



Proventa International's 10th Annual

# BIOINFORMATICS & IT STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2023

📅 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023, Monday 📍 Le Meridien Cambridge

*Staying Updated with the Current Trends in Recent Technological Advancements  
Due to the Continual Growth in Bioinformatics*



## Featuring Industry Leaders and Decision Makers:



**Shah Nawaz**  
Chief Technology Officer  
and Vice President,  
Digital Technology  
& Engineering  
**Regeneron**



**Nathan McBride**  
Senior Vice President,  
IT  
**Xilio Therapeutics,  
Inc.**



**Deepak Rajpal**  
Global Head,  
Pre-Clinical  
and Translational  
Sciences  
**Takeda**



**Raj Bandaru**  
Global Head,  
Analytics, Health  
Economics and  
Outcomes Research  
**AstraZeneca**



**Shrividya Iyer**  
Executive Director,  
Oncology  
Worldwide Real  
World Evidence  
(RWE) & US HEOR  
**Eisai US**



**Sandeep Kumar**  
Distinguished Fellow,  
Head of Computational  
Protein Design and  
Modeling, Computa-  
tional Science,  
**Moderna**



**Vikas Patel**  
Global Head,  
R&D Digital and  
Data Platforms  
**Sanofi**



**Benjamin Li**  
Head, IT Research &  
TMCP USA, Information  
Technology  
**Boehringer  
Ingelheim**



**24**  
ROUNDTABLE  
DISCUSSIONS



**6**  
TRACKS



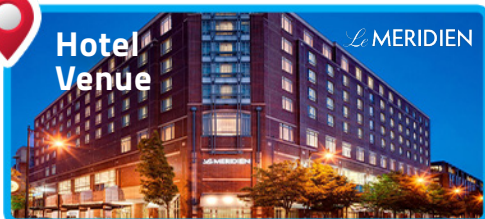
**2**  
KEYNOTE  
PRESENTATIONS



**1**  
LOCATION



**Hotel  
Venue**



What Makes  
Our Strategy  
Meetings  
So Unique?



Proud to Partner with:



**PURESTORAGE**

**excelra**



**HAMMERSPACE**  
DATA IN MOTION

**revvity  
signals**

**Zifo**

**seqeralabs**



**Flywheel**

**Rancho  
biosciences**

**Linguamatics**  
an IQVIA company

**ViaScientific**

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

## BIOINFORMATICS & IT

STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2023

6th November 2023, Monday | Le Meridien Cambridge

*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.

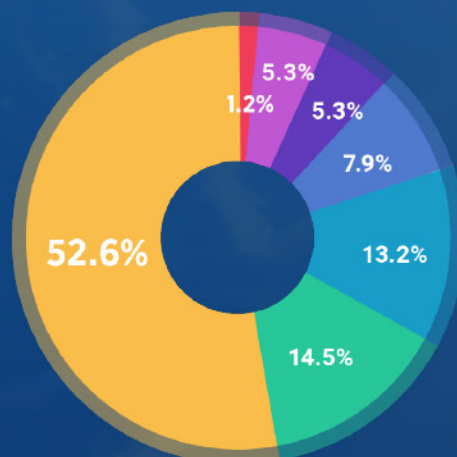


### STRATEGIC NETWORKING

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
- Manager
- Head
- Academia
- President / VP
- Scientist
- Team Lead



### Bioinformatics

- ✓ CIO
- ✓ Drug Discovery
- ✓ Head of Lab
- ✓ Bioinformatics
- ✓ Clinical Data
- ✓ R&D IT
- ✓ Data Sciences
- ✓ Translational Medicine
- ✓ Digital Transformation
- ✓ Omics
- ✓ AI/ML
- ✓ IT
- ✓ Biostatistics
- ✓ Analytics
- ✓ Genome Informatics
- ✓ Security & Privacy
- ✓ Data Management

### 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

## BIOINFORMATICS & IT

STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2023

6th November 2023, Monday | Le Meridien Cambridge



**Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pedamallu**  
Vice President –  
Bioinformatics  
**Excelra**



**Floyd Christofferson**  
Vice President,  
Product Marketing  
**Hammerspace**



**Kevin Schenenga**  
Data Specialist  
**Pure Storage**



**Shah Nawaz**  
Chief Technology Officer  
and Vice President, Digital  
Technology & Engineering  
**Regeneron**



**Benjamin Li**  
Head, IT Research & TMCP  
USA, Information Technology  
**Boehringer Ingelheim**



**Deepak Rajpal**  
Global Head, Pre-Clinical  
and Translational Sciences  
**Takeda**



**Govinda Bhisetti**  
Vice President and Head,  
Computational Chemistry  
**Cellarity**



**Hongyue Dai**  
Vice President, Translational  
Bioinformatics  
**LifeMine Therapeutics**



**Jeron Chen**  
Director and Head,  
Data Science  
**Voyager Therapeutics,  
Inc.**



**Joel Nichols**  
Senior Vice President,  
Digital Systems  
**Tessera Therapeutics**



**Kenneth Matta**  
Vice President,  
Head of IT and Informatics  
**bluebird bio**



**Lalit Verma**  
Head, Artificial  
Intelligence CoE  
**Indiana University Health**



**Lihua Yu**  
Chief Data Officer  
**FogPharma**



**Nathan McBride**  
Senior Vice President, IT  
**Xilio Therapeutics, Inc.**



**Parul Doshi**  
Chief Data Officer  
**Cellarity**



**Raj Bandaru**  
Global Head, Analytics  
for Health Economics and  
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**AstraZeneca**



