CALIFORNIA LIFE SCIENCES

INNOVATION SHOWCASE

Connecting CA's Most Promising Startups with Investors and Corporate Partners

DECEMBER 12, 2023 | SMARTLABS AT OYSTER POINT

Welcome to the 2023 CLS Innovation Showcase!

PROGRAM

10:00-12:00	Investor Partnering Forum **by invitation only*
12:30-1:00pm	Registration & Check-in
1:00-1:10pm	**Welcome Remarks from California Life Sciences & SmartLabs**
1:10-1:30pm	**Keynote** by Christian R. Schubert, Head of AbbVie Ventures
1:40-3:00pm	**Company Presentations + Investor Q&A (2 parallel tracks)** *Track A: Therapeutics* *Track B: Diagnostic & Precision Medicine*
3:00-3:40pm	**Panel Discussion:** De-risking and funding strategies for startups through early collaboration with pharma partners
3:40-3:55pm	Break
3:55-5:00pm	**Company Presentations + Investor Q&A (2 parallel tracks)** *Track A: Therapeutics* *Track B: FAST Kansai*
5:00-6:30pm	**Networking Reception**

Company Presentations Format:
Each presenting company will have a one-minute introduction from an advisor, followed by a 10-minute presentation and five-minute Q&A with the investor panel.

Session 1: Company Presentations

Track A: Therapeutics	Track B: Diagnostic & Precision Medicine
Origami Therapeutics	Senseer
EV Therapeutics	Immunowork
Palm Therapeutics	TIGAR Health
Jacaranda Biosciences	Panazee
Aluda Pharmaceuticals	Pandora Biosciences

Session 2: Company Presentations

Track A: Therapeutics	Track B: FAST Kansai
Bio Superior	RegCell
BIOMED	FerroptoCure
BioDrive	ImmuniT Research
Endure Bio	

Companies listed in presentation order.

Keynote Speaker

"I look forward to spending some real quality time in the birthplace of biotechnology, South San Francisco, to learn about new transformative science, meet great people, and exchange creative ideas."

—Christian R. Schubert, PhD
Vice President and Head, AbbVie Ventures

abbvie

Christian R. Schubert, PhD, has over a decade experience in the life sciences industry spanning corporate development, strategy and external innovation, company building, and venture capital. He is currently Vice President and Head of AbbVie Ventures, where he directs AbbVie's strategic venture capital investments in core therapeutic areas of interest. Prior to joining AbbVie, he was an Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR) at Atlas Venture where he helped conceive, launch, and operate next generation biotechnology companies. Prior to his role at Atlas, Dr. Schubert was the Global Head of R&D External Innovation at Servier and Managing Director of Servier BioInnovation, and earlier in his career held roles in Corporate Development and Strategy at Biogen and Worldwide R&D at Pfizer. Dr. Schubert holds BSc and MSc degrees from the Technical University of Munich, received his PhD from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School and Boston Children's Hospital.

Panelist Spotlight

De-Risking and Funding Strategies for Startups Through Early Collaboration with Pharma Partners

Shaan Gandhi, MD, PhD
Vice President, Head of Strategic Partnerships, Pfizer Ignite

Susan Lacy, PhD
Senior Director Integrative Sciences Oncology, Bristol Myers Squibb

Jeff Landau
Chief Business Officer, CytomX Therapeutics

Lesley Stolz, PhD
Vice President, Early Innovation Partnering, Johnson & Johnson Innovation

Adam Mendelsohn, PhD
CEO, Vivani Medical

MODERATOR

Carole Bellis | Attorney Advertising | MRKT0007446

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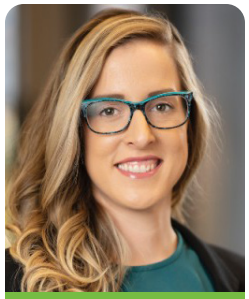
Track A – Therapeutic Pitch Session #1

Investor Q&A

Irene Blat, PhD
Senior Director, Search & Evaluation, Oncology, Servier

Karl Handelsman, MBA, MS
Managing Partner, Codon Capital



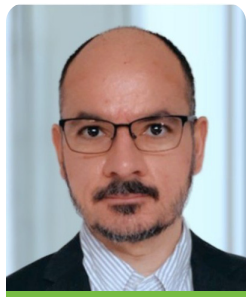
Gianna Hoffman-Luca, PhD
Principal, Xontogeny

