



BIOINFORMATICS & IT STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2024

📅 Monday, 11th November 2024 📍 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:



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



Kevin Dushney
Senior Vice President,
IT and Operations
Kymera Therapeutics



Ziv Bar-Joseph
Vice President, Head,
R&D Data and
Computational
Sciences
Sanofi



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



Govinda Bhisetti
Vice President and
Head, Computational
Chemistry
Cellarity



Basma Hashmi
Head, Digital Solution
Takeda



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



20
ROUNDTABLE
DISCUSSIONS



6
TRACKS



2
KEYNOTE
PRESENTATIONS



1
PANEL
DISCUSSION



1
LOCATION



What Makes
Our Strategy
Meetings
So Unique?

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

BIOINFORMATICS & IT

STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2024

Monday, 11th November 2024 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.

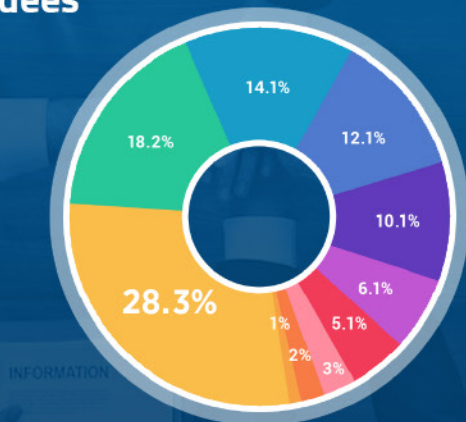


STRATEGIC NETWORKING

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
- 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

Bioinformatics

- ✓ CIO
- ✓ Head of Lab
- ✓ Bioinformatics
- ✓ Clinical Data
- ✓ R&D IT
- ✓ Data Sciences
- ✓ Translational Medicine
- ✓ Digital Transformation
- ✓ Omics
- ✓ AI/ML
- ✓ 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

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Facilitator Faculty

BIOINFORMATICS & IT

STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2024

Monday, 11th November 2024 Le Meridien Cambridge



Adam Marko
Life Sciences Field CTO
Hammerspace



Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pedamallu
Vice President,
Bioinformatics
Excelra



Zev Wisotsky
Director, New Modality Drug
Discovery Solutions
Revvity Signals



Basma Hashmi
Head, Digital Solutions
Takeda



Bertrand Le Bourdonnec
Chief Scientific Officer
HDAX Therapeutics



Bin Li
Senior Director,
Computational Biology,
Computational Research &
Data Strategy
Takeda



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



Govinda Bhisetti
Vice President and Head,
Computational Chemistry
Cellarity



Hongyue Dai
Former Vice President,
Translational Bioinformatics
LifeMine Therapeutics



Jacob Hesterman
Chief Data Officer
Ratio Therapeutics



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



Kevin Dushney
Senior Vice President,
IT and Operations
Kymera Therapeutics



Lakshmi Muthuswamy
Senior Director and Head,
Computational Biology
Blueprint Medicines



ML Ujwal
Associate Director,
Data Science
Johnson & Johnson



Nathan McBride
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Raj Bandaru
Global Head, Analytics
for Health Economics and
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AstraZeneca



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



Ziv Bar-Joseph
Vice President, Head, R&D
Data and Computational
Sciences
Sanofi

THOUGHT LEADER



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.

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Excelra is a leading Informatics company providing data analytics and informatics services to life sciences clients globally. From offices in Boston, San Francisco, Ghent, Utrecht, London, and Hyderabad, Excelra's 1000+ domain experts operate at the intersection of science and technology by structuring and harmonizing diverse scientific data sets; building R&D data engineering solutions, tailored computational models, optimized analysis pipelines; and developing novel informatics solutions to help our partners make groundbreaking discoveries. For more information, visit excelra.com.

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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































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.



AI Services: Data-driven insights for genomics including sc-RNA-seq, and multi-omics analysis. Applications include biomarker discovery, disease mechanism elucidation, indication prioritisation, and personalised medicine approaches. Our proprietary AI integrates diverse data sources, enhancing decision-making and strategy in drug development. Some of the focus areas are antibody optimization, ADC design and Protac Design.

