unlike other solutions on the market today, its unique approach allows the assessment and quantification of target engagement under physiological conditions – without the need to modify the compound or protein. This provides data that is both actionable and biologically relevant. Think of CETSA® as snapshots of true target engagement inside the cell, any time you need them. Using CETSA® data and applications, our customers are able to make better and more informed decisions at earlier stages in their projects.

Piramal Pharma Solutions (PPS) is a Contract Research Development and Manufacturing Organization (CDMO) offering end-to-end discovery, development and manufacturing solutions across the drug life cycle. We serve our customers through a globally integrated network of facilities in North America, Europe, and Asia. This enables us to offer a comprehensive range of services including drug discovery solutions, process & pharmaceutical development services, clinical trial supplies, commercial supply of APIs, and finished dosage forms. The Discovery Services site of PPS has been operational since 2003 in Ahmedabad, India and currently have ~300+ chemistry FTE's and ~25 Biologists supporting various small molecule discovery programs in Hit to Lead and Lead Optimization stages and work on both FTE and Fee Based Models. Our capabilities include:

- Custom Synthesis of individual compounds, building blocks, scaffolds, focused libraries (40-100 compounds), reference standards, intermediates, impurities & metabolites
- In-vitro biology including:
- Biochemical Assays: Access a wide range of biochemical assays to study enzyme kinetics, protein-protein interactions, and more.
- Cell-Based Assays: Explore a comprehensive suite of cell-based assays to assess various aspects of cellular function, including proliferation, apoptosis, and cell signaling pathways.
- High-Throughput Screening: Accelerate your drug discovery process with our high-throughput screening services, which enable rapid testing of large compound libraries.
- 3D Cell Culture Models: Gain deeper insights into complex biological processes by utilizing our advanced 3D cell culture models, mimicking in vivo environments.
- Custom Assay Development: Collaborate with our experts to design and develop custom assays tailored to your unique research objectives.
- Data Analysis and Reporting: Benefit from our data analysis capabilities, which provide you with meaningful insights and actionable results.
- In-vitro ADME
- In-vivo PK (offered via a local partner with GLP, AAALAC certified labs)
- Route Scouting leveraging our global process chemistry expertise across US, Canada & India to support early drug developmentAnalytical services including method development (non-GMP), separation of Chiral/ Achiral compounds (mg-gm scale)

PPS is a subsidiary of the India based Healthcare and Financial Conglomerate -Piramal Enterprises Ltd (Market Cap - $5 Billion) and the Carlyle Group has recently acquired a 20% stake in PPS. For more information please visit: www.piramalpharmasolutions.com

Intellegens applies advanced machine learning to accelerate innovation in life sciences R&D. Our Alchemite™ software enables you to extract maximum value from real-world experimental, process, and other data. Gain deep insights into your discovery and development data. Improve decision-making based on accurate prediction and uncertainty quantification. Increase efficiency of experimentation and clinical studies, with higher success rates. The Alchemite™ method works for sparse, noisy data where other machine learning approaches fail. Successful applications have included small molecule drug discovery, biopharmaceuticals, translational medicine, formulations, and clinical study feasibility, and product design. www.intellegens.com

Revvity Signals Software formerly known as PerkinElmer Informatics offers one of the most comprehensive suites of scientific software in the world. Our future-proof technology enables investigators in Life Sciences to capture and analyze their data from initial research and development of their therapeutics, through biomarker discovery & patient stratifications and ultimately live tracking of their clinical trials. From our internationally recognized flagship ChemDraw® to our Signals Research Suite (Signals Notebook, Signals VitroVivo, and Signals Inventa)to our exclusive TIBCO® Spotfire® partnership that brings scientific data analytics to visual life in both research and clinical development no scientific company offers a wider range and more powerful suite of scientific solutions than Revvity Signals. www.revvitysignals.com

Base Pair Biotechnologies is based just 10 miles south of the Houston, Texas Medical Center. Our team of 11 scientists has a combined 50+ person-years of experience in developing aptamers. Base Pair owns the sole worldwide rights to patents for multiplexed aptamer discovery. We have the capability to select aptamers to up to 30 protein, peptide, or small molecule targets in true competitive, multiplexed fashion. The resulting aptamers are therefore more specific for their particular targets. Using this technology, we have completed contracts from the National Cancer Institute, the CDC, and many large pharma and biotech firms and can serve as an excellent partner to help achieve your drug discovery and validation needs.

Arctoris is a tech-enabled discovery-stage CRO headquartered in Oxford, UK. Arctoris stands for scientific excellence, true agility, and a solution-oriented mindset, all delivered by an expert team (80% of scientists hold PhDs) split between the US and UK. From standalone to fully integrated projects, Arctoris delivers Target Identification and Validation via Hit Identification and Hit-to-Lead all the way through to late Lead Optimization in small molecule and biologics discovery, leveraging its team, and its unique wet lab automation platform. With its deep therapeutic area expertise, advanced assay capabilities and established disease models, Arctoris is a trusted partner for its US and European clients, with prominent scientific expertise and capabilities in enzymology, molecular pharmacology, protein science, and complex in vitro biology among others.

