BOOK NOW!

Proventa International's 4th Annual

# DRUG DISCOVERY BIOLOGY

## STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2023

**23rd May 2023, Tuesday** **Hyatt Regency Princeton**

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

## Featuring Industry Leaders and Decision Makers:

**Di Zhang**
Founder and Vice President
**Tavotek Biotherapeutics**

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

**Gondi Kumar**
FORMER Senior Vice President, Nonclinical
**Bristol-Myers Squibb**

**Paul Kayne**
Vice President, Biological Sciences
**Palatin Technologies**

**Aaron Mackey**
VP Head of AI/ML
**Sonata Therapeutics**

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

**Junji Matsui**
Head, Discovery Evidence Generation Function Deep Human Biology Learning (DHBL)
**Eisai**

**Guna Rajagopal**
Venture Partner
**Samsara BioCapital**

**20** ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

**5** TRACKS

**2** KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

**1** LOCATION


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


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

## DRUG DISCOVERY BIOLOGY
### STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2023
23rd May 2023, Tuesday | 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, 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.

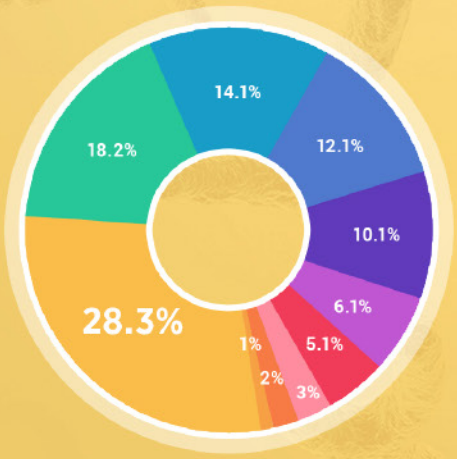
**PERSONALISED AGENDA**
Each delegate receives a personalised agenda with the roundtable discussions that you choose. You only attend sessions and meetings that fit your challenges and interests, ensuring your time spent is focused and well-utilised.

**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

## Meet Investors

- Venture Capital
- Private Equity
- Large Pharma/Biotech
- Corporate Venture Capital
- Institutional
- High Net Worth
- Family Office/Private Wealth
- Government Organisation/ Sovereign Wealth Fund
- Angel

# Facilitator Faculty

**DRUG DISCOVERY BIOLOGY**
**STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2023**
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**Aaron Mackey**
VP Head of AI/ML
**Sonata Therapeutics**

**Danielle Greenawalt**
Scientific Executive Director, Informatics & Predictive Sciences
**Bristol-Myers Squibb**

**Di Zhang**
Founder and Vice President
**Tavotek Biotherapeutics**

**Gondi Kumar**
FORMER Senior Vice President, Nonclinical
**Bristol-Myers Squibb**

**Guna Rajagopal**
Venture Partner
**Samsara BioCapital**

**Kate Excoffon**
VP Research
**Spirovant**

**Junji Matsui**
Head, Discovery Evidence Generation Function Deep Human Biology Learning (DHBL)
**Eisai**

**Matthew Rosenberg**
Advisor
**Guxi Capital**

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

**Marie C. Fortin**
Director, Toxicology
**Jazz Pharmaceuticals**

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

**Paul Kayne**
Vice President, Biological Sciences
**Palatin Technologies**

**Rumin Zhang**
Vice President, Head of Biochemistry
**Volastra Therapeutics**

**Sanae Yasuda**
Head of Clinical Pharmacology Science
**EISAI**

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

> *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

> *It was a pleasure for me to participate. I love this series. Please keep it up!"*
>
> **Zhihua Sui —**
> *CSO, Head of Research & Preclinical Development*,
> Proteovant Therapeutics

# 2023 Sponsors



## CO-HOST SPONSORS

**Pelago Bioscience** is a Discovery Research Partner focusing on biologically relevant systems, unleashing drug discovery projects using the patented CETSA® technology as a core pillar. The Cellular Thermal Shift Assay (CETSA® by Pelago Bioscience) has multiple assay formats that make it a keystone of decision making throughout the drug discovery pipeline. Unlike other solutions on the market today, its unique approach allows the assessment and quantification of target engagement under physiological conditions – without the need to modify the compound or protein. This provides data that is both actionable and biologically relevant. Think of CETSA® as snapshots of true target engagement inside the cell, any time you need them. Using CETSA® data and applications, our customers are able to make better and more informed decisions at earlier stages in their projects.