Chris Hoppe, MBA
VP, Engineered Biology, General Inception

Stuart Hwang, PhD
Venture Partner, Remiges Ventures

Satoshi Konagai, MBA, MS
Senior Investment Manager, Astellas Venture Management LLC

David Peng, PhD
Principal, Alexandria Venture Investments



Stefan Pflanz, PhD
Executive Director, Boehringer-Ingelheim Venture Fund USA

Danjuma Quarless, PhD, MBA
Associate Director, AbbVie Ventures

Origami Therapeutics, Inc. is a pre-clinical company developing curative medicines for neurodegenerative diseases.

Leveraging the Founder's experience in discovering transformational therapies for Cystic Fibrosis that modulate CFTR conformation, Origami's focus is to treat neurodegeneration by directly modulating disease-causing proteins. ORICISION(TM), Origami's discovery platform, enables the discovery of both protein degraders and protein conformation correctors, allowing us to match the best drug mechanism to treat each disease. Starting with Huntington's disease (HD), we have discovered multiple compounds that prevent HD pathology in patient-derived disease models, and our lead molecule has achieved in vivo proof-of-concept in an animal model of disease. Currently, we are selecting the optimal protein degrader to advance into pre-clinical studies with a development candidate expected by the end of 2024. Having demonstrated the power of the ORICISION(TM) platform to rapidly identify compounds with animal efficacy, we are applying this approach to additional diseases.

FOUNDER

Beth J. Hoffman, PhD, Founder and CEO
beth@origamitherapeutics.com

Dr. Hoffman is creating a new paradigm to discover curative medicines for neurodegeneration, leveraging experience from 〉20 years of CNS drug discovery and from discovering transformational therapies for Cystic Fibrosis (CF). Prior to Origami, she was a Research & Development executive at Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Amgen and Eli Lilly, making major contributions to 〉30 clinical programs and to four marketed drugs for CF including Trikafta. Dr. Hoffman serves on the Board of Directors for Biofrontera Inc. (NASDAQ: BFRI), the Scientific Advisory Board for the Tau Consortium and the National Board of Trustees for the Huntington's Disease Society of America (HDSA).

ADVISORY TEAM

- Introduced by: Geoff Harris, Chief Executive Officer, Stealth NewCo
- Maria Soloveychik, Chief Executive Officer, SyntheX, Inc.
- Ethan Than, Founder/COO, Curio Health
- Tilmann Brotz, Principal, PharmaDirections
- Petr Jansa, Executive Director, Head of Chemistry, BridGene Biosciences, Inc.
- Jennifer Low, Head of Therapeutics Development, 23andMe
- Sundeep Dugar, President/CEO, Aayam Therapeutics
- Ankush Argade, Founder, President and CSO, Amarit Biosciences, Inc.
- Michelle Chen, Chief Business Officer, Insilico Medicine

EV Therapeutics
Immunotherapy EVolved.

EV Therapeutics is a pre-clinical staged bioscience company developing novel nanoparticle-based therapies to unlock the full potential of the immune system to recognize and attack cancer by inducing an anti-tumor immune response in resistant "cold" cancers.

Our platform technology is based on our proprietary engineered extracellular vesicles that significantly enhance tumor antigen-specific T-cell infiltration into the tumor microenvironment and synergizes with immune checkpoint inhibitors (e.g. anti-PD-1, Keytruda®). Mechanistically, our therapeutic platform activates T-cell costimulation in the CD28/CD80 pathway, which is critical for a functioning immune system. Eight years of pre-clinical data show that treatment with our engineered EVs significantly improves survival in late-stage disease models. Our findings potentially translate to a significant survival advantage for human colorectal and pancreatic cancer patients with advanced disease or other gastrointestinal cancers. As a monotherapy, our therapeutic prevents cancer recurrence in high-risk lynch syndrome patients by functioning as a neoantigen-based prophylactic cancer vaccine. We're currently partnered with the University of Minnesota and the Masonic Cancer Center to conduct a phase 0/1 clinical trials. We're seeking a seed funding of $7M to support the completion of pre-clinical enabling studies, cGMP manufacturing, and IND preparation.