KEY OPINION LEADERS

NovAliX Selvita Exscientia

EXHIBITOR

NUCHEM SCIENCES

Agenda at a Glance

DRUG DISCOVERY BIOLOGY
STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2023
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TIME EST	TRACK 1 TARGET IDENTIFICATION & HIT VALIDATION	TRACK 2 DMPK / ADME & TOXICOLOGY	TRACK 3 IN VIVO AND IN VITRO PHARMACOLOGY	TRACK 4 IN SILICO BIOLOGY	TRACK 5 STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY AND BIOPHYSICS	TRACK 6 (New) STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, INVESTMENT & COLLABORATIONS
BOARDROOM ►	Jerome C. Hunsaker A	Edward Pennell Brooks	Jerome C. Hunsaker B	Lan Jen Chu	Margaret L.A. Macvicar	Jerome C. Hunsaker C
08:00 - 08:30	BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION					
08:30 - 09:00	OPENING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION Early Understanding of Therapeutic Index to Accelerate Drug Discovery: Case Studies Using Forward and Back Translation PRESENTER: Megan Gibbs, Ph.D., BscPharm, FCP, *Vice President and Global Head, Clinical Pharmacology & Quantitative Pharmacology*, Astrazeneca					
09:00 - 10:00	**Integrated Omics Approaches for Target Identification and Validation: Harnessing the power of integrative analyses that combine genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, and other omics data to identify and validate drug targets** Marija Tadin-Strapps, *Vice President & Head, Target Sciences*, Pfizer	**Integration of In Vitro and In Silico ADME Models: Combining in vitro ADME assays with computational models to enhance the prediction of drug properties and optimize drug discovery processes** Marcie Glicksman, *Vice President, Biology*, EnClear Therapies	**In Vivo-like In Vitro Systems: The Quest for More Physiologically Relevant Drug Screening** Joseph Mancini, *Vice President-Research*, adMare BioInnovations	**Unraveling Drug-Target Interactions: Advancements in In Silico Modeling and Simulation** Karim Azer, *VP, Head of Platform & Discovery*, Axcella	**Structural Biology and Biophysics for the next generation of First-in-Class targets** Sridhar Prasad, *Head of Protein Science*, Ventus Therapeutics	**Why integrating deep scientific expertise matched with operational and business strategy is key for attracting investment in early stage drug discovery** Jim G MacKrell, *Associate Vice President, Head East Coast (US) Venture Science Team*, Eli lilly and Company
10:00 - 10:05	REFRESHMENT BREAK					
10:05 - 10:25	NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS					
10:25 - 10:45	NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS					
10:45 - 11:05	NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS					
11:05 - 11:25	NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS					
11:30 - 12:30 SOLUTION	**Biophysical Methods in the realm of "Target Identification & Hit Validation"** Jason Deng, *Senior Director of DEL Biology*, WuXi AppTec WUXI APPTEC		**Preclinical Discovery Strategies for Enhanced Clinical Outcomes** Brenda Wang, *Senior Director / Subject Matter Expert in In vivo Pharmacology Discovery Biology*, WuXi AppTec WUXI APPTEC			**The Client is Always Right = The Client is Never Wrong!** Carlos Pedraza, *Associate Vice President and Head of Biology (US)*, Sai Life Science SAI LIFE SCIENCES
12:30 - 13:30	NETWORKING LUNCH					
13:30- 14:00	AFTERNOON KEYNOTE PRESENTATION RNA -Targeting Small Molecule Discovery through Screening Approaches PRESENTER: Zhifeng Yu, *Director of Assay & DEL Screen*, WuXi AppTec					
14:00 - 15:00	**Targeting Undruggable Proteins: Exploring innovative strategies, including small-molecule approaches, PROTACs, and RNA-based therapeutics, for targeting traditionally challenging or "undruggable" proteins** Huseyin Mehmet, *Executive Director. New Ventures*, University of Massachusetts Medical School	**Emerging Technologies for ADME and Toxicology: Highlighting cutting-edge technologies, such as high-content screening, omics-based approaches, and imaging techniques, for improved ADME profiling and toxicity assessment** Robert Foti, *Senior Director, Preclinical Development*, MERCK	**Improving Translatable Pre-Clinic Models In-Vitro & In-Vivo Pharmacology for Better Characterization of Properties and Drug Leads** Megan Gibbs, Ph.D.,BscPharm, FCP, *Vice President and Global Head, Clinical Pharmacology & Quantitative Pharmacology*, Astrazeneca	**RWE and OMICs data analytics: Defining the Right Indication and Population and Increasing the Chances of Success.** Stefan Kirov, *VP, Head of Computational Biology*, Flare Therapeutics	**Advancing Drug Discovery Through Structural Biology: Exploring Structure-Guided Computational Approaches** Diane Joseph-McCarthy, *Executive Director, Bioengineering Technology & Entrepreneurship Center*, Boston University Yi Xing, *Senior Director of Drug Creation, Head of Structural Biology and Rational Design*, Seismic Therapeutic	**Navigating The Constantly Changing Market To Raise Funds And Refine R&D Strategy** Elina Lavit, *Vice President of Business Development*, OncoNano Medicine
15:00 - 15:05	REFRESHMENT BREAK					
15:05 - 15:25	NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS					
15:30 - 16:30	**Challenges and Opportunities of Targeting RNAs with Small Molecules** Pedro Serrano, *Senior Director, Head of RNA and Protein Modulation*, Flare Therapeutics	**Toxicity Biomarkers and Safety Assessment: Discussion of the latest advancements in identifying and validating toxicity biomarkers for early detection and prediction of drug-induced toxicities** Prashant Nambiar, *SVP, Research and Development*, Strand Therapeutics	**Predictive Models for Drug Efficacy in Neuropharmacology: Leveraging In Vivo and In Vitro Data** Shane Hegarty, *Chief Scientific Officer & Co-Founder*, AXONIS Therapeutics	**Artificial Intelligence in Drug Design: From Generative Models to Reinforcement Learning** Ming "Tommy" Tang, *Director of Computational Biology, Head of CompBio*, Immunitas Therapeutics	**Structural Biology Beyond Purified Proteins - Leveraging Structure Predictive Technologies to Aid High-Resolution - Cryo-EM Based Technologies** Li Peng, *Chief Scientific Officer*, Palleon Pharmaceutical	**Maximizing Capital Efficiency By Balancing Internal Capabilities And External CRO's** Christopher Locher, *CEO*, Versatope Therapeutics
16:30 - 17:30	DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION					

Event Day | Keynote Presentations

A great way to open the roundtable discussions is through a timely presentation from a top-tier biotech/pharmaceutical company. Listen as we hear this 30-minute exposition on this meeting's pressing topic.