**Aragen Life Sciences** is a leading R&D and manufacturing solutions provider for the life sciences industries worldwide. We offer end-to-end integrated or standalone solutions for small and large molecules. Established in 2001, we now operate through our network of sites located globally with a team of 3700+ scientists and 475+ PhDs. Our expertise and experience have enabled over 450+ customers in advancing their research programs from discovery through commercialization. Aragen's innovative mindset, infrastructure, flexible business models have enabled us to serve large pharma or biotech, agrochemical, animal health and performance chemical industries globally. All our facilities conform to stringent regulatory standards. Our infrastructure has a built-up area of 1.2 million square feet, housing chemistry and biology labs, AAALAC-accredited animal houses, analytical labs, formulation development labs, kilo labs, pilot plants and manufacturing facilities. Aragen has been inspected by all leading regulatory agencies of the world, including USFDA, WHO, PMDA, EDQM and EMEA. Aragen has submitted its letter of intent to the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) and is part of a growing list of organizations that are committed to setting emission reduction targets in line with the Paris Agreement to limit global warming. It is also a signatory to the GRI South Asia Charter on Sustainability Imperatives, a framework that helps to realize the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defined by the United Nation. We are proud to be a Great Place to Work® (GPTW) certified company for the third consecutive year in 2022. This recognition confirms our High-Trust, High-Performance Culture™ and places us among 'companies with the best culture' to work with. For more details, visit www.aragen.com

**Concept Life Sciences** is a knowledge-based, science-led and customer-focused contract research and manufacturing organisation with world-leading expertise in the pharmaceutical, biotech and agrochemical industries. We are based across 5 sites in the UK delivering discovery research as well as GMP, GLP and GCP-regulated work. Whether it is delivering whole programs of research or bespoke studies we deliver a collaborative client-centred approach. Our services are built on scientist-to-scientist engagement, deep knowledge, flexibility and extensive in-house resources. Our services span and can scale to every stage from discovery to development: ✓Discovery chemistry ✓Immunology, immuno-oncology and neuroscience ✓Analytical services, including materials characterisation and physicochemical analysis ✓Process research and development ✓GMP manufacturing

**Revvity Signals Software** formerly known as PerkinElmer Informatics offers one of the most comprehensive suites of scientific software in the world. Our future-proof technology enables investigators in Life Sciences to capture and analyze their data from initial research and development of their therapeutics, through biomarker discovery & patient stratifications and ultimately live tracking of their clinical trials. From our internationally recognized flagship ChemDraw® to our Signals Research Suite (Signals Notebook, Signals VitroVivo, and Signals Inventa )to our exclusive TIBCO® Spotfire® partnership that brings scientific data analytics to visual life in both research and clinical development no scientific company offers a wider range and more powerful suite of scientific solutions than Revvity Signals.
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## KEY OPINION LEADER