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
BST						
BOARDROOM ►	Jerome C. Hunsaker A	Jerome C. Hunsaker B	Jerome C. Hunsaker C	Edward Pennell Brooks	Margaret L.A. Macvicar	Lan Jen Chu
08:00 - 08:30	BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION					
08:30 - 09:00	OPENING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: Evolving Role of Computational Chemistry in Drug Discovery  PRESENTER: Govinda Bhisetti, Vice President and Head, Computational Chemistry, Cellarity					
09:00 - 10:00	PHARMA/ BIOTECH What are the Emerging Trends and Future Directions in Digital Transformation for Bioinformatics?  Hongyue Dai, Former Vice President, Translational Bioinformatics, LifeMine Therapeutics	Challenges and Techniques for Visualizing Multi-Omics Data  Jeron Chen, Director and Head, Data Science, Voyager Therapeutics, Inc.	Exploring the Potential and Current limitations of AI in Personalized Medicine and Drug Discovery  Diane Joseph-McCarthy, Executive Director, Bioengineering Technology & Entrepreneurship Center, Boston University	Statistical and Computational Methods for Analyzing Big Bioinformatics Data  Bertrand Le Bourdonnec, Chief Scientific Officer, HDAX Therapeutics	Using Bioinformatics to Identify and Validate Biomarkers  Lakshmi Muthuswamy, Senior Director and Head, Computational Biology, Blueprint Medicines	How Has the Rise of Big Data Analytics Transformed Bioinformatics and Healthcare?  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					
11:10 - 12:10	SOLUTION Digital Transformation in Bioinformatics: From Guessing Games to Data-Driven Decisions  Zev Wisotsky, Director, New Modality Drug Discovery Solutions, Revvity Signals 			Unifying Data Access and High-Performance Data Platforms  Adam Marko, Life Sciences Field CTO, Hammerspace 		Harnessing Big Data for Drug Discovery  Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pedamallu, Vice President, Bioinformatics, Excelra 
12:15 - 13:15	PHARMA/ BIOTECH Embracing Digital Transformation and a New Era in Science  Nathan McBride, Senior Vice President, IT, Xilio Therapeutics, Inc.	Applied Machine Learning in Drug Discovery  ML Ujwal, Associate Director, Data Science, Johnson & Johnson	Current Challenges and Limitations of AI/ML in Bioinformatics Research  Kevin Dushney, Senior Vice President, IT and Operations, Kymera Therapeutics	Data Curation: Identifying the Importance of Ensuring High-Quality, Reliable Datasets  Raj Bandaru, Global Head, Analytics for Health Economics and Outcomes Research, AstraZeneca	Analyzing the Current Application of Artificial Intelligence in Clinical Research  Ziv Bar-Joseph, Vice President, Head, R&D Data and Computational Sciences, Sanofi	Examining How Data Mining Techniques Can be Used to Build Predictive Models  Lakshmi Muthuswamy, Senior Director and Head, Computational Biology, Blueprint Medicines
13:15 - 14:00	NETWORKING LUNCH					
14:00 - 14:20	NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS					
14:20 - 14:40	NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS					
14:40 - 15:10	AFTERNOON KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: Architecting for the Future: Cutting Edge Best Practices for Optimizing Data Pipelines  PRESENTER: Adam Marko, Life Sciences Field CTO, Hammerspace					
15:10 - 16:10	PHARMA/ BIOTECH How Does Effective Visualization Aid in the Interpretation and Communication of Complex Biological Data?  Jacob Hesterman, Chief Data Officer, Ratio Therapeutics	Leveraging AI Use for Better Collaboration and Innovation  Basma Hashmi, Head, Digital Solutions, Takeda	Scaling Analytics and AI - Leveraging Data Products and Scientific Compute Optimization  Vikas Patel, Former Global Head, R&D Digital and Data Platforms, Sanofi	Enhancing the Effectiveness and Quality of Translational Research  Bin Li, Senior Director, Computational Biology, Computational Research & Data Strategy, Takeda	Determining Current Issues in Data Integration and Mining  Hongyue Dai, Former Vice President, Translational Bioinformatics, LifeMine Therapeutics	
16:10 - 16:30	AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK					
16:30 - 17:30	PANEL DISCUSSION: Balancing Innovation with Compliance - The Future of Pharma in the Age of AI and Big Data  CHAIRPERSON: Basma Hashmi, Head, Digital Solutions, Takeda  PANELIST: Bin L, Senior Director, Computational Biology, Computational Research & Data Strategy, Takeda  PANELIST: ML Ujwal, Associate Director, Data Science, Johnson & Johnson					
17:30 - 18:30	DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION					

Event Day | Keynote Presentations

BIOINFORMATICS & IT

STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2024

11th November 2024, 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 ET

OPENING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Evolving Role of Computational Chemistry in Drug Discovery



Govinda Bhisetti

Vice President and Head, Computational Chemistry
Cellarity

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Govinda Bhisetti got his Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, in 1986. He joined the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, CA, as a postdoctoral fellow in 1987. His work at Scripps involved the 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 has been named an inventor on 26 patents. He published 72 research papers, including review articles and book chapters.