14:00 - 14:30 EST **AFTERNOON KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

Early Understanding of Therapeutic Index to Accelerate Drug Discovery: Case Studies Using Forward and Back Translation

- New technologies to define therapeutic index early in drug discovery
- MPS systems to predict safety and efficacy
- Mathematic Modeling to increase confidence in discovery prediction

Megan Gibbs, Ph.D., BscPharm, FCP
Vice President and Global Head, Clinical Pharmacology & Quantitative Pharmacology
Astrazeneca

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Megan Gibbs is currently the Vice President, Global Head of Clinical Pharmacology and Quantitative Pharmacology at AstraZeneca. In this role, she leads an organisation of R&D scientists that supports all ongoing clinical drug development programmes and global market applications across Oncology, Vaccines, Immune Therapy, Neurosciences, Cardiovascular, Renal and Metabolic, Respiratory and Immunology across Gothenburg, Sweden, Cambridge United Kingdom, Gaithersburg, Maryland, Waltham, Massachusetts and Barcelona Spain. She also leads a group supporting ADC discovery and development. Her key focus is clinical pharmacology and use of quantitative methods such as systems modelling and data and AI to impact drug development decision making across the drug discovery to development stages including submissions and post market and life cycle management. Prior to joining AstraZeneca, Megan held positions of increasing responsibility at Pfizer and Amgen after completing her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from Drake University followed by a PhD in Pharmaceutics from the University of Washington.

Megan is a Fellow of American College of Clinical Pharmacology and has served on number of scientific boards including the American College of Clinical Pharmacology Board of Regents, University of Washington Corporate Advisory Board and University of Florida Systems Pharmacology and Pharmacometrics Leadership Council. She is an invited lecturer at Harvard School of Public Health and panellist at University of Cambridge Centre of AI in Medicine. She also has over 100 posters, publications and invited presentations.

Megan lives in Boston with her family. Outside of work, she enjoys skiing, mountain biking and fishing.

13:30- 14:00 EST **AFTERNOON KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

RNA -Targeting Small Molecule Discovery through Screening Approaches

Zhifeng Yu
Director of Assay & DEL Screen
WuXi AppTec

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Zhifeng Yu, Ph.D., is a biochemist with a background from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and postdoctoral training at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM). As an Assistant Professor at BCM, Dr. Yu played a pivotal role in establishing BCM's DNA-encoded library (DEL) technology and leading drug discovery campaigns. Currently serving as the Director of Assay & DEL Screen at WuXi AppTec, Dr. Yu leverages 8 years of DEL experience to drive the development of cutting-edge DEL technologies and oversee the DEL service platform in the United States.

Event Day

TRACK 1

Target Identification & Hit Validation

Improving efficiency in finding novel therapeutic targets continues to be an immediate priority and hurdle in the pharma and biotech industry. This track aims to explore the undruggable space for utilizing AI/ML, optimizing target identification pathways and many more. How can we ensure the next druggable target frontier stays viable?

08:00 - 08:30 EST BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION

08:00 - 08:30 EST OPENING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
See Page 6

09:00 - 10:00 EST ROUNDTABLE 1

Integrated Omics Approaches for Target Identification and Validation: Harnessing the Power of Integrative Analyses that Combine Genomics, Proteomics, Metabolomics, and Other Omics Data to Identify and Validate Drug Targets

- Exploring the potential of integrated omics approaches for target identification and validation
- Integrating genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, and other omics data to gain a comprehensive understanding of disease biology
- Utilizing computational analysis and bioinformatics tools to interpret and prioritize integrated omics data for target identification
- Validating identified targets through rigo+rous experimental studies to confirm functionality, efficacy, and safety
- Emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts between researchers from diverse disciplines to advance integrated omics approaches

Marija Tadin-Strapps
Vice President & Head, Target Sciences
Pfizer

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Marija Tadin-Strapps is Vice President & Head, Target Sciences (TS). In this role Marija leads efforts to generate novel drug target hypotheses in areas of emerging science utilizing human genetics, functional genomics, AI/Machine Learning, and data mining tools, as well as experimental hypotheses validation to deliver differentiated targets. TS partners with other teams across ES&I, most notably the Centers for Therapeutic Innovation (CTI) as well as disease biology and technology line teams working across disease areas of interest to Pfizer. Marija brings over 15 years of industry experience in organizations ranging from early start up and small biotech to large pharma, spanning RNA therapeutics, cell therapy, and the use of human genetics and functional genomics for new target validation, biomarker discovery and translational research across multiple disease areas. Prior to joining Pfizer, Marija was at SQZ Biotechnologies after her stint as Head of Biology at Omega Therapeutics. Before Omega, Marija worked for ten years at Merck & Co. Marija earned her B.A. degree in Biology with honors from Goucher College and her Master and Doctorate degrees in Genetics and Development from Columbia University. She has authored multiple peer-reviewed publications on the use of chemically modified siRNAs and the use of human genetics for new target discovery.

10:00 - 11:25 EST REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

11:30 - 12:30 EST SOLUTION FOCUS ROUNDTABLE 2

Biophysical Methods in the realm of "Target Identification & Hit Validation"

- The use of Thermal Shift Assays for target engagement
- Biophysical tools for advanced target identification and engagement routines such as the CRISPR-Cas9 systems
- Role of biophysics in AI Drug discovery

Jason Deng
Senior Director of DEL Biology
WuXi AppTec

12:30 - 13:30 EST NETWORKING LUNCH

13:30 - 14:00 EST AFTERNOON KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
See Page 6

14:00 - 15:00 EST ROUNDTABLE 3

Targeting Undruggable Proteins: Exploring innovative strategies, including small-molecule approaches, PROTACs, and RNA-based therapeutics, for targeting traditionally challenging or "undruggable" proteins

- RNA Interference: Harnessing RNA-based therapeutics like siRNAs and antisense oligonucleotides to regulate expression of traditionally difficult targets.
- Covalent Inhibition: Leveraging covalent interactions for irreversible binding to intricate protein structures
- CRISPR-based approaches for indirect targeting of undruggable proteins

Huseyin Mehmet
Executive Director. New Ventures
University of Massachusetts Medical School

15:00 - 15:25 EST REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

15:30 - 16:30 EST ROUNDTABLE 4

Challenges and Opportunities of Targeting RNAs with Small Molecules

- Exploring the potential: Uncover the untapped potential of RNA-based targets in drug discovery and their implications for novel therapeutic strategies.
- Identification and Validating of RNA drug targets: Develop robust strategies to identify and validate the efficacy and specificity of RNA-based targets for drug discovery, ensuring their suitability for clinical applications. Screening-based vs Mechanism-based vs structure-based approaches
- Translating discoveries: Bridge the gap between basic research and clinical application by successfully translating RNA-based targets into effective therapies

