Keynote Speakers

Robert Iannone, M.D., M.S.C.E
Executive Vice President
Jazz Pharmaceuticals

Robert Iannone, M.D., M.S.C.E. / Executive Vice President, Global Head of Research and Development, Chief Medical Officer. Robert Iannone has been Jazz's executive vice president and global head of research and development since May 2019. Dr. Iannone oversees all aspects of preclinical research and clinical development, clinical operations and regulatory affairs. Dr. Iannone brings more than 18 years of experience in clinical drug development, having worked across therapeutic areas and phases of development, most recently on immuno-oncology programs at Merck, AstraZeneca and Immunomedics. From April 2018 until May 2019, Dr. Iannone served as head of research and development and chief medical officer of Immunomedics, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company. Prior to that, from July 2014 to April 2018, Dr. Iannone served in the roles of senior vice president and head of immuno-oncology, global medicines development and the global products vice president at AstraZeneca plc, a global science-led biopharmaceutical company. From 2004 to 2014, Dr. Iannone served in management roles at Merck Co., Inc., a global biopharmaceutical company, culminating in his role as executive director and section head of oncology clinical development. From 2001 to 2004, he served as assistant professor of pediatrics and from 2004 to 2012 as adjunct assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Dr. Iannone served on the board of directors of Jounce Therapeutics, Inc., a clinical-stage immune-oncology company, from January 2020 – May 2023. In May 2021, Dr. Iannone was appointed to the Board of Directors for iTeos Therapeutics, a clinical-stage immune-oncology. In June 2023, he was appointed as a Non-Executive Director to Autolus Therapeutics' Board of Directors, a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company. Dr. Iannone has also served on the Cancer Steering Committee of the Biomarkers Consortium/Foundation for the National Institutes of Health since 2011 and is currently on the executive committee of the Biomarkers Consortium. Dr. Iannone received a B.S. from The Catholic University of America with Summa Cum Laude honors, an M.D. from Yale University with Alpha Omega Alpha distinction, and an M.S.C.E. from University of Pennsylvania. He completed his residency and chief residency in pediatrics and a fellowship in pediatric hematology-oncology at Johns Hopkins University.

Keynote Speakers

Litao Zhang, Ph.D.
Global Head, Discovery Technology & Molecular Pharmacology
Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine

Litao Zhang, Ph.D., is the Global Head of Discovery Technology and Molecular Pharmacology (DTMP) at Therapeutics Discovery, J&J Innovative Medicine. In this role, she leads a global team and collaborates closely across J&J Innovative Medicine R&D. Over the past five years, she has spearheaded the development and application of advanced technology platforms, including Protein Degradation, DNA-encoded Library, Peptide Platform, Functional Genomics, Proteomics, Receptor Pharmacology, Biosignature, Single Cell, High Content Image, and Cryo-EM platforms, to enable drug discovery from concept to NME across all therapeutic areas and modalities, including small molecules, biologics, RNA therapeutics, and cell therapy. Prior to joining J&J, Litao was Vice President of Leads Discovery & Optimization and Discovery Genomics & Proteomics at Bristol-Myers Squibb, where her teams contributed to five commercially launched drugs: SPRYCEL®, FARXIGA®, DAKLINZA®, ELIQUIS®, and SOTYKTU®. A strong advocate for diversity and inclusion, she played a formative role in launching a company-wide employee resource group to enhance female business impact by fostering a diverse and globally inclusive workplace.

Speakers

Antong Chen, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Data Science
Merck & Co., Inc.

ANTONG CHEN received the B.S. degree in Information Engineering from Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an, Shaanxi, China in 2003, the M.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Terre Haute, Indiana, USA in 2005, and the Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, USA in 2012, with the focus on medical image analysis. He worked as an intern at Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, New Jersey in 2011, and joined Merch Research Lab IT (MRL-IT) after he graduated from the Ph.D. program in 2012. Since then, he has committed himself to applying data science, advanced analytics, and artificial intelligence in the assessment of drug safety and efficacy. He is the Executive Director of the Data Science and Scientific Informatics (DSSI) where he leads an international team of data scientists to support the cmpany's research by developing and delivering solutions in image analysis, natural language processing (NLP), bioinformatics, predictive analytics, representation learning, signal processing, decision science, and machine learning operations (MLOps).

Yong Chen, Ph.D.
Professor, Biostatistics
University of Pennsylvania

Extracting robust causal insights from real-world data remains a significant challenge in drug discovery. We introduce the debiased causal transformer, a generative model that innovatively integrates negative control outcomes and adversarial training to mitigate biases inherent in observational studies. This approach leverages extensive pre-training followed by targeted fine-tuning to reliably estimate causal effects even in the presence of unmeasured confounders. We demonstrate its potential by identifying novel therapeutic avenues in Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias (AD/ADRD) and repurposing GLP-1 analogs for conditions including heart failure and mental health disorders. This work underscores how advanced machine learning techniques can transform drug development by generating actionable, real-world evidence.

Ivan Iossifov, Ph.D.
Professor
Cold Spring Harbor laboratory

I have a master's degree in Computer Science from Sofia University in Soria, Bulgaria. I have a Ph.D. in Computational Biology from the Department of Biomedical Informatics at Columbia University in Andrey Rzhetsky's group. The topics of my thesis were (1) biomedical text-mining or developing systems for extraction statements about molecular interactions from scientific articles and (2) integrating the large functional molecular network built by processing millions of articles with genetic studies of complex human phenotypes including neurodevelopmental disorders like autism, schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder. I was recruited as a Fellow in the newly created Center for Quantitative Biology at CSHL in 2008. I'm still at CSHL as a Professor. My research at CSHL has been primarily focused on studying the genetic architecture of autism through large-scale sequencing of genomes and transcriptomes of families with autism.

Speakers

Yugang Jia, Ph.D.
Director, AI & Data Science
Verily Life Science / MIT

Yugang Jia, Ph.D., MPH, has been the Director of AI & Data Science at Verily Life Sciences since 2020, focusing on leveraging machine learning and artificial intelligence techniques to drive innovation in clinical research and digital health settings. Prior to this, he led the Health AI team at Fidelity Investments (2017-2019) and spearheaded various key innovations at Philips Research (2006-2017). Dr. Jia has authored over 20+ peer-reviewed papers and holds 7 granted US patents along with 20+ patent applications. Since 2021, he has also been affiliated with the Laboratory for Computational Physiology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, conducting research on health equity and AI safety in the critical care domain.

Aaron Mackey, Ph.D.
Sr. Vice President, AI & Development
Lokavant

Dr. Mackey is a veteran of the pharma and biotech industry, whose career has spanned both academia and industry, small and large pharma, preclinical and clinical data science. While much of his prior experience has revolved around the exploit of various multiomics and RWE data for the advancement of early drug discovery and IND-enabling efforts, he also has considerable experience in clinical trial operational informatics. He currently oversees all scientific, engineering, and development work at Lokavant, a company dedicated to making clinical trials faster, cheaper, and operationally successful by careful and causal country-, site-, and patient-level event forecasting, informed by modern advances in AI technology.

Lin Li, Ph.D.
Sr. Scientist
Merck & Co., Inc.

Dr. Lin Li is a senior specialist in the Image Data Analytic team under DSSI, RaDS IT at Merck, bringing 2 years of invaluable experience to the company. Specializing in the development of state-of-the-art methods in imaging analysis, Lin and her team members play pivotal roles in supporting MRL research and product development endeavors. Graduating with a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Case Western Reserve University in 2022, Lin possesses a strong academic foundation, bolstered by a focus on digital pathology and radiology innovations.