**Sandeep Kumar**  
Distinguished Fellow, Head  
of Computational Protein  
Design and Modeling,  
Computational Science  
**Moderna**



**Shrividya Iyer**  
Executive Director, Oncology  
Worldwide Real World  
Evidence (RWE) & US HEOR  
**Eisai US**



**Sonia Timberlake**  
Former Senior Vice  
President, Research  
**Finch Therapeutics**



**Vikas Patel**  
Global Head, R&D Digital  
and Data Platforms  
**Sanofi**

### THOUGHT LEADER



Galvanize your path to precision medicine with a modern data experience. Accelerate your research—and your time to market—with Pure life sciences solutions. Only Pure delivers always-on, always-fast data management services for all your data-intensive applications—be it genomics, digital pathology, research imaging, AI-driven drug discovery, clinical trials, or supply chain optimization. Rated highest on the Gartner Magic Quadrant, Pure's flexible on-demand consumption models save you time managing multi-environment infrastructure across on-prem and multicloud, all while keeping your data safe. Find out how you can be data-ready today and take back time to do what you do best — innovate.

### CO-HOST SPONSORS



**Excelra** empowers innovation in life sciences across the value chain from discovery to market leveraging its globally leading data engineering and analytics solutions. We support our clients with data structuring, data management, and data analysis services. Our analytics services include bioinformatics, data science, and statistical analytics services. We help our clients generate value from data by providing insights for better and accelerated decision-making. Our experience in handling a variety of OMICS data both proprietary and public, to help deliver on a plethora of objectives such as Target ID, Patient stratification, Biomarker ID, Drug repositioning, and Indication Expansion help in accelerating early discovery, translation studies and help improve the efficiency of clinical trials and more targeted therapies reaching patients leading to better healthcare outcomes. It also gives Excelra an added advantage in being able to engineer Bio-IT Infrastructure solutions for the same audience. Over the past 18 years, Excelra has been the preferred data and analytics partner to over 160 global clients, including 16 of the top 20 large Pharma. . EXCELRA has a multi-skilled team that includes core biologists and R&D-IT engineers to seamlessly address all aspects of bioinformatics data analysis.



**Hammerspace** is the data orchestration system that unlocks innovation and opportunity within unstructured data. It orchestrates the data to build new products, uncover new insights, and accelerate time to revenue across industries like AI, scientific discovery, machine learning, extended reality, autonomy, corporate video and more. Hammerspace delivers the world's first and only solution to connect global users with their data and applications on any vendor's data center storage or public cloud services, including AWS, Google Cloud, Microsoft Azure and Seagate Lyve Cloud.



**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](http://www.revvitysignals.com)



We are a leading global provider of specialized scientific and process informatics services. Our expertise spans research, development, manufacturing, and clinical applications, encompassing over 90 partner technologies and platforms. Our diverse clientele includes Pharma/Biotech/CRO, Industrial Chemicals, Food & Beverage, Consumer Goods, and Oil and Gas industries.

Our unique 'Glocal' approach combines remote delivery for cost-effective solutions with dedicated local support to guarantee engagement, success, and quality. This approach aligns perfectly with the intricate requirements of OMICS and Bioinformatics, ensuring that our clients receive tailored and effective solutions in these domains. Our expertise in biological data handling is rooted in our deep understanding of the intricacies of OMICS and Bioinformatics. We excel in efficiently managing, analyzing, and interpreting complex biological data across various domains, including genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics.






























**Seqera** empowers scientists to solve today's most complex and important challenges – from pioneering innovative therapeutics to unveiling the secrets of the universe. The journey began with Nextflow — open software that helps over 100,000 global scientists analyze and process data, with more power and flexibility than ever before. Seqera equips scientists with modern software development tools to conduct science faster, on larger datasets, and with more confidence. Accelerating discoveries in an open world.