FOUNDER

Gianluca Roma MS, MBA, CEO
gianluca.roma@evtherapeutics.com

Gianluca is a commercialization professional with ›23 years of combined life sciences, clinical diagnostics, and therapeutics experiences. With a MS in biology, he began his career at Gen-Probe where he developed several FDA-approved clinical diagnostic tests. Upon completing an MBA he transitioned into product management and worked at several large biotechnology companies (e.g. Illumina and Thermo Fisher). He went on to co-found InKaryo Corporation, a next-generation sequencing start-up that developed prenatal tests and led the business to its acquisition by Esperite. He later joined Applied StemCell and led their newly formed AccuRef Diagnostics business to acquisition by Abcam. Shortly after he co-found EV Therapeutics, an immunotherapy start-up that leverages extracellular vesicles to activate a patient's immune system to fight and kill cancer.

ADVISORY TEAM

- Introduced by: David Passmore, Head of Business Development, AbTherx
- Agustin De la Calle, EVP Business Development, Hinova Pharmaceuticals
- Raghava Sriramaneni, Scientist II, CytomX Therapeutics
- Alexander Varond, Partner, Goodwin
- Louis Demers, Vice President, CMC, Parvus Therapeutics Inc.
- Alexander Soloviev, Business Development Manager, Excellos
- Titus Plattel, Biotech Consultant, TP Consulting
- Tom Zarembinski, Associate Director, Project Management, Bristol Myers Squibb

Palm Therapeutics is a San Diego-based biotech developing transformative therapies in the oncology space.

We have differentiated ourselves by looking for big value in a previously overlooked area of biology, protein palmitoylation. While the functional role of palmitoylation has been well established in numerous diseases, methods to selectively drug this modification have been underexplored. Palm was founded with the mission of unlocking the therapeutic potential of this space and developing the first palmitoylation-targeted drugs. Using targeted drug chemistry and a proprietary discovery platform, we have enabled palmitoylation-targeted drug development for the first time. Our approach allows us to access traditionally undruggable targets, such as NRAS, and address massive unmet clinical need in the oncology space.

FOUNDER

Andrew Rudd, PhD
arudd@palmtherapeutics.com

Dr. Rudd's career has centered around developing chemical tools to interrogate biological lipids and their roles in disease. He received his PhD in chemistry from UC San Diego where he authored eight high-impact papers and was the recipient of several awards. During his PhD work, Dr. Rudd developed the first small molecule probes for directly inhibiting protein palmitoylation in cells. Dr. Rudd launched Palm Therapeutics with the mission of developing the first palmitoylation-targeted therapies. He has secured over one million dollars in non-dilutive funding from the NIH and serves as the lead PI on two active SBIR grants at Palm.

ADVISORY TEAM

- Introduced by: Irene Blat, Senior Director, Search & Evaluation - Oncology, Servier Pharmaceuticals
- Charles Cuminet, R&D, External Therapeutic Innovation, Servier Pharmaceuticals
- Nick Mordwinkin, Chief Business Officer, Kezar Life Sciences
- Gebhard Neyer, SVP, Product Development, Axon Therapeutics
- Miro Brajenovic, Chief Executive Officer, NewCo
- Dan Levy, Owner and Principal Consultant, DEL BioPharma LLC
- Yanhong Lin, Managing Partner, CTIC CAPITAL
- Anthony Casarez, Consultant, Gossamer Bio
- Alicia Chung, Business Development & Strategy Advisor, Bionaut Labs

Jacaranda
BIOSCIENCES

Thirty-six million Americans and hundreds of millions globally currently suffer from hearing loss, a condition with profound mental and cognitive health impacts for patients and associated societal economic losses in the U.S. of $122B annually.

Jacaranda Biosciences, Inc. (JBI) is developing novel small molecule compounds to prevent, halt and/or mitigate a broad range of hearing loss indications, including noise-induced hearing loss and hearing loss due to exposure to ototoxic agents such as cisplatin and aminoglycosides. JBI's founders demonstrated that dysregulation of the unfolded protein response (UPR) after noise and ototoxic exposures is implicated in the pathophysiology of hearing loss. JBI's therapeutics modulate the UPR and, as demonstrated in preliminary in vivo experimentation, have the potential to significantly reduce hearing loss and its deleterious consequences.

