

18-19
MAY

Le Meridien
Cambridge Boston



VENTURE CAPITAL & PRIVATE EQUITY

STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA **2026**

*Investment Challenges and Opportunities
in Emerging Biotech Markets*

Featuring Industry Leaders and Decision Makers:



Carolina Alarco
Founder and Principal
**Bio Strategy
Advisors**



Claire Smith
Partner
Springtide Ventures



Gavin Loudfoot
Vice President,
Business Development
**BV Investment
Partners**

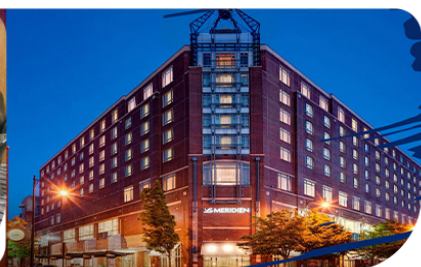


Sean Cumiskey
Head, Investor
Relations
Omega Funds



Christina Ansted
Senior Managing
Partner
**RCP Venture
Capital**

What Makes
Our Venture
Capital &
Private Equity
So Unique?



Facilitator Faculty



Claire Smith
Partner
Springtide Ventures



Christina Ansted
Senior Managing
Partner
**RCP Venture
Capital**



Carolina Alarco
Founder and Principal
Bio Strategy Advisors



Dong Xu
Former Associate
Director, Head of
Analytical Development
for TCR-T Cell Therapy
TScan Therapeutics



Farnaz Bakhshi
Director, Innovation
**BrightEdge - American
Cancer Society**



Gavin Loudfoot
Vice President, Business
Development
**BV Investment
Partners**



Goldi Kaul
Vice President, Head of
External Alternative CMC
Development
Boehringer Ingelheim



**Kristin King-
Jankiewicz**
Head, Group Management
Boston Harbor Angels



Neil Kairen
Managing Director
Biotech Value Advisors



Nelly Viseux
Vice President, Cell
Therapies Development,
Manufacturing, Supply &
Quality
Regeneron



**Michal
Preminger**
Strategic Advisor
Jefferson Life Sciences



Michelle Matzko
Senior Vice President of
Clinical Development
Ernexa Therapeutics



Sean Cumiskey
Head, Investor Relations
Omega Funds



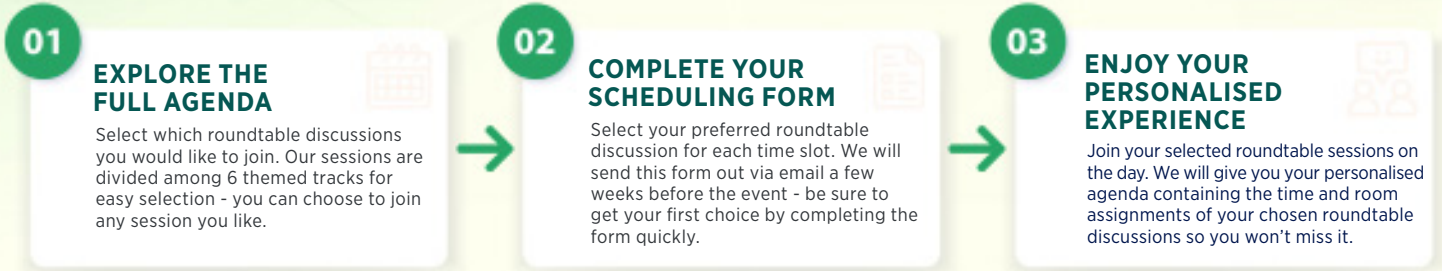
**Tomasz
Zastawny**
Chief Executive Officer
Armora Biosciences

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:



Agenda at a Glance

Venture Capital & Private Equity Overview 18th & 19th of May, 2026 – Cambridge, Boston - Le Meridien Hotel