### KEY OPINION LEADERS



# Agenda at a Glance

	TRACK 1	TRACK 2	TRACK 3	TRACK 4	TRACK 5	TRACK 6
TIME	DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	DATA SCIENCE & ANALYTICS	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & MACHINE LEARNING	DATA MANAGEMENT / BIG DATA	CLINICAL RESEARCH & TRANSLATIONAL INFORMATICS	DATA INTEGRATION / DATA MINING
EST						
BOARDROOM ►	Margaret L.A. Macvicar	Edward Pennell Brooks	Lan Jen Chu	Jerome C. Hunsaker A	Jerome C. Hunsaker B	Jerome C. Hunsaker C
08:00 - 08:30	BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION					
08:30 - 09:00	OPENING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION Data+AI “DataWare” – Integrating Data & AI to Accelerate Enterprise Applications: How we are enabling data, AI, and modern software to advance the accelerate science  PRESENTER: Shah Nawaz, Chief Technology Officer and Vice President, Digital Technology & Engineering, Regeneron					
09:00 - 10:00	<b>Holistic Approach to Digital Transformation: Crafting an Integrated Strategy for Success</b>  Kenneth Matta, Vice President, Head of IT and Informatics, bluebird bio	<b>Development of High-Throughput Screening Data Analysis Technologies and Their Establishment in Industry</b>  Joel Nichols, Senior Vice President, Digital Systems, Tessera Therapeutics	<b>How to Leverage AI and Clinical Data to Better Predict Toxicology</b>  Jeron Chen, Director and Head, Data Science, Voyager Therapeutics, Inc.	<b>Integrated Bioinformatics for Drug Safety and Data Management</b>  Lalit Verma, Head, Artificial Intelligence CoE, Indiana University Health	<b>Tackling Integrative Multi-Omics Analysis in Clinical Research and Translational Informatics</b>  Hongyue Dai, Vice President, Translational Bioinformatics, LifeMine Therapeutics	<b>Big Data and AI: Integration and Harnessing the Full Potential of Massive Data Sets to Use in Small Molecule Drug Discovery</b>  Govinda Bhisetti, Vice President and Head, Computational Chemistry, Cellarity
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	<b>Digital Transformation New Modalities: Biotechnology, Bioinformatics, &amp; Biopharma</b>  Joel Nichols, Senior Vice President, Digital Systems, Tessera Therapeutics		<b>Faster Time to Science</b> 	<b>Modern Data Architectures for Large, Distributed Data Workloads</b>  Floyd Christofferson, Vice President, Product Marketing, Hammerspace 		<b>Data Usage in Bio-Pharma Research Programs</b>  Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pedamallu, Vice President – Bioinformatics, Excelra 
12:30 - 13:30	NETWORKING LUNCH					
13:30 - 14:00	AFTERNOON KEYNOTE PRESENTATION Accelerate Your Data Science by Optimising Your Pipelines  PRESENTER: Kevin Schenenga, Data Specialist, Pure Storage 					
14:00 - 15:00	<b>Bringing Digital Tools for Implementation: The Impact of Digital Transformation</b>  Nathan McBride, Senior Vice President, IT, Xilio Therapeutics, Inc.	<b>Data Visualization: Current Methods and Challenges in Bioinformatics for Research Communications</b>  Raj Bandaru, Global Head, Analytics for Health Economics and Outcomes Research, AstraZeneca	<b>AI/ML and Drug Discovery</b>  Sandeep Kumar, Distinguished Fellow, Head of Computational Protein Design and Modeling, Computational Science, Moderna	<b>Cloud-Based Approach for Bioinformatics Data Storage and Data Analysis</b>  Shrividya Iyer, Executive Director, Oncology Worldwide Real World Evidence (RWE) & US HEOR, Eisai US	<b>Enhancing Pre-Clinical and Translational Sciences with Bioinformatics: A Roadmap to Accelerate Biomedical Discoveries</b>  Deepak Rajpal, Global Head, Pre-Clinical and Translational Sciences, Takeda	<b>Strategies and the Current Efforts of Data Integration and Mining in Bioinformatics</b>  Sonia Timberlake, Former Senior Vice President, Research, Finch Therapeutics
15:00 - 15:05	REFRESHMENT BREAK					
15:05 - 15:25	NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS					
15:30 - 16:30	<b>Digital Solution Implementation for Biotech Companies: Data Search, Access, and Drug Development</b>  Parul Doshi, Chief Data Officer, Cellarity	<b>Challenges in Data Visualization from Cutting-Edge Experimental Techniques in Bioinformatics</b>  Vikas Patel, Global Head, R&D Digital and Data Platforms, Sanofi	<b>Leveraging AI for Drug Discovery and Drug Design Through Different Modalities</b>  Govinda Bhisetti, Vice President and Head, Computational Chemistry, Cellarity	<b>Challenges and Strategies of Big Data Management and Handling in Research and Development</b>  Benjamin Li, Head, IT Research & TMCP USA, Information Technology, Boehringer Ingelheim	<b>Examining Artificial Intelligence Techniques' Uses in Clinical and Translational Bioinformatics</b>  Lihua Yu, Chief Data Officer, FogPharma	<b>Developing Data Mining Tools for Drug Targets</b>  Hongyue Dai, Vice President, Translational Bioinformatics, LifeMine Therapeutics
16:30 - 17:30	DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION					

# Event Day | Keynote Presentations

**BIOINFORMATICS & IT**  
STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2023  
6th November 2023, Monday | Le Meridien Cambridge

*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.*

🕒 08:30 - 09:00 EST OPENING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

## Data+AI “DataWare” – Integrating Data & AI to Accelerate Enterprise Applications: How we are enabling data, AI, and modern software to advance the accelerate science



**Shah Nawaz**

Chief Technology Officer and Vice President, Digital Technology & Engineering  
Regeneron

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

It has been almost a quarter of a century – yes, that long. From literature to culinary expedition to software development and then devotion to biotech and healthcare for the common good, it has been an interesting journey indeed.

I believe in the power of data and analytics. And these are the most exciting times in technology evolution. The accelerating pace of digital transformation, sharpening of machine learning, innovations in Artificial Intelligence, unfolding prowess of Generative AI, and imploding compute power all lead to a world of immense possibilities. These form the basis for new and improved solutions, shrinking drug discovery to distribution lifecycle, improving the clinical trial processes, predicting more accurate outcomes, and ultimately better patient care.

