



Proventa International's 12th Annual

# MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY & DRUG DISCOVERY BIOLOGY STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA **2025**

📅 Wednesday, 14th May 2025 📍 Hyatt Regency Princeton

*Reinvigorating Productivity in Pharma & Biotech R&D Through Advanced Technologies and Innovative Techniques that Interrogate Activity and Mechanisms*

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## Featuring Industry Leaders and Decision Makers:



**Nikolaos Tezapsidis**  
President & CEO  
**Neurotez Inc.**



**Sunil Joshi**  
President &  
CEO  
**Protelis Bio**



**Rick Ewing**  
VP, Head of  
Chemistry  
**Rapafusyn  
Pharmaceuticals**



**Friso Postma**  
Vice President,  
Artificial Intelligence  
Drug Discovery  
**BioXcel  
Therapeutics**



**Tanweer Khan**  
Senior Director,  
Head of Discovery  
Chemistry  
**aTai Life  
Sciences**



**Herve Aloysius**  
Head of DMPK  
**BioCryst  
Pharmaceuticals**



**Abhijat Vatsyayan**  
Head of AI and  
Innovation  
**Taiho Oncology**



**13**  
ROUNDTABLE  
DISCUSSIONS



**5**  
TRACKS



**1**  
KEYNOTE  
PRESENTATION



**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.


**MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY & DRUG DISCOVERY BIOLOGY**  
**STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2025**  
 📅 Wednesday, 14th May 2025 📍 Hyatt Regency Princeton

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, wherever 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



### SCIENTIFIC DISCUSSIONS

Some interesting and informal discussion groups will be facilitated throughout the meeting. This is a great opportunity for industry and academia to share their latest research, discuss challenges and explore potential.



### PERSONALIZED MEETINGS

Each delegate will have a personalized agenda with the most relevant sessions that you choose. This helps attendees maximize their time and ensures that your time is focused and well-invested.



### NETWORKING SESSIONS

Our most efficient and cost-effective way to connect potential partners at a strategic level. Monthly keynotes and presentations that provide your business with the most relevant and useful help through private meetings to generate interest.



### STRATEGIC NETWORKING

Strategic networking opportunities have a key benefit of generating. Our process involves building and strengthening relationships to make lasting connections that benefit you.



# Facilitator Faculty

## MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY & DRUG DISCOVERY BIOLOGY STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2025

📅 Wednesday, 14th May 2025 📍 Hyatt Regency Princeton



**Abhijat Vatsyayan**  
Head of AI and Innovation  
**Taiho Oncology**



**Arnold Lipka**  
Executive Chairman,  
Chief Executive Officer and  
Chief Scientific Officer  
**RespireRx  
Pharmaceuticals Inc.**



**Ashok Purandare**  
Associate Director,  
Discovery Chemistry  
**Bristol Myers Squibb**



**Chun-Cheih Chao**  
Senior Scientist  
**Graviton Bioscience**



**Friso Postma**  
Vice President, Artificial  
Intelligence Drug Discovery  
**BioXcel Therapeutics**



**Herve Aloysius**  
Head of DMPK  
**BioCryst  
Pharmaceuticals**



**Mark Tornetta**  
VP/Director of Biologics  
Discovery  
**Tavotek Biotherapeutics**



**Nikolaos Tezapsidis**  
President & CEO  
**Neurotez Inc.**



**Rick Ewing**  
VP, Head of Chemistry  
**Rapafusyn  
Pharmaceuticals**



**Rui Liao**  
Senior Director, AI/ML  
& Digital Health  
**Johnson & Johnson  
Innovative Medicine**



**Sunil Joshi**  
President & CEO  
**Protelis Bio**



**Tanweer Khan**  
Senior Director,  
Head of Discovery  
Chemistry  
**aTai Life Sciences**



**Wendy Luo**  
Senior Director,  
Head of Toxicology  
**Legend Biotech**



**Xuqing Zhang**  
Senior Director,  
Discovery Chemistry  
**SK Life Science**



**Zhenhong Li**  
Senior Director, Modeling  
& Simulation  
**Nimbus Therapeutics**

How Has Our  
**STRATEGY MEETINGS**  
Benefit The Life Science Industry

“

*It was a great meeting. I enjoyed the round tables and seeing some old colleagues and meeting some new ones and continuing my string of attending every single one of your events from the first one!”*

**Mark Tebbe** — Co-Founder & CSO, **Quench Bio**

“

*The meeting was excellent. Discussions were great and trying to get everyone around the table to participate made for great idea sharing.”*

**Joseph Mancini** —  
Head of Pharmacology, **AdMare Bioinnovations**



# 2025 Sponsors

**MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY &  
DRUG DISCOVERY BIOLOGY**  
**STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2025**  
Wednesday, 14th May 2025 Hyatt Regency Princeton

## PARTNERING SPONSORS



**Revvity Signals Software** provides an extensive range of scientific solutions, empowering researchers and pharmaceutical pioneers worldwide. Our cutting-edge technology simplifies processes, speeds up experiments, and prioritizes promising compounds, redefining drug discovery. The Signals Research Suite, our flagship solution, streamlines R&D workflows with data capture, collaboration, data processing, and data-driven analytics. It includes i Signals Notebook, the only cloud-native electronic lab notebook with ChemDraw®, Spotfire® powered advanced analytics, as well as next-gen data management. In addition, we have recently introduced Signals Synergy which is designed to substantially enhance collaboration, project management, and data exchange between sponsors and CROs



**Jubilant Biosys Ltd.** Is a part of Jubilant Pharmova group of companies with R&D centres in India and business offices in Asia, North America, UK and EU. Jubilant Biosys provides comprehensive drug discovery, contract research, development and manufacturing services. Our drug discovery services range from target validation to candidate selection, and CDMO services offer manufacturing support from clinical to commercial stage. We offer stand-alone services across entire continuum of drug discovery, including computational, medicinal, synthetic & analytical chemistry, structural biology, in-vivo & in-vitro biology, DMPK/ADME & toxicology. Our scale up & manufacturing facility in India with 900+ MTs reactor capacity is accredited by U.S. FDA, PMDA, and EMA. Tech. transfer from lab scale synthesis to manufacturing is supported by our on-site R&D, QC, QA, EHS, PM and engineering experts. This is indeed the reason why Jubilant Biosys is a partner of choice for pharma & biotech companies across the globe.