Pedro Serrano
Senior Director, Head of RNA and Protein Modulation
Takeda

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Pedro Serrano assembled and leads the RNA and Protein Modulation Unit (RPMU) at Takeda. The team develops novel small molecules regulating mRNA function or degradation of proteins of interest through a variety of mechanisms. Pedro joined Takeda in 2017, where he built and led the internal Biophysics team as well as an external network of collaborations to accelerate drug discovery programs across multiple therapeutic areas. Before joining Takeda, Pedro was an Assistant Professor at the Scripps Research Institute where he developed a variety of NMR methods to accelerate structure determination and studied a variety of protein and nucleic acids, including membrane proteins, splicing factors, and other biomolecules. Pedro holds a Ph.D. and a B.S. degree in Organic Chemistry by the University of Barcelona.

16:30 - 17:30 EST DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION

Event Day

TRACK 2

DMPK / ADME & Toxicology

A key idea in biology is that structure, to a large extent, dictates function. The rapid development of sensitive biophysical methods and emerging technologies that interrogate compound properties and mechanisms of action is transforming drug discovery.

08:00 - 08:30 EST BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION

08:00 - 08:30 EST OPENING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
See Page 6

09:00 - 10:00 EST ROUNDTABLE 1

Integration of In Vitro and In Silico ADME Models: Combining in vitro ADME assays with computational models to enhance the prediction of drug properties and optimize drug discovery processes

- The advantages and limitations of using in vitro ADME assays to study drug properties and pharmacokinetics.
- Examples of successful applications where the integration of in vitro and in silico ADME models improved drug discovery processes..
- Challenges in integrating experimental and computational data and potential strategies to address them.
- Future prospects and areas of research for further advancements in this integrated approach to drug discovery.

Marcie Glicksman
Vice President, Biology
EnClear Therapies

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Marcie Glicksman, Ph.D. Vice President, Biology at EnClear Therapies. For the past 30 years, Dr. Glicksman has been dedicated to developing better therapeutics for the nervous system and other therapeutic areas. Her efforts include 8 drugs entering the clinic and 2 marketed drugs. She has worked in both the bio-pharmaceutical industry and academics. In her career, she has broad experience including preclinical animal studies and toxicology. Dr. Glicksman received a bachelor's degree from Brown University and a Ph.D. degree in Neuroscience from Washington University. Dr. Glicksman has over 80 publications and more than 16 issued patents.

10:00 - 11:25 EST REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

12:30 - 13:30 EST NETWORKING LUNCH

13:30 - 14:00 EST AFTERNOON KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
See Page 6

14:00 - 15:00 EST ROUNDTABLE 3

Emerging Technologies for ADME and Toxicology: Highlighting cutting-edge technologies, such as high-content screening, omics-based approaches, and imaging techniques, for improved ADME profiling and toxicity assessment

- Omics-Based Approaches: Integration of genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, and metabolomics data to gain a holistic understanding of ADME processes and toxicological mechanisms
- Organoids for Drug Testing: Application of organoids (miniature, organ-like structures grown in the lab) for assessing drug efficacy and toxicity in a tissue-specific context
- Nanotechnology in ADME Studies: Investigating the impact of nanoparticles and nanocarriers on drug delivery and metabolism, considering potential toxicological implications
- Metabolomics in Toxicity Assessment: Profiling and analyzing small molecules in biological systems to understand metabolic pathways and identify potential toxic intermediates
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) in ADME Prediction: Leveraging machine learning algorithms to predict drug absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion properties, leading to improved safety assessment

Robert Foti
Senior Director, Preclinical Development
MERCK

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Dr. Foti is a Senior Director at Merck where he leads drug disposition across multiple therapeutic areas. Prior to joining Merck, Rob held positions at Amgen, Inc., supporting multi-modality drug discovery and development efforts, and at Pfizer, contributing to high-throughput ADME assays. Collectively, Rob has over 20 years of driving innovative research in the pharmaceutical industry. Externally, Rob is an Associate Editor for Drug Metabolism and Disposition, serves on the Editorial Board for Xenobiotica and is a past Chair for the Drug Metabolism and Disposition Division of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics.

15:00 - 15:25 EST REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

15:30 - 16:30 EST ROUNDTABLE 4

Toxicity Biomarkers and Safety Assessment: Discussion of the latest advancements in identifying and validating toxicity biomarkers for early detection and prediction of drug-induced toxicities

- Cell and gene therapy vs focusing on DMPK/ADMET
- Various modalities including cell and gene therapy
- Advancement in biomarker identification

Prashant Nambiar
SVP, Research and Development
Strand Therapeutics

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Dr. Prashant Nambiar is a seasoned leader in the field of biotechnology and pharmaceuticals. Currently serving as the Senior Vice President of R&D at Strand Therapeutics, he plays a pivotal role in overseeing Discovery, Nonclinical, Translational, and Data Science initiatives. Dr. Prashant's journey in the industry began after an academic stint at MIT, where he earned his PhD in cancer biology. His career spans over 18 years, including influential roles at Genzyme, Pfizer, Bluebird Bio, and 2seventybio. With expertise in Translational Biology, Pathology, and Toxicology, he specializes in advancing groundbreaking therapies from lab bench to clinical application. Prashant's dedication to harnessing data in drug R&D led to the establishment of a data operations team during his tenure at Pfizer. Additionally, he holds board certifications in Toxicology and Veterinary Pathology and earned an MBA from MIT's Sloan School of Business.

16:30 - 17:30 EST DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION

Event Day

TRACK 3

In Vivo and In Vitro Pharmacology

A primary source of drug candidate trial failure is attributed to inadequate efficacy and safety profiles. This track serves to highlight key topics and pressing challenges within the areas of drug metabolism, biotransformation and drug toxicity.