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# Agenda at a Glance

**DRUG DISCOVERY BIOLOGY**
**STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2023**
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| TIME ET | TRACK 1<br>TARGET IDENTIFICATION & HIT VALIDATION | TRACK 2<br>DMPK / ADME & TOXICOLOGY | TRACK 3<br>IN VIVO AND IN VITRO PHARMACOLOGY | TRACK 4<br>IN SILICO BIOLOGY | TRACK 5<br>STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ROOM ► | Wilson Suite A | Wilson Suite B | Oppenheimer Suite A | Oppenheimer Suite B | Cleveland Suite A |
| 08:00 - 08:30 | BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION | | | | |
| 08:30 - 09:00 | OPENING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION<br>Exploring and Exploiting a Once Orphaned Pathway: Lessons Learned<br>PRESENTER: Paul Kayne, *Vice President, Biological Sciences*, Palatin Technologies | | | | |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | Leveraging the Power of Multi-Omics in Drug Discovery: Maximizing the Potential in Target Identification and Safety Profiling<br>Paul Kayne, *Vice President, Biological Sciences*, Palatin Technologies | New Approaches To Predict ADME And Toxicity Of Compounds<br>Marie C. Fortin, *Director, Toxicology*, Jazz Pharmaceuticals | In Vivo and In Vitro Pharmacology Advances to Maximize Preclinical Drug Discovery<br>Junji Matsui, *Head, Discovery Evidence Generation Function Deep Human Biology Learning (DHBL)*, Eisai | In Silico Modeling And Simulations In Drug Discovery<br>Rumin Zhang, *Vice President, Head of Biochemistry*, Volastra Therapeutics | Why Integrating Deep Scientific Expertise Matched With Operational And Business Strategy Is Key For Attracting Investment In Early Stage Drug Discovery<br>Guna Rajagopal, *Venture Partner*, Samsara BioCapital |
| 10:00 - 10:10 | REFRESHMENT BREAK | | | | |
| 10:10 - 10:30 | NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS | | | | |
| 10:30 - 10:50 | NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS | | | | |
| 10:50 - 11:10 | NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS | | | | |
| 11:10 - 12:10 | Strategic Guide To Maximize Value: Identifying The Ideal Partner, Formulating The Best Negotiation Strategy And Deal Structure<br>Nikolaos Tezapsidis, *President & CEO*, Neurotez Inc. | Predictive Model For Preclinical ADMET: New Modalities, Performance And Applications<br>Gondi Kumar, *FORMER Senior Vice President, Nonclinical*, Bristol-Myers Squibb | Developing And Improving Preclinical Dose Projection And Prediction For Further Clinical Studies<br>Sanae Yasuda, *Head of Clinical Pharmacology Science*, Eisai | Leveraging AI For Drug Discovery Through Different Modalities<br>Danielle Greenawalt, *Scientific Executive Director, Informatics & Predictive Sciences*, Bristol-Myers Squibb | Maximizing Capital Efficiency By Balancing Internal Capabilities And External CRO's<br>Di Zhang, *Founder and Vice President*, Tavotek Biotherapeutics |
| 12:10 - 13:10 | NETWORKING LUNCH | | | | |
| 13:10 - 14:10 | Selection Of Appropriate Modalities And Hit ID Strategies For Fic Targets<br>Mark Tornetta, *VP of Biologics Discovery*, Tavotek Biotherapeutics | Toward A Unifying Paradigm In Drug Discovery: BK + PK = PD<br>Rumin Zhang, *Vice President, Head of Biochemistry*, Volastra Therapeutics | Incorporating Multi-Omics Data With In Vivo And In Vitro Pharmacology: Challenges, Applications And Limitations (TBC)<br>Kate Excoffon, *VP Research*, Spirovant | In Silico Biology Through Omics Data: Interpretation, Integration And Application In Drug Discovery<br>Aaron Mackey, *VP Head of AI/ML*, Sonata Therapeutics | Why Are CRO M&A Deals On The Rise? How Expanding Full Service Capabilities, Through A Strategic M&A Process Brings Global Efficiencies To Sponsors<br>Matthew Rosenberg, *Advisor*, Guxi Capital |
| 14:10 - 14:20 | REFRESHMENT BREAK | | | | |
| 14:20 - 14:40 | NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS | | | | |
| 14:40 - 15:00 | NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS | | | | |
| 15:00 - 15:20 | NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS | | | | |
| 15:20 - 15:50 | DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION | | | | |

# Event Day | Keynote Presentations

*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**

## Exploring and Exploiting a Once Orphaned Pathway: Lessons Learned

**Early in the 1950s, a key set of experiments were run that changed the practice of medicine. Research into corticosteroids exploded. Steroids became a powerful tool in the treatment of autoimmune and immune disorders. The same set of experiments, coupled with an incomplete understanding of another pathway, ensured that research into the melanocortin system would languish for decades. The melanocortin system is poised to change our view of treating inflammatory and autoimmune diseases once again by exploiting its ability to resolve rather than block inflammation.**

**Would current approaches identify this opportunity today? The melanocortin system can offer insight into what we may be missing with current methodologies for drug discovery and development.**

**Paul Kayne**
Vice President, Biological Sciences
Palatin Technologies

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Paul Kayne has an extensive track record of innovation enabling pharmaceutical R&D and life-cycle management. He is currently VP of Biological Sciences at Palatin, a company focusing on resolving inflammatory diseases.