Li Shen, Ph.D.
Professor
University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Li Shen is a Professor of Informatics and the Deputy Director of the Informatics Division in the Department of Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Informatics at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He holds a secondary appointment in the Department of Radiology and faculty appointments in the following graduate groups: Applied Math and Computational Science (AMCS), Bioengineering (BioEng), Epidemiology and Biostatistics (GGEB), Genomics and Computational Biology (GCB), and Neuroscience (NGG). He is a Senior Fellow at the Penn Institute for Biomedical Informatics (IBI) and the Penn Leonard Davis Institute of Health

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Economics. He serves as the Associate Director for Bioinformatics at the IBI, the Faculty Director of the IBI Bioinformatics Core, and Co-Director of the Penn Center For AI And Data Science For Integrated Diagnostics (AI2D).Dr. Shen obtained his Ph.D. degree in Computer Science from Dartmouth College. His research interests include medical image computing, biomedical informatics, machine learning, trustworthy AI, NLP/LLMs, network science, imaging genomics, multi-omics and systems biology, Alzheimer's disease, and big data science in biomedicine. He has authored over 350 peer-reviewed articles in these fields. His work has been continuously supported by the NIH and NSF. His current research program focuses on developing and applying informatics, computing, and data science methods for discovering actionable knowledge from complex biomedical and health data (e.g., genetics, omics, imaging, biomarker, outcome, EHR, health care), with applications to complex disorders such as Alzheimer's disease.Dr. Shen has served on various scientific journal editorial boards, grant review committees, and organizing committees of professional meetings in medical image computing and biomedical informatics. He served as the Executive Director of the Medical Image Computing and Computer-Assisted Intervention (MICCAI) Society between 2016 and 2019. He is a fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE), a fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics (ACMI), an incoming fellow of the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA), a distinguished member of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), and a distinguished contributor to the IEEE Computer Society.

Yunlong Wang, Ph.D.
Director, AI Scientist
IQVIA

Yunlong Wang is an AI Scientist Director in Advanced Analytics at IQVIA, where he leads a talented team of AI scientists and software engineers. With over 15 years of experience in developing AI and machine learning models, and 8 years specifically focused on healthcare data analytics, Yunlong has gained deep expertise in the field.

Eric Yang, Ph.D.
Sr. Director
Medidata Solutions

A computational biologist by training, I'm currently the Sr. Director of Data Science at Medidata with the overall remit of developing new methods in machine learning and AI to derive insight from clinical datasets and make clinical trial setup and conduct more efficient and automated. Prior to this role I have spent more than 10 years working in Pharma R&D trying to leverage the large volumes of data that have been generated in clinical and pre-clinical activities for both discovery and operational purposes. Additionally I have taken roles that leveraged the analytics experience to build IT systems to help make data analysis more efficient.

Marc Appel, JD, M.B.A.
CEO
Pacific Bridge NY

Marc Appel is a seasoned investor in the healthcare industry. He currently leads Pacific Bridge NY, an investment firm focused on NewCo creation through the licensing of assets from Asia. Previously he founded and served as CEO of Orange Grove Bio, a drug development and investment holdco. He has addition-

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ally worked at Marathon Asset Management, a global asset manager, and McKinsey & Co., a global consultancy. He holds a JD and MBA from Harvard University and graduated with his B.A., summa cum laude from Yale University. He holds pro-bono advisory roles at Yale University (Blavatnik Program) and Stonybrook's Center for Biotechnology and serves on the Frankel Innovation Board at the University of Michigan.

Rui Che,
Senior Managing Director, Tax
KPMG

Rui is a Senior Managing Director in KPMG's Economic and Valuation Services practice based in the Philadelphia office. She joined KPMG in 2007 and has over 176 years of experience in transfer pricing. Her clients include leading multinational firms in the pharmaceutical, medical devices, and consumer products industries, with a focus on life science (pharmaceutical and medical devices) clients. Rui is KPMG US's transfer pricing lead for the life sciences industry.Rui has helped multiple biotech start-ups and mid-market companies: (i) design and implement tax efficient business operating models and set up their tax and transfer pricing structure; (ii) meet transfer pricing compliance obligations; and (iii) navigate through global tax controversies. In particular, she helps biotech start-ups with tax planning and due diligence related to deals - both financing deals and strategic deals.

Joshua A. Kaufman, JD, M.B.A.
Co-Chair, Capital Markets & Public Company Advisory Group
DLA Piper LLP (US)

Josh Kaufman is a commercially oriented corporate counselor who advises high-growth businesses on financing pathways, strategic development, and transformational transactions. He specializes in cross-border matters, having advised leading innovative companies in Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. Mr. Kaufman represents US and foreign private issuers and underwriters, primarily in the life sciences and technology, in various public offerings and private placements. He has advised on more than 200 financing transactions with an aggregate value in excess of $100 billion. Mr. Kaufman represents clients before the Securities and Exchange Commission and advises on corporate governance, general corporate, and commercial matters.

Shirley Liu, Ph.D.
Co-Founder & CEO
GV20Therapeutics

Dr. Shirley Liu is the co-founder and CEO of GV20 Therapeutics, a clinical-stage AI-based next-generation cancer biotherapeutics company. GV20's lead program GV20-0251, a monoclonal antibody against a novel immune checkpoint IGSF8, is the world's first AI-designed antibody against an AI-predicted target in the clinic. The power of GV20's AI platform is demonstrated by GV20-0251's unprecedented 3-year timeline from target research to IND, and validated by GV20-0251's favorable safety and promising monotherapy efficacy in advanced metastatic cancer patients. Dr. Liu received her PhD in Biomed-

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ical Informatics and PhD minor in Computer Science from Stanford University in 2002. Before joining GV20, she was a Professor of Biostatistics and Computational Biology at the Department of Data Science at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI) and Harvard University. She is an expert on computational cancer biology, having published over 270 papers with an H-index of 127. She is a fellow of the International Society of Computational Biology (ISCB), American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE), and was a Breast Cancer Research Foundation Investigator (2017-2021). She is a recipient of the Sloan Research Fellowship (2008), Weitzman Outstanding Early Career Investigator Award from the Endocrine Society (2016), ISCB Innovator Award (2020), and the Benjamin Franklin Award for Open Access in the Life Sciences (2020). She has mentored 28 PhD and postdoctoral trainees to independent academic careers.

Richie (Cai) Lou,
Engagement Manager
McKinsey & Company

Based in New York, Richie Lou is an Engagement Manager in McKinsey's Value & Access Service Line within the Life Sciences practice. He primarily serves market access and commercial leaders in biopharma and biotech on a range of go-to-market, patient experience, and managed care topics across the product lifecycle. He also co-leads the Firm's work on novel drug channel models and the implications to patient services and market access. His clients have included top 10 pharma companies, emerging biotech companies, and private equity investors.Richie graduated from the University of Pennsylvania - Wharton School majoring in finance, marketing, and strategic management

Stephen Manobianco, M.B.A.
Managing Partner
PSG Life Sciences

Senior-level professional experienced working with public and private companies at the executive level. Highly analytical decision-maker with extensive experience with domestic and international start-ups, turn-around, and operating companies, along with proven history of increasing productivity and accelerating revenue growth. Seasoned executive with in-depth understanding of emerging genomic and healthcare related technologies and their commercial applications. International business expertise. Conducted business in North America, Europe, Israel, China, and Japan. Motivated self-starter who leveraged early sales and marketing success to become a senior business executive.

Vikram Patra, M.B.A.
Managing Director
Freedom Capital Markets

Vikram is a Managing Director at Freedom Capital Markets – a small and mid-cap focused investment bank in New York. He has over 18 years of experience across public and private capital markets, advising clients in the healthcare and technology sectors on strategic and financing matters. Over his career, Vikram has worked on over 140 transactions, raising over $70 billion for clients. Prior to joining Freedom, he was one of the founding members of Nomura's investment banking business in the Americas and previously worked as an investment banker at UBS and Wells Fargo. Vikram holds an MBA from the Darden Graduate School of Business at the University of Virginia and a

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Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the National Institute of Technology, India.