14:40 - 15:10 ET

AFTERNOON KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Architecting for the Future: Cutting-edge Best Practices for Optimizing Data Storage and Management



Adam Marko

Life Sciences Field CTO
Hammerspace



ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Adam Marko began his career at the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center researching protein homology modelling. He has since worked in drug discovery in Pfizer, diagnostics at Asuragen, backup and archive at Igneous, and most recently HPC storage at Panasas before joining Hammerspace as Life Sciences CTO. He is focused on data enablement across diverse life science organizations and data sets.

16:30 - 17:00 ET

PANEL DISCUSSION

Balancing Innovation with Compliance - The Future of Pharma in the Age of AI and Big Data



CHAIRPERSON

Basma Hashmi

Head, Digital Solutions
Takeda



PANELIST

Bin Li

Senior Director, Computational Biology,
Computational Research & Data Strategy
Takeda



PANELIST

ML Ujwal

Associate Director, Data Science
Johnson & Johnson

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 & REGISTRATION

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

09:00 - 10:00 EST ROUNDTABLE 1

What are the Emerging Trends and Future Directions in Digital Transformation for Bioinformatics?

- AI and Machine Learning in Genomics and Proteomics
- Big Data Analytics and Multi-Omics Integration
- Cloud-Based Bioinformatics Platforms



Hongyue Dai

Former Vice President, Translational Bioinformatics
LifeMine Therapeutics

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Hongyue Dai is an accomplished scientific leader and multifaceted data analyst with over two decades of experience in oncology, immuno-oncology, and neural-immune interactions and is an expert in building and leading bioinformatics teams and capabilities to support drug discovery and development pipelines. He has worked extensively on the analysis of genomic and genetic data to identify and validate novel drug targets and biomarkers and to understand disease progression and mechanisms of compounds. Most recently, Dr. Dai served as VP of Translational Bioinformatics at LifeMine. Before that, he was an SVP and VP of Bioinformatics and Digital Biology at Cygnal. Prior to his role at Cygnal, Dr. Dai was a Chief Scientific and Bioinformatics Officer at M2Gen. Additionally, Dr. Dai was an Executive Director and Informatics Analyst at Merck.

10:00 - 11:05 EST REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

11:10 - 12:10 EST SOLUTION FOCUS ROUNDTABLE 2

Digital Transformation in Bioinformatics: From Guessing Games to Data-Driven Decisions



Digital transformation promises to revolutionize bioinformatics, but the reality is often more complex. While organizations strive to move from intuition to informed decisions, the most critical data often still lives in spreadsheets, making real-time collaboration and innovation difficult. This roundtable will explore the intersection of technology, culture, and change management, exploring how to streamline the transition to more robust digital platforms, like AI and machine learning. We will also discuss the human element of transformation—how to make these tools not just technically viable but universally adopted. We aim to delve into

- The most important data lives in PowerPoint
- Making Guessing Games into Informed Decisions
- Change Management: The Real Challenge
- Why LLMs Are Cute, but Practicality Reigns



Zev Wisotsky

Director, New Modality
Drug Discovery Solutions
Revvity Signals



ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Zev Wisotsky is Director, New Modality Drug Discovery Solutions at Revvity Signals. Zev has 10+ years experience supporting Pharma and Biotech informatics and data strategies. He has a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from University of California Riverside.

12:15 - 13:15 EST ROUNDTABLE 3

Embracing Digital Transformation and a New Era in Science

- Bridging the gap from Digitization to Digitalization
- Cultivating a data-driven culture
- Rethinking your unstructured data and moving towards a structured data world
- Designing systems that can adapt to rapidly evolving technological advancements



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".