Prior to joining Palatin, Dr. Kayne held several roles at Bristol-Myers Squibb, most recently Head of Discovery Genomics & Proteomics. Previously, Dr. Kayne built one of the earliest microarray teams while at SmithKline Beecham and was a member of the Research Faculty at the California Institute of Technology.

Dr. Kayne received his Ph.D. in molecular biology from the UCLA and his B.A. in molecular biology/biochemistry from the UCSB.

# Event Day



TRACK 1

## Target Identification & Hit Validation

*Improving efficiency in finding novel therapeutic targets continues to be an immediate priority and hurdle in the pharma and biotech industry. This track aims to explore the undruggable space for utilizing AI/ML, optimizing target identification pathways and many more. How can we ensure the next druggable target frontier stays viable?*

**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

### Leveraging the Power of Multi-Omics in Drug Discovery: Maximizing the Potential in Target Identification and Safety Profiling

- Target ID and hit validationL where can we capture the value of multi-omic analysis now?
- Analyzing and interpreting multi-omic data: when, where, and how?
- Primary data sharing in a multi-omic environment: Do grants and publications inhibit this?
- Safety profiling: moving from correlation to causation – how to achieve this with multi-omic analysis

Paul Kayne
Vice President, Biological Sciences
Palatin Technologies

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
See Page 6

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

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

### Strategic Guide To Maximize Value: Identifying The Ideal Partner, Formulating The Best Negotiation Strategy And Deal Structure

- Where does funding come for drug discovery? Does it work?
- Who/where should do drug discovery be performed?
- The transition from discovery to development of a drug

Nikolaos Tezapsidis
President & CEO
Neurotez Inc.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Dr. Tezapsidis founded Neurotez in 2004. He is President and Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors and has held these positions since the company was incorporated in 2005. Nikolaos has successfully raised funds primarily through non-dilutive grant sources, but also through equity-based deals. While building the company, he recruited top talent, maintaining top notch research and development programs and establishing a strong patent portfolio (more than 20 patents globally are either pending or issued). Having held several positions at a number of prominent academic institutions, Dr. Tezapsidis has more than 18 years of international biomedical research experience. Prior to forming Neurotez, Dr. Tezapsidis served as a scientific consultant to biotechnology investors, providing highly regarded expertise.

**12:10 - 13:10 ET** NETWORKING LUNCH

**13:10 - 14:10 ET** ROUNDTABLE 3

### Selection Of Appropriate Modalities And Hit ID Strategies For Fic Targets

- Project due diligence
- Extra effort during hit generation
- Generate HCS data during hit to lead
- Correlate results from in vitro and in vivo projects
- Apply more than 1 lead per target into development

Mark Tornetta
VP of Biologics Discovery
Tavotek Biotherapeutics

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
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 phage 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 3 years at Tavotek he implemented a unique antibody generation platform called TAVOSelect which has generated thousands of VHOs to many IO targets.

**14:10 - 15:20 PT** REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

**15:20 - 15:50 ET** DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION

# Event Day

TRACK 2

## DMPK / ADME & Toxicology

*A key idea in biology is that structure, to a large extent, dictates function. The rapid development of sensitive biophysical methods and emerging technologies that interrogate compound properties and mechanisms of action is transforming 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

### New Approaches To Predict ADME And Toxicity of compounds

- The field of drug safety evaluation has been undergoing an important paradigm shift and new approaches have the potential to improve preclinical safety evaluation.
- In vitro models are becoming increasingly complex and better recapitulate tissue function and the cellular microenvironment
- In silico approaches have been successful at predicting metabolism and certain toxicological effects.
- Unlike in vivo methods, standard protocols and testing paradigms have yet to be systematically established, and this represent an area of opportunity.
- Potential uses and drawbacks, technical considerations, and future outlook of recent models will be discussed.