Yuenian Shi, M.D., Ph.D.
Founder & CEO
Chimigen Bio

Dr. Yuenian Eric Shi is a distinguished alumnus of Peking University Medical School, graduating in 1983 and immediately selected for the prestigious CUSBEA program. He earned his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Dartmouth Medical School in 1989. Throughout his career, Dr. Shi has held various academic roles at Long Island Jewish Medical Center and Albert Einstein College of Medicine, progressing from Assistant Professor to full Professor. He also served as Vice President of the Jiangsu Institute of Clinical Medicine. With over 30 years dedicated to cancer research, Dr. Shi has led 12 projects funded by the U.S. Department of Defense and the National Institutes of Health. Upon returning to China in 2011, he secured four major grants from the National Natural Science Foundation, including key projects under the Ministry of Science and Technology's 12th Five-Year Plan. Dr. Shi is an experienced innovator in drug development and medical technology, with a successful track record in founding biotechnology companies. As co-founder and CEO of OncoVent, he was instrumental in advancing clinical trials and developing Oregovomab, a therapeutic vaccine for primary ovarian cancer. In an international Phase IIb trial, Oregovomab, combined with the standard treatment, demonstrated a significant increase in overall survival from 64 to 121 months, reducing mortality by 53%. A global Phase III trial is currently underway, with hopes for Oregovomab to become the first first-line therapeutic vaccine for primary ovarian cancer. In 2022, Dr. Shi founded Chimigen Bio (Chengdu) Co., Ltd., which quickly secured 112 million yuan in angel investment and an additional 120 million yuan in financing by 2024, with additional investors currently finalizing their commitments. Chimigen Bio has developed the SynNeogen technology platform, which employs a novel antibody-like structure to mimic the natural process of antigen uptake, processing, and presentation, thereby inducing robust, multi-epitope immune responses. This platform supports the development of therapeutic vaccines, including SN2001 for chronic hepatitis B, aiming to achieve functional cures and SN3001 for metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer.

Weiyong Sun, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.
CBO
Hansoh Pharma

As Chief Business Officer (CBO) at Hansoh Pharmaceutical Group, Dr. Sun leads Global Business Development and Alliance Management. Over the past four years, he and his team have completed over 20 licensing and collaboration deals, including two licensing agreements with GSK on ADCs and a recent small molecule GLP-1 out-licensing deal with Merck (MSD). Dr. Sun also plays a key role in supporting Hansoh R&D by evaluating and accessing new technologies, platforms, and modalities. Before joining Hansoh, he spent 19 years at Daiichi Sankyo, initially working in R&D for five years on activities ranging from target discovery to clinical development before transitioning to Business Development, where he successfully identified, evaluated, and negotiated numerous partnership opportunities. Dr. Sun holds an MD from Peking University Medical School, master's and doctoral degrees in Cell Biochemistry from the University of Tokyo, and an MBA from Columbia Business School.

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Colin Wang, Ph.D.
Partner
6 Dimensions Capital

Colin (Leyi) Wang, Partner at 6 Dimensions Capital/120 Capital. Colin has over 10 years of experience in biological science technical training, investment, and corporate operation. He started his professional career as a life-science industry-focused management consultant at L.E.K Consulting after finishing his Ph.D. training in biophysics at Cornell graduate school. He then worked as equity research analyst at Leerink Partners, a leading boutique investment bank in the life science industry. Mr. Wang then transitioned to corporate operation roles, first at Wuxi NextCODE where he worked as Director of Corporate Development, responsible for internal and external business planning and deal making, and then as VP of Portfolio Management at BridgeBio, responsible for business development and operation for a wide range of BridgeBio affiliate companies. He joined 6DC's Boston Office in 2019 and had been involved in significant activities in team building, investment deal sourcing, diligence, and management, and NewCo planning and execution.

Enna Weng, M.B.A.
Managing Director
Freedom Capital Market

Managing Director of Freedom Capital Markets managing the investment banking business with expertise in equity capital market and M&A. Prior to joining Freedom, Enna held senior positions in various global financial institutions, such as Barclays, Wells Fargo, Macquarie and Morgan Stanley covering a wide range of asset classes. Her experience includes deal origination, due diligence, and execution across industry sectors on domestic and cross-border transactions. Enna holds an MBA degree from Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Haichen Yang, M.D., M.B.A., M.A.
Vice President, Clinical Research
Amicus Therapeutics

Dr. Yang is a highly accomplished pharmaceutical executive and drug development expert with 30 years of experience in neurology, psychiatry, pain, and metabolic disorders. She has successfully led numerous global clinical development programs, including several resulted in new drug and indication approvals, such as Fycompa®, Keppra®, and Luvox CR®.

Derek Yuan, Ph.D.
Managing Director
LYFE Capital

Derek Yuan serves as the Managing Director at LYFE Capital, based in the Menlo Park office. Since joining LYFE Capital in 2018, he has been focusing investments on innovation across various therapeutic areas. Prior to his tenure at LYFE, Derek was engaged in biotechnology equity research at Credit Suisse and, before that, was a life sciences specialist at LEK Consulting. Derek holds a PhD in Biology from Rockefeller University and a Bachelor's degree from Tsinghua University.

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Lihua Zheng, JD, Ph.D.
Co-Founder & CEO
Z-Star Therapeutics Inc.

Lihua is a seasoned serial entrepreneur and biotech executive. He is currently co-founder and CEO of Z-Star Therapeutics Inc., a New York City-based biotech company developing the next generation oncology and immunology therapeutics. Previously he co-founded AnHeart Therapeutics in 2018 as its Board Director and Chief Business/Strategy Officer responsible for business development, financing, legal and US operation. He led the successful in-licensing of three clinical-stage oncology assets from Daiichi Sankyo, and the successful out-licensing of commercial rights separately to Nippon Kayaku (TSE:4272), Innovent Biologics (XHKG: 1801) and NewG labs with upfront and milestone payments totaling more than $300 million plus double-digit royalties, and the financings that raised more than $100 million before AnHeart Therapeutics was merged into Nuvation Bio (NYSE: NUVB) in early 2024. Prior to company building, Lihua practiced laws in the life sciences industry first at an international law firm Proskauer and then at a boutique law firm he co-founded in New York City. He received his J.D. from Fordham University School of Law and a Ph.D. in Molecular and Human Genetics from Baylor College of Medicine. He obtained his Masters and Bachelor of Science degree from Fudan University.

Ercem Atillasoy, M.D.
Chief Regulatory and Safety Officer
Jazz Pharmaceuticals

Dr. Ercem Atillasoy has over 28 years of experience in product development and more than 20 years in Regulatory Affairs, Clinical Safety, and Quality. He is the Chief Regulatory and Safety Officer and Senior Vice President of Research and Development at Jazz Pharmaceuticals, overseeing oncology products like Ziihera, Rylaze, Vyxeos, and Zepzelca, as well as neuroscience products like Zywav and Epidyolex. Before Jazz, he was the CRSO at AlloVir, Inc., where he led regulatory strategy, earning three FDA Regenerative Medicine Advanced Therapy (RMAT) designations for posoleucel. At Merck & Co., he was Vice President and Therapeutic Area Head of Vaccines and Infectious Disease, managing a portfolio of transformative infectious disease and vaccine products. He also engaged with regulatory agencies globally and oversaw Merck's Worldwide Product Labeling and US Promotional groups. Joining Merck in 2001, Ercem expedited the development and approval of significant vaccines and antiviral agents, including those for Ebola (Ervebo®), HPV (Gardasil®), rotavirus (RotaTeq®), HIV (Isentress®), and hepatitis C (Zepatier®). He also led the first IND filing for Keytruda® for melanoma and supported approvals for other oncology products like Zolinza® and Emend®. Earlier, Ercem worked at Sandoz and Novartis Pharmaceuticals, supporting the licensure of anti-infective, dermatology, tissue-engineered, and cell therapy products, including Apligraf®. He served as the industry representative to the FDA Dermatologic and Ophthalmologic Drugs Advisory Committee from 2019-2023 and is the current alternate representative. Ercem graduated summa cum laude with a BA in English from the City University of New York and earned his MD from Yale University School of Medicine, where he was recognized as a Farr scholar. He completed his medical internship at Yale-New Haven Hospital and his dermatology residency at the University of Pennsylvania, conducting research in carcinogenesis and gene therapy at the Wistar Institute. He has received executive management training from the Wharton School and UCLA Anderson School of Management and holds a voluntary Clinical Associate faculty position at the University of Pennsylvania.

