

14-15  
MAY

Hyatt Regency  
Princeton New Jersey   
 HYATT  
REGENCY



# VENTURE CAPITAL & PRIVATE EQUITY

STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA **2025**

*Investment Challenges and Opportunities  
in Emerging Biotech Markets*

Featuring Industry Leaders and Decision Makers



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



**Carl Spana**  
Chief Executive Officer  
& President  
**Palatin  
Technologies**



**Heather Rose**  
Vice President of  
Technology Licensing  
and Start-Ups  
**Thomas Jefferson  
Health**



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



**Robert Gabriel**  
Board Member,  
Managing Partner  
**Ashur Capital**



Hotel  
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What Makes  
Our Strategy  
Meetings  
So Unique?

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**STRATEGY  
MEETINGS**




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# Facilitator Faculty

  
VENTURE CAPITAL &  
PRIVATE EQUITY  
NEW JERSEY 2025

14-15  
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**Allan Gobbs**  
Co-Founder &  
Managing Partner  
**ATEM Capital**



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



**Ashok  
Srivastava**  
Chief Clinical Officer  
**Autolus Therapeutics**



**Carl Spana**  
Chief Executive Officer  
& President  
**Palatin Technologies**



**Heather Rose**  
Vice President of  
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**Thomas Jefferson  
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**Mark Tornetta**  
VP/Director of  
Biologics Discovery  
**Tavotek  
Biotherapeutics**



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



**Robert Gabriel**  
Board Member,  
Managing Partner  
**Ashur Capital**



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



**Tatiana Eidus**  
Director, Corporate  
Development North  
America  
**Arensia**



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



# How it Works?

Real insights are shared in conversations, not lectures. That's why our unique **roundtable** format guarantees real learning and ensures you only attend discussions that deliver value to you.

Join as many as four roundtable discussions, each with up to 20 other subject experts, networking with top-level peers in an informal, relaxed and sociable environment.

Simply follow the steps below to select your roundtable discussions and we'll create your own personalised agenda for the day:

01

## EXPLORE THE FULL AGENDA

Select which roundtable discussions you would like to join. Our sessions are divided among 6 themed tracks for easy selection - you can choose to join any session you like.

02

## COMPLETE YOUR SCHEDULING FORM

Select your preferred roundtable discussion for each time slot. We will send this form out via email a few weeks before the event - be sure to get your first choice by completing the form quickly.

03


## ENJOY YOUR PERSONALISED EXPERIENCE

Join your selected roundtable sessions on the day. We will give you your personalised agenda containing the time and room assignments of your chosen roundtable discussions so you won't miss it.

# Agenda at a Glance

Venture Capital & Private Equity Overview 14th & 15th of May, 2025 – New Jersey, Princeton - Hyatt Regency

## DAY 1

TIME	INVESTMENT IN DRUG DISCOVERY & BIOTECH
EST	
ROOM ▶	Oppenheimer Suite B
08:00 - 08:30	REGISTRATION AND WELCOME
08:30 - 09:00	<b>OPENING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: Drug Discovery Approaches towards Unlocking the Hard to Drug Proteome</b>  Rick Ewing, VP, Head of Chemistry, <b>Rapafusyn Pharmaceuticals</b>
09:00 - 10:00	<b>Investor</b> <b>Navigating Financial Risks and Rewards in Biotech: Investment Trends and Strategies for 2025</b>  Allan Gobbs, Co-Founder & Managing Partner, <b>ATEM Capital</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>Investor</b> <b>How Biotech Startups are Leveraging Investment for Growth and Innovation through Public and Private Funding Models</b>  Heather Rose, Vice President of Technology Licensing and Start-Ups, <b>Thomas Jefferson Health</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	
15:30 - 15:50	AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK
15:50 - 16:20	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION: Overcoming Investment Barriers in Biotech: R&amp;D Costs, IP Issues, and Market Uncertainty</b>  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