13:15 - 14:40 EST REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

14:40 - 15:10 EST AFTERNOON KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
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16:10 - 16:30 EST AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK

16:30 - 17:00 EST PANEL DISCUSSION
[See Page 6](#)

17:00 - 18:00 EST DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION



Data Science & 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 & REGISTRATION

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

Challenges and Techniques for Visualizing Multi-Omics Data

- Handling and analyzing large datasets in the cloud
- Automating data analysis
- Exploring new tools for analyzing and presenting data



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 - 11:05 EST REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS



12:15 - 13:15 EST ROUNDTABLE 3

Applied Machine Learning in Drug Discovery

- Data Access - Non availability of data, poor data governance and data stewardship
- Data Quality/Data Sparsity - fewer samples, inaccurate measurements, and missing values
- Lack of common standards - few meet the FAIR standards: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable
- Fit-for-purpose - data for report generation is different from data for consumption for ML algorithms
- Synthetic data - technical hurdles in production, use-cases, and reliance



ML Ujwal
Associate Director, Data Science
Johnson & Johnson

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

ML Ujwal PhD leads the PSTS/Data Science at Janssen R&D (J&J). He is a proven scientific leader with a strong pedigree in Drug Discovery and Applied Machine Learning. He has 15+ years of experience in academia, biotech, and large pharma. Before joining Janssen R&D, he co-founded and was the head of Data Sciences at Inciton, an early-stage startup that used MD simulations and ML approaches. Earlier he led predictive toxicology efforts at Eli Lilly & Co. He was on staff at the Institute for Genomic Research (TIGR). His academic credentials include Engineering Management from MIT with an emphasis on systems thinking, AI/ML frameworks, and GenAI. As an IJMB Wood-Whelan fellow, he is a joint PhD in Computational Biochemistry/Biophysics from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the University of Texas, Austin, followed by post-doctoral research both at Yale and Harvard. He has extensively published in peer-reviewed journals and serves on scientific advisory committees.

13:15 - 14:40 EST REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

14:40 - 15:10 EST AFTERNOON KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
[See Page 6](#)Pharma
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15:10 - 16:10 EST ROUNDTABLE 4

How Does Effective Visualization Aid in the Interpretation and Communication of Complex Biological Data?

- Bridging Disciplines: How do you use visualization to bridge communication gaps across scientific teams? What about for communication to non-technical stakeholders? What techniques do you use to collate data across multiple scientific disciplines and/or disparate data warehouses?
- Managing Scale: Many data sets in bioinformatics are large and complex. What techniques are used to manage scale, balancing visual simplicity and ease of understanding while also supporting deeper dives into nuanced data sets? Are different tools used for different tasks?
- Interactivity & Dissemination: What approaches do you take to provide users with real-time analysis and the ability to explore data dynamically and adjust parameters on the fly? How do you balance this flexibility with documentation and "locking down" results for presentation and/or regulatory needs. What tools or software platforms are used for the distribution and dissemination of visualizations?
- Custom vs Off-The-Shelf Solutions: Our different organizations exist because we all tackle slightly different (or vastly different) problems with different data requirements, including visualization. How do you manage the creation (and management / sustainability) of custom or bespoke solutions as compared to utilizing enterprise software solutions that may be more stable, mature solutions but might not provide the same flexibility in design?



Jacob Hesterman
Chief Data Officer
Ratio Therapeutics

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Hesterman holds degrees in optics from the University of Rochester (BSc). & University of Arizona (MS, PhD). He was a developer of the NanoSPECT/CT imaging system before becoming a visiting scientist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Dr. Hesterman was a founding member of Invicro, where he built the Image Analysis group. He was the Chief Technology Officer for Realm IDx, leading the imaging, software, and bioinformatics groups. Currently, Dr. Hesterman is the Chief Data Officer for Ratio Therapeutics, where he is responsible for data science, image science, and radiation dosimetry.

16:10 - 16:30 EST AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK

16:30 - 17:00 EST PANEL DISCUSSION
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17:00 - 18:00 EST DRINKS & 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

Exploring the Potential and Current limitations of AI in Personalized Medicine and Drug Discovery

- Where in the drug discovery process is AI currently having the greatest impact?
- What are the key bottlenecks/gaps in drug discovery, and how could AI help in general and in personalized medicine in particular?
- Is open innovation important and how could it accelerate drug discovery in the future?
- How can industry-academia partnerships play a role in this open innovation?



Diane Joseph-McCarthy

Executive Director, Bioengineering Technology & Entrepreneurship Center
Boston University

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Diane Joseph-McCarthy is the Executive Director of the Bioengineering Technology & Entrepreneurship Center and Professor of the Practice in Biomedical Engineering and Chemistry at Boston University. Prior to that, she was a 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 in Predictive Science. 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. She is a fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering.