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Katherine Bevans, Ph.D.

Director, Patient Reported Outcomes
Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine

Katherine Bevans, PhD is a health outcomes measurement scientist and Director of Patient Reported Outcomes in Neuroscience at Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine. In her current role, Katherine is responsible for designing and validating clinical outcome assessment (COA) strategies for evaluating the efficacy and safety of drugs according to their impact on how patients 'feel and function.' In prior roles as an academic researcher at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Katherine contributed to NIH-funded initiatives such as the Patient Reported Outcome Measurement Information System (PROMIS®) and NIH Toolbox, which aim to enhance and standardize COA measurement in clinical research.

Suzette Girgis, Ph.D., M.S.

Vice President
Jazz Pharmaceuticals

Suzette Girgis, B.Pharm, MS, PhD Dr. Girgis is a passionate, patient-centric, strategic drug developer with over 20 years of experience in small molecules, biologics, and cell therapy, ranging from discovery to commercialization, with a particular emphasis on oncology. Suzette joined Jazz Pharmaceuticals in 2022 as the VP and Head of Global Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacometrics. She currently serves as the Industry Representative on the FDA's Pharmaceutical Science and Clinical Pharmacology Advisory Committee. Dr. Girgis is recognized as an expert in dose selection for First in Human and Proof of Concept studies. Over the years, she has made significant contributions to the development of several approved compounds, including Orencia®, Nulojix®, Velcade®, Dacogen®, Darzalex®, Carvykti®, Tecvayli®, Talvey®, Rylaze®, and Ziihera®. Suzette has a strong commitment to mentoring and talent development and is a strong advocate of rotation programs. Suzette earned her BPharm degree from Cairo University and her MS and PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences, specializing in PK/PD modeling, from the University of Rhode Island. Suzette began her career as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Johnson & Johnson. She later joined Schering-Plough (currently Merck), where she worked on early development compounds in neuroscience, cardiovascular, and virology. Subsequently, Suzette joined Bristol Myers Squibb, where she worked on oncology and immunology compounds and later oversaw the clinical pharmacology activities for the Immunology Therapeutic Area. In 2008, Suzette rejoined Johnson & Johnson as a director in Global Clinical Pharmacology, where she took on increasing roles and responsibilities, including the US Head of Scientific and Technical Operations and the Clinical Pharmacology Head of Hematologic Malignancies, where she developed multiple immuno-oncology compounds (including bispecifics, trispecifics, and CAR-T). Dr. Girgis has published many manuscripts in prestigious journals, including the New England Journal of Medicine and Lancet. She has presented at many scientific conferences such as ASH, ASCO, ESH, ACoP, and AAPS. When not working, Suzette enjoys spending time with her family, painting, and hiking. She is also active in her Coptic church, where she volunteers her time to serve the local community.

Hong Xie, M.D., M.B.A., M.S.

Former early development executive at BeiGene and Johnson & Johnson

Dr. Xie is a veteran oncology drug developer with over 25 years of experience in both early and late clinical development, hav-

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ing led studies for every stage of the clinical development continuum. She has held leadership positions with increasing responsibilities at BeiGene, Johnson and Johnson, AstraZeneca, GSK and Merck & Co. Her experiences encompass targeted therapies, epigenetic modulators, immune-oncology (checkpoint inhibitors and cancer vaccines), chemo prevention, monoclonal antibodies, antibody drug conjugates, radio-conjugates, bispecifics (including T cell and NK cell engagers) to cell therapies. She has provided end-to-end clinical development plans for dozens of programs including complex biologics with novel mechanisms, as well as strategic support for due diligence for both in-licensing and out-licensing business development opportunities.

Wenying Jian, Ph.D.
Director
Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine

Dr. Wenying Jian is currently a Director of Bioanalytical Discovery and Development Sciences (BDDS) of Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine. She is leading a team to support discovery bioanalysis across modalities including small molecules, biologics, ADCs, oligonucleotides and LNP encapsulated mRNA. Wenying has over 20 years of industrial experience with Bristol-Myers Squibb and then Johnson & Johnson. She has published over 70 journal papers and book chapters, and co-edited the book "Targeted biomarker quantitation by LC-MS" and "Sample preparation in LC-MS bioanalysis". She currently serves on the editorial board of Journal of Pharmacological and Toxicological Methods. Wenying received her B.S. in Pharmacy from Beijing Medical University, M.S. in Microbiology from Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Ph.D. in Pharmacology from University of Pennsylvania.

Murali Matta, Ph.D.
Sr. Scientific Director of Regulated Bioanalysis
Merck & Co., Inc.

Dr. Matta is a renowned bioanalytical scientist with profound expertise in bioanalysis of both small and large molecules, drug metabolism, pharmacokinetics, and drug-drug interaction studies. He holds a BS and MS in Pharmacy from Andhra University, India, and a PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences with a specialization in drug metabolism and mass spectrometry from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, India. Currently, Dr. Matta is the Senior Scientific Director of Regulated Bioanalysis at Merck, where he provides scientific oversight for the bioanalytical strategy of all biologic modalities in the pipeline, including peptides, monoclonal antibodies, and antibody-drug conjugates. Prior to his tenure at Merck, Dr. Matta served at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration within the Division of Applied Regulatory Sciences, Office of Clinical Pharmacology. In this capacity, he led a team of scientists supporting in vitro, preclinical, and clinical studies, and acted as an expert consultant for review divisions, offering critical bioanalytical insights for regulatory applications. Dr. Matta's career also includes significant roles at the Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS) research center and the clinical bioanalysis division of Mylan Generics in India. His contributions to the field of bioanalysis are widely recognized, with over 50 peer-reviewed papers published in esteemed pharmaceutical research journals.

Huaping Tang, Ph.D.
Executive Director
GlaxoSmithKline plc

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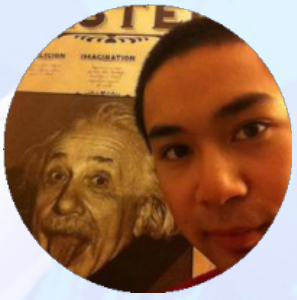
Huaping Tang is currently Executive Director, Bioanalysis and Soluble Biomarkers at GlaxoSmithKline. His group is responsible for analysis of drugs, drug metabolites, and soluble biomarkers in biological matrix to support clinical development of the GSK medicine pipeline. Before joining GSK, Huaping was in the Global Bioanalytical (BA) Group at Merck for over five years, where he focused on regulated PK, immunogenicity, and target engagement biomarker assays to support the biologics and vaccines pipeline. Prior to Merck, Huaping worked for Bristol-Myers Squibb, where he led a group specializing in high throughput phenotypic assays for lead discovery and optimization, and a high-throughput miniaturized biomarker screening platform to support translational biomarker discovery. Huaping received his BS degree from Peking University and PhD degree from Yale University, and obtained his post-doctoral training at the Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research in oncology targeted therapy.

Sam Tomioka, M.S.
Executive Director, Computational Research & Analytics
Sumitomo Pharma America

Sam Tomioka is the Executive Director, Head of Computational Research and Analytics at Sumitomo Pharma America , where he leads a team focusing on bioinformatics, artificial intelligence, real-world evidence, data science, and clinical analytics. His work in machine learning, natural language processing, and predictive modeling supports various therapeutic areas. Sam holds two patents for enhancing clinical trials: one utilizes computational models to reduce heterogeneity, and the other focuses on methods to optimize site selection.

Sandra Visser, Ph.D.
Sr. Vice President, Head of Therapeutics Development
Alltrna

Sandra Visser, Ph.D., brings over two decades of extensive experience in quantitative medicine and strategic drug discovery and development with a passion to accelerate the development of novel therapies and improve patient outcomes. She is currently Head of Therapeutics Development at Alltrna.Prior to Alltrna, Sandra has held leadership roles in leading pharmaceutical companies, including GSK, Merck, and AstraZeneca, where she and her teams successfully advanced preclinical and clinical drug projects and supported several successful marketing applications, using clinical and quantitative translational pharmacology concepts across diverse therapeutic areas, including oncology, cardiometabolic, and neuroscience.Through her career, she has been recognized for her pivotal contributions to model-informed drug discovery and development (MID3) and the integration of biomarker data into mathematical models to optimize dose selection, accelerate clinical trial design, and enhance regulatory submissions. She currently serves as President-Elect of the American Society of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics.Sandra earned her M.Sc. in Bio Pharmaceutical Sciences and Ph.D. in Quantitative Pharmacology from Leiden University in the Netherlands. She has published over 60 peer-reviewed scientific articles and has been an editor and reviewer for several scientific journals.