## DAY 2

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

# Event Day

## DAY 1: Investment in Drug Discovery & Biotech

VENTURE CAPITAL &  
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NEW JERSEY 2025

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08:00 - 08:30 ET REGISTRATION & WELCOMING

08:30 - 09:00 ET OPENING PANEL DISCUSSION

### 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.

09:00 - 10:00 ET ROUNDTABLE 1

### Navigating Financial Risks and Rewards in Biotech: Investment Trends and Strategies for 2025



- Identifying resilient investment opportunities amid ongoing market volatility
- Building strategic partnerships across pharma, academia, and venture ecosystems
- Regulatory shifts impacting biotech valuations, with a focus on the evolving effects of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and future implications.
- Leveraging AI and real-world data to improve risk management and clinical development outcomes
- Exit strategies: Evaluating the resurgence of M&A activity and early signs of a reopening IPO window



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

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**Allan Gobbs** is Managing Partner at ATEM Capital, a New York-based life sciences venture firm specializing in biotechnology, precision medicine, and health technology. He is Executive Chairman of PGxAI, an AI-powered pharmacogenetics platform, and CEO and Chairman of YCare, a digital health company advancing home-based care. Allan's investment track record includes nine exits, with five IPOs and four acquisitions by leading pharmaceutical companies. He is a member of the Private Directors Association and serves on the Review Committee of the National Cancer Institute at the NIH.

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

11:10 - 12:10 ET ROUNDTABLE 2

### How Biotech Startups are Leveraging Investment for Growth and Innovation through Public and Private Funding Models



- **Balancing Dilution and Control:** Founders must strategically navigate between public (such as SBIR/STTRs) and private capital to secure funds without compromising long-term equity or vision.
- **De-risking for Investor Readiness:** Startups are increasingly leveraging academic partnerships and early-stage proof-of-concept funding to validate scientific feasibility, strengthen IP, and refine commercial narratives before engaging venture capital.
- **Fragmented Funding Ecosystem:** Early-stage biotechs face challenges integrating grant funding, venture capital, and strategic partnerships into a coherent capital strategy
- **Access to Translational Expertise:** Non-dilutive funding sources often lack embedded commercialization support, leaving startups to seek sophisticated licensing, IP, and strategy guidance elsewhere, or worse, pursue development paths with critical flaws that limit investability.



**Heather Rose**  
Vice President of Technology Licensing and Start-Ups  
Thomas Jefferson Health

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**Heather M. Rose, Ph.D., J.D.**, is Vice President of Technology Licensing & Startups at Thomas Jefferson Health and Thomas Jefferson University as well as the current President of BioStrategy Partners. With over a decade of leadership in biotech innovation, she has guided hundreds of early-stage technologies through IP strategy, translational development, and commercialization. She oversees a portfolio of 700+ patents and over 50 active licenses, and leads initiatives to connect academic discoveries with market pathways. Dr. Rose holds a Ph.D. in Cellular and Molecular Biology from the University of Pennsylvania and a J.D. from Drexel University, and is a certified licensing professional and member of the U.S. Patent Bar.

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

15:30 - 15:50 ET AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK

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

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

# Event Day

## DAY 2: Investment in Clinical Trials

🕒 08:00 - 08:30 ET REGISTRATION & WELCOMING

🕒 08:30 - 09:00 ET OPENING PANEL DISCUSSION

### Topic TBC



**Ashok Srivastava**  
Chief Clinical Officer  
Autolus Therapeutics

ABOUT THE SPEAKER  
Speaker TBC

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

🕒 12:15 - 13:15 ET ROUNDTABLE 3

### Evaluating the Role of Strategic Partnerships in Mitigating Risks and Enhancing Funding or Expertise for Clinical Trials



- Who are potential "strategic partners" for clinical trials?
- What are different potential structures?
- Discussion of risks and rewards!