At Regeneron, my team of data scientists, software developers, domain experts, and industry veterans are building data platforms and advanced tools that intercept evolving technologies as they mature. My focus is to bring research-based advanced utilities to business functions for better operations and informed decisions.

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

## Accelerate Your Data Science by Optimising Your Pipelines TBA



**Kevin Schenenga**

Data Specialist  
Pure Storage



### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Speaker TBC





## Digital Transformation

Now seen as a vital strategic step towards improved patient care, better transparency, cost-effectiveness, improved drug development efficiency and output quality, the moment has arrived for complete adoption of digital transformation across the pharma and biotech industry. This track discusses approaches in using information shared through industry-wide systems integration to predict consumer demand, link siloed information, and improve production and supply chain efficiency

08:00 - 08:30 EST BREAKFAST &amp; REGISTRATION

08:30 - 09:00 EST OPENING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION  
[See Page 6](#)

09:00 - 10:00 EST ROUNDTABLE 1

Holistic Approach to Digital Transformation:  
Crafting an Integrated Strategy for Success

- Business Need - Justification for the Digital Backbone and journey to implementation
- Digital Backbone Strategy - Connectivity, Scalability & Access for Ubiquitous Data
- Digital Backbone Capabilities - Data Access, Intelligence, Data Sharing
- Leveraging the Digital Backbone - Sustainable Growth, Scalability and Maintaining Financial Discipline



Kenneth Matta

Vice President, Head of IT and Informatics  
[bluebird bio](#)

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Kenneth Matta is the Vice President, Head of IT and Informatics at Bluebird Bio. He is a senior IT leader, a business strategist, and a senior technology executive with a career track record of success in providing strategic leadership for full-scope technical and digital organizations across various industries. Recognized for consistently driving strategic initiatives and digital transformation efforts to support corporate goals. Demonstrated expertise in developing cost-effective technology solutions that align with business requirements. Recognized for the ability to develop strategic technology roadmaps, solutions, and programs to drive internal improvements. Advanced leadership skill set with the ability to build, develop, and manage diverse onsite and offshore workforces to meet operational objectives.

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

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

Digital Solution Implementation for Biotech  
Companies: Data Search, Access, and Drug  
Development

- How are the changing modalities colliding with emerging technologies for new solutions?
- Are the new modalities driving the need for new technologies, or is it the fact they are so new that is providing an easier path for new technologies to be introduced?
- Digital transformation as a term is almost a decade old; what have we learned and how are we applying it differently in cell and gene therapies?
- What is the next use case of emerging technologies to be used in the industry?



Joel Nichols

Senior Vice President, Digital Systems  
[Tessera Therapeutics](#)

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Joel Nichols has been working in digital technologies within the life sciences for over 20 years. From start-ups to large organizations Joel has led many endeavors to deliver value to the industry through technologies. Most recently Joel is leading the Digital Systems organization for Tessera Therapeutics where they are using AI/ML, advanced laboratory operations and cutting-edge techniques in DNA and RNA editing to find novel gene writing solutions.

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

Bringing Digital Tools for Implementation: The  
Impact of Digital Transformation

- Enhanced Operational Efficiency: Digital transformation can streamline business processes, automate tasks, and integrate data across departments, leading to improved operational efficiency and reduced human errors
- Customer-Centric Experience: Organizations can leverage digital tools to gain deeper insights into customer behavior, preferences, and feedback, enabling personalized experiences, targeted marketing, and better customer satisfaction
- Agile Decision-Making: Real-time data analytics and reporting empower leaders to swiftly make informed, data-driven decisions, responding to market changes and trends with greater agility
- Innovation and Scalability: Digital transformation fosters a culture of innovation by encouraging experimentation with emerging technologies like AI, IoT, and blockchain, enabling companies to develop new products, services, and business models while expanding their reach
- Global Reach and Competition: Digital transformation breaks down geographical barriers, allowing businesses to enter new markets and compete on a global scale while also prompting the need for cybersecurity measures to protect



Nathan McBride

Senior Vice President, IT  
[Xilio Therapeutics, Inc.](#)

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Nathan McBride is a healthcare CIO with 25 years of experience leading IT teams in the Life Sciences, an advisory consultant, a DX evangelist, and the author of "Life Sciences IT Survival Guide" and "The Calculus of IT".

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

15:30 - 16:30 EST ROUNDTABLE 4

Digital Solution Implementation for Biotech  
Companies: Data Search, Access, and Drug  
Development

- Complexity of data analysis: generation of vast and complex datasets requires advanced analytical tools and expertise to interpret
- Data management: data generated by new modalities / new platform companies can be a significant logistical and cost challenge
- Interdisciplinary Collaboration: drug development requires collaboration between multilingual and multigenerational scientists, engineers, bioinformaticians, and clinicians



Parul Doshi

Chief Data Officer  
[Cellarity](#)

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Parul Doshi is the Chief Data Officer for Cellarity, responsible for all aspects of data infrastructure & applications, IT operations, software, and data engineering. Prior to joining Cellarity, Parul was Head of IT & Digital for Takeda's Vaccine BU. Parul spent 16 years at Takeda, in roles of increasing seniority across several divisions of the company. She notably led the IT programs to launch the oncology products NINLARO and ALUNBRIG and the ARIAD Integration. Prior to Takeda, Parul worked for a few years as a developer, servicing major companies such as Fidelity Investments and Lego. Parul graduated with an MBA in Information Technology and Finance from Pune and a Bachelor in Economics and Applied Statistics from the University of Rajasthan.