**Sapio Sciences'** mission is to improve life in the lab - because science is complex, Sapio makes technology simple. Sapio is a global business offering an all-in-one science-aware (TM) lab informatics platform combining cloud-based LIMS, ELN, and data solutions. Sapio serves some of the largest global and niche brands, including biopharma, CRO's and clinical diagnostic labs across NGS genomic sequencing, bioanalysis, bioprocessing, stability, clinical, histopathology, drug research, and in vivo studies. Our customers love Sapio's platform because it is robust, scalable, and with no-code configuration, can quickly adapt to meet unique needs.



## Global Sponsorship Opportunities

Proventa's end-to-end consulting division gather real-time business intelligence on the industry's **needs, challenges, budgets** and **investment areas**. We combine this information with your specific needs to enhance your business development strategy. With the wealth of intel we provide, Proventa guarantees tangible results for your business within twelve months of the event.

**For Sponsorship Opportunities please contact:**



















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# Agenda at a Glance

**MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY & DRUG DISCOVERY BIOLOGY**  
**STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2025**  
📅 Wednesday, 14th May 2025 📍 Hyatt Regency Princeton

	TRACK 1	TRACK 2	TRACK 3	TRACK 4	TRACK 5
TIME	AI/ML	DMPK / ADME & TOXICOLOGY	CHEMICAL BIOLOGY, TARGETED PROTEIN DEGRADATION AND UNDRUGGABLES	STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS IN DRUG DISCOVERY	INTEGRATED DRUG DISCOVERY
EST					
BOARDROOM ➔	Wilson Suite A	Wilson Suite B	Oppenheimer Suite A	Cleveland Suite	West Windsor Suite
08:00 - 08:30	BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION				
08:30 - 09:00	OPENING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: Drug Discovery Approaches towards Unlocking the Hard to Drug Proteome  PRESENTER: Rick Ewing, VP, Head of Chemistry, <b>Rapafusyn Pharmaceuticals</b>				
09:00 - 10:00 <b>PHARMA/BIOTECH</b>	<b>Revolutionizing Drug Discovery: Unleashing AI and Generative Modeling for Molecular Innovation</b>  Abhijat Vatsyayan, Head of AI and Innovation, <b>Taiho Oncology</b>	<b>The Future of Non-Clinical Safety Testing: In Vitro and In Vivo Toxicology Studies for Small Molecules, Monoclonal Antibodies, and Cell and Gene Therapy</b>  Wendy Luo, Senior Director, Head of Toxicology, <b>Legend Biotech</b>	<b>Emerging “Undruggable” Targets in Targeted Protein Degradation</b>  Xuqing Zhang, Senior Director, Discovery Chemistry, <b>SK Life Science</b>	<b>Strategic Alliances and Investment Strategies: Fueling the Future of Drug Discovery</b>  Nikolaos Tezapsidis, President & CEO, <b>Neurotez Inc.</b>	<b>Holistic Integration of AI in the Drug Development Process: From Target Discovery to Precision Medicine</b>  Friso Postma, Vice President, Artificial Intelligence Drug Discovery, <b>BioXcel Therapeutics</b>
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 <b>PHARMA/BIOTECH</b>	<b>The Evolution of AI: Looking Back at the Past 10 years and Projecting the Future 10</b>  Abhijat Vatsyayan, Head of AI and Innovation, <b>Taiho Oncology</b>	<b>Developments in Predictive Modeling and Metabolic Profiling for Advancing Drug Discovery with DMPK</b>  Herve Aloysius, Head of DMPK, <b>BioCryst Pharmaceuticals</b>			<b>The Next Frontier in Therapeutic RNA: Exploring Computational and AI-Driven Approaches for Target Identification, mRNA Synthesis, and Small Molecule Integration</b>  Chun-Cheih Chao, Senior Scientist, <b>Graviton Bioscience</b>
12:10 - 13:30	NETWORKING LUNCH				
13:30 - 13:50	NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS				
13:50 - 14:10	NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS				
14:10 - 14:30	NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS				
14:30 - 15:30 <b>PHARMA/BIOTECH</b>	<b>Exploring the Intersection of AI Technology and Drug Discovery: Navigating Challenges and Unlocking Collaborative Opportunities</b>  Rui Liao, Senior Director, AI/ML & Digital Health, <b>Johnson &amp; Johnson Innovative Medicine</b>	<b>Integrating translational PKPD modeling to accelerate drug discovery and development</b>  Zhenhong Li, Senior Director, Modeling & Simulation, <b>Nimbus Therapeutics</b>	<b>From Discovery to Application: Challenges for TPD Therapeutic</b>  Ashok Purandare, Associate Director, Discovery Chemistry, <b>Bristol Myers Squibb</b>	<b>The Role of Venture Partnerships in Drug Discovery</b>  Sunil Joshi, President & CEO, <b>Protelis Bio</b>	<b>Blood-Brain Barrier Penetration in Drug Discovery: Challenges, Innovations, and Future Directions</b>  Tanweer Khan, Senior Director, Head of Discovery Chemistry, <b>aTai Life Sciences</b>
15:30 - 15:50	AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK				
15:50 - 16:20	PANEL DISCUSSION: Overcoming Investment Barriers in Biotech: R&D Costs, IP Issues, and Market Uncertainty  CHAIRPERSON: Nikolaos Tezapsidis, President & CEO, <b>Neurotez, Inc.</b>  PANELISTS:  Arnold Lipka, Executive Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Scientific Officer, <b>RespireRx Pharmaceuticals Inc.</b>  Mark Tornetta, VP/Director of Biologics Discovery, <b>Tavotek Biotherapeutics</b>  Sunil Joshi, President & CEO, <b>Protelis Bio</b>				
16:20 - 17:20	DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION				