10:00 - 11:05 EST REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

12:15 - 13:15 EST ROUNDTABLE 3

Current Challenges and Limitations of AI/ML in Bioinformatics Research

- Data governance, IP protection, and security. How are your organizations addressing these key issues?
- Line of sight to ROI with your investments in AI. How are you approaching where to apply AI, and how do you measure value in terms of business outcomes?
- Data integrity and accuracy. How are you curating data, particularly legacy data, such that AI is producing accurate and current information?
- AI is now being enabled in many third-party apps. How are you approaching this challenge?
- AI training. Much of the value derived from natural language queries revolves around the quality of the prompts. How are you training employees on how to use AI tools, for example, Copilot, in your organization?



Kevin Dushney

Senior Vice President, IT and Operations
Kymera Therapeutics

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Kevin Dushney is a senior biotech/pharmaceutical IT executive with extensive experience in planning, designing, and implementing innovative IT strategies and solutions targeted at accomplishing organizations' business objectives. Recognized for successful IT transformations and employing cost-effective technology solutions that deliver positive business outcomes.

13:15 - 14:40 EST REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

14:40 - 15:10 EST AFTERNOON KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
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15:10 - 16:10 EST ROUNDTABLE 4

Leveraging AI Use for Better Collaboration and Innovation

- Strategic AI Integration for Enhanced Insight and Foresight in Pharma
- AI as a catalyst for operational excellence in pharmaceutical operations
- Cultivating an AI-Forward Organizational Culture in Pharma
- Ethical AI Use and Governance in Pharmaceutical Development
- Leveraging AI for Cross-Functional Collaboration in Pharma



Basma Hashmi

Head, Digital Solutions
Takeda

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Basma Hashmi is the Head, Director of Digital Solutions and Experience Optimizations at Takeda, where she oversees the strategic integration of Gen AI and automation across various clinical trial delivery systems. With a focus on enhancing operational efficiency and fostering innovation, Dr. Hashmi has pioneered transformative digital strategies that have reshaped clinical processes. Prior to joining Takeda, Dr. Hashmi served as Chief Scientific Officer at a boutique healthcare consulting firm. Dr. Basma holds a PhD and SM in Biomedical Engineering from the Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

16:10 - 16:30 EST AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK

16:30 - 17:00 EST PANEL DISCUSSION
[See Page 6](#)

17:00 - 18:00 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
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09:00 - 10:00 EST ROUNDTABLE 1

Statistical and Computational Methods for Analyzing Big Bioinformatics Data

- How to best integrate and harmonize multiple biomedical data sources to guide drug discovery efforts towards target identification, target validation, and target <-> disease association?
- Leveraging bioinformatics and computational platforms to identify and rank target <-> disease associations: practical examples/case studies
- Big-data-driven approach to therapeutic target discovery: current challenges and future directions



Bertrand Le Bourdonnec
Chief Scientific Officer
HDAX Therapeutics

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Le Bourdonnec has over 20 years experience in the Biotech industry. He advanced, throughout his career, a number of projects from Research to Development across various disease areas including pain, GI disorders, infectious diseases, neurodegeneration, and oncology. He's currently Chief Scientific Officer at HDAX Therapeutics. Prior to HDAX, Dr. Le Bourdonnec served in various R&D leadership roles at small to mid-size Biotechs including Deciphera, Yumanity, Cubist and Adolor. He holds a Chemical Engineering degree and a PhD in Organic Chemistry from the University of Lille (France). Dr. Le Bourdonnec is an inventor on over 90 patents and has published over 30 scientific articles.

10:00 - 11:05 EST REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

11:10 - 12:10 EST SOLUTION FOCUS ROUNDTABLE 2

Unifying Data Access and High-Performance Data Platforms

This roundtable discussion will explore best practices in unifying multiple data sets or data sources without compromising on delivering high-performance storage to the applications and scientists in the data-intensive biomedical research fields. The focus will be on data architectures and storage systems that enhance data accessibility, security, and scalability, thereby facilitating more effective collaboration and discovery in life sciences.