DAY 1

DAY 2

TIME	PRIVATE EQUITY & VENTURE CAPITAL	TIME	PRIVATE EQUITY & VENTURE CAPITAL
ET		ET	
ROOM	FLORENCE LUSCOMB BALLROOM	ROOM	FLORENCE LUSCOMB BALLROOM
08:00 - 08:30	REGISTRATION AND WELCOME	08:00 - 08:30	REGISTRATION AND WELCOME
08:30 - 09:00	OPENING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: What is the product? Navigating the Fog and Friction of Cell Therapy cQA Michelle Matzko, <i>Vice President, Senior Vice President of Clinical Development, Ernexa Therapeutics</i> Dong Xu, <i>Former Associate Director, Head of Analytical Development for TCR-T Cell Therapy, TScan Therapeutics</i>	08:30 - 09:00	OPENING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: Hernexos® as a catalyst: The EACD Model in Action Goldi Kaul, <i>Vice President, Head of External Alternative CMC Development, Boehringer Ingelheim</i>
09:00 - 10:00 INVESTOR	How Private Equity and Venture Capital Are Shaping the Future of Biotech Investment Strategies Across the Full Drug Discovery and Development Spectrum Farnaz Bakhshi, <i>Director, Innovation, BrightEdge - American Cancer Society</i>	09:00 - 10:00 INVESTOR	Is Private Equity Quietly Becoming the Dominant Force in Life Sciences? Sean Cumiskey, <i>Head, Investor Relations, Omega Funds</i>
10:00 - 10:05	REFRESHMENT BREAK	10:00 - 10:05	REFRESHMENT BREAK
10:05 - 10:25	NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS	10:05 - 10:25	NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS
10:25 - 10:45	NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS	10:25 - 10:45	NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS
10:45 - 11:05	NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS	10:45 - 11:05	NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS
11:10 - 12:10 SOLUTION		11:10 - 12:10 SOLUTION	
12:15 - 1:15 INVESTOR	Emerging Modalities, Emerging Markets: Identifying High-Impact Investment Opportunities in Cutting-Edge Biotech Claire Smith, <i>Partner, Springtide Ventures</i>	12:15 - 1:15 INVESTOR	Will AI Create the Next Biotech Giants—or the Next Bubble? Gavin Loudfoot, <i>Vice President, Business Development, BV Investment Partners</i>
13:15 - 14:00	NETWORKING LUNCH	13:15 - 14:00	NETWORKING LUNCH
14:00 - 14:40	NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS	14:00 - 14:40	NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS
14:40 - 15:10	AFTERNOON KEYNOTE PRESENTATION	14:40 - 15:10	AFTERNOON KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
15:10 - 16:10 INVESTOR	Building Capital-Efficient Biotech: Leveraging AI & Virtual Models to Replace Infrastructure Tomasz Zastawny, <i>Chief Executive Officer, Armora Biosciences</i>	15:10 - 16:10 INVESTOR	Biotech Funding: How are Investors Pacing Capital amid Longer Timelines? Kristin King-Jankiewicz, <i>Head, Group Management, Boston Harbor Angels</i>
16:10 - 16:30	AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK	16:10 - 16:30	AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK
16:30 - 17:00	PANEL DISCUSSION: Pre-Commercial Readiness as the New Gatekeeper of Capital in Biotech: How early commercial strategy is reshaping valuation, partnership, and financing decisions Chairperson: Christina Ansted, <i>Senior Managing Partner, RCP Venture Capital</i> PANELIST: Michal Preminger, <i>Strategic Advisor, Jefferson Life Sciences</i> PANELIST: Carolina Alarco, <i>Founder and Principal, Bio Strategy Advisors</i> PANELIST: Neil Kairen, <i>Managing Director, Biotech Value Advisors</i>	16:30 - 17:00	PANEL DISCUSSION: CMC Is Now a Board-Level Risk Category. Are We Ready to Lead at That Level? MODERATOR: Nelly Viseux, <i>Vice President, Cell Therapies Development, Manufacturing, Supply & Quality, Regeneron</i>
17:00 - 18:00	DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION	17:00 - 18:00	DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION

Event Day

DAY 1: Private Equity & Venture Capital

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

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

What is the product? Navigating the Fog and Friction of Cell Therapy cQA



Michelle Matzko
Senior Vice President of Clinical Development
Ernexa Therapeutics



Dong Xu
Former Associate Director, Head of Analytical Development for TCR-T Cell Therapy
TScan Therapeutics

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Michelle Matzko is Senior Vice President of Clinical Development at Ernexa Therapeutics, where she leads development of synthetic iMSC therapies in oncology and autoimmune disease. A physician-scientist and clinical development leader, she specializes in translating complex biological platforms into clinical, regulatory, and program strategy, with a focus on first-in-class cell and gene therapies. Dr. Matzko has led programs from preclinical through registration stages, including early-phase trials, innovative study designs, and global Phase 2/3 development. Her work spans T cell therapies and engineered cellular platforms, with deep experience aligning clinical strategy with emerging CMC and product characterization considerations. She trained at UCSF and Massachusetts General Hospital/Brigham and Women's Hospital, where she served on faculty.