# VENTURE CAPITAL & PRIVATE EQUITY STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2025

📅 Wednesday & Thursday, 14-15th May 2025 📍 Hyatt Regency Princeton

*Investment Challenges and Opportunities in Emerging Biotech Markets*

## Featuring Industry Leaders and Decision Makers:



**Allan Gobbs**  
Co-Founder &  
Managing Partner  
**ATEM Capital**



**Heather Rose**  
Vice President of  
Technology Licensing  
and Start-Ups  
**BioStrategy  
Partners**



**Rick Ewing**  
VP, Head of Chemistry  
**Rapafusyn  
Pharmaceuticals**

[CLICK HERE TO SEE FULL LIST OF SPEAKERS →](#)



**What Makes  
Our Strategy  
Meetings  
So Unique?**

DAY 1	
TIME EST	INVESTMENT IN DRUG DISCOVERY & BIOTECH
ROOM→	Oppenheimer Suite B
08:00 - 08:30	REGISTRATION AND WELCOME
08:30 - 09:00	OPENING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: Drug Discovery Approaches towards Unlocking the Hard to Drug Proteome  Rick Ewing, VP, Head of Chemistry, Rapafusyn Pharmaceuticals
09:00 - 10:00 Investor	Navigating Financial Risks and Rewards in Biotech: Investment Trends and Strategies for 2025  Allan Gobbs, Co-Founder & Managing Partner, ATEM Capital
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 Investor	How Biotech Startups are Leveraging Investment for Growth and Innovation through Public and Private Funding Models  Heather Rose, Vice President of Technology Licensing and Start-Ups, Thomas Jefferson Health
12:10 - 13:30	NETWORKING LUNCH
13:30 - 13:50	NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS
13:50 - 14:10	NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS
14:10 - 14:30	NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS
14:30 - 15:30	
15:30 - 15:50	AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK
15:50 - 16:20	PANEL DISCUSSION: Overcoming Investment Barriers in Biotech: R&D Costs, IP Issues, and Market Uncertainty  CHAIRPERSON: Nikolaos Tezapsidis, President & CEO, Neurotez, Inc. PANELISTS:  Arnold Lipka, Executive Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Scientific Officer, RespireRx Pharmaceuticals Inc.  Mark Tornetta, VP/Director of Biologics Discovery, Tavotek Biotherapeutics  Sunil Joshi, President & CEO, Protelis Bio
16:20 - 17:20	DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION

DAY 2	
TIME EST	INVESTMENT IN CLINICAL TRIALS
ROOM→	Witherspoon Ballroom
08:00 - 08:30	REGISTRATION AND WELCOME
08:30 - 09:00	OPENING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:  Ashok Srivastava, Chief Clinical Officer, Autolus Therapeutics
09:00 - 10:00	
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	
12:15 - 13:15 Investor	Evaluating the Role of Strategic Partnerships in Mitigating Risks and Enhancing Funding or Expertise for Clinical Trials  Carl Spana, Chief Executive Officer & President, Palatin Technologies
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: Proof-of-Concept: Bold Moves, Big Wins, and Lessons Learned  Tatiana Eidus, Director, Corporate Development North America, Arensia
15:10 - 16:10 Investor	Exploring the Key Strategies for Improving the Cost-Efficiency of Clinical Trials and Increasing ROI for Investors?  Robert Gabriel, Board Member, Managing Partner, Ashur Capital
16:10 - 16:30	AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK
16:30 - 17:00	PANEL DISCUSSION: Maximizing ROI in Clinical Trials: Navigating Risk, Innovation, and Opportunity  Carl Spana, Chief Executive Officer & President, Palatin Technologies
17:00 - 18:00	DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION



# Event Day | Keynote Presentations

**MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY &  
DRUG DISCOVERY BIOLOGY**  
STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2025

Wednesday, 14th May 2025 Hyatt Regency Princeton

*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

## Drug Discovery Approaches towards Unlocking the Hard to Drug Proteome



**Rick Ewing**

VP, Head of Chemistry

Rapafusyn Pharmaceuticals

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**Rick Ewing** is VP, Head of Chemistry at Rapafusyn, a platform company focused on Type I molecular glues. Previous to Rapafusyn, Rick held the position of VP, Head of Drug Discovery at the Barer Institute. Prior to Barer, Rick was a senior director in Discovery Chemistry at Bristol Myers Squibb where he led medicinal chemistry teams to deliver 15 development candidates in the therapeutic areas of cardiovascular, diabetes, obesity, and heart failure. Among the development candidates is Milvexian, a first in class Factor XIa inhibitor currently in PIII development. Rick is coinventor on 79 patents, and co-author on 77 publications. In 2023, Rick was awarded the ACS Philadelphia Section Award for distinguished achievement in medicinal chemistry. In 2023, Rick also received the Edison Patent Award in Biotechnology Innovation with colleagues from BMS and Scripps Research. In 2021, he was awarded the ACS Fellow by the American Chemical Society and in 2018 received the Ondetti-Cushman award for leadership of the FXIa drug discovery team. Prior to Bristol Myers Squibb, Rick spent 12 years at RPR (now Sanofi). Rick received his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from U. Penn.