Adam Marko
Life Sciences Field CTO
Hammerspace



ABOUT THE SPEAKER
[See Page 6](#)

12:15 - 13:15 EST ROUNDTABLE 3

Data Curation: Identifying the Importance of Ensuring High-Quality, Reliable Datasets

- Exploding number of vendors with no clear ability to validate/cross checks
- Biased sampling, digital health data driving healthcare policies
- Tokenization and errors in data integration



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.

13:15 - 14:40 EST REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

14:40 - 15:10 EST AFTERNOON KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
[See Page 6](#)

15:10 - 16:10 EST ROUNDTABLE 4

Scaling Analytics and AI - Leveraging Data Products and Scientific Compute Optimization



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

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Vikas Patel is an accomplished global leader in life sciences R&D, bringing over 25 years of expertise in digital transformation, data analytics, and artificial intelligence within the healthcare sector. Most recently, Vikas was the Global Head of R&D Data, AI, and Analytics Products at Sanofi, where he drove innovative strategies that enhance decision-making and optimize processes across the R&D value chain. Previously, Vikas spent 15 years at Merck Pharmaceuticals, where he led the Agile transformation of a large digital R&D team and managed IT solutions across research domains. His notable achievements include the Real World Data Exchange Platform and implementing cutting-edge lab technologies that revolutionized scientific workflows. Vikas began his career in management consulting at Capgemini, where he led large-scale digital technology programs across several industry verticals. He holds a Master's degree in Computer Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology.

16:10 - 16:30 EST AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK

16:30 - 17:00 EST PANEL DISCUSSION
[See Page 6](#)

17:00 - 18:00 EST DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION

TRACK 5 Clinical Research & 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 & REGISTRATION

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

09:00 - 10:00 EST ROUNDTABLE 1

Using Bioinformatics to Identify and Validate Biomarkers



Lakshmi Muthuswamy
Senior Director and Head, Computational Biology
Blueprint Medicines

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Speaker TBC

10:00 - 11:05 EST REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS



Fresh Life Science
Insights

Articles Daily Interviews
White Papers

Pharma
FEATURES



12:15 - 13:15 EST ROUNDTABLE 3

Analyzing the Current Application of Artificial Intelligence in Clinical Research

- AI impact on clinical trial optimization is lagging other areas of drug discovery
- How can we best utilize existing knowledge and integrate it into the workflow associated with clinical trial operations?
- How do we deal with the regulatory landscape?
- What are the most promising immediate aspects of AI in this space?



Ziv Bar-Joseph
Vice President, Head, R&D Data and Computational Sciences
Sanofi

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Ziv Bar-Joseph is Vice President and Head, R&D Data and Computational Sciences at Sanofi and the FORE Systems Professor of Machine Learning Department and Computational Biology in the School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU). Dr. Bar-Joseph received his PhD in computer science from MIT in 2003. His work is focused on the development of machine learning methods for the processing, analysis, visualization, and modeling of high-throughput biological data. He has recently worked on the analysis and modeling of single-cell data from several modalities and on methods for integrating this data with bulk interaction data to reconstruct networks within and between cells. Dr. Bar-Joseph is involved in a number of national efforts focused on using single cell data to create 3D reference human maps. He led the Computational Tools Center for the NIH HuBMAP program and is a PI in the SenNet Data Coordination Center. He was also the director of the Joint CMU Pitt PhD Program in Computational Biology (CPCB). Dr. Bar-Joseph is the recipient of the Overton prize, the annual award of the Intentional Society for Computational Biology (ISCB), and the NSF CAREER award. He is also the recipient of several best paper awards, including at the top computational biology conferences, Recomb and ISMB.

13:15 - 14:40 EST REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

14:40 - 15:10 EST AFTERNOON KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
[See Page 6](#)

15:10 - 16:10 EST ROUNDTABLE 4

Enhancing the Effectiveness and Quality of Translational Research

- What's the goal of the translational research? Enable later biomarker-driven clinical trials? An exploratory endpoint?
- How to select the right vendor for data generation, QC/process, and analysis?
- Organization structure to support translational research at different companies? How do you communicate and collaborate with related teams?
- Any good or bad case studies from your own experience? Lessons learned



Bin Li
Senior Director, Computational Biology, Computational Research & Data Strategy
Takeda

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Bin Li leads a computational biology team at Takeda. His team provides computational support on both forward and reverse translational research using multi-omics and other types of data, on oncology, GI, and neuroscience R&D programs. They evaluate/develop methods, build ML/AI predictive models, and do data-driven analyses, for biomarker and patient stratification, target ID/validations, immunogenicity predictions, and other efforts.