08:00 - 08:30 EST BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION

08:30 - 09:00 EST OPENING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
See Page 6

09:00 - 10:00 EST ROUNDTABLE 1

In Vivo-like In Vitro Systems: The Quest for More Physiologically Relevant Drug Screening

- Leveraging organoids for drug screening: Exploring how organoids can be utilized as powerful tools in early-stage drug discovery to evaluate drug efficacy, toxicity, and personalized treatment responses
- Genetic disease models in drug development: Discussing the use of human tissues with genetic diseases as valuable platforms for studying disease mechanisms, identifying therapeutic targets, and testing potential drug candidates
- Enhancing drug testing with microfluidics and tissue-on-a-chip: Examining the potential of microfluidic devices and tissue-on-a-chip platforms to improve the efficiency and accuracy of drug testing by providing more physiologically relevant models for assessing drug safety and effectiveness

Joseph Mancini
Vice President-Research
adMare BioInnovations

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Joseph Mancini has a PhD in Biochemistry from McGill University and began his career at Merck & Co where he was a key player in the discovery and development of selective Cyclooxygenase 2 inhibitors. He also led a team of 50 researchers on a PDE4 program and filed 4 INDs which demonstrated efficacy in asthma but had a low TI. He then moved to work on diabetes and obesity and soon after joined Vertex Pharmaceuticals. A major focus at Vertex was in the rare disease space and this resulted in new projects for both kidney and muscle diseases. Three years ago, Joseph joined adMare BioInnovations to help build up the biotech sector across Canada. Jospeh is presently VP of research at adMare which has sites in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver.

10:00 - 11:25 EST REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

11:30 - 12:30 EST SOLUTION FOCUS ROUNDTABLE 2

Preclinical Discovery Strategies for Enhanced Clinical Outcomes

- Predictive Drug-Resistant Models: Establishment of drug resistant models to gaining a comprehensive understanding of drug resistance mechanisms and then modeling these resistant traits for clinical strategies
- Advancements in In Vivo/In Vitro Pharmacology Methods: Discussion on the latest developments in pharmacology bridging the gap between in vivo and in vitro studies including understanding of the human Tumor Microenvironment (TME) during preclinical research.
- The Value of Validated Non-Rodent Models: The significance of utilizing validated non-rodent models in preclinical studies and their relevance in predicting clinical outcomes

Brenda Wang
Senior Director / Subject Matter Expert in In vivo Pharmacology Discovery Biology
WuXi AppTec

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Dr. Brenda Wang is a Senior Director of Discovery Biology and a Subject Matter Expert – in vivo pharmacology at WuXi AppTec. Brenda prides herself in the scientific discussion with client to optimize preclinical designs related to in vivo pharmacology studies to bridge in vitro/in vivo/translational studies to accelerate preclinical to IND enabling studies. Prior to joining WuXi AppTec, Brenda worked at Pfizer, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, and Sumitomo Dainippon Pharma Oncology for over 15 years. Brenda received her PhD in Microbiology and Molecular Biology from the University of Alberta and completed her pharmacology training at Johns Hopkins University Medical School.

12:30 - 13:30 EST NETWORKING LUNCH

13:30 - 14:00 EST AFTERNOON KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
See Page 6

14:00 - 15:00 EST ROUNDTABLE 3

Improving Translatable Pre-Clinic Models In-Vitro & In-Vivo Pharmacology for Better Characterization of Properties and Drug Leads

- Use of MPS systems to improve translatability of preclinical models
- Use of Data and AI to reduce cycle time and to understand big datasets
- Use of mathematical modeling to enhance understanding of therapeutic index

Megan Gibbs, Ph.D., BscPharm, FCP
Vice President and Global Head, Clinical Pharmacology & Quantitative Pharmacology
Astrazeneca

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
See Page 6

15:00 - 15:25 EST REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

15:30 - 16:30 EST ROUNDTABLE 4

Predictive Models for Drug Efficacy in Neuropharmacology: Leveraging In Vivo and In Vitro Data

- Novel target discovery: Phenotypic screening in in vivo animal studies vs. in vitro cell-based experiments
- Translatability: Predicting efficacy using in vivo or in vitro models
- Preclinical drug development: Generating complementary in vivo and in vitro neuropharmacology datasets for progression towards the clinic

Shane Hegarty
Chief Scientific Officer & Co-Founder
AXONIS Therapeutics

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Dr Shane Hegarty is Chief Scientific Officer, Founder and IP Inventor at AXONIS Therapeutics, Boston-based biotechnology company. 13+ years of experience leading cutting-edge, award-winning neuro-protection, -modulation and -regeneration research for neurological disorders. As Research Fellow in Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School, led genome-wide AAV-CRISPR screen for neuro-protection and -regeneration in vivo within Professor Zhigang He's lab. Before U.S., was Faculty Member in Neuroscience Department of University College Cork, Ireland, and received prestigious Neuroscience Ireland Investigator Award. Highly-productive researcher with 30+ publications, >1,200 citations, h-index=16, and serial grant awardee. Experienced entrepreneur, innovator, editor, peer-reviewer, university lecturer, research supervisor, and team manager/mentor.

16:30 - 17:30 EST DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION

Event Day

TRACK 4

In Silico Biology

The utility of computational methods is widely used in various stages of drug discovery and development. From aiding target ID & validation, limiting the use of animal models in pharmacology to aiding rational drug design, this track will explore novel approaches and application of in silico techniques to maximize productivity towards clinical success.

08:00 - 08:30 EST BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION

08:30 - 09:00 EST OPENING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
See Page 6

09:00 - 10:00 EST ROUNDTABLE 1

Unraveling Drug-Target Interactions: Advancements in In Silico Modeling and Simulation

- In silico modeling and simulation techniques have revolutionized our understanding of drug-target interactions by providing valuable insights into the MOA of new drug candidates and their translation to the clinic
- In silico modeling techniques, when combined with machine learning and artificial intelligence, have the potential to further enhance our understanding of drug-target interactions and facilitate the discovery of novel targets and drug candidates.
- Despite the progress made, there are challenges ahead and progress to be made for in silico modeling to achieve its full potential in industry.