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

## Data Science &amp; Analytics

The track will explore innovative approaches to process and generate value from large sums of data while also addressing techniques to translate into visual representations that serve to optimize decision-making and enhance operational efficiency throughout the drug product lifecycle.

08:00 - 08:30 EST BREAKFAST &amp; REGISTRATION

08:30 - 09:00 EST OPENING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION  
[See Page 6](#)

09:00 - 10:00 EST ROUNDTABLE 1

## Development of High-Throughput Screening Data Analysis Technologies and Their Establishment in Industry

- Data from high-throughput compound screening presents a challenge for how to optimally follow-up hits, whether from biochemical and phenotypic screens, DNA-encoded libraries or virtual screens
- Topics of strategic consideration are: predictive models from screening data, meaningful clustering, SAR expansion, leveraging prior bioactivity knowledge, interpretation of phenotypic hits, focused screen design, and useful visualizations



**Joel Nichols**  
Senior Vice President, Digital Systems  
Tessera Therapeutics

ABOUT THE SPEAKER  
[See Page 7](#)

10:00 - 11:25 EST REFRESHMENT BREAK &amp; 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

## Data Visualization: Current Methods and Challenges in Bioinformatics for Research Communications

- Analytics in R&D can be highly impactful, but most often don't
- Don't tell a clear story, too much content, analysis paralysis
- Still lot of challenges around data access and quality
- The dream of self service interactive analytics
- Analytics in real time: challenges with predefining the hypothesis



**Raj Bandaru**  
Global Head, Analytics for Health Economics and Outcomes Research  
AstraZeneca

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Raj Bandaru is the Global Head of Analytics for Health Economics and Outcomes Research at AstraZeneca. He has over 25 years of industry experience leading data sciences, analytics and statistics functions across the pharma value chain, from early drug discovery research to several years as a clinical trial statistician and more recently heading up post marketing and real world evidence functions. Raj lives and works in Boston, MA.

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



15:30 - 16:30 EST ROUNDTABLE 4

## Challenges in Data Visualization from Cutting-Edge Experimental Techniques in Bioinformatics



**Vikas Patel**  
Global Head, R&D Digital and Data Platforms  
Sanofi

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Vikas is the Global Head of Digital R&D Data Products at Sanofi. He is an accomplished and visionary Digital, Data and AI leader with 25+ years of experience in leveraging technology and management consulting expertise to lead enterprise-scale, global healthcare data & digital transformations. In his current role, Vikas is responsible for driving strategy and execution of innovative data products enabling significant value across the R&D value chain. Prior to Sanofi, Vikas worked for Merck Pharmaceuticals for 15 years where he held several leadership positions across Digital.

Vikas also has extensive consulting experience where he spent 9 years with Capgemini's US Consulting organization leading delivery for large scale complex Digital Technology programs across several industry verticals. He earned a Masters in Computer Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology.

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





## Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning

Large quantities of biological and medical data brought by increased digitalization in industry goes hand in hand with next level machine cognition to aid efforts involving drug discovery & development, synthesis, drug repurposing, modeling & simulation, multi-parametric data analyses, clinical trials and beyond. This track explores verifiable use of advanced technologies to analyse data, unlocking scalable AI, leveraging AI to improve biological pathway function and more.

08:00 - 08:30 EST BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION

08:30 - 09:00 EST OPENING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION  
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09:00 - 10:00 EST ROUNDTABLE 1

### How to Leverage AI and Clinical Data to Better Predict Toxicology

- How can artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) help with decision making when it comes to toxicity?
- How can we tell if the results of AI/ML models are accurate and translatable?
- What are the key inflection points for AI/ML to have more impact on drug development?



**Jeron Chen**  
Director and Head, Data Science  
Voyager Therapeutics, Inc.

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Jeron Chen is currently the Head of Data Science at Voyager Therapeutics, a Cambridge-based gene therapy company using AAV for treatment of severe neurological diseases including Huntington's disease, Friedreich's Ataxia, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Prior to Voyager, he was the team lead for Data Science in Biogen's Gene Therapy Accelerator Unit which develops novel gene therapy vectors using machine learning and bioinformatics. He earned B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Johns Hopkins University, and his Ph.D. in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering from Rice University.

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

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

### Faster Time to Science



#### Abstract:

The need for rapid analytics and AI is the key to mining meaningful insights. Groundbreaking discoveries depend on quick access to clinical and research data. The pace of life sciences research has never been more accelerated – all because of innovation and technology. Discuss how a new wave of technology is addressing the vast explosion of data and turning it into meaningful insight and a faster time to science.