16:10 - 16:30 EST AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK

16:30 - 17:00 EST PANEL DISCUSSION
[See Page 6](#)

17:00 - 18:00 EST DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION

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**

How Has the Rise of Big Data Analytics Transformed Bioinformatics and Healthcare?



Govinda Bhisetti
Vice President and Head, Computational Chemistry
Cellarity

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
[See Page 6](#)

10:00 - 11:05 EST **REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS**

11:10 - 12:10 EST **SOLUTION FOCUS ROUNDTABLE 2**

Harnessing Big Data for Drug Discovery

- Key questions
 - Drug discovery pipeline
- Path forward in answering key questions
 - Data needs for decisions making in drug discovery pipeline
 - Approach : Data asset building, analysis and interpretation
 - Challenge in approach implementation



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).

12:15 - 15:15 EST **ROUNDTABLE 3**

Examining How Data Mining Techniques Can be Used to Build Predictive Models

- Sources and types of data used for building predictive models
- Best practices for data ingestion and data integration
- Data mining algorithms to build predictive models
- Data pipes for automatic retraining of task specific ML models



Lakshmi Muthuswamy
Senior Director and Head, Computational Biology
Blueprint Medicines

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Speaker TBC

13:15 - 14:40 EST **REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS**

14:40 - 15:10 EST **AFTERNOON KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**
[See Page 6](#)

15:10 - 16:10 EST **ROUNDTABLE 4**

Determining Current Issues in Data Integration and Mining

- How to create a robust system for integrating various types of data?
- What are the good AI platforms for data integration and data mining?
- What is the current status of AI in Biology?



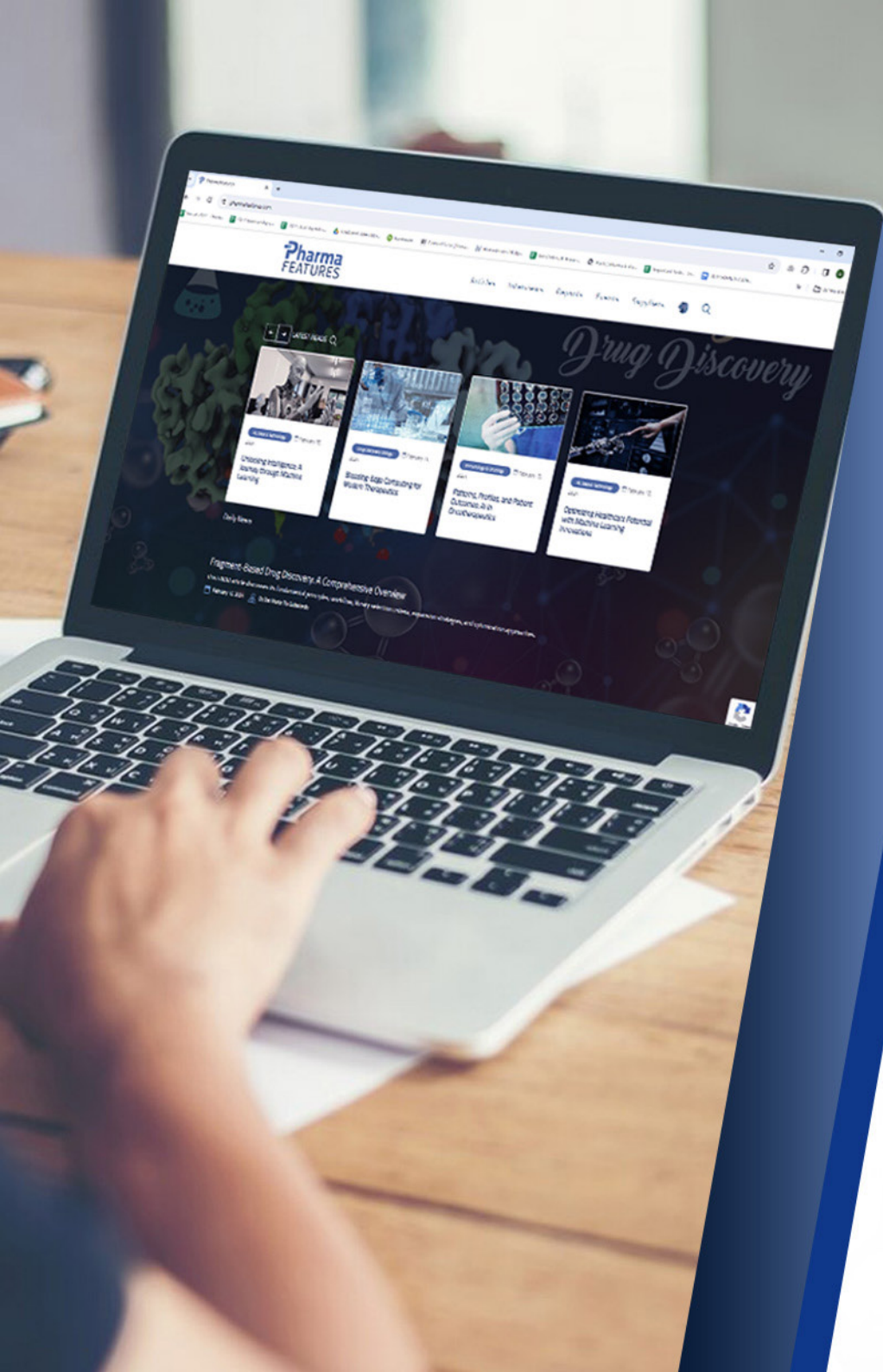
Hongyue Dai
Former Vice President, Translational Bioinformatics
LifeMine Therapeutics