Karim Azer
VP, Head of Platform & Discovery
Axcella

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Dr. Karim Azer is the Vice President, Head of the Systems Biology Platform & Discovery at Axcella Therapeutics. He leads the data and discovery sciences organization at Axcella, bringing together innovations in data sciences and discovery sciences to advance novel pipeline opportunities through the application of systems biology, design of novel endogenous metabolic modulator combinations for new indications, and the translation of these combinations into the clinic. Prior to Axcella, Karim led quantitative sciences efforts at the Bill & Melinda Gates Medical Research Institute where His work was focused on leveraging the spectrum of systems biology, including computational biology, systems pharmacology, modeling and data science, to address research and development needs of the institute, in the areas of tuberculosis, malaria, diarrheal and enteric diseases, and maternal neonatal health. Prior to that, Karim was at Merck and Sanofi, where he led and applied systems biology and pharmacology, and data science efforts towards advancing drug discovery and development programs across a wide array of therapeutics areas. Karim received his PhD in Applied Mathematics from the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences at NYU, and holds an M.S. in Applied Mathematics from Courant Institute at NYU, and B.S. degrees in Mathematics and Computer Science from Rutgers University. He has worked in the pharmaceutical industry since 1997, employing a wide variety of systems biology approaches to address drug discovery and development initiatives in R&D.

10:00 - 11:25 EST REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

12:30 - 13:30 EST NETWORKING LUNCH

13:30 - 14:00 EST AFTERNOON KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
See Page 6

14:00 - 15:00 EST ROUNDTABLE 3

RWE and OMICs data analytics: Defining the Right Indication and Population and Increasing the Chances of Success.

- Targeted therapies from Mirati through Keytruda - designing drugs for specific population or discovering biomarkers predictive of response.
- Types of data and analytical approaches that are key to success.
- Data access challenges, standardization, and market fragmentation.
- From startups to industry behemoths: data strategy fit for purpose.

Stefan Kirov
VP, Head of Computational Biology
Flare Therapeutics

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Dr. Stefan Kirov received his PhD degree in molecular biology from Medical University of Sofia. After his postdoc at ORNL/UT where he worked on pathway and regulatory site analysis. He entered industry in 2006 with Bristol Myers Squibb, where he built the enterprise NGS team and platform. His work had an impact on a number of programs, including nivolumab, ipilimumab, daclatasvir and a number of preclinical programs. Dr. Kirov joined Flare Therapeutics in 2022 to develop and lead the quantitative capabilities of the company, and support its PPARG inverse antagonist clinical trial in bladder cancer.

15:00 - 15:25 EST REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

15:30 - 16:30 EST ROUNDTABLE 4

Artificial Intelligence in Drug Design: From Generative Models to Reinforcement Learning

- The role of generative models in drug design: Explore how AI-driven generative models, such as deep learning-based approaches like variational autoencoders and generative adversarial networks, aid in generating novel chemical structures for potential drug candidates. What's the role of generative models in developing biologics and small-molecule drugs, respectively? What's the status?
- What are the challenges of current AI-driven drug development? (e.g, data quantity and quality)
- Validation and interpretability of AI predictions: Address the challenges of validating AI-generated predictions and the importance of interpretability for gaining insights into AI model decisions.
- Future prospects of AI in drug design: Explore potential future developments in AI applications, including personalized medicine, multi-target drug design, and AI-integrated clinical trials, and their impact on the pharmaceutical industry and healthcare as a whole

Ming "Tommy" Tang
Director of Computational Biology, Head of CompBio
Immunitas Therapeutics

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Ming "Tommy" Tang serves as the Director of Computational Biology at Immunitas Therapeutics, an avant-garde start-up devoted to groundbreaking cancer therapeutics. In this role, he guides a skilled computational biology unit in scrutinizing single-cell genomic data to unveil the intricacies of immune cells within human tumors. By harnessing Google cloud computing and cutting-edge machine learning techniques, he identifies novel drug targets for immunotherapy. Endowed with extensive computational biology prowess, Tommy specializes in dissecting large-scale bulk sequencing, single-cell transcriptomic and epigenomic data, and spatial transcriptomics. A staunch advocate of reproducible research, he employs tools like Docker/Singularity and Rmarkdown notebooks to ensure the utmost transparency and replicability of his analyses.

16:30 - 17:30 EST DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION

Event Day

TRACK 5

Structural Biology and Biophysics

The pharma and biotech sector continues to seek ways to address challenges in R&D productivity, spending cuts and volatile market conditions. Strategic partnerships and alliances have grown in importance to reduce cost, share risks and rewards while maximizing learning opportunities resulting from successful collaborations.

08:00 - 08:30 EST BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION

08:30 - 09:00 EST OPENING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
See Page 6

09:00 - 10:00 EST ROUNDTABLE 1

Structural Biology and Biophysics for the next generation of First-in-Class targets

- Basic research in disease biology combined with methods development have led to the discovery of a number of potential new drug targets
- This provides a challenging and exciting opportunity to find promising treatments for many life-threatening diseases
- Structural biology and biophysics will play an integral and indispensable role in the discovery of "first-in-class" drugs towards these targets

Sridhar Prasad
Head of Protein Science
Ventus Therapeutics

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Dr. Prasad is the Head of Protein Sciences at Ventus Therapeutics. Prior to Ventus, Sridhar was the cofounder and CSO of Plex Pharmaceuticals and led structural biology efforts for drug discovery programs at multiple organizations in various capacities. He was a member of the Nesina® discovery team at Syrrx, a diabetes drug and MK-4965 at Merck, clinical candidate for treatment of AIDS. Sridhar was Principal Investigator on a number of NIH SBIR and MJFF funded grants. Sridhar obtained his PhD from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India and Post-doctoral training from University of Minnesota Medical School and Scripps Research Institute, California.