#### Bullets:

- Pure can speed pipelines by up to 24x faster
- Pure Flashblade is a single, scale-out storage solution for Genomics and other HPC use cases
- Pure can be run on-prem or cloud adjacent, reducing or eliminating onerous cloud storage fees



Speaker TBC



#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Speaker TBC

12:30 - 13:30 EST NETWORKING LUNCH

13:30 - 14:00 EST AFTERNOON KEYNOTE PRESENTATION  
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14:00 - 15:00 EST ROUNDTABLE 3

### AI/ML and Drug Discovery

- What new opportunities does AI/ML afford for In silico drug discovery?
- What kind of modalities may be more amenable for use of AI/ML in drug discovery?
- What's our collective industry experience so far?
- What's a realistic expectation from AI/ML for drug discovery?



**Sandeep Kumar**  
Distinguished Fellow, Head of Computational Protein Design and Modeling, Computational Science  
Moderna

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Sandeep Kumar is a seasoned drug hunter with more than 20 years of experience in Academia and Biopharmaceutical Industry. Sandeep has been advocating for his vision of Biopharmaceutical Informatics, that calls for increased use of computation in the discovery and development of biotherapeutics in synergy with the experiments. Sandeep has so far contributed to more than one hundred peer-reviewed research articles and reviews in the field, along with an edited book. Sandeep has also contributed to the discovery and development of several approved anti-cancer biotherapeutics and a vaccine.

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

15:30 - 16:30 EST ROUNDTABLE 4

### Leveraging AI for Drug Discovery and Drug Design Through Different Modalities

- Exploring Drug Modalities: Small Molecules, Biologics, RNA, Cell & Gene Therapy
- AI methods for discovery of different drug modalities
- Case studies



**Govinda Bhisetti**  
Vice President and Head, Computational Chemistry  
Cellarity

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Govinda Bhisetti got his Ph. D. from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore in 1986. He joined Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA as a postdoctoral fellow in 1987. His work at Scripps involved use of Cray XMP supercomputers to simulate protein-ligand interactions and design novel inhibitors. From there, he went to work at Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc. in 1990 and worked in the Computational Sciences department for 22+ years where he led molecular modeling and drug design efforts on several drug discovery projects. His research at Vertex led to the discovery of three FDA approved drugs: two AIDS drugs, Agenerase (amprenavir) and Lexiva (fosamprenavir), and one Hepatitis C drug, Incivek (Telaprevir). He is a co-inventor of these drugs and named inventor on 26 patents. He published 72 research papers including review articles and book chapters.

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

## Data Management / Big Data

Data as a currency and its power to validate and ensure product viability is of increasing importance. Join these sessions to discuss strategies to collect, store, secure data and develop the framework for how the infrastructure will support your data strategy.

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

## Integrated Bioinformatics for Drug Safety and Data Management

- Data integration and how to make data as the first-class citizen has been industry wide challenge for last 3-4 decades
- Data governance and data stewardship has been a key element missing from the corporations and organizations culture
- How the data integration and data governance are hindering the life science industries in tapping true potential of single cell expression data



**Lalit Verma**  
Head, Artificial Intelligence CoE  
Indiana University Health

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Lalit Verma is an executive leader with 25+ years of progressive experience in the design, development, delivery, and management of digital technology solutions across global life-science corporations, including genomics, human & animal health, and agro-chemical industries. An advocate of human & animal health, Lalit is passionate about advancing healthy living through applied information technology, data science, and machine learning products and services. Lalit holds postgraduate degrees in Physics and Computer Science. From 1990 to 1999, he taught Electronics Honors undergraduate students at Delhi University and served as the department chair. Since 2002, he has served the life science industry as a bioinformatician and technical leader. At present, he is leading a global team of engineers, scientists, and project managers as Global Head of the Pre-clinical Sciences & Translational Safety Data Science at Janssen, the pharmaceutical division of Johnson & Johnson. He leads from the front in providing cutting-edge AI/ML/Deep Learning-based pre-clinical safety-related scientific workflow automation and data-driven decision-making, ensuring speedy regulatory submissions, first in human recommendations, and overall R&D pipeline cycle time reduction. He has authored bioinformatics and clinical algorithms, regulatory documents, and articles published in peer-reviewed journals.

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

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

## Modern Data Architectures for Large, Distributed Data Workloads

- Unify data from multiple sources
- Share data across different groups or organizations
- Overcome data gravity and automate the placement of data local to remote application or analytics tools
- Automate the application of security policies to all global data
- Architect effective AI data architectures



**Floyd Christofferson**  
Vice President, Product Marketing  
Hammerspace



## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Floyd Christofferson is Vice President, Product Marketing for Hammerspace, part of the core team responsible for product direction and defining product requirements and market focus. For more than 25 years, he has been deeply involved with data management and storage technologies in HPC, Bio-Sciences, M&E, and other industries that wrestle with extreme volumes of unstructured data. Prior to joining Hammerspace, Floyd held positions in similarly focused companies, including as CEO of StrongBox Data Solutions, CMO at Arcitacta Pty Ltd, and for 10 years as Director, Storage Product Marketing at SGI, responsible for its Infinite Storage HPC product line.