🕒 15:50 - 16:20 ET

PANEL DISCUSSION

## Overcoming Investment Barriers in Biotech: R&D Costs, IP Issues, and Market Uncertainty



### CHAIRPERSON

**Nikolaos Tezapsidis**

President & CEO

Neurotez, Inc.



### PANELIST

**Arnold Lipka**

Executive Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Scientific Officer  
RespireRx Pharmaceuticals Inc.



### PANELIST

**Mark Tornetta**

VP/Director of Biologics Discovery  
Tavotek Biotherapeutics



### PANELIST

**Sunil Joshi**

President & CEO  
Protelis Bio

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**NIKOLAOS TEZAPSIDIS, PHD** is the Founder, President, CEO, and Chairman of Neurotez, Inc., a pioneering biotechnology company established in 2005. With over 18 years of hands-on biomedical research experience, he has spearheaded the development of Memtin, a recombinant human Leptin product aimed at hormone replacement therapy for hypoleptinemic prodromal Alzheimer's patients. Under his leadership, Neurotez raised \$5 million through non-dilutive capital, secured private investments, and built a robust patent portfolio with over 20 issued and pending patents. A distinguished researcher, he has authored 50+ peer-reviewed publications and received accolades such as the InvestAcure Coin Award for advancements in Alzheimer's treatment.

(see next column for cont.)

🕒 15:50 - 16:20 ET

PANEL DISCUSSION (cont.)

### ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

**Arnold S. Lipka, Ph.D.**, is Acting Co-CEO and Chief Scientific Officer of ResolutionRx and has served as a director since its formation in January 2023. He is also Executive Chairman and CSO of RespireRx, with prior roles as President and CEO. Dr. Lipka founded T Morgen Capital LLC, which manages his family's assets and holds significant equity in Aurora Capital LLC. He co-founded Atypical BioCapital Management and Atypical BioVentures Fund, both now inactive. Dr. Lipka was also co-founder, Chairman, and CEO of DOV Pharmaceutical, Inc., and has longstanding involvement in life sciences investment and executive leadership.

**Mark Tornetta** has 30+ years of lead discovery experience in the biopharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors. The first 10+ years he performed antibody engineering and small molecule screening for de-orphanizing GPCR targets at SmithKline Beecham. The next 18+ years at Centocor/J&J he was part of an antibody engineering team that implemented 2 phase display technologies that generated thousands of candidates to hundreds of targets. His most accomplished project was discovering an antibody currently in the clinic at GSK for pulmonary inflammatory indications. The last 5 years at Tavotek he implemented a unique antibody generation platform called TAVOSelect which has generated thousands of VHOs to many IO targets.

**Sunil Joshi** is an accomplished BioPharma executive with three decades in BMS, Bayer, Onyx, Halozyne & Gradalis Inc. One of the top thought leaders in commercialization of pharmaceutical medicines, clinical and commercial strategy, and M&A due diligence. Experienced in investor out-reach and capital raise. Marketing and strategy executive with enterprise leadership from Phase 1 to post launch. Former biotech CEO and Pharma senior leader with over a decade of governance experience. Problem solver, builder of high performance teams, teacher & mentor to senior leaders.

Large quantities of biological and medical data brought by increased digitalization in the industry go hand in hand with next-level machine cognition to aid efforts involving drug discovery & development, synthesis, drug repurposing, modeling & simulation, predicting protein attachment, computer-Aided drug design (CADD), and beyond. This track explores the verifiable use of advanced technologies to analyze data, predict structure and activity, aid in hit finding and more.

#### 08:00 - 08:30 ET BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION

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

#### 09:00 - 10:00 ET ROUNDTABLE 1

### Revolutionizing Drug Discovery: Unleashing AI and Generative Modeling for Molecular Innovation

- The role of deep learning models in designing novel drug-like molecules with improved properties and synthesizability.
- Challenges in integrating AI/ML into existing drug discovery pipelines and balancing automation with expert-driven insights.
- Data quality, availability, and standardization as key barriers to effective AI model training and deployment.
- Bridging the gap between computational predictions and experimental validation to accelerate time-to-lead



**Abhijat Vatsyayan**  
Head of AI and Innovation  
Taiho Oncology

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Trained as an aerospace engineer, **Abhijat** has had a career spanning over 23 years most of it dedicated to helping to bring life-extending medicines to patients through the use of technology. In this 20+ years working at pharmaceutical companies, he collaborates with individuals from diverse backgrounds, applying analytical, design, and creative problem-solving skills to the complex challenge of drug development. Abhijat also has a foundational understanding of artificial intelligence, including machine learning, and has built simplified deep-learning frameworks to educate and present machine-learning concepts. Finally, he is also a proud co-founder of multiple failed startups.

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

#### 11:10 - 12:10 ET ROUNDTABLE 2

### The Evolution of AI: Looking Back at the Past 10 years and Projecting the Future 10

- Next-Generation Drug Discovery: Discuss how AI has accelerated the identification of potential drug candidates, significantly reducing the time and cost required for research and development. Predict how AI will continue to revolutionize drug discovery with more advanced algorithms and deeper integration with other technologies like quantum computing.
- AI-Driven Clinical Trials: Explore how AI has improved the efficiency and effectiveness of clinical trials through predictive modeling and real-time data analytics. Speculate on the future of AI-driven clinical trials, including decentralized trials and the use of digital twins to simulate patient responses.
- Advanced Personalized Medicine: Highlight the advancements in personalized medicine, where AI has enabled the development of treatments tailored to individual patients based on their genetic profiles. Discuss the potential for even more precise and effective personalized treatments as AI continues to analyze vast amounts of patient data
- Other areas of impact of AI in Lifesciences and Pharmaceuticals in the coming 10 years