Si Chen, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
West Chester University

Speakers

Dr. Si Chen is an Associate Professor and Assistant Chair in the Department of Computer Science at West Chester University of Pennsylvania. His research centers on mobile sensing and cyber-physical systems, focusing on practical problem-solving and security measures. He employs smartphone-enabled crowdsourcing to build large-scale information infrastructures in a cost-effective manner, and he conducts physical layer research to develop reliable, secure wireless communications.

Farhat Siddiqui, M.S.
Generative AI Product Manager
Genmab

Farhat Siddiqui is a generative AI strategist and the driving force behind Genmab's "AI Everywhere" initiative, empowering over 2,000 employees to leverage ChatGPT for transformative productivity and innovation. By equipping teams with the skills and tools to integrate AI into their daily work, Farhat has saved employees more than 3.5 hours per week while fostering a culture of self-sufficiency and innovation across the organization. Specializing in guiding organizations to unlock AI's potential at scale, Farhat enables companies to transform workflows, drive efficiency, and achieve lasting impact.

Lixia Yao, Ph.D.
Founder & CEO
Polygon Health Analytics LLC

Dr. Lixia Yao is the founder and CEO of Polygon Health Analytics LLC, which specializes in developing high-quality real-world data (RWD) and real-world evidence (RWE) in disease areas with pressing unmet medical needs. With a PhD in Biomedical Informatics from Columbia University, Dr. Yao previously worked as the director of Real-world Data Analytics & Innovation at Merck and an Associate Professor in Biomedical Informatics at Mayo Clinic. She has cultivated a deep understanding of RWD and authored 70 peer-reviewed articles on prestigious journals such as Nature Biotechnology, Genome Research, and Drug Discovery Today with a H-index of 22. Dr. Yao received the Career Development Award in Biomedical Informatics from the National Library of Medicine (2016-2019). She is also a Fellow of the American Medical Informatics Association (FAMIA) and served as the Chair of the AMIA KDDM working group (2020-2022). Currently, she holds the additional roles of Member Engagement Co-Chair for the Oncology Special Interest Group at the Professional Society for Health Economics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR), SAPA Executive Council (EC), and Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Health Services Administration and Policy at Temple University.

Zhiwei Yin, Ph.D.
Sr. Manager
Bristol Myers Squibb

Dr. Zhiwei Yin currently serves as a Senior Manager at Bristol Myers Squibb within the Analytical AI and Predictive Solutions division, where he focuses on harnessing modeling and AI technology to enhance provider and patient engagement with BMS medications. Before this, he had extensive tenure in small molecule drug development with research experiences in drug substance process development, crystallization, material science, and automation. With a strong passion in data, he has built digital capabilities to enable high throughput experimentation (HTE), portfolio management, and business decision-making. Dr. Yin obtained his PhD in Chemistry from City University of New York and computer science training from New York Uni-

Speakers

versity.

Ying Zhou, Ph.D., M.B.A.

Analytical Program Steward
Teva Pharmaceuticals

Ying is an experienced analytical project manager within the Biologics CMC organization at Teva Pharmaceuticals. She started her career as a Ph.D. research scientist, interfacing between a matrix team of analytical scientists and internal clients in Biologics CMC to ensure timely data/analytics delivery. Her responsibilities have since expanded to regulatory filings (US, EU, and international markets), cross-functional technical collaboration within and outside CMC, CMC stage gate development/execution, international technology transfer, and vendor management. Ying also sits in the joint CMC team for several partnership products/projects and provides analytical expertise to support these partnerships.

Matthew England, M.B.A.

Business Development Manager
Apeloa Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd

Laura Hong, M.D., Ph.D.

CEO
Ala R7

Dr. Laura G. Hong is a seasoned pharmaceutical executive with over 25 years of experience in drug development, business strategy, and immunotherapy innovation. She is the CEO and Co-Founder of Ala R7 and AlaCura Biotherapeutics, leading breakthroughs in stem cell therapy for regenerative medicine and anti-aging. As President of KLUS Pharma, she drives R&D, business development, licensing, and strategic partnerships in oncology and immunotherapy. Previously, Dr. Hong held leadership roles at Merck, contributing to the development of blockbuster therapies, including Keytruda and Gardasil. With expertise spanning early discovery to commercialization, she is a recognized leader in biotech and pharmaceutical innovation.

YC Low, Ph.D.

Sr. BD Manager
GenScript USA Inc

YC joined GenScript in 2023 as the Senior Business Development Manager, where he specializes in developing sales strategies and driving business growth for the recombinant protein and antibody portfolio. Prior to joining GenScript, YC transitioned from academic research to business development, starting his career at a biotech startup. There, he played a key role in managing international business and expanding the company's global footprint, with a specific focus on synthetic biology products. YC holds a PhD degree in Biotechnology from Rutgers University.

Speakers

Jimmy Zhou, M.B.A
Sr. Executive Director
HighLight Capital

Jimmy Zhou is the Senior Executive Director and Head of Strategic Partnership at HighLight Capital, a leading venture/growth-stage investment firm focused on the healthcare industry, including therapeutics, medical devices, diagnostics, CRO/CDMO, and AI/robotics. Prior to joining HighLight Capital, Jimmy worked with BCG's healthcare practice in Shanghai and with GenScript in New Jersey. He holds an MBA from Stanford University, an MS in Genetics from Penn State University, and a BS in Biotechnology from Wuhan University.

Xue Sherry Gao, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Xue (Sherry) Gao joined the University of Pennsylvania as an Associate Professor in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, with a joint appointment in the Department of Bioengineering, starting in January 2024. Dr. Gao also serves as a core faculty member at Penn's Center for Precision Engineering for Health. Prior to Penn, Dr. Gao held the position of Ted N. Law Assistant Professor at Rice University in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering from July 2017. The Gao lab research is situated at the interaction of biomolecular engineering, biochemistry, and chemical biology, with a primary focus on small- and macro-molecules for advancements in human health. Dr. Xue Sherry Gao earned her doctoral degree in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 2013. Following her PhD, Dr. Gao pursued postdoctoral research at Harvard University and the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. Her academic achievements include receiving the 2024 BMES-CMBE Rising Star Award, the 2022 NSF CAREER AWARD, the 2022 Outstanding Young Faculty at Rice School of Engineering, and the 2020 NIH MIRA R35 AWARD, among others

Dowdy Jackson, Ph.D.
CEO
Jackson Consulting Group

Dr. Jackson completed his undergraduate studies in biology at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and has a master's degree in molecular biology from California State University, Dominguez Hills. Dr. Jackson completed his Ph.D. at Northwestern University where he studied molecular biology and biophysics. Dr. Jackson completed his postdoctoral fellowship in Douglas Hanahan's lab at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), where he studied tumor angiogenesis in collaboration with Judah Folkman and his lab. Dr. Jackson has 24 years of experience leading teams at large pharmaceutical companies and medium to small size biotech companies, such as Pfizer, Novartis, AstraZeneca, Astellas, and Innovent Biologics. Dr. Jackson has substantial experience developing small molecule inhibitors, antibody drug conjugates (ADCs), Bispecific T-cell engagers (BiTEs) and bispecific ADCs. Dr. Jackson has experience leading international teams and developing drugs in the US, Europe, Australia, and China. Dr. Jackson has led or has been the subject matter expert for several oncology projects, including ADC projects, from preclinical development through clinical development and approval. These projects include the Nectin-4 ADC, Enfortumab vedotin (PADCEV), which was approved by the FDA for bladder cancer and most recently Innovent's HER2 ADC, IBI354. Dr. Jackson is a co-inventor on patents, has published in high impact peer-reviewed journals, in-

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cluding Science, written book chapters, and has been an invited speaker and chaired international meetings. Dr. Jackson is passionate about developing the next generation of cancer therapies to help patients enjoy a high quality of life with their families.