FOUNDER

Steve Sherr, CEO
steve@jacaranda-bio.com

Steve Sherr has provided strategic advice, legal/regulatory counsel, and executive leadership to a wide range of companies including emerging firms and established technology leaders. Prior to JBI, Steve led closing on over two dozen financing transactions yielding over $270M in debt and equity from seed and institutional investors and over $40M in non-dilutive grants. A member of the California Bar, Steve holds a JD from Yale Law School and a BA from UC Berkeley.

ADVISORY TEAM

- Introduced by: Akash Datwani, PhD ex-Biogen US West coast Lead for External Innovation, Co-founder of Trait Therapeutics
- Charles Gluchowski, President, Drug Discovery 3000
- Leslie Holsinger, Research and Development Executive, Lighthouse Pharmaceuticals
- John Bauman, Process Development, Manufacturing & Medicinal Chemistry Consultant, RAM Consulting
- Dane Karr, Principal, Karr Konsulting
- Esther Chung, Principal Owner, E Chung Legal Services
- Christoph Pittius, SVP, Research Business Development, City of Hope

Aluda

Through internal discovery seeking new targets that regulate disease, Aluda identified vimentin-targeting small molecules that interrupt how disease can take over cellular functions.

In disease, a novel cell process often fails to shut off, continuing too long. Called hyper-function, Vimentin is the structural facility that serves as an endless scaffold for this to occur. Aluda's vimentin modulators block this and consistently produce a pattern of a strong activity and complete safety in 25+ autoimmune and fibrosis models, proving Vimentin-linked hyper-function is a single pharmacology and new and potent intervention point. When hyper-function is blocked, normal functional levels are restored, effectively achieving a cure-like outcome.

Aluda's lead is oral small molecule ALD-R491 and has completed all IND-enabling work including a broad safety examination with GLP and long-term models.

Aluda is raising funds for initial clinical study: Phase 2a in Crohn's addressing strictures, recurrent infections, and immune dysregulation (all have vimentin-linked biology and present in ~70% of patients) and Phase 1a/2b in Sepsis (maximal hyper-function in multiple directions, 100% unmet) positioned to receive grant funding.

Vimentin biology presents a new understanding of why complex disease stops responding to pathway mechanisms and a new class of exciting development opportunities to address this.

FOUNDER

Deebie Symmes, Co-founder and CBO
deebie@aludapharm.com

Ms. Symmes is Co-founder of Aluda and leads corporate development, communications, and project management. She has originated, negotiated, and closed over 50 licensing transactions in all stages from discovery through Phase 2 including a segment-leading, IPO-enabling deal worth $575 million. She held senior full-time roles at Ciba-Corning Diagnostics, Chiron, Tularik and ARYx and was a Principal at Keelin Reeds, a spin out from SDG for valuation analytics to support negotiations.

Ms. Symmes holds an M.B.A. from The Wharton School and completed the 2 year program from UCSF School of Pharmacy called Drug Development and Regulatory Science chaired by Carl Peck.

ADVISORY TEAM

- Introduced by: Monica Miller, Chief Executive Officer, BioArkitecta
- Nelson Lin, Director, Global Market Access & Pricing, AbbVie
- Chirag Shah, Medical Affairs Operations & Strategy Lead, Karuna Therapeutics
- Sarah Suleman, Healthcare Strategy Advisor, Symbian Health
- Petr Jansa, Executive Director, Head of Chemistry, BridGene Biosciences, Inc
- Bob Miller, Chief Financial Officer, Life Science CFO
- Hans Hull, Chief Business Officer, Pliant Therapeutics
- Todd Lorenz, Clinical Development Physician, Nimbus Therapeutics

Track B – Diagnostic / Precision Medicine Pitch Session

Investor Q&A

David Cruikshank, MBA, MS
VP Business, Development, New Ventures, Mergers, Acquisitions & Alliances, Danaher Ventures

Bill Hyun, PhD
Venture Partner, Genoa Ventures

Charlene Son Rigby, MBA
CEO, Global Genes

Sonia Maryam Setayesh, MS, PhD
Investment Partner, Civilization Ventures

Artem Trotsyuk, PhD
Venture Partner, LongeVC

Quing Zhang, MD, MBA
Partner, LDV Partners

SENSEER
DATA-DRIVEN CARE

Founded in 2017 to address the high failure rate of implantable devices, Senseer Health develops smart device therapies to track and manage device status and condition in real-time.