**Marie C. Fortin**
*Director, Toxicology*
**Jazz Pharmaceuticals**

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Fortin is a Board-certified and European-registered toxicologist who is particularly interested in the integration of new approaches to support the safety evaluation of pharmaceuticals. She is currently Director of Toxicology at Jazz Pharmaceuticals where she oversees the nonclinical development strategy of assets as cross-functional team lead and contribute subject matter expertise to other project teams. Her goal is to design nonclinical safety drug development programs that meet regulatory expectations and support adequate safety evaluation while optimizing consideration of the 3Rs. In addition, Dr. Fortin is Adjunct Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers University where she co-directs the graduate toxicological risk assessment course.

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

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

### Predictive Model For Preclinical ADMET: New Modalities, Performance And Applications

In the Multi-Dimensional Optimization of Drug Candidates during Discovery:

- In your organization, is there broad acceptance within the stakeholder community for the application of new thinking for predictive ADMET optimization?
- Which of the "physico-chemically" dependent ADMET property predictions have achieved near fruition?
- Has the field evolved sufficiently in the "protein-dependent" ADMET property (enzymes, transporters, ion channels) optimization?
- Has there been sufficient progress in the predictivity of complex outcomes such as pharmacokinetic profiles or safety outcomes?
- Overall, where should the field focus on to achieve most impactful outcomes to increase efficiency and quality of new drug candidates?

**Gondi Kumar**
FORMER Senior Vice President, Nonclinical
**Nonclinical R&D Bristol-Myers Squibb**

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Gondi received Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry from the University of Florida, and post-doctoral training at the Medical University of South Carolina evaluating the human metabolism of paclitaxel. Over three decades of tenure in the biopharma industry (Abbott, Amgen, Celgene and Bristol Myers Squibb), Gondi and his team have made impactful contributions to the discovery of over 50 clinical drug candidates and the development and marketing authorization of over 15 drugs. He contributed to the discovery of ritonavir as a PK enhancer and co-invented lopinavir (KaletraR). He has published extensively, led scientific meetings and co-authored PhRMA perspective papers.

**12:10 - 13:10 ET** NETWORKING LUNCH

**13:10 - 14:10 ET** ROUNDTABLE 3

### Toward A Unifying Paradigm In Drug Discovery: BK + PK = PD

- What is the threshold BK needed to trigger DMPK/ADMET profiling?
- What are the balancing acts to optimize BK and PK together toward desired PD?
- How to integrate BK and PK into BKPKPD modeling?
- Does protein binding play a role, if yes and how should one account for this?
- How best to design an in-vivo study to understand PK and PD simultaneously?

**Rumin Zhang**
Vice President, Head of Biochemistry
**Volastra Therapeutics**

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Rumin Zhang is a veteran drug hunter since 1990. He is currently VP, Head of Biochemistry at NYC-based Volastra Therapeutics, a startup targeting chromosomal instability to treat cancer. He spent over 26 years at Schering-Plough and then Merck. He moved on to head up Eternity Bioscience, the formerly NJ-based discovery team of China's Hengrui Medicine. Before taking the current role, he worked for cancer metabolism-centric Rafael/Cornerstone Pharmaceuticals as VP of drug discovery. He received his undergraduate training from Wuhan University in China and came to USA as a CUSBEA predoctoral fellow. He obtained his Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Biophysics from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He is one of the key champions for a new drug discovery paradigm that emphasizes the role of binding kinetics (BK) in close partnership with pharmacokinetics (PK) to effectuate pharmacodynamics (PD), or PK + BK = PD. He is a contributor to over a dozen preclinical candidates and over 70 published papers and patents.