Jimmy Li, Ph.D.
CEO
WuXi XDC

Dr. Jimmy Li has served as CEO of WuXi XDC since 2021, leading the company as a dedicated, fully integrated ADC and bioconjugates CRDMO. Prior to this, he joined WuXi Biologics in 2011, where he built and led the Cell Culture Process Development & Pilot Plant Production group, managed the MFG1 and MFG3 cGMP facilities, and oversaw the start-up of the MFG5 facility. With 25 years of experience in biologics process development, scale-up, and cGMP manufacturing, Dr. Li played a key role in WuXi Biologics' successful completion of its first FDA and EMA pre-license inspections (PLI), leading to the first FDA biologics BLA approval for China. Before joining WuXi Biologics, Dr. Li was a Group Leader at Genentech Inc. and also worked at Tanox, Inc. and Diversa Corporation (now BASF). He holds a B.S. degree from Tsinghua University and a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, specializing in Chemical and Biochemical Engineering.

Xiao Meng, Ph.D.
Vice President, Head of Global Regulatory Science
OBI Pharma

Dr. Michelle Meng is currently the VP and Head of Global Regulatory Sciences at OBI Pharma. Before joining OBI in 2024, she was Executive Director Global Regulatory Portfolio Lead at Bristol Myers Squibb, where she managed strategic and operational aspects of many oncology programs, including OPDIVO/YERVOY GI, Antibody Drug Conjugates (ADC), and early-stage immune-oncology assets. Her previous roles also include Global Regulatory Lead at Amgen, responsible for hematological oncology assets including Bi-specific T-cell engagers, and positions at Bayer Healthcare as Global Regulatory Strategist, where she led oncology and rare diseases programs, and began her industry career in Regulatory CMC Biologics.

Alex Qiu, M.D., Ph.D.
Executive Director
Bristol Myers Squibb

Alex Qiu, MD. Ph.D, currently hold a position as an executive medical director in Bristol Myers Squibb Oncology Therapeutic Area. The head quarter of Bristol Myers Squibb is located at 3401Princetn Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ. Alex Qiu obtained his MD in Jiangxi Medical college, and Ph.D in biochemistry from the Bowman Gray School of medicine, Wake Forest University. He did his post doc in University of California at San Francisco (UCSF). Dr. Qiu has more than 24 years pharmaceutical industrial experience included in small biotech, medium size company, and big pharma. His career path started from discovery science, then transition to clinical development. Alex Qiu has involved in more than 50 clinical projects, and 3 of them won the FDA approval. Alex Qiu is passionate to bring the new medicine to the patients, particularly, the oncology patients at their late stage.

Speakers

Qihang (Echo) Sun, Ph.D.

Principal Scientist
Merck & Co., Inc.

Qihang (Echo) Sun is a Principal Scientist at Merck & Co. in Global Vaccines and Biologics Commercialization. Her expertise includes sterile product development, new production introduction, technology transfer, and commercialization validation. She has led cross-functional teams to tackle complex product challenges and commit to the successful commercialization of innovative products, from the research to the manufacturing and ultimately through filing and product launch. Qihang also possesses cross-business experience that spans due diligence, integration, development, and commercialization. She is passionate about ensuring robust business integration while adhering to best-in-class technical standards.

Shuichan Xu, Ph.D.

Scientific Executive Director
Bristol Myers Squibb

Serving as Scientific Executive Director at Bristol Myers Squib, Shuichan Xu, PhD, leads drug discovery teams for novel cancer therapies using targeted protein degradation approaches. Shuichan has more than 20 years of drug discovery experience and has contributed to deliveries of multiple candidates for clinical development. Shuichan obtained her PhD in Molecular Biology and Virology from the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine in Beijing. She subsequently held postdoctoral positions in the laboratories of Melanie Cobb at UT Southwestern and Tony Hunter at the Salk Institute of Biological Studies, working on MAP kinase signal transduction and cell cycle regulation. From 2000, she entered the pharmaceutical industry, working first at Structural Genomix and then Celgene. During her time at Celgene, Shuichan led drug discovery and translational research groups working on various projects including translational support of phase I clinical studies of mTOR kinase inhibitors CC-223 and CC-115, phenotypic screen leading to the discovery of CC-91516, a dual ERK/NLK kinase inhibitor, and AR ligand-directed degraders (AR LDDs) with the delivery of BMS-986365 for clinical development.

Wenqiang Yu, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor
Fudan University

Wenqiang Yu, a senior PI at the Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Fudan University, He has developed a high - resolution whole - genome DNA methylation detection method GPS (guide positioning sequencing). GPS can achieve precise methylation detection and a high cytosine coverage rate (96%), He discovered a common biomarker for tumors, named Universal Cancer Only Marker (UCOM), which has been verified in more than 25 types of human tumors and applied to the early diagnosis and recurrence monitoring of tumors. He found that he miRNAs with activation functions in the cell nucleus NamiRNAs (nuclear activating miRNAs), and discovered that NamiRNAs can change the chromatin state of target sites, exerting their unique transcriptional activation functions. He proposed a new mechanism of NamiRNA - enhancer - gene activation. He discovered that RNA viruses, including the novel coronavirus, have sequences common to the human genome, which he named Human Identical Sequence (HIS). HIS is an important element in the interaction between pathogenic microorganisms and hosts, and also an important material basis for their pathogenicity, providing a new strategy for the prevention and treatment of viral diseases.

Speakers

Bo Zhai, Ph.D.
Sr. Principal Scientist
Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine

Bo Zhai holds the position of Sr. Principal Scientist at Johnson & Johnson, where he is part of the Cell Engineering and Analytical Science group within the Department of Protein Therapeutics API Development—Biologics. With a PhD in Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Bo Zhai possesses extensive experience in biologics characterization, with a specialized focus on mass spectrometry data analysis and the streamlining of data analysis processes. Furthermore, he leads the data analytics endeavors within the group.

Evelyn Guo, M.D., M.B.A.
Medical Director
Genmab

”Evelyn Guo is an accomplished medical director with extensive expertise in clinical development, oncology, and autoimmunology. With a robust background in medicine and research, she has led late-phase clinical trials (Phases 2, 3, and 4) and contributed to multiple regulatory submissions across global health authorities. Her proficiency spans developing compound strategies, designing and monitoring clinical trials, ensuring data quality, and authoring critical regulatory documents.

Xiaobin Huang, Ph.D.
Researcher
University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Xiaobin Huang holds dual Ph.D. degrees in Radiation Medicine and Bioengineering, with expertise in stem cells, induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs), and organoids. Over the years, he has conducted extensive research in molecular biology, microbiology, and disease modeling at prestigious institutions, including Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, and the University of Pennsylvania. Currently, Dr. Huang is embarking on an entrepreneurial journey in the field of organoids, striving to drive innovation in this cutting-edge area. In addition to his personal ventures, he is also establishing the Globe Technology Roundtable Alliance (GTRA)—an organization dedicated to integrating resources from various universities and institutions to support aspiring entrepreneurs in navigating the challenges of starting and growing their businesses.

Lily Li, M.S.
COO
MinaRosa Technologies

Entrepernhsip in medical device

Speakers

Helen Sun, M.A., SPHR
HR Director
Zambon Group

Helen is a HR professional with 12 years of professional work experience and a deep understanding of unique challenges that different sized Pharma/Biotech/CDMO organizations may face; SME on talent acquisition, performance management, employee engagement, and leadership development; a strategic thinker and problem-solver who can develop and implement innovative HR strategies and partner with organization leaders to drive for results and exceed business objectives.

Patricia Tsao, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H.
COO & Scientific Director
CytoEX Inc.