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

## Cloud-Based Approach for Bioinformatics Data Storage and Data Analysis

- Real-time Quality Checks and Data integration
- Key Implementation Steps to ensure Patient Data Privacy
- Use of AI to optimize data integration and data analyses



**Shrividya Iyer**  
Executive Director, Oncology Worldwide Real World Evidence (RWE) & US HEOR  
Eisai US



## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Shrividya Iyer has been working in the pharmaceutical industry for 20 years, developing and executing a global health economics and outcomes research strategy. She has worked extensively on health outcomes research, with a key focus on both clinical drug development and public health outcomes, and in parallel, trying to apply evolving digital technology to optimize the generation and communication of healthcare data evidence. Dr. Iyer has a PhD in pharmaceutical socioeconomics from the University of Iowa, USA; a degree in pharmacy from the University of Mumbai, India; and a Certificate in Business Excellence in Digital Health from the Columbia Business School, New York.

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

15:30 - 16:30 EST ROUNDTABLE 4

## Challenges and Strategies of Big Data Management and Handling in Research and Development

- Research technology advances force pharmaceutical companies to rethink how IT can effectively support and accelerate the innovation
- Data science and AI will require to invest into modern infrastructure to elastically scale to fit the research need quickly with cost-effective manner
- Collaboration and data sharing internally and externally needs enhanced data efficiency including easily and securely store, move, remove and access petabytes or zettabytes data
- Discussing potential strategies of big data management and handling in life science industry



**Benjamin Li**  
Head, IT Research & TMCP USA, Information Technology  
Boehringer Ingelheim

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Zhenbin (Benjamin) Li is the Head of IT Research & TMCP and the Global Head of IT RDM Biological Sample Production & Management. He is responsible for global IT needs for biotherapeutics discovery, structural biophysics, bioregistration & sample management, and next-generation sequence laboratory management for human pharma and animal health R&D. Benjamin holds a Ph.D. degree from the University of Georgia and an MS and BA from Nanjing University (China).

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

## TRACK 5 Clinical Research &amp; Translational Informatics

The high-throughput and affordability of omics technologies has exponentially increased the volume of data available for the purposes such as target identification and better diagnosis and treatment in the clinic, among others. Join this track to gain insights into integrating omics and clinical data to aid precision medicine, addressing challenges associated in analyzing large scale omics data from multiple sources and more.

08:00 - 08:30 EST BREAKFAST &amp; REGISTRATION

08:30 - 09:00 EST OPENING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION  
[See Page 6](#)

09:00 - 10:00 EST ROUNDTABLE 1

## Tackling Integrative Multi-Omics Analysis in Clinical Research and Translational Informatics

- How to find responder/non-responder populations for compounds entering clinical trial?
- How and when to develop/validate various biomarkers?
- How to translate clinical discoveries back to preclinical research? How to enable clinical data/samples for preclinical discovery?
- Strategies for Building Comprehensive Clinical Data Repositories and Informatics Infrastructure to Support Large-Scale Genomic Studies and Enable Data Sharing Across Institutions



Hongyue Dai

Vice President, Translational Bioinformatics  
LifeMine Therapeutics

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Hongyue is a bioinformatics leader and accomplished data analyst with over two decades of experience in pharmaceutical, biotech, and cancer hospital experience. He is passionate about utilizing bioinformatic approaches and preclinical/clinical data to speed up drug discovery and bring the right medicine to the right patient population. Prior to joining LifeMine, Hongyue served in various leadership roles, including SVP of Digital Biology and VP of Bioinformatics at Cygnal Therapeutics, CSO and Chief Bioinformatics Officer at M2Gen, Executive Director of Informatics and Analysis at Merck, and Director of Data Analysis at Rosetta Inpharmatics. Hongyue was one of the key contributors to the breast cancer test kit, MammaPrint. Hongyue received a B.S. in Nuclear Physics from Peking University and a Ph.D. in Astrophysics from the Institute of High Energy Physics, Chinese Academy of Science in Beijing, China.

10:00 - 11:25 EST REFRESHMENT BREAK &amp; 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

## Enhancing Pre-Clinical and Translational Sciences with Bioinformatics: A Roadmap to Accelerate Biomedical Discoveries

- The role of industry and academia partnerships
- Data, Data and Data
- Evolution of Artificial Intelligence



Deepak Rajpal

Global Head, Pre-Clinical and Translational Sciences  
Takeda

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Deepak Kumar Rajpal has more than 25 years of experience in drug discovery and development, successfully leading organizations to deliver the pipeline for patients. Deepak received his degree in Veterinary Medicine from Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University in India and his PhD in Toxicology from the University of Kentucky. After his Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Harvard School of Public Health, he held roles of increasing responsibility at Incyte, GlaxoSmithKline, and Sanofi before joining Takeda as the Head of Pre-Clinical and Translational Sciences (PTS). He has worked across multiple therapeutic areas and built cross-functional teams across organizations with internal and external innovation. He has served on many boards and panels, including NIH review sessions. He has published around 50 peer-reviewed articles in various journals and has also served as a reviewer for many scientific journals. He is very passionate about helping patients, building and leading effective organizations to successfully deliver the pipeline, with an emphasis on excellence in science and talent development. He enjoys mentoring and developing talent to contribute to drug discovery and development.

15:00 - 15:25 EST REFRESHMENT BREAK



15:30 - 16:30 EST ROUNDTABLE 4

## Examining Artificial Intelligence Techniques' Uses in Clinical and Translational Bioinformatics

- Are you actively using AI in translation and clinical bioinformatics in your organization?
- At what stage is your adoption and implementation of AI, and in which areas?
- What applications, in your experience, have been the most useful with a real impact on programs so far?
- What did you find to be the main challenges in adopting AI? What have you or your organization done to overcome some of these challenges?
- What potential applications of AI in translation and clinical bioinformatics excites you the most, and why?