**Abhijat Vatsyayan**  
Head of AI and Innovation  
Taiho Oncology

#### 12:10 - 14:30 ET NETWORKING LUNCH & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS



#### 14:30 - 15:30 ET ROUNDTABLE 3

### Exploring the Intersection of AI Technology and Drug Discovery: Navigating Challenges and Unlocking Collaborative Opportunities

- Identifying Opportunities and Challenges for Collaboration: Discuss potential areas where AI can enhance drug discovery, and the challenges in the interdisciplinary partnerships between data scientists and domain experts.
- Addressing Data Challenges: Explore strategies to improve data integration, quality, and accessibility in scientific fields to maximize the effectiveness of AI technologies.
- Enhancing Interpretability and Trust: Highlight the importance of developing transparent AI models that provide interpretable results to foster trust and acceptance among scientists.



**Rui Liao**  
Senior Director, AI/ML & Digital Health  
Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**Dr. Rui Liao** is a Fellow of American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering and a Sr. Director leading the team of Imaging & Geometry Technologies for AI-powered Drug Discovery, Development, and Delivery, within Data Science and Digital Health, JNJ Innovative Medicine. Before joining Johnson & Johnson, Dr. Liao was working at the research arm of Siemens and led a global team to develop AI-based image guidance software, leading to multiple award-winning commercial products. Dr. Liao served professional societies in a number of roles, including as an associate editor or a member of the Editorial Board and authored ~180 scientific publications and patent applications.

#### 15:30 - 15:50 ET AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK

#### 15:50 - 16:20 ET PANEL DISCUSSION See Page 6

#### 16:20 - 17:20 ET DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION



## DMPK / ADME & Toxicology

Despite the reinvigorated R&D engine and reinstated productivity, challenges and opportunities remain unanswered such as optimized druggability, pharmacokinetics and safety, enhanced bioavailability, DNA-Encoded Library, Small and Large Molecules Enhancement, Covalent Fragment Libraries, and more. This track aims to tackle these current barriers, formulate an outlook strategy and explore the emerging modality space.

08:00 - 08:30 ET BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION

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

09:00 - 10:00 ET ROUNDTABLE 1

### The Future of Non-Clinical Safety Testing: In Vitro and In Vivo Toxicology Studies for Small Molecules, Monoclonal Antibodies, and Cell and Gene Therapy

- Animal Models for Small Molecules
- Animal Models for Monoclonal Antibodies
- Animal Models for Cell and Gene Therapy
- FDA's plan to phaseout animal testing for monoclonal antibodies and other drugs, and impact



**Wendy Luo**  
Senior Director, Head of Toxicology  
Legend Biotech

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**Wendy Luo, Ph.D.; DABT** has over twenty years of experience in toxicology from CRO, pharmaceutical and biotech companies. Currently, she is responsible for the safety assessment of in vivo and ex vivo cell and gene therapy of CAR T cell treatment. She has extensive experience in regulatory strategies and interactions, human risk assessment, bioanalysis, due diligence and nonclinical safety evaluation of cell and gene therapy, small molecules and biologics from discovery to marketing and post marketing support across multiple therapeutic areas including oncology, immune-oncology, immunology, neuroscience, inflammatory, and rare diseases.

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

11:10 - 12:10 ET ROUNDTABLE 2

### Developments in Predictive Modeling and Metabolic Profiling for Advancing Drug Discovery with DMPK

- Model-informed drug development (MIDD) approaches in early Discovery
  - Resources and data quality for a high probability of success
  - Generating the right amount of information in Discovery to prioritize leads
- Using in silico tools to design molecules with optimal ADME attributes
  - Metabolite prediction tools for improving clearance
  - Achieving a balance between clearance and volume
- Assessing potential drug-drug interaction challenges across scaffolds prior to lead optimization



**Herve Aloysius**  
Head of DMPK  
BioCryst Pharmaceuticals

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**Herve Aloysius, Ph.D.**, has over two decades of drug development experience and led the Drug Metabolism and Pharmacokinetics (DMPK) function in mid-size biotech companies. From idea inception to clinical development, he has impacted strategy and execution for neuroscience, oncology, cardiovascular, infectious and rare disease programs. He has served as principal investigator at Merck and Takeda, and demonstrated scientific leadership as a functional liaison for Disease Area Teams. Dr. Aloysius has extensive hands-on experience in medicinal chemistry, DMPK and regulatory interactions (7 INDs, 4 NDAs). At BioCryst, he is responsible for leading DMPK and developing strategic planning and objectives for the function from discovery to development.

12:10 - 14:30 ET NETWORKING LUNCH & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

14:30 - 15:30 ET ROUNDTABLE 3

### Integrating translational PKPD modeling to accelerate drug discovery and development

- Bridging in vitro and in vivo PKPD studies to evaluate compound screening cascade
- Accelerate candidate selection with model-based dose projection and risk assessment
- Modeling biomarkers of target engagement to facilitate preclinical-to-clinical translation
- Retrospective analysis of clinical PKPDE to facilitate preclinical drug discovery



**Zhenhong Li**  
Senior Director, Modeling & Simulation  
Nimbus Therapeutics

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**Dr. Zhenhong Li** has a 15-year experience in model-informed drug discovery and development. Dr. Li earned her PhD from School of Medicine, Oregon Health & Science University, in 2010. She then completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for Dose Response Modeling at the Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences, RTP, NC. She joined Pfizer in 2012 as a senior scientist and supported MIDD there for more than 10 years, rising through the ranks to an Associate Researcher Fellow. She currently works at Nimbus Therapeutics, Boston, MA, as a Director of Modeling & Simulation and a DMPK Project Representative since 2023.