**Carl Spana**  
Chief Executive Officer & President  
Palatin Technologies

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**Carl Spana, Ph.D.**, Co-Founder of Palatin, has been the Chief Executive Officer and President since June 14, 2000. He has been a director of Palatin since June 1996 and has been a director of our wholly owned subsidiary, RhoMed Incorporated, since July 1995. From June 1996 through June 14, 2000, Dr. Spana served as an executive vice president and chief technical officer of Palatin. From June 1993 to June 1996, Dr. Spana was vice president of Paramount Capital Investments, LLC, a biotechnology and biopharmaceutical merchant banking firm, and of The Castle Group Ltd., a medical venture capital firm. Through his work at Paramount Capital Investments and The Castle Group, Dr. Spana co-founded and acquired several private biotechnology firms. From July 1991 to June 1993, Dr. Spana was a Research Associate at Bristol-Myers Squibb, a publicly held pharmaceutical company, where he was involved in scientific research in the field of immunology. Dr. Spana received his Ph.D. in molecular biology from Johns Hopkins University and his B.S. in biochemistry from Rutgers University.

🕒 13:15 - 14:40 ET NETWORKING LUNCH & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS



🕒 14:40 - 15:10 ET AFTERNOON KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

### Proof-of-Concept: Bold Moves, Big Wins, and Lessons Learned



Fast, Furious, or Never-Ending: Entertaining Case Studies on Accelerating and Unexpectedly Inflating Phase Ib/II Trial Timelines and Budgets. A Site Team Perspective.



**Tatiana Eidus**  
Director, Corporate Development North America  
Arensia

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**Tatiana Eidus** received her Master's Degree in Biophysics from Moscow State University. Entering the industry more than a decade ago, Tatiana has accumulated wide expertise in all the operational aspects of initiating and managing Phase I-III trials across Europe and US. Prior to joining ARENSIA Exploratory Medicine, Tatiana worked for GSK and Merck. Primarily focused on early-stage exploratory programs, she conducted trials in various disease areas. In her current role as Director Corporate Development, Tatiana supports ARENSIA's partners in the US, supervising cross-functional coordination throughout study planning, start-up and execution.

🕒 15:10 - 16:10 ET ROUNDTABLE 4

### 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

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**Dr. Robert Gabriel** has broad experience in technology and business development. He founded Genesis Aromatique and led the company for over 15 years. Prior to that, Gabriel led technology and business development initiatives at Unilever, Gillette, Clorox, and Rhone-Poulenc. In his current role as Ashur Capital's managing partner and board member, Dr. Gabriel provides strategic direction for asset allocation and capital deployment. He is also an investor and board member at Clear Protocol, a digital health startup. Dr. Gabriel earned a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois and an MBA from the Wharton School of Business. Dr. Gabriel is married and has 4 sons.

🕒 16:10 - 16:30 ET AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK

🕒 16:30 - 17:00 ET PANEL DISCUSSION

### Maximizing ROI in Clinical Trials: Navigating Risk, Innovation, and Opportunity



**Carl Spana**  
Chief Executive Officer & President  
Palatin Technologies

🕒 17:00 - 18:00 ET DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION



# Venue

## Hyatt Regency - Princeton, New Jersey

Hyatt Regency Princeton offers a convenient location close to Route 1 and the Princeton Junction Train Station, making it the perfect location to explore the area.

[HOTEL DETAILS →](#)

[MAP & DIRECTIONS →](#)

# OUR FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS IN MAY, OCTOBER, AND NOVEMBER 2025


Strategy Meetings in Boston, Princeton, London, and San Diego

## MAY

### Boston/Cambridge MA - US East Coast

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

**MAY 7-8** WED&THUR  
 **VENTURE CAPITAL PRIVATE EQUITY**  
Venture Capital & Private Equity  
📍 Le Meridien Boston Cambridge

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

### Princeton/New Jersey - US East Coast

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

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

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

## OCTOBER

### London/UK - Europe

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

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

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

## NOVEMBER


### San Diego - US West Coast

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

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

### Boston/Cambridge MA - US East Coast

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

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