The core of Senseer's solution are patented microsensors, originally developed at University of Southern California (USC), for monitoring implantable devices of patients specifically suffering from cardiovascular and renal diseases, as well as neurologic conditions such as hydrocephalus (beachhead).

Implantable devices such as shunts, stents and grafts exhibit failure rates exceeding 50% within the first 2 years of implantation, often resulting in patient disability or death. Senseer's combination of its multi-modal sensor technologies that generate proprietary data sets and enable predictive analytics results in a solution that allows healthcare providers to timely intervene in case of an approaching, often deadly, device failure. In addition, Senseer's solution minimizes unnecessary procedures and revision surgeries, high patient readmission rates, and multiple ER visits that have been the results of patient fear and uncertainty, totaling billions of dollars in unnecessary healthcare costs.

FOUNDER

Sascha Lee, PhD, MBA
sascha.lee@senseer.us

Before joining Senseer in 2017, Sascha founded KYNEA Consulting, which focused on strategic planning and portfolio strategy for companies such as Pfizer, Moderna Therapeutics, GE Healthcare and Juno. He is also the cofounder and former Chief Scientific Officer at Sanguine Biosciences, where he led the scientific development of the company, including sourcing, evaluating, and executing collaborations. Sascha earned his PhD in pharmacology from UCLA (2007), and received his MBA from USC (2011), where he focused on marketing and entrepreneurship. He also holds an M.S. in genetics and a B.S. in biology from the J.W. Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany.

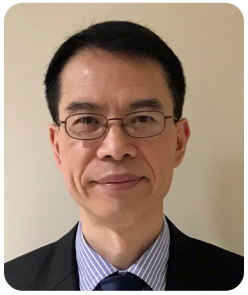
ADVISORY TEAM

- Introduced by: Wesley Jones, Co-Founder and CEO, Vonova
- Melissa J. Rodgers, Associate Director, Business Development and Industry Relations, USC MESH Academy
- Michael Hill, Global Head, Science & Technology and Innovation, Science Innovations L.L.C.
- Howard Edelman, Chief Executive Officer, VahatiCor
- Shamali Roy, Product Management & Strategic Partnerships, Vector Laboratories, Inc.
- Tony DeLizza, Vice President Marketing, Ziteo Medical
- Ambreen Farook, Biotech Executive, Advisor to CLS
- Ajay Patel, Vice President of Operations, Goddard
- Will Fischer, Investor, truemetrics

ImmunoWork is a biomed start-up company aiming to deliver a cure for autoimmune diseases.

ImmunoWork was built upon the integration of scientific discoveries and proprietary platform technology. Our personalized diagnostic technology provides clear immunologic evidence for optimizing immunosuppressive therapies and catching the earliest sign of disease relapse, and our targeted therapy brings breakthrough solutions to autoimmune diseases with maximum effectiveness and minimum side effects to save organ functions. We apply our deep understanding of immunology, medical diagnostics, and unparalleled expertise in large-molecule drug chemistry to create personalized diagnostics and highly-selective medicines for optimal clinical outcomes. Our first diagnostic test ready to deliver focuses on primary membranous nephropathy, an autoimmune kidney disease and a leading cause of kidney failure with an estimated market size of over $1 billion. Our dedicated scientists, clinicians, and management team strives to free patients from lifelong autoimmune disorders.

FOUNDER



Quansheng Zhu, MD, PhD
qzhu@immunowork.com

Former Professor of Medicine at UCLA. Ph.D, University of Alberta; MD, Shanghai Medical University. A recognized biomedical researcher in autoimmune and acid-base kidney disease pathogenesis with over 30 publications in prestigious biomedical journals. At UCLA, he identified the dominant epitope in primary membranous nephropathy, an autoimmune kidney disease. Moreover, he developed a non-invasive test for disease diagnosis and a blood apheresis therapy for disease treatment. At ImmunoWork, he developed a platform technology for personalized diagnostics and targeted therapy for autoimmune diseases. He completed certified entrepreneurship training at the UCLA Anderson School of Management.