15:30 - 15:50 ET AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK

15:50 - 16:20 ET PANEL DISCUSSION  
See Page 6

16:20 - 17:20 ET DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION

## Chemical Biology, Targeted Protein Degradation and Undruggables

This track tackles pressing topics that interrogate and discern biological function by exploring small and large molecule modulation, undruggable targets, Target Protein Degradation, Deep Learning, And Molecular Simulations, and more, to understand probe development better and uncover novel and therapeutically relevant targets.

08:00 - 08:30 ET BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION

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

09:00 - 10:00 ET ROUNDTABLE 1

### Emerging “Undruggable” Targets in Targeted Protein Degradation

- “Undruggable” targets are crucial for disease progression but lack some key characteristics for drugging, such as non-defined ligand-binding pockets, non-catalytic protein-protein interaction function modes and unclarified 3D structures.
- TPD offers a promising approach to tackle those “undruggable” targets by utilizing the cell’s natural degradation pathways like the UPS system to eliminate disease-causing proteins.
- TPD exhibits various advantages over traditional target inhibition approach by expanding target scope, achieving superior potency and specificity, and overcoming drug resistance.
- There are still many challenges on the TPD field, such as minimizing off-target effects and toxicity, improving formulation and facilitating delivery, expanding TPD toolbox by new technologies and strategies.
- Future directions on TPD include expanding the E3 toolbox towards new E3s with tissue-specific or target-specific activity, leveraging machine learning and structural biology to design more effective and selective degraders, pairing degraders with other modalities to enhance efficacy and overcome resistance, and developing advanced formulations to enhance bioavailability and tissue targeting.



**Xuqing Zhang**

Senior Director, Discovery Chemistry  
SK Life Science

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**Dr. Xuqing Zhang** is a trailblazing medicinal chemist and visionary leader in drug discovery. Over his 25-year career in both big pharma and startup biotech, he has spearheaded the discovery of over 10 drug candidates, including several breakthrough therapies for cardiovascular & metabolic diseases, inflammation and oncology. As an experienced “Drug Hunter,” he excels at bridging disciplines, leading diverse teams of scientists to innovate and solve complex challenges. Rising through the ranks, he serves as Senior Director at SK Life Science Labs (formerly Proteovant Therapeutics), where he leads the company’s core programs, drives strategy and fosters collaboration.

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

12:10 - 14:30 ET NETWORKING LUNCH & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

14:30 - 15:30 ET ROUNDTABLE 3

### From Discovery to Application: Challenges for TPD Therapeutic

- How to achieve target selectivity and mitigate on-target toxicity?
- How can one balance the duration and depth of degradation with the rate of protein resynthesis to achieve optimal efficacy?
- What factors contribute to resistance mechanisms for a particular UPS-mediated degradation?
- How can we optimize the degraders for improved ADME properties?



**Ashok Purandare**

Associate Director, Discovery Chemistry  
Bristol Myers Squibb

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**Ashok** received his Ph.D. from Osmania University, India. He conducted post-doctoral studies in Prof. Spencer Knapp’s group at Rutgers University, where he developed an efficient synthesis of Trehazolin, a pseudo-disaccharide trehalase inhibitor, and studied model host-guest complexes to mimic electron transport in biological systems. Ashok began his career at Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS) in October 1994 as a member of the newly established Combinatorial Drug Discovery team, where he developed novel solid-phase chemistries to enable diverse compound libraries. He subsequently led and contributed to several full-phase and early-phase programs across different therapeutic areas and modalities, including targeted protein degradation (TPD), to deliver clinical candidates and novel proof-of-concept tool molecules. Currently, Ashok is the Associate Director and a key member of the Induced Proximity Innovation group, where he guides various novel approaches to degrade therapeutically relevant proteins.

15:30 - 15:50 ET AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK

15:50 - 16:20 ET PANEL DISCUSSION  
See Page 6

16:20 - 17:20 ET DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION

## WHAT MAKES OUR STRATEGY MEETINGS SO UNIQUE?





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

#### 08:00 - 08:30 ET BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION

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

#### 09:00 - 10:00 ET ROUNDTABLE 1

### Strategic Alliances and Investment Strategies: Fueling the Future of Drug Discovery

Critical issues to achieve Credibility and Attractiveness to Investors and partners:

- Strength / reproducibility of preclinical studies
- Strength of IP-long term value
- Assembly of expert and experienced team
- Regulatory compliance FDA/EMA
- Fostering collaborations with academic groups, KOI



**Nikolaos Tezapsidis**  
President & CEO  
Neurotez, Inc

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**Nikolaos Tezapsidis, PhD** is the Founder, President, CEO, and Chairman of Neurotez, Inc., a pioneering biotechnology company established in 2005. With over 18 years of hands-on biomedical research experience, he has spearheaded the development of Memtin, a recombinant human Leptin product aimed at hormone replacement therapy for hypoleptinemic prodromal Alzheimer's patients. Under his leadership, Neurotez raised \$5 million through non-dilutive capital, secured private investments, and built a robust patent portfolio with over 20 issued and pending patents. A distinguished researcher, he has authored 50+ peer-reviewed publications and received accolades such as the InvestAcure Coin Award for advancements in Alzheimer's treatment

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

#### 12:10 - 14:30 ET NETWORKING LUNCH & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

#### 14:30 - 15:30 ET ROUNDTABLE 3

### The Role of Venture Partnerships in Drug Discovery

- Recent trends point to Pharma R&D transitioning to externalizing internal R&D efforts via spin outs, joint ventures, ...etc. increasingly in partnerships with VCs. Is this a long-term sustainable strategy to enrich the pipeline to fuel innovation and enhance productivity via 'more shots at goal'?
- In the current 'challenging' climate for US government funded support for basic research in biomedicine, can joint ventures between academia and VCs help address this gap? If yes, how do we bring this about for mutual benefit?
- What are the potential pain points in initiating and executing effective and productive R&D programs, with VCs providing funding and contributing operational expertise? This is a concern especially to innovators anchored in science but not necessarily with business and/or management experience.