🕒 09:00 - 10:00 ET ROUNDTABLE 1

How Private Equity and Venture Capital Are Shaping the Future of Biotech Investment Strategies Across the Full Drug Discovery and Development Spectrum



Farnaz Bakhshi
Director, Innovation
BrightEdge - American Cancer Society

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Farnaz joined BrightEdge in early 2022 as the Director of Innovation, leading the organization's innovation initiatives. She spearheads programs such as the BrightEdge Entrepreneurs (BEE) program, the Texas Accelerator, the ACS Collaborative Learning Community, and other initiatives that support early-stage entrepreneurs. Before BrightEdge, Farnaz held key business development roles at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), and Mass General Brigham (formerly Partners Healthcare). At Caltech, she played a pivotal role in helping researchers launch start-ups, while at Mass General Brigham, she negotiated high-value licensing agreements totaling millions of dollars. Additionally, she established a biotech incubator and proof-of-concept fund at Tufts University and served as Director of New Ventures at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Farnaz earned her Ph.D. in Pharmacology from UIC. Prior to her doctoral studies, she gained valuable entrepreneurial experience by co-founding and managing a start-up company based on her undergraduate research, contributing to its development, launch, and fundraising efforts.

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

🕒 12:15 - 13:15 ET ROUNDTABLE 3

Emerging Modalities, Emerging Markets: Identifying High-Impact Investment Opportunities in Cutting-Edge Biotech



Claire Smith
Partner
Springtide Ventures

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Claire is a partner at SpringTide and has spent her career focused at the intersection of healthcare, life sciences, and business. Prior to SpringTide, she was an investor at Meridian Street Capital, where she focused on seed-stage health tech, and Anterra Capital, where she focused on the intersection of biotech and agriculture while launching several animal health startups. Previously, she served as the Chief of Staff at Crestovo, a microbiome therapeutics startup acquired by Finch Therapeutics. She began her career at ClearView Healthcare Partners, a boutique life sciences consultancy, where she advised pharma and biotech clients on a variety of growth strategy topics. Claire holds bachelor's degrees in biological engineering and management science from MIT. She is on the board of Leash Labs and serves as a board observer at IgniteData and Paterna Biosciences.

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

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

🕒 15:10 - 16:10 ET ROUNDTABLE 4

Building Capital-Efficient Biotech: Leveraging AI & Virtual Models to Replace Infrastructure



- Escaping the "Infrastructure Trap": Moving from fixed-cost heavy models to agile, asset-light structures that shift capital directly to data generation.
- Operationalizing AI Beyond the Hype: Identifying specific, high-ROI applications in patient recruitment and trial design that demonstrably reduce Phase I/II timelines.
- Aligning Early Execution with Exit Reality: Designing early clinical protocols that align with the rigorous commercial due diligence of strategic buyers (PE Pharma) from Day 1.



Tomasz Zastawny
Chief Executive Officer
Armora Biosciences

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

🕒 16:30 - 17:00 ET PANEL DISCUSSION

Pre-Commercial Readiness as the New Gatekeeper of Capital in Biotech: How early commercial strategy is reshaping valuation, partnership, and financing decisions



Christina Ansted
Senior Managing Partner
RCP Venture Capital



Michal Preminger
Strategic Advisor
Jefferson Life Sciences



Carolina Alarco
Founder and Principal
Bio Strategy Advisors



Neil Kairen
Managing Director
Biotech Value Advisors

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Speaker TBC

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

DAY 2: Private Equity & Venture Capital

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

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

Hernexeos® as a catalyst: The EACD Model in Action



Goldi Kaul
Vice President and Head, External Alternative CMC Development
Cellarity

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Goldi Kaul, PhD, is a pharmaceutical executive with over 15 years of experience driving global CMC development, manufacturing, and commercialization. She currently serves as Vice President of External Alternative CMC Development at Boehringer Ingelheim, where she leads drug substance, drug product, and analytical development through strategic external partnerships. Dr. Kaul has played a critical role in delivering first-in-class and breakthrough therapies, including multiple oncology products and the world's first FDA-approved digital medicine. Known for her decisive leadership and execution focus, she bridges science, strategy, and operations to deliver scalable, regulator-ready medicines worldwide.

🕒 09:00 - 10:00 ET ROUNDTABLE 1

Is Private Equity Quietly Becoming the Dominant Force in Life Sciences?



Sean Cumiskey
Head, Investor Relations
Omega Funds

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Sean joined Omega Funds in 2024. Prior to joining Omega, Sean was a Partner and Chief Strategy Officer at Yiheng Capital Management, an Asia-focused alternative investment manager, where he implemented growth strategies that resulted in an increase of assets under management from an initial base of \$350 million to over \$3 billion at peak. Previously, Sean was a Director at Farallon Capital Management, with responsibility for new business development, product strategy and investor relations. Before Farallon, Sean was a Managing Director at York Capital Management, a global multi-asset alternative investment firm, where he directed key elements of the firm's global investor relations efforts. Prior to York, Sean was on the Executive Committee at Ivy Asset Management, overseeing over \$16 billion in global alternative investments. In previous years, Sean was Director of Portfolio Strategy at a Silicon Valley wealth management firm and Head of Investment Consulting at Montgomery Securities, a technology-focused investment bank. Sean received his BA from the University of California, Los Angeles, and MBA from Columbia Business School.