ADVISORY TEAM

- Introduced by: Michael Henry, Chief Business Officer, Aldatu Biosciences
- Swati Ranade, Director, Scientific Market Development, NanoString Technologies, Inc.
- Chandan Shee, Principal Scientist, Apton Biosystems
- Kathrin Copley, Sr, Director Regulatory and Scientific Affairs, CTI Clinical Trial and Consulting Services
- Janice Kolberg, VP Clinical Research, Tethys Bioscience, Inc.
- Branden Wolner, Founder and Principal Consultant, Recombinant DNA Technologies
- John DeNuzzio, Principal, DeNuzzio MedTech Consulting
- Yamini Bynagari, VP Clinical Research, Machaon Diagnostics

TIGAR Health™
Transforming Metabolic Medicine

TIGAR Health Technologies, a healthcare IT company, has developed a commercially available analytical report, based on our expert system reporting platform, which provides physicians with guidance to aid in choosing the optimal treatment regimen for diabetes patients.

Under current treatment protocols a single measurement of HbA1c is used as the primary indicator for treatment options. This dictates a trial and error strategy which leads to poor outcomes, and excessive costs. With over 85% of diabetes patients not at goal and not receiving standard of care drug regimens, clinicians need a better tool.

In contrast, our analysis uses our patented algorithm incorporating expert clinician decision rules and the output of 7 existing commercial tests to enable the physician to match the right drug to the causes and state of disease. The TIGAR™ report incorporates insulin resistance, beta-cell condition, cardiovascular disease and kidney condition, all of which impact diabetes care. The result of this personalized therapy is that everyone wins in the first year– doctor, patient, payer, and lab. We have exciting routine practice use across all stages of disease and clinician specialties.

FOUNDER

Robert Maurer, Chairman and CEO
rmaurer@tigarhealth.com

Robert has over 45 years of experience in diagnostics, health IT and biopharma. Robert has founded four businesses. He spent 5 years based in Hong Kong setting up Abbott Diagnostics' business in eleven countries in East and South Asia. Robert was the business Founder and COO of an Alzheimer's biopharmaceutical company, which in four years progressed from foundation to a partnership with Upjohn. At Ciphergen, Robert created and managed pharmaceutical services and diagnostics businesses. TIGAR Health Technologies is his latest venture. Robert is the lead inventor of the company's issued algorithm patent. He holds a B.A. in Economics and Mathematics from Carleton College, and an MBA from Harvard University.

ADVISORY TEAM

- Introduced by: Matt Sitter, Chief Executive Officer, Advantage Foundry Network, LLC
- John W. Erickson, Jr., President, RNA Disease Diagnostics
- Troy Norris, Managing Director, Valamont Advisors, LLC
- Srividya Mohan, Staff Scientist Bioinformatics, Cepheid
- Kristien Van Vlasselaer, President, Kristien Van Vlasselaer Consulting, LLC
- Adam Seltser, Founder, Roots CFO
- Steven Ross, Co-Founder, Chief Clinical and Education Officer, Cygenex, Inc.
- Jill Roughan, Founder and President, Sciencia Consulting
- Tom Klopack, Executive Consultant, TGK Lifescience

panazee

Panazee Inc has developed a proprietary microbead washing technology that removes background signals from complex binding reactions.

The thorough removal of background enables single molecule resolution on a handheld device. The high resolution enables a quick turnaround "sample in to answer out" in less than 15 minutes. The one step protocol facilitates its use in emergency situations.

FOUNDER

Babette Güldenpfennig, PhD
babette.gueldenpfennig@panazee.me

Babette Güldenpfennig has 25 years executive management and Board experience in biotech start-ups and large pharma companies. She joined Panazee in July 2023 from Sintetica SA, a generic pharma company where she was Chief Business Development Officer. From 2014 to 2021 she was Head of Global Licensing for Roche Diagnostics and Member of the Global Business Development Leadership Team. She oversaw 500 licensing transactions across the Diagnostic Division, and three spinoffs. Previously, she worked in executive management positions in Business Development and Licensing for Molecular Partners and Kuros Bioscience, which she co founded in 2001. Babette holds a PhD in chemistry from ETH Zürich.

- Introduced by: Maileen Flores, Partner, Richtr Financial Studio

PANDORA BIO

At Pandora Biosciences we collect and explore genetic, phenotypic, and other multi-omic data from Africans, who represent the world's most genetically diverse population.