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
[See Page 7](#)

16:30 - 17:00 EST **PANEL DISCUSSION**
[See Page 6](#)

17:00 - 18:00 EST **DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION**





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2025 Strategy Meeting Calendar



MAY

Boston/Cambridge MA - US East Coast

MAY  **CHEMISTRY MANUFACTURING CONTROL**
7 **CMC Strategy Meeting 2025**
WED  Le Meridien Boston Cambridge

MAY  **MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY**
8 **Medicinal Chemistry Strategy Meeting 2025**
THUR  Le Meridien Boston Cambridge



Princeton/New Jersey - US East Coast

MAY  **MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY**
14 **Medicinal Chemistry Strategy Meeting 2025**
WED  Hyatt Regency Princeton

MAY  **CLINICAL OPERATIONS & CLINICAL TRIAL SUPPLY CHAIN**
15 **Clinical Operations & Clinical Trial Supply Chain Strategy Meeting 2025**
THUR  Hyatt Regency Princeton

NOVEMBER

San Diego - US West Coast

NOV  **MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY**
12 **Medicinal Chemistry Strategy Meeting 2025**
WED  Hard Rock Hotel San Diego

NOV  **CLINICAL OPERATIONS & CLINICAL TRIAL SUPPLY CHAIN**
13 **Clinical Operations & Clinical Trial Supply Chain Strategy Meeting 2025**
THUR  Hard Rock Hotel San Diego

Boston/Cambridge MA - US East Coast

NOV  **CLINICAL OPERATIONS & CLINICAL TRIAL SUPPLY CHAIN**
18 **Clinical Operations & Clinical Trial Supply Chain Strategy Meeting 2025**
TUE  Le Meridien Boston Cambridge

NOV  **BIOINFORMATICS & DRUG DISCOVERY BIOLOGY**
19 **Bioinformatics Strategy Meeting 2025**
WED  Le Meridien Boston Cambridge

BIOINFORMATICS & IT

STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2024

Monday, 11th November 2024 Le Meridien Cambridge



Hotel & Venue

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Le Méridien Boston Cambridge

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[Hotel Details >](#)[Map & Directions >](#)

OUR FACE TO FACE MEETING IN OCT & NOV 2024

STRATEGY
MEETING
EUROPE

Crowne Plaza,
London Docklands

OCT 22

DRUG DISCOVERY BIOLOGY
& BIOINFORMATICS
STRATEGY MEETING EUROPE 2024

OCT 23

MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY
STRATEGY MEETING EUROPE 2024

STRATEGY
MEETING
EAST COAST USA

Le Meridien
Boston Cambridge

NOV 11

BIOINFORMATICS
& IT
STRATEGY MEETING
EAST COAST USA 2024

NOV 12

DRUG DISCOVERY
BIOLOGY
STRATEGY MEETING
EAST COAST USA 2024

NOV 13

MEDICINAL
CHEMISTRY
STRATEGY MEETING
EAST COAST USA 2024

NOV 14

CLINICAL OPERATIONS &
CLINICAL TRIAL SUPPLY CHAIN
STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2024

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