Dr. Patricia Tsao is a highly experienced immunologist specializing in immunological assays, particularly flow cytometry and cell sorting. As Chief Operating Officer of CytoEX, she oversees daily operations, develops and implements operational strategies, and drives efficiency to support the company's growth and success. Her research has focused on immune responses in health and disease, with a particular emphasis on autoimmunity, including systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), rheumatoid arthritis (RA), and Castleman disease, as well as cutting-edge therapies such as chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CART) therapy. Her work spans basic research to elucidate immune mechanisms, translational research to develop new therapies, and clinical research to test these treatments in patients.Previously, Dr. Tsao managed the Human Immunology Core at the University of Pennsylvania, providing researchers access to advanced immune monitoring and analysis technologies. She is also a skilled leader and manager, having built and led high-performing teams while fostering a culture of collaboration and innovation. Dr. Tsao earned her M.D. from Beijing University and her Ph.D. in Bioscience and Biotechnology from Drexel University. She has authored numerous publications in autoimmune research, cancer research, and CART therapy.A committed mentor and teacher, Dr. Tsao has trained scientists, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows who have advanced into successful careers in academia, industry, and government. She is also actively involved in public outreach and education, advocating for science literacy and effective communication.

Dan Zhang, M.D., MPH
Co-Chairman & Co-Founder
Hillgene Biopharma Ltd.

Dr. Dan Zhang is a co-founder and co-Chairman of the Board for the Hillgene Biotech Inc.-a leading cellular-therapy CDMO company in China with 160 employees. Dr. Dan Zhang is also a co-founder and board member of ClinChoice, a clinical CRO with more than 4500 employees in USA, EU, Canada, Japan, UK, India, Philippines, Armenia, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and mainland China,Dr. Zhang was the Head of Clinical Development and Safety Assessment at Sigma-Tau Research Inc, He was the vice president of Quintiles Transnational Corp (now is called IQVIA) and Chairman of the Board of Quintiles Greater China. Dr. Zhang was the senior consultant to Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, as well as NMPA (the China National Medical and Pharmaceutical Administration). He is a member of ICH E19 Expert Working Group. He was also a board member of 3SBio - a public company listed in Hong Kong Stock Exchange. Dr. Zhang received his pre-med training from Peking University and received his M.D. from Peking Union Medical College. He continued his study at the Harvard School of Public Health and received his

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MPH degree with training in biostatistics. Then he continued his training at the Wharton Business School of the University of Pennsylvania, where he obtained his master's degree in health-care management in 1998.

Track & Session Leads

Yu Chen, Ph.D.
Sr. Director
Eli Lilly and Company

Dr. Yu Chen is the Senior Director of Translational Data Science at Lilly Research Laboratories, Eli Lilly and Company. In this role, he leads initiatives in translational data science within the Diabetes, Obesity, and Complications research division. Dr. Chen specializes in leveraging AI-driven analytics and patient-centric approaches throughout the drug development pipeline, from early discovery to clinical development. Prior to joining Lilly, Dr. Chen held positions at Pfizer, Monsanto, and Novartis. He earned his Ph.D. in Bioinformatics from the University of Tennessee-Oak Ridge National Laboratory Graduate School of Genome Science and Technology.

Jake Dong, Ph.D.
Sr. Scientist
Frontage

Jake Dong, PhD, has more than 7 years of industry experience in immunology and oncology drug discovery and development at Janssen R&D. Jake has worked on CAR-T/NK cell therapy development (autologous and allogeneic), pre-clinical PK/PD models, and small/large molecule drug discovery and development processes in Oncology and Immunology. He has experience with GLP and non-GLP assay development/validation of NAb and Immunogenicity for antibody drugs, multi-specifics, and cell/gene therapy. Jake most recently served as a senior scientist at JNJ. Before JNJ, Jake worked in immunology/oncology research and T cell biology for 7 years at the University of Pennsylvania. He received his Ph.D. in T cell signaling from Ben-Gurion University and conducted his postdoctoral training at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the scientific track lead in SAPA-GP AC2025.

Ying Li, Ph.D.
Director
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc

Dr. Li is an experienced medical informatics researcher, having dedicated 15 years to this field. Her expertise lies in data mining, machine learning, and natural language processing, focusing on their practical applications in addressing significant healthcare-related challenges. Dr. Li specializes in extracting, integrating, and transforming both structured and unstructured data into valuable and actionable insights. These data sources include electronic health records (EHRs), claims databases, literature, social media platforms, the internet, and internally generated data from corporations. After obtaining her PhD in Biomedical Informatics from Columbia University, she served at IBM Research in the Center for Computational Health for five years. During her tenure, she played a pivotal role as a research staff member, spearheading the Watson for Patient Safety research prototype. In recent years, Dr. Li has been serving as a Director of Health Economics and Outcome Research at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals. Her work primarily centers on using real-world data and AI technique to address a variety of business needs within the comprehensive drug development process. She has published 20+ peer-reviewed papers in cross-disciplinary top journals (e.g. Nature Biotechnology, Diabetes Care, Movement Disorders, Nature Scientific Report, JAMIA, TKDE) and conferences (e.g. AMIA, AAAI), and invented 4 patents.

Track & Session Leads

Yali Liang, M.D., M.S.
Director
Jazz Pharmaceuticals

Yali Liang, MD, MS, MPH, Director of Clinical Pharmacology & Pharmacometrics, Jazz Pharmaceuticals Yali is currently a Director in Global Clinical Pharmacology & Pharmacometrics at Jazz Pharmaceuticals. She serves as the clinical pharmacology and pharmacometrics expert for various assets across oncology and neuroscience portfolios. Prior to joining Jazz, she worked at Bristol Myers Squibb as a clinical pharmacologist focusing on immuno-oncology therapeutic agents. Prior to BMS, Yali worked at Global Pharmacometrics at Pfizer. Yali has over 15 years of drug development experience in the pharmaceutical industry and has contributed to the successful approval of (En)Rylaze, Opdualag (nivolumab and relatlimab combination therapy), Opdivo, avelumab, ertugliflozin, ALO-2, etc. Yali holds an MD and MPH from Tongji Medical University in China, an MS in Pharmacometrics from the University of Maryland, and an MS in Pharmaceutical Science from the University of Kentucky.

Bill Lu, M.B.A.
Principal
Forerun Advantage

Bill Lu is the founder and principal Consultant of Forerun Advantage. He helps Chinese biotech companies understand US business culture and the biotech ecosystem, establish business operations, and develop communication strategies. Before moving into the field of biotech business consulting, he spent 13 years in Emory University School of Medicine leading efforts to optimize medical resource utilization with Real-World Data (RWD), build software for a helmet-based sport sideline assessment of concussions and mild cognitive impairments, and develop a clinical trial data management system for NIH-sponsored clinical trials. Bill has volunteered at SAPA-GP since 2019 and currently serves as VP of Partnership and head of PR for SAPA-GP. Bill graduated from Peking University in 1984 with a BS in Biochemistry. He spent the next five years in Beijing Medical University (later merged into Peking University) teaching molecular genetics. In 1988, Bill was selected to participate in the prestige CUSBEA (China–United States Biochemistry Examination and Application) program and came to the US in 1989. He earned MS in Molecular Biology from Vanderbilt University, MS in Computer Information Systems from Kennesaw State University, and MBA from Emory University.

Lijing Nan, M.B.A.
Founder
Mentor International Group
Institute Inc

She worked as an oncology radiotherapy doctor for five years and managed a medical center. As an entrepreneur, she has co-founded multiple companies across various industries. In June 2006, she became a Founding Partner of Beijing Huachang Mengtuo, specializing in human resources services. She later co-founded BeiQinghui Technology Co., Ltd. in 2016, providing investment services until 2022. In 2019, she established MIG USA, focusing on human resources services, and in 2021, she founded Aster Therapeutics in the U.S. She has built extensive networks and client resources in the healthcare and venture capital sectors and has established strong credibility and personal influence. With many years of experience in enterprise operations and management, she is adept at resource integration and possesses strong learning and execution abilities.