**14:10 - 15:20 PT** REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

**15:20 - 15:50 ET** DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION

# Event Day

TRACK 3

## In Vivo and In Vitro Pharmacology

*A primary source of drug candidate trial failure is attributed to inadequate efficacy and safety profiles. This track serves to highlight key topics and pressing challenges within the areas of drug metabolism, biotransformation and drug toxicity.*

**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

### In Vivo and In Vitro Pharmacology Advances to Maximize Preclinical Drug Discovery

- Translatability of findings to humans
  - — Model complexity and interpretation of results
  - — Reproducibility of results
  - — Cost of development and conducting studies
  - — Ethical concerns with animal models
- Question to consider:
  - — Which models best reflect the complexity of human physiology and disease, and how can we improve them
  - — What are the best practices for standardizing experimental protocols and minimizing variability
  - — How can we balance the need for rigorous testing with the high cost of drug development
  - — What are the most ethical and predictive approaches to preclinical drug discovery, and how can we implement them effectively

**Junji Matsui**
Head, Discovery Evidence Generation Function
Deep Human Biology Learning (DHBL)
Eisai

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Junji Matsui is a respected leader in the pharmaceutical industry, currently serving as the Head of the Discovery Evidence Generation Function at Eisai Inc.. In this role, he oversees the development and execution of Eisai's modality development in discovery stage, with a focus on leveraging cutting-edge technologies and innovative approaches to deepen the company's understanding of human biology. Matsui has been with Eisai since 1999 and has held a variety of senior leadership roles within the company

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

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

### Developing And Improving Preclinical Dose Projection And Prediction For Further Clinical Studies

- What are some limitations of animal models in predicting human efficacy and safety, and how can these limitations be addressed
- How can the integration of in vitro and in vivo models improve the predictability of drug discovery, and what are some challenges in achieving this integration
- What are some data analysis and modeling approaches that can be used to better integrate and interpret data from multiple preclinical models

**Sanae Yasuda**
Head of Clinical Pharmacology Science
Eisai

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Yasuda is the Global Head of Clinical Pharmacology Science, Deep Human Biology Learning at Eisai with consistent record of developing and implementing value-added clinical pharmacology components of full drug development.
She was relocated to US in 2019 and is leading global staff providing clinical pharmacology strategic leadership, bioanalysis, pharmacokinetic analysis, and modeling & simulation for projects through all phases of clinical development. She established Clinical Pharmacology Group in Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (JPMA) in 2003 and led the group. She was a member of expert working group to develop ICH E15, E16 & E18 guidelines on behalf of JPMA.

**12:10 - 13:10 ET** NETWORKING LUNCH

**13:10 - 14:10 ET** ROUNDTABLE 3

### Incorporating Multi-Omics Data With In Vivo And In Vitro Pharmacology: Challenges, Applications And Limitations

- Omic design challenges. Is it worth it?
- Approaches to handle astron-omic amounts of data.
- Making sense of in vitro and in vivo pharmacology on an omic scale

**Kate Excoffon**
VP Research
Spirovant

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Kate Excoffon is the VP of Research at Spirovant Sciences, Inc, a company focused on gene therapy for respiratory diseases. With over 25 years of experience in gene therapy in the academic and biotech space, Kate's passion is creating, building, and advancing viral vector-mediated gene therapy. Early academic discoveries led to Glybera, the first gene therapy approved in the Western world. Later work led to the discovery of novel AAV vectors for the airway and CD4+ T cells. With over 50 publications, hundreds of presentations, numerous grants, patents, and trainees, she is a recognized expert in AAV, adenovirus, and lentivirus-based vectors and basic molecular virology.

**14:10 - 15:20 PT** REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

**15:20 - 15:50 ET** DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION

# Event Day

TRACK 4

## In Silico Biology

*The utility of computational methods is widely used in various stages of drug discovery and development. From aiding target ID & validation, limiting the use of animal models in pharmacology to aiding rational drug design, this track will explore novel approaches and application of in silico techniques to maximize productivity towards clinical success.*

**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

### In Silico Modeling And Simulations In Drug Discovery

- What are the mega trends in in silico modeling and simulations
- To aid in machine learning, what data input are critically needed?
- What are the best practice of using in silico modeling and simulations to identify/validate drug targets and optimize leads toward the desired properties?
- What translational role does Systems Biology & Pharmacology play in drug discovery & development

**Rumin Zhang**
Vice President, Head of Biochemistry
Volastra Therapeutics

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
See Page 8

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

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

### Leveraging AI For Drug Discovery Through Different Modalities

AI opportunities in drug discovery
Topics can include:

- Drug design, drug repurposing, screening acceleration
- Biomarker identification and indication segmentation to drive target ID
- Systems biology approaches