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

🕒 12:15 - 13:15 ET ROUNDTABLE 3

Will AI Create the Next Biotech Giants—or the Next Bubble?

What's real? What's hype? What's next?

- Across drug discovery, clinical trials, and manufacturing—where have we seen real-world evidence, and where is it heading?
- AI company valuations—is there a bubble? What red flags do you see?
- What could be the main hurdles in the execution of AI—data, regulatory, funding, adoption, and cycles?
- Who wins in this space? What separates winners and losers? Do we have the talent? What's the timeline?



Gavin Loudfoot
Vice President, Business Development
BV Investment Partners

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Gavin Loudfoot is currently a Vice President at Boston Ventures, previously with OpenView Venture Partners, investing in software and tech-enabled services across several sectors, including healthcare IT. After a decade in investment roles, Gavin is joining Lila Sciences, a Flagship Pioneering-backed AI platform company, where he will help commercialize the concept of scientific superintelligence—using AI and autonomous laboratories to compress R&D timelines across life sciences, materials, and energy. Compressed version (from what I see on the site)—VP at Boston Ventures, previously at OpenView Ventures. Soon to join Lila Sciences to help commercialize the concept of scientific superintelligence—deploying AI and autonomous laboratories to life sciences.

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

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

🕒 15:10 - 16:10 ET ROUNDTABLE 4

Biotech Funding: How are Investors Pacing Capital amid Longer Timelines?

- 2026 overview: the new normal, a reset, or maturing
- Impact with AI, Data, and Digital Tools
- Winning modalities: biggest impact across portfolio, new funds
- Where biotech funding goes next



Kristin King-Jankiewicz
Head, Group Management
Boston Harbor Angels

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Kristin King-Jankiewicz brings 25 years life science operator and investor experience. She is Head of Group Management, Boston Harbor Angels, an investment group focusing on seed and early stage growth companies. Over the past 2 decades Boston Harbor Angels organization has cultivated a dynamic network of investors, industry experts, and most importantly their entrepreneurs fostering a network of visionaries and nurturing the growth of promising startups continuing our mission of investing for a better world.

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

🕒 16:30 - 17:00 ET PANEL DISCUSSION

CMC Is Now a Board-Level Risk Category. Are We Ready to Lead at That Level?



Nelly Viseux
Senior Managing Partner
Regeneron

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Speaker TBC

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

Venue

Le Meridien Hotel - Cambridge, Boston

Le Méridien Cambridge-MIT's elegant guest rooms and suites offer a place of luxurious sanctuary and unmatched comfort.

BOOK ONLINE RESERVATION →

For more details visit our website www.proventainternational.com

MAP & DIRECTIONS →

Le **MERIDIEN**

OUR FACE-TO-FACE MEETING IN MAY, OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2026

Strategy Meeting San Diego, Boston & London

MAY

San Diego/CA - US West Coast

MAY
13
WED


**Medicinal Chemistry & Drug Discovery Biology
Strategy Meeting 2026**
📍 Hard Rock Hotel San Diego

MAY
13-14
WED&THUR


Venture Capital & Private Equity
📍 Hard Rock Hotel San Diego

MAY
14
THUR


**Clinical Operations & Clinical Trial Supply Chain
Strategy Meeting 2026**
📍 Hard Rock Hotel San Diego

Boston/Cambridge MA - US East Coast

MAY
18
MON


Medicinal Chemistry Strategy Meeting 2026
📍 Le Meridien Boston Cambridge

MAY
18-19
MON&TUE


Venture Capital & Private Equity
📍 Le Meridien Boston Cambridge

MAY
19
TUE


CMC Strategy Meeting 2026
📍 Le Meridien Boston Cambridge

OCTOBER

London/UK - Europe

OCT
27
TUE


**Clinical Operations & Clinical Trial Supply Chain
Strategy Meeting 2026**
📍 Crowne Plaza London Docklands


OCT
28
WED


**Drug Discovery Biology & Medicinal Chemistry
Strategy Meeting 2026**
📍 Crowne Plaza London Docklands

NOVEMBER

Boston/Cambridge MA - US East Coast

NOV
17
TUE


**Bioinformatics & Drug Discovery Biology
Strategy Meeting 2026**
📍 Le Meridien Boston Cambridge

NOV
18
WED


**Clinical Operations & Clinical Trial Supply Chain
Strategy Meeting 2026**
📍 Le Meridien Boston Cambridge

*Pushing our understanding of the physiological context
and quality of drug target characterisation, validation
and safety profiling throughout the preclinical space*