Track & Session Leads

Yongle Pang, Ph.D.
Principal Scientist
GlaxoSmithKline plc

Dr. Pang is currently a Principal Scientist in the DMPK department at GSK (PA, USA). His job duty includes the design and delivery of fit-for-purpose bioanalytical data to support discovery projects. Prior to joining GSK, he was a staff scientist in the regulated bioanalysis department at Covance (WI, USA), where he was responsible for bioanalytical method development and method validation of a variety of drug candidates. Dr. Pang is a graduate of Michigan State University (Ph.D. in Chemistry, MI, USA), where he developed enzyme-containing membranes for rapid monoclonal antibody digestion prior to mass spectrometry analysis. He has extensive experience in LC/MS-based small molecule and large molecule bioanalysis in the GLP and non-GLP environment. He has a great passion for bioanalysis and contributes to various peer-reviewed publications. He is also an active reviewer for journals in the bioanalysis and analytical chemistry area.

Boshu Ru, Ph.D.
Director, Real-world Data Analytics & Innovation
Merck & Co., Inc.

Dr. Boshu Ru is a Director in the Real-world Data Analytics and Innovation team of Merck Research Lab Biostatistics and Research Decision Sciences (BARDS) Epidemiology department. He is leading a team of data scientists to support RWE generation and Data Science innovation for Merck's products in cardiovascular, metabolic, antibiotics, virology, and other general and specialty medicine therapeutic areas. Before Merck, he worked as a senior data scientist at Sema4 (now GeneDx). Dr. Ru is an expert in designing outcome research and building analytics models with real-world data. He completed the Ph.D. training in computing and information systems program at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 2018. Dr. Ru grew up in China and completed college at The Xiamen University.

Leon Jun Tang, Ph.D., M.S.
Founding Partner
ISWT BioAdvisory

Leon 'Jun' Tang, PhD, is the founding partner of InScienceWeTrust BioAdvisory, a business development company focused on East-West cross-border partnerships in the pharmaceutical industry. He is also the founder of InScienceWeTrust Community, a US-based nonprofit with over 2,000 active members from the Asian biotech community. Dr. Tang serves as a scientific advisor to Mianus Capital, a boutique US-based healthcare PE/VC fund currently focused on ophthalmology, and is also an advisor to BioSpark, an Asian biotech professional association based in Massachusetts. Previously, he was a senior director of BD Search & Evaluation at Shanghai Henlius Biotech, a biotech sell-side analyst at Barclays Investment Bank, and a senior manager at the philanthropic venture fund of the Cancer Research Institute of New York. Dr. Tang has published more than 50 academic papers, including some in Nature Reviews Drug Discovery, Lancet Oncology, Science Translational Medicine, Nature Communications, Science Advances, and PNAS. He received his bachelor's degree from Tianjin University, his master's degree from Nankai University in China, a PhD from Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and completed postdoctoral training at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Track & Session Leads

Patricia Tsao, M.D., Ph.D.
COO & Scientific Director
CytoEX Inc.

Dr. Patricia Tsao is a highly experienced immunologist specializing in immunological assays, particularly flow cytometry and cell sorting. As Chief Operating Officer of CytoEX, she oversees daily operations, develops and implements operational strategies, and drives efficiency to support the company's growth and success. Her research has focused on immune responses in health and disease, with a particular emphasis on autoimmunity, including systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), rheumatoid arthritis (RA), and Castleman disease, as well as cutting-edge therapies such as chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CART) therapy. Her work spans basic research to elucidate immune mechanisms, translational research to develop new therapies, and clinical research to test these treatments in patients.Previously, Dr. Tsao managed the Human Immunology Core at the University of Pennsylvania, providing researchers access to advanced immune monitoring and analysis technologies. She is also a skilled leader and manager, having built and led high-performing teams while fostering a culture of collaboration and innovation. Dr. Tsao earned her M.D. from Beijing University and her Ph.D. in Bioscience and Biotechnology from Drexel University. She has authored numerous publications in autoimmune research, cancer research, and CART therapy.A committed mentor and teacher, Dr. Tsao has trained scientists, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows who have advanced into successful careers in academia, industry, and government. She is also actively involved in public outreach and education, advocating for science literacy and effective communication.

Hui Wang, Ph.D.
Head of US Business Development
Genevoyager

Shawn Shouye Wang, Ph.D.
Sr. Director
WuXi XDC

Shawn Shouye Wang was the founding president of Chinese Antibody Society and is currently a Director of the society's Board of Directors. He is currently a Senior Director of Business Enablement North America at WuXi XDC. Prior to his transfer to WuXi XDC in September 2023, he had been working as a CMC Lead at WuXi Biologics (the parent company of WuXi XDC) for nearly seven years on many early stage integrated CMC (Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Control) projects for IND filing and late stage projects for BLA filing with US FDA, China NMPA, and/or other countries' regulatory agencies. He has worked on diverse modalities of biologics and vaccines including monoclonal antibodies, bispecific antibodies, antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs), Fc fusion proteins, and enzymes. In addition, he has been supporting WuXi Biologics' business expansion in the US, in particular the establishment of new sites in the US. He was Analytical Head of King of Prussia, PA site of WuXi Biologics in 2019. He led the Biologics CMC Leadership training program of WuXi Biologics during 2017-2010, and also led in 2022 series biologics CMC trainings for global sites in support of global expansion of WuXi Biologics. Prior to WuXi Biologics, he worked for Bristol-Meyer Squibb and Emergent Biosolutions with a focus upon analytical development. He

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obtained his PhD in protein chemistry from University of Science and Technology of China followed by postdoc trainings in Sweden and US.

Lu Xia, M.B.A., M.A.
Director, Clinical Scientist
Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine

2021 - present: Director, Clinical Scientist, Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine 2007 - 2021: Director, Program Management Leader, Janssen Pharmaceuticals 2005 - 2007: Program Manager, Celgene 1999 - 2005: Discovery Scientist at DuPont Pharma, Schering-Plough Research Institute, Aventis (Sanofi) Education: 2006 - 2008: MBA, University of Phoenix 1996 - 1999: MS in Cell Biology, University of Georgia 1993 - 1996: MS in Biophysics, Wuhan University, China 1989 - 1993: BS in Biochemistry, Wuhan University, China

Tong-yuan Yang, M.D., Ph.D.
Sr. Director
Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine

Dr. Tong-yuan Yang currently is Senior Director at Preclinical Sciences and Translational Safety, Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine. He has over twenty years of industry experience ranged from drug discovery, development to market approval. He manages a group of scientists to develop and validate immunological and biochemical assays to support characterizing pharmacokinetics (PK) and immunogenicity of biologics, siRNAs, ADCs, CAR-T and gene therapy products in nonclinical and clinical settings. He has directly contributed to market approvals of 11 innovative medicines for indications across infectious diseases, immunology and oncology. He is an active member of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences. He received his medical degree from Beijing Medical University (Now Beijing University Health Science Center) and Ph.D. in Molecular Virology from Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine where he also holds an adjunct professorship at Department of Pharmacology.

Lixia Yao, Ph.D.
Founder & CEO
Polygon Health Analytics LLC

Dr. Lixia Yao is the founder and CEO of Polygon Health Analytics LLC, which specializes in developing high-quality real-world data (RWD) and real-world evidence (RWE) in disease areas with pressing unmet medical needs. With a PhD in Biomedical Informatics from Columbia University, Dr. Yao previously worked as the director of Real-world Data Analytics & Innovation at Merck and an Associate Professor in Biomedical Informatics at Mayo Clinic. She has cultivated a deep understanding of RWD and authored 70 peer-reviewed articles on prestigious journals such as Nature Biotechnology, Genome Research, and Drug Discovery Today with a H-index of 22. Dr. Yao received the Career Development Award in Biomedical Informatics from the National Library of Medicine (2016-2019). She is also a Fellow of the American Medical Informatics Association (FAMIA) and served as the Chair of the AMIA KDDM working group (2020-2022). Currently, she holds the additional roles of Member Engagement Co-Chair for the Oncology Special Interest Group at the Professional Society for Health Economics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR), SAPA Executive Council (EC), and Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Health Services Administration and Policy at Temple University.