**Danielle Greenawalt**
Scientific Executive Director, Informatics & Predictive Sciences
Bristol-Myers Squibb

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Danielle Greenawalt, PhD Scientific Executive Director, Head Early Translational Predictive Sciences. Danielle received her PhD in Molecular Genetics, followed by a post-doctoral fellowship at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne, Australia to develop biomarkers of cancer treatment response. Danielle currently leads a group of computational biologists focused on advancing the Bristol Myers Squibb early clinical development portfolio across oncology, immunology and cardiovascular disease. This role allows her to leverage her 15 years of pharmaceutical industry experiences in genetics, biomarker development and target id through novel informatics approaches.

**12:10 - 13:10 ET** NETWORKING LUNCH

**13:10 - 14:10 ET** ROUNDTABLE 3

### In Silico Biology Through Omics Data: Interpretation, Integration And Application In Drug Discovery

- Applications of integrated multi-omic data are plentiful:To aid in machine learning, what data input are critically needed?
  — Target identification, target repurposing, combo/poly-pharmacology
  — Assessment and validation of preclinical disease models and their responses to therapy
  — Expose hypothetical mechanisms of action, susceptibility/resistance, predictive biomarkers
  — Translational mappings between such models and intended patient populations
- To achieve cross-platform data integration and truly holistic knowledge representation requires:
  — Semantic harmonization across sources
  — Mechanistic linkages across biological modalities
  — Dynamic (time/space-varying) and/or context-specific entity-to-entity relationships
  — Representations of uncertainty, both experimental and causal
- Having integrated data available as a data-{lake, warehouse, cistern, knowledge graph, etc} isn't enough; data mining methodology must be able to make effective use of such data resources, while not being confounded by vagaries of the underlying data generation and collection process
- Even when methods can make good use of the extent of data, are the results believable, relevant, and actionable?
  — The machine proposes, and the human disposes?
  — or vice versa, the machine "scores" human proposals?

**Aaron Mackey**
VP Head of AI/ML
Sonata Therapeutics

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Dr. Aaron Mackey is VP, Head of AI and ML at Sonata Therapeutics, where he and his team employ modern methods for causal statistical learning, empowering Sonata scientists to identify novel therapeutics that not only cause tumor cell death, but to do so via specific cell death pathways that further engage and activate the immune system against the tumor, in many cases achieving sterile tumor clearance with lasting protection against recurrence. His 20+ year professional career has spanned academia and industry; big pharma, CRO, and startup biotech employers; and broad swaths of human biology and disease science in the fields of cellular immunology, computational biology, statistical genetics, and clinical informatics.

**14:10 - 15:20 PT** REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

**15:20 - 15:50 ET** DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION

# Event Day

TRACK 5

## Strategic Partnerships & Collaborations

*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

### Why Integrating Deep Scientific Expertise Matched With Operational And Business Strategy Is Key For Attracting Investment In Early Stage Drug Discovery

- Challenges in translatability of findings to humans
  - The need for significant investment in early-stage research and development before clinical trials
  - The need to manage limited resources to increase PoS in the clinic
  - The complexity of drug development and regulatory requirements
  - The importance of balancing scientific rigor with operational and business efficiency
  - Need to keep focused on delivering a safe and effective medicine
- What is the optimal balance between investment in research and development and managing operational costs
- How can we develop a clear and effective business strategy that aligns with our scientific goals and priorities
- How best to execute on G&Os to maximize engagement and ensure meaningful impact
- What are the most effective ways to communicate the scientific, operational, and business aspects of our drug discovery program to potential investors
- How can we demonstrate the value of our program to potential investors, given the high failure rate and long development timelines of drug candidates