**Sunil Joshi**  
President & CEO  
Protelis Bio

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**Sunil Joshi** is an accomplished BioPharma executive with three decades in BMS, Bayer, Onyx, Halozyme & Gradias Inc. One of the top thought leaders in commercialization of pharmaceutical medicines, clinical and commercial strategy, and M&A due diligence. Experienced in investor out-reach and capital raise. Marketing and strategy executive with enterprise leadership from Phase 1 to post launch. Former biotech CEO and Pharma senior leader with over a decade of governance experience. Problem solver, builder of high performance teams, teacher & mentor to senior leaders.

#### 15:30 - 15:50 ET AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK

#### 15:50 - 16:20 ET PANEL DISCUSSION See Page 6

#### 16:20 - 17:20 ET DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION



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## Integrated Drug Discovery

Overcoming the high attrition rates of the development process, particularly in drug discovery and optimization remains a significant hurdle and a top priority in the pharma and biotech sector. Here we will explore effective strategies to break down discipline segmentation and foster an improved integrated approach to drug discovery.

08:00 - 08:30 ET BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION

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

09:00 - 10:00 ET ROUNDTABLE 1

### Holistic Integration of AI in the Drug Development Process: From Target Discovery to Precision Medicine

- **Multifaceted Problems Need Multifaceted AI:**
  - The drug discovery and development process is highly complex and heterogeneous. How can we design AI systems that are equally multifaceted and context-aware — not just accurate in silos — to reduce clinical failure rates and accelerate timelines?
- **From Preclinical Scale-Up to Clinical Impact:**
  - While AI thrives on large-scale preclinical data, clinical trials remain a bottleneck. What innovations — from digital biomarkers to adaptive trial designs — can make clinical trials more AI-friendly and data-rich?
- **AI is Moving Fast — Drug Development is Not:**
  - The pace of AI innovation is relentless, while drug development cycle are long and risk-averse. How can companies develop a durable, adaptable AI strategy that balances near-term utility with long-term scalability and compliance?
- **The Human-in-the-Loop Paradigm:**
  - AI is only as effective as the humans who build, interpret, and use it. How do we train domain experts to work synergistically with AI, and ensure cross-functional fluency between data science and drug development teams?
- **Regulation and Trust in the AI Era:**
  - As AI models increasingly influence regulatory filings, dosing, and patient selection, what frameworks are needed to ensure transparency, reproducibility, and ethical accountability in their use?



**Friso Postma**  
Vice President, Artificial Intelligence Drug Discovery  
BioXcel Therapeutics

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**Friso Postma, Ph.D.**, brings over 15 years of experience in biotech and non-profit sectors, leveraging AI to advance translational research for neurodevelopmental and neurodegenerative disorders. At BioXcel Therapeutics, he built a preclinical pipeline with an integrated AI platform for drug re-innovation. Previously, he led AI-driven initiatives combining wearable and home sensors to improve care in underserved populations and refine psychiatric trial metrics. Dr. Postma earned a neuroscience master's from the University of Amsterdam, a Ph.D. from the Netherlands Cancer Institute, and completed postdoctoral work at Harvard Medical School.

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

11:10 - 12:10 ET ROUNDTABLE 2

### The Next Frontier in Therapeutic RNA: Exploring Computational and AI-Driven Approaches for Target Identification, mRNA Synthesis, and Small Molecule Integration

- Focus on Novelty Requires Strong Validation Paradigms
- Strategies for Making AI More Powerful in Therapeutic RNA Development
- Bridging the In Silico to In Vivo Gap is Crucial
- Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration and Trust are Essential



**Chun-Cheih Chao**  
Senior Scientist  
Graviton Bioscience

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**Chun-Cheih Chao** is an accomplished immunology scientist with expertise in leveraging innovative approaches for understanding and addressing inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD). His work includes applying machine learning for the identification of environmental risk factors contributing to IBD pathogenesis. With a broad background in biology and experience gained at Brigham and Women's hospital and Synlogic, Chun-Cheih has contributed to drug discovery efforts aimed at developing novel oral therapeutic strategies for IBD and other inflammatory conditions. His research integrates diverse cellular and molecular techniques to uncover mechanisms of disease and identify potential therapeutic targets.

12:10 - 14:30 ET NETWORKING LUNCH & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

14:30 - 15:30 ET ROUNDTABLE 3

### Blood-Brain Barrier Penetration in Drug Discovery: Challenges, Innovations, and Future Directions

BBB penetration remains a major hurdle in CNS drug discovery, but innovative delivery strategies and advanced modeling techniques are accelerating progress. Future research should focus on following three critical issues:

- **Integrating AI-driven drug design, personalized approaches, and novel drug carriers to enhance therapeutic outcomes for brain-related disorders.**
- **Development of Advanced 3D BBB Models:**
  - Organ-on-a-chip and 3D bioprinted BBB models for more accurate drug screening.
  - Stem cell-derived BBB models to mimic human physiology.
- **Combination Therapies for Enhanced CNS Drug Action**
  - Development of BBB-penetrating drugs for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, and depression.
  - Exploring neuroimmune interactions to improve CNS drug delivery.