Our aim is to, (1) address the global gaps in access to genomic data from underrepresented groups, (2) ensure everyone has access to insights regarding their genetics and the link to wellness and disease, (3) use machine learning to derive novel insights regarding links between genetic data and disease, and to engage participants on these insights, and (4) to use these insights to build on our precision medicine platform, which aids in the diagnosis, management and identification of novel treatments for genetic disease. We work with partners in the biotech and pharma industries to drive more inclusive genetics R&D, and have an innovative benefit-sharing model that ensures that participants in research benefit financially from commercial products developed using their personal data.

FOUNDER

Aisha Pandor
aisha@pandorabiosciences.com

Co-founder and CEO. Entrepreneur with a PhD in molecular genetics, focused on human genetics and disease. Work on gene therapy for inherited retinal disorders has been published in peer-reviewed journals. Cofounded and scaled B2C venture SweepSouth across the African continent, raising tens of millions of dollars in venture funding, and serving hundreds of thousands of customers over 10 years. Awarded by Forbes Africa and the World Economic Forum for using technology to positively impact women on the African continent.

- Introduced by: Melina Vratny, Strategic Marketing Analyst, Nikon Instruments Inc

Track A – Therapeutic Pitch Session #2

Investor Q&A

Irene Blat, PhD
Senior Director, Search & Evaluation, Oncology, Servier

Shawna Frazier, PhD
Director, AbbVie Ventures

Karl Handelsman, MBA, MS
Managing Partner, Codon Capital

Chris Hoppe, MBA
VP, Engineered Biology, General Inception

Satoshi Konagai, MBA, MS
Senior Investment Manager, Astellas Venture Management LLC

Stefan Pflanz, PhD
Executive Director, Boehringer-Ingelheim Venture Fund USA

Sonia Maryam Setayesh, MS, PhD
Investment Partner, Civilization Ventures

Michel Streuli, PhD
CEO, Foundery Innovations

Quing Zhang, MD, MBA
Partner, LDV Partners

BioSuperior is developing therapeutics for the treatment of respiratory disease based on a unique technology platform.

Our first drug candidate is for the treatment of lung inflammation in preterm infants. This disease, known as Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia (BPD) is a serious unmet medical need that affects about 15,000 preterm infants and costs US Healthcare over $1B annually. Our drug prototype includes a new chemical entity that will also be useful in treating other lung diseases such as ARDS and COPD.

FOUNDER

S. Russ Lehrman, PhD
russ@bio-superior.com

Russ earned his doctorate from UW-Madison in Pharmaceutical Chemistry. As an NIH postdoc, he made frequent visits to Hoffmann La Roche to perform collaborative research. This ignited his passion for industrial science. Shortly after, Russ moved into industry and has contributed to the development of innovative treatments for macular degeneration, diabetes, and multiple sclerosis. More recently, Russ has been a consultant and entrepreneur – first helping to co-found SnapDNA and now as the founder of BioSuperior. He is a SPARK Advisor, and has served as an Adjunct Professor at KU–School of Pharmacy and the University of San Francisco.

ADVISORY TEAM

- Introduced by: Monica Alfaro Welling, Co-founder & Managing Director, Atheln, Inc.
- Fran Su, Marketing Strategy, Precision Oncology, Caris Life Sciences
- Dalia Rayes, Founder and CEO, BioLaunch Advisors
- Lon Ensler, Chief Financial Officer, Ziteo Medical
- Wouter Schul, Executive Director, Head of Global Program Management, BioMarin Pharmaceutical Inc.
- Thomas Lester, Consultant, InspireBio Consulting
- Michelle Manzo, Medical Affairs Population Health, Epilepsy and Rare Syndromes, UCB

BIOMED™

BIOMED is at the forefront of revolutionizing the healthcare industry, aiming to democratize access and eliminate the prevalent "health gap."

We are dedicated to ensuring that every individual, regardless of background or status, receives healthcare uniquely tailored to them. Through the BIOMED platform, we are redefining the future of medicine by aggregating comprehensive health data, aiming for a complete, real-time picture of each individual. This advancement ensures precise and personalized care based on an individual's circumstances, history, and condition.