10:00 - 11:25 EST REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

12:30 - 13:30 EST NETWORKING LUNCH

13:30 - 14:00 EST AFTERNOON KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
See Page 6

14:00 - 15:00 EST ROUNDTABLE 3

Advancing Drug Discovery Through Structural Biology: Exploring Structure-Guided Computational Approaches

- Future directions in structural biology for drug discovery, with a particular focus on the potential of cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM) to provide high-resolution structural data of challenging drug targets, and the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in accelerating drug discovery processes
- Exploring the role of structure-guided computational approaches, such as hot spot mapping, molecular docking, and molecular dynamics simulations, in leveraging structural data to predict ligand binding and optimize drug candidates
- Case studies showcasing successful drug discovery projects where structure-guided computational methods played a key role in identifying binding sites, understanding ligand interactions, and designing potent and selective drugs
- The synergy between experimental structural techniques like X-ray crystallography, NMR spectroscopy, cryo-EM, and computational approaches, highlighting how this integration can lead to more informed and efficient drug discovery efforts

Diane Joseph-McCarthy
Executive Director,
Bioengineering Technology & Entrepreneurship Center
Boston University

Yi Xing
Senior Director of Drug Creation, Head of Structural Biology and Rational Design
Seismic Therapeutic

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS
Diane Joseph-McCarthy is the Executive Director of the Bioengineering Technology & Entrepreneurship Center and Professor of the Practice in Biomedical Engineering at Boston University. Prior to that, she was a senior life science executive with over 20 years of drug discovery, development, and leadership experience. She was SVP of Discovery & Early Development at EnBiotix, a bioengineering company focused on respiratory and rare disease. She was an Associate Director at AstraZeneca, where she led a global team and task forces to transform Infection's early portfolio. At Wyeth, she held positions of increasing responsibility. Diane received her PhD from MIT and was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University/Harvard Medical School.

For the past decade, ***Yi Xing*** has been a driving force in directing dedicated efforts across the domains of protein science, structural biology (with an emphasis on crystallography and electron microscopy), as well as biochemistry and biophysics. Her extensive professional background encompasses pivotal aspects, including discovery research, preclinical development, and the facilitation of IND processes. Over the course of years, she has nurtured and cultivated collaborative alliances, collaborating with industry leaders spanning various therapeutic modalities such as vaccines, small molecules, peptides, and protein-based therapeutics.
In addition to her scientific pursuits, Yi Xing has extended her influence to the biopharma sector, serving as a consultant. Notably, since November 2022, Yi Xing has held esteemed leadership positions at Seismic Therapeutics, where she serves as the Senior Director of Drug Creation, as well as the Head of Structural Biology and Rational Design.

15:00 - 15:25 EST REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

15:30 - 16:30 EST ROUNDTABLE 4

Structural Biology Beyond Purified Proteins - Leveraging Structure Predictive Technologies to Aid High-Resolution - Cryo-EM Based Technologies

- Evolving the field of structural biology beyond traditional protein studies
- Exploring the potential of cryo-EM for complex biological systems
- Enhancing structural insights into cellular processes and interactions
- Integrating AI and machine learning in predicting complex protein structures

Li Peng
Chief Scientific Office
Palleon Pharmaceuticals

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Li Peng is Chief Scientific Officer of Palleon Pharmaceuticals, a leading biotechnology company developing drugs that target glycan-mediated immune regulation to treat cancer and inflammatory diseases. Li has led the invention of EAGLE, CONVERGENCE, and HYDRA platform technologies and overseen research and early development at Palleon. Prior to joining Palleon, Li had worked at Medimmune/AstraZeneca for ten years in roles of increasing responsibility. She has published ~30 scientific papers and is an inventor on ~30 patents and patent applications. Li earned a doctorate in biochemistry and molecular biology from the University of California, Davis.

16:30 - 17:30 EST DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION

new for 2023

Event Day

TRACK 6

Strategic Partnerships, Investment & Collaborations

Bringing together Managing Partners & C-level executives from investment firms supporting innovation in the clinical trial process, strategies from pharma companies and corporate arms with a vested interest in driving this innovation. It comes with the purpose of identifying and collaborating with potential drug development partners whilst addressing industry challenges in this area

09:00 - 10:00 EST ROUNDTABLE 1

Why integrating deep scientific expertise matched with operational and business strategy is key for attracting investment in early stage drug discovery

- Scientific expertise is essential for developing new drugs that are safe and effective. Investors want to see that the team behind a drug discovery company has the experience and knowledge to successfully bring a drug to market.
- Operational expertise is important for managing the day-to-day operations of a drug discovery company. This includes things like managing finances, developing a drug discovery pipeline, and building relationships with key partners.
- Business strategy is essential for ensuring that a drug discovery company is successful in the long term. This includes things like developing a clear vision for the company, setting realistic goals, and identifying potential markets for new drugs.gag

Jim G MacKrell
Associate Vice President, Head East Coast (US) Venture Science Team
Eli lilly and Company

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Dr. Jim MacKrell is Vice President and Head of East Coast Venture Science within Lilly New Ventures at Eli Lilly and Company. He is responsible for supporting the strategy and implementation of Lilly's early phase external innovation and partnering initiatives. Since joining Lilly in 2013, Dr. MacKrell has served roles in early discovery, strategy, external innovation, and as a leader of Lilly's early trailblazer teams, championing innovative ways to bring Lilly science to patients with speed. He has led multiple programs through the portfolio, delivering several NMEs into clinical testing in the metabolic disease space. He is passionate about identifying emergent scientific assets, technologies, platforms and portfolio opportunities across the early biotechnology landscape. With goal to deliver novel science and innovation into Lilly's portfolio, he strives to create opportunities for partnership. Dr. MacKrell holds a degree in biology and biomedical engineering from Carnegie Mellon University and a doctorate in Molecule Physiology from the University of Michigan Medical School.

11:30 - 12:30 EST SOLUTION FOCUS ROUNDTABLE 2

The Client is Always Right = The Client is Never Wrong!

- Ideal partner identification
- Formulating negotiations right & building the deal
- Client satisfaction high points

Carlos Pedraza
Associate Vice President and Head of Biology (US)
Sai Life Science

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Carlos Pedraza, PhD. is an expert discovery biologist with over 16 years of experience in small molecule drug discovery in the fields of neuroscience, neurodegeneration, neuropsychiatry and neuroimmunology. Carlos' work in the pharmaceutical industry has been focused in early target identification, scientific evaluation, feasibility assessment and experimental validation of novel, viable targets from concept to portfolio entry, IND and early clinical development. Carlos has extensive experience in collaborative interactions with CROs, academics, scientific groups and other institutions with continuous project management in company-sponsored research.

14:00 - 15:00 EST ROUNDTABLE 3

Navigating The Constantly Changing Market To Raise Funds And Refine R&D Strategy

- Discuss how would you approach portfolio prioritization, if you have multiple discovery /research priorities how do you decide which of them to prioritize.
- Constant market change is also an opportunity for:
  — Apply for non-dilutive funding: grants, philanthropy etc. which of these avenues did you explore and which good practices you can share, which challenges did you experienced?
  — Strategic partnering is an opportunity, did you have a chance to partner your platforms /assets what which good practices you can share, which challenges did you experienced?
- Recent successes in fund raising, which therapeutic areas / technologies you see more investments in.
- From your fundraising experience what will be the biggest not to do

Elina Lavit
Vice President of Business Development
OncoNano Medicine

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Elina Lavit is VP of Business Development at OncoNano Medicine. OncoNano Medicine is a privately held, clinical stage Biotech company that advances therapeutics and technology platforms for solid tumors. Elina brings over 19 years of experience in leadership roles in organizations ranging from start-ups to Fortune 100 corporations in various therapeutic areas, including oncology, neurology and cardiology. During her career, she has successfully negotiated in- and out-licensing transactions, from early-stage research technologies to clinical-stage assets. Previously, she served as Director of Program Management at Myokardia (acquired by BMS) and gained significant strategic Alliance and partnerships experience while working at Pharmacyclics, AbbVie, and Ethicon (JnJ). Elina earned a Bachelor of Science in Economics and Biology and Master of Science in Medical Science from Tel Aviv University

15:30 - 16:30 EST ROUNDTABLE 4

Maximizing Capital Efficiency By Balancing Internal Capabilities And External CRO's

- Outsourcing low risk projects for "testing the waters"
- Sourcing technology for target and phenotypic screening
- Lead optimization, team development, project management and cost control

Christopher Locher
CEO
Versatope Therapeutics

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Christopher P. Locher, PhD is CEO and co-founder of Versatope Therapeutics, a preclinical-stage Massachusetts-based company currently focused on the development of technology platform using nano-vesicles. He previously led drug discovery projects for infectious diseases at Vertex Pharmaceuticals in Boston, inflammatory diseases at Opsona Therapeutics in Ireland and malaria and alphaviruses vaccine development programs at Maxygen in California.
He completed postdoctoral training at the University of California, San Francisco, was a Fulbright Hayes Research Fellow at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium and received his PhD in Tropical Medicine and BA in Biological Sciences from the University of Hawai`i.

DRUG DISCOVERY BIOLOGY

STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2023

7th November 2023, Tuesday Le Meridien Cambridge

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DRUG DISCOVERY BIOLOGY

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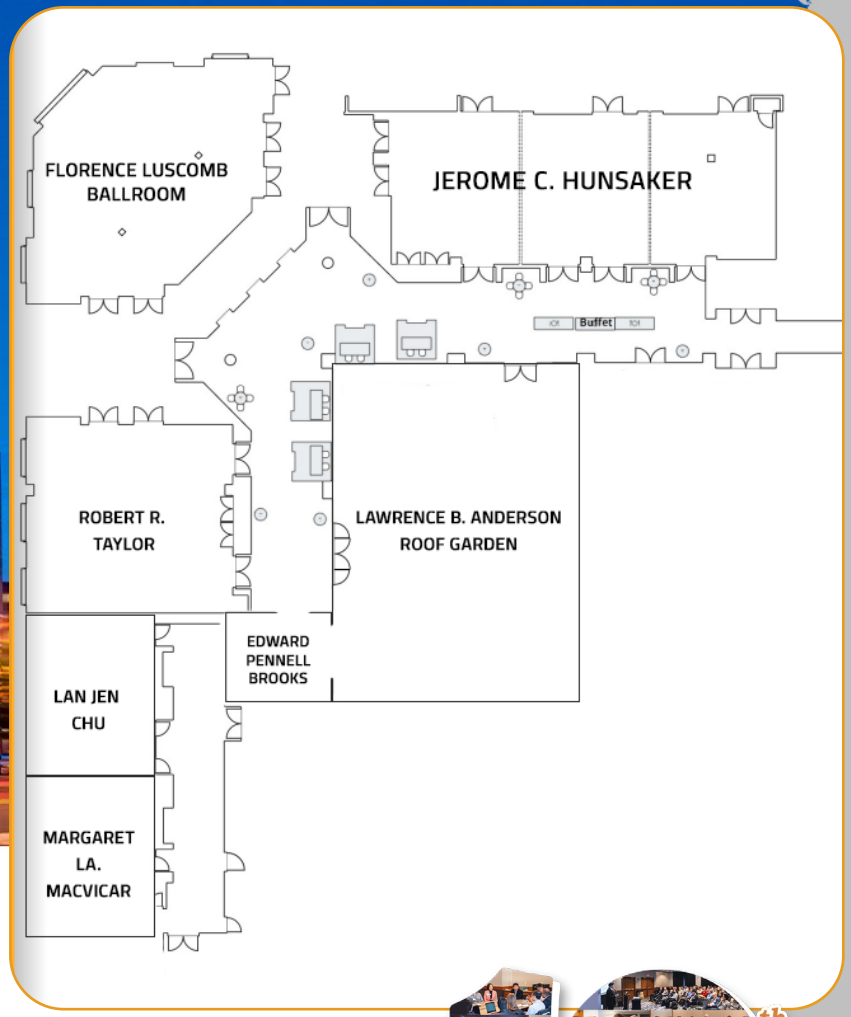

Map

Transport & Getting directions from your location ➜

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DRUG DISCOVERY BIOLOGY

STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2023

7th November 2023, Tuesday Le Meridien Cambridge

Hotel & Venue

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NOV 2023

Boston/Cambridge MA - US East Coast
06th - Bioinformatics & IT Strategy Meeting
07th - Drug Discovery Biology Strategy Meeting

Boston/Cambridge MA - US East Coast
08th - Medicinal Chemistry Strategy Meeting
09th - Clinical Operations Strategy Meeting

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