**Tanweer Khan**  
Senior Director, Head of Discovery Chemistry  
aTai Life Sciences

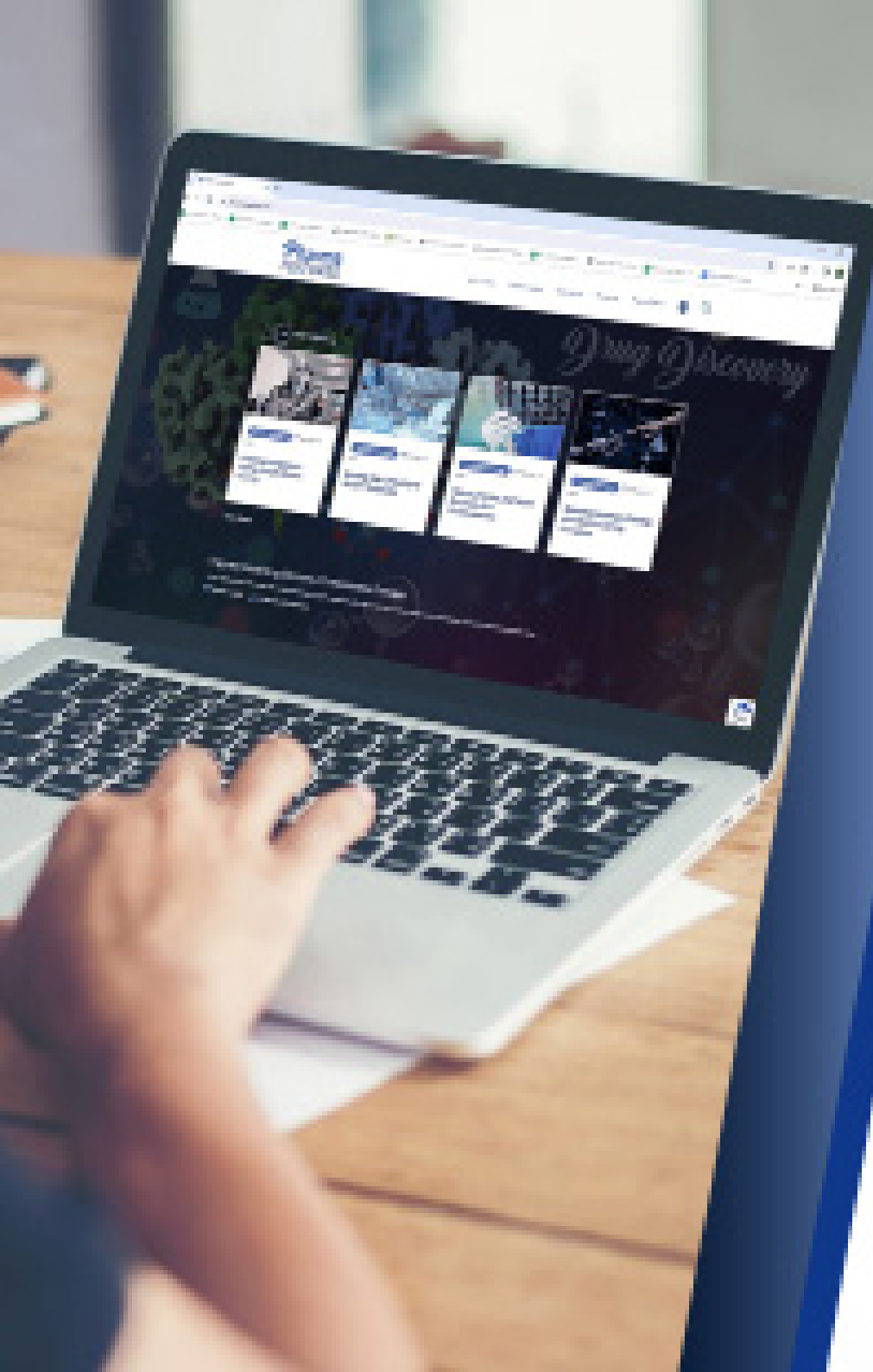
#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**Dr. Tanweer Khan, Ph.D.**, is the Director of Discovery Chemistry at Atai Life Sciences since 2021. As the Head of Discovery Chemistry at Early Development, he provides senior leadership for various R&D organizations across multiple therapeutic areas. Dr. Khan coordinates research direction and oversees a diverse portfolio of psychedelic inspired/GPCR drug discovery programs with a focus on mental health, neuropsychiatric disorders, and neurodegenerative diseases. He excels in building high-performance internal and external CRO teams through effective communication, cross-functional collaboration, and fostering team creativity to drive synergy.

15:30 - 15:50 ET AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK

15:50 - 16:20 ET PANEL DISCUSSION  
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16:20 - 17:20 ET DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION



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**Dex Marco Guibelondo**

Marketing Content Writer, Proventia International/  
Editor-in-Chief, PharmaFEATURES



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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

**MAY**  **VENTURE CAPITAL PRIVATE EQUITY**  
**7-8** **Venture Capital & Private Equity**  
WED&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



**MAY**  **VENTURE CAPITAL PRIVATE EQUITY**  
**14&15** **Venture Capital & Private Equity**  
WED&THUR  Hyatt Regency Princeton

## OCTOBER

### London/UK - Europe



**OCT**  **CLINICAL OPERATIONS & CLINICAL TRIAL SUPPLY CHAIN**  
**9** **Clinical Operations & Clinical Trial Supply Chain Strategy Meeting 2025**  
THUR  Crowne Plaza, London Docklands

**OCT**  **BIOINFORMATICS & DRUG DISCOVERY BIOLOGY**  
**15** **Bioinformatics & Drug Discovery Biology Strategy Meeting 2025**  
WED  Crowne Plaza, London Docklands

**OCT**  **MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY**  
**16** **Medicinal Chemistry Strategy Meeting 2025**  
THURS  Crowne Plaza, London Docklands

## 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



# MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY & DRUG DISCOVERY BIOLOGY STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2025

📅 Wednesday, 14th May 2025 📍 Hyatt Regency Princeton



## Hotel & Venue



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