**Guna Rajagopal**
Venture Partner
Samsara BioCapital

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Guna's expertise encompasses the fields of Data Sciences, AI/Machine Learning, Bioinformatics, Computational, Systems Biology & Pharmacology, Genetics & Genomics, High Performance Computing and Theoretical & Computational Physics. He has led global initiatives focused on advancing cross-disciplinary basic research, translational & clinical programs in collaboration with academia and national/international pre-competitive consortiums. Guna's academic career spans undergraduate degree from the University of Malaya (1986), PhD in Computational & Theoretical Physics from Georgia Tech (1987-1991), post-doctoral training at the Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge, rising to Assistant Director of Research and elected a Fellow of Jesus College Cambridge (1991-2000). He was the founding Executive Director of the Bioinformatics Institute at the BIOPOLIS, Singapore (2000-2007), led the Bioinformatics & Systems Biology program at the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey with a joint appointment as Adjunct Professor at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and as a Member of Advanced Studies in Princeton (2007-2012). He joined Janssen R&D to lead efforts to develop and deploy Computational Analytics, Informatics and Data Science capabilities to support global discovery, translational, development and clinical programs (2012-2022). He retired as Scientific Fellow and Global Head of Computational Sciences and joined Samsara Biocapital as a Venture Partner.

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

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

### Maximizing Capital Efficiency By Balancing Internal Capabilities And External CRO's

- Current demands for the external CRO support
- Decision making on utilizing internal capabilities versus external CRO
- Selection of best CRO to work with
- Management of external CRO and alignment with internal operations
- Lessons learned and future trends

**Di Zhang**
Founder and Vice President
Tavotek Biotherapeutics

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Di Zhang is one of the founders and vice president at Tavotek Biotherapeutics. He played a major role in the establishment of US research facility for Tavotek and currently supervises daily lab operations for discovery research. He is the primary inventor of several proprietary technologies and leading assets for Tavotek. Dr. Zhang got his Ph.D. degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, and then completed postdoctoral training at Rockefeller University. Prior to joining Tavotek, Dr. Zhang accumulated over 20 years of experience in new drug discovery from several renowned pharmaceutical companies, including AbbVie/ Abbott Laboratories and Janssen.

**12:10 - 13:10 ET** NETWORKING LUNCH

**13:10 - 14:10 ET** ROUNDTABLE 3

### Why Are CRO M&A Deals On The Rise? How Expanding Full Service Capabilities, Through A Strategic M&A Process Brings Global Efficiencies to Sponsors

- Deep diving on M&A - Understanding the reasons why companies opt for M&As instead of building the same offerings internally
- Increased scale, geographic expansion, lower costs, and operational savings
- Gaining capabilities in niche areas - How smaller software start-ups can often solve very specific challenges in clinical trials execution
- Do mid and small biopharma sponsors get the same attention from a larger CRO as they get from a smaller one?
- Do the consolidated companies support the needs of all types of sponsors across all the stages of clinical drug development?
- How do companies with smaller budgets go for CRO services to excel in providing significant value
- There will always be attempts at consolidation, but success is less about consolidating and more about finding truly synergetic fits between two companies

**Matthew Rosenberg**
Advisor
Guxi Capital

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Speaker TBC

**14:10 - 15:20 PT** REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING / 1-1 MEETINGS

**15:20 - 15:50 ET** DRINKS & CANAPES RECEPTION

# DRUG DISCOVERY BIOLOGY

## STRATEGY MEETING EAST COAST USA 2023

23rd May 2023, Tuesday  Hyatt Regency Princeton

## Hotel & Venue

HYATT REGENCY

### Hyatt Regency Princeton

*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. Business travelers will enjoy thoughtful amenities, such as large work desks with enhanced lighting and free Wi-Fi.*

Hotel Details >  Map & Directions >




## OUR FACE-TO-FACE MEETING IN MAY 2023

Strategy Meeting San Diego, Boston & Princeton USA

**MAY 2023**

**San Diego - US West Coast**

08th - Drug Discovery Biology Strategy Meeting
09th - Medicinal Chemistry Strategy Meeting
10th - Oncology Strategy Meeting
11th - Clinical Operations Strategy Meeting

**MAY 2023**

**Boston/Cambridge MA - US East Coast**

17th - Regulatory Affairs Strategy Meeting
18th - Chemistry, Manufacturing and Controls Strategy Meeting

**MAY 2023**

**Princeton New Jersey - US East Coast**

23rd - Drug Discovery Biology Strategy Meeting
24th - Medicinal Chemistry Strategy Meeting
25th - Clinical Operations Strategy Meeting

Visit us on our website to know more about our meetings
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