In the face of alarming statistics, where most medications are either ineffective or harmful due to one-size-fits-all approaches, BIOMED is poised to change the narrative. The current mass production of medicine, which costs the U.S. Healthcare system $300 billion annually, is fraught with inefficiencies and stark under-representation of diverse groups. Our solution offers personalized medicine, utilizing state-of-the-art technologies such as 3D bioprinting, Big Data, DNA analysis, genetics (DNA), and advanced AI/ML models. With this, we aim to significantly improve patient health outcomes, reduce ineffective treatments, and ensure every individual receives medication tailored to their unique profile. At BIOMED, we understand the distinctiveness of each individual and are steadfast in our belief that their medication should reflect that uniqueness.

FOUNDER

Bobby D. Ntoya, MBA, CEO/Founder
bob@medibles.io

Bob, a University of Southern California Marshall MBA graduate, built and sold diverse, successful businesses, from tech startups to Consumer Product Goods companies over the past two decades. Gaining national recognition on ABC's Emmy-winning "Shark Tank" and as an Executive Producer for DRTV ads, his ventures have graced media outlets like ABC, CBS, The Atlantic, and The Los Angeles Times. Twice nominated "Business Man of the Year," Bob has collaborated with Fortune 100 giants such as Viacom Inc. (Nickelodeon), Disney, and Walmart. His mantra emphasizes growth, learning, and consistent action for success.

ADVISORY TEAM

- Introduced by: Joanne Dimitrakopoulos, Vice President of Commercial Marketing, DNA Script
- Rhonda Soest, Senior VP Commercial Operations, EyePromise/ZeaVision
- Adam Mendelsohn, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Executive Officer
- Teddy Johnson, Director of Technology Development, Institute of Translational Health Sciences
- Bert Lao, Counsel, Hogan Lovells
- Stephen Mariano, Global Vice President, EndoSurgical R&D, FUJIFILM Healthcare Americas Corporation
- Peter Weinstein, Chief Executive Officer, President, General Counsel, Emervax

BIODRIVE

Plants provide an inherently scalable system for biologics production that can achieve their synthesis without the need for complicated production facilities or toxic inputs and byproducts.

BioDrive is developing a proprietary genome editing platform that will allow for sustainable bioproduction of high-value molecules in plant tissue at a commercial scale. Receptor agonists for incretins are prohibitively expensive, difficult to synthesize, not shelf stable for long periods without refrigeration, and do not currently exist in an oral format. Our first target utilizing our genome engineering platform is a lower-cost incretin receptor agonist expressed and delivered in lettuce for increased bioavailability from oral delivery, increased scale of production, reduced processing complexity, and longer shelf life that will be optimized to address the growing weight loss market.

FOUNDER

Cory Henderson, PhD, CEO/Founder
cory.henderson@biodrive.io

Cory received his PhD in Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Biosciences from Pennsylvania State University in 2021 supported by a prestigious NSF graduate research fellowship. After leaving his postdoc at Rutgers University where he created gene drive mosquitoes to block malaria transmission, he realized that he could apply his unique skill set to plant systems to develop a vastly improved bio-production system. Cory has the ideal expertise and vision to lead BioDrive due to his experience in transgenic design, leadership of a diverse set of research and development teams, and drive to apply synthetic biology to solve social and industrial problems.

ADVISORY TEAM

- Introduced by: Christopher Hoppe, VP, Commercial Development, General Inception
- Sara Siddiqi, Vice President, Business Development and Corporate Strategy, Tarsus Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- Swaminathan Murugappan, Chief Medical Officer, Tizona Therapeutics, Inc.
- Kelly Nissen, Senior Associate, Alexandria Venture Investments
- Vandana Date, Strategic & Business Advisor, Self-employed
- Irene Fung, Senior Manager, Financial Planning Analysis, Intersect ENT, Inc.
- Balaji Vasudevan, Agrobioscience Chief Scientist, Viridian Seeds
- Gary Choy, Chief Executive Officer, f5 Therapeutics
- Madoo Varma, VP, Strategy & Business Development, DNA Script

endure bio

Endure Biotherapeutics ("Endure Bio"®) is developing engineered engraftable live biotherapeutics for metabolic diseases by genetically engineering human native bacteria to express therapeutic compounds.

Endure's advantage is its Engineered Native Bacteria (ENB) platform technology. Unlike other microbiome therapeutics, ENB-based biotherapeutics overcome the traditional challenges of first-generation products, allowing for engraftable knock-in function with