Lihua Yu

Chief Data Officer  
FogPharma

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

As FogPharma's chief data officer, Lihua Yu is responsible for the development and implementation of data science strategy across all R&D functions and research programs, as well as establishing digital and machine learning platform to power the design-make-test-predict cycle of the company's proprietary Helicon™ discovery platform. Lihua brings more than 20 years of experience and leadership in data science across computational biology, cancer genomics, research informatics, clinical genomics, real world data and evidence. Prior to joining FogPharma, Lihua was the president and chief data science officer at H3 Biomedicine and served in multiple roles during her tenure of nearly a decade. She established H3 as a bioinformatics powerhouse studying splicing regulation in cancer, and is recognized with AACR 2020 Team Science Awards for their contribution to Pan-Cancer Atlas. At H3, she held overall responsibilities for the company's R&D and was responsible for driving the expanded use of data and technology and leading the creation of a data science/cancer genomics/information-sharing engine supporting all phases of drug discovery and early clinical development. Lihua led H3 during its transition from a drug discovery company to an early phase drug development company. Prior to H3, she was the cancer bioinformatics leader at AstraZeneca and held roles of increasing responsibility from 2000 to 2011.

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



## TRACK 6 Data Integration / Data Mining

Through data-driven insights, healthcare has used data integration to promote value-based healthcare models. To improve medicine research and clinical trials, the pharmaceutical industry has used data integration across the value chain ecosystem, from discovery to commercialization. Integrating teams, concepts, and technology to develop an infrastructure capable of hosting big data and utilising it in a meaningful way will be the focus of this track.

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

### Big Data and AI: Integration and Harnessing the Full Potential of Massive Data Sets to Use in Small Molecule Drug Discovery

- Publicly available datasets: AlphaFold2, Commercial and Virtual Compounds, ADME data
- Use of the datasets for Hit Finding and Optimization
- Data Integration and analysis tools



**Govinda Bhisetti**  
Vice President and Head, Computational Chemistry  
Cellarity

ABOUT THE SPEAKER  
[See Page 9](#)

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

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

### Data Usage in Bio-Pharma Research Programs

- Current challenges in sample life cycle and data life cycles
  - Sample to data
  - Data to insights
  - Insights to visualization
- Potential solutions to challenges



**Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pedamallu**  
Vice President – Bioinformatics  
Excelra

excelra

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Chandra Sekhar Pedamallu comes with extensive experience in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology specializing in cancer genomics. Before joining Excelra, Chandra was associated with Sanofi Inc., identifying novel drug targets in Oncology (Molecular and Immuno-oncology). Prior to Sanofi, he was at Dr. Meyerson Lab, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and a visiting scientist at The Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. During his 6-year tenure at Harvard, he led microbial analysis, pathogen discovery projects in cancer and other diseases. He has contributed substantially to over a dozen projects under the auspices of the Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA). Chandra holds a Ph.D. in Systems Engineering (area of research : Global Optimization) from School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He has co-authored over 85 manuscripts, published in highly reputed journals including Nature, Nature Genetics, Science, Cell, PNAS, etc., and has been inducted as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology (FRSB).

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

### Strategies and the Current Efforts of Data Integration and Mining in Bioinformatics

- What are the top data mining bottlenecks you face?
- How have the advances in LLM recently reshaped those challenges?
- We'll be looking through the lens of two extremes: established modalities and new modalities



**Sonia Timberlake**  
Former Senior Vice President, Research  
Finch Therapeutics

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Sonia Timberlake is an executive leader with 10 years of experience in biotech and nearly 20 years of experience in genomics, focusing on leveraging novel high-throughput technologies and computational science to accelerate R&D. Sonia was formerly Head of Research at Finch Therapeutics, developing cell therapies based on translational data. Prior to that, she was a key technical leader in developing a single-cell sequencing technology platform at AbViro, subsequently acquired for \$130 million by Juno Therapeutics, where Sonia served as the Head of Data Science. Sonia has a BS from Caltech and a PhD from MIT.

15:00 - 15:25 EST REFRESHMENT BREAK

15:30 - 16:30 EST ROUNDTABLE 4

### Developing Data Mining Tools for Drug Targets

- How to overcome the problem that genetics risk factors are usually genes with LOF, whereas drugs are easier to inhibit instead of repairing a function?
- Do we develop tools or hire talented data scientists for data mining?
- How does ChatGPT affect data mining? Any examples
- Patient data are usually baseline (before treatment), whereas new drugs are for refractory population, how to gain access of data from target patient populations?
- How to integrate non-coherent clinical/molecular data from public space?



**Hongyue Dai**  
Vice President, Translational Bioinformatics  
LifeMine Therapeutics

ABOUT THE SPEAKER  
[See Page 11](#)

17:20 - 18:20 EST DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION





# BIOINFORMATICS & IT

STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2023

6th November 2023, Monday Le Meridien Cambridge



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## STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2023

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Strategy Meeting Boston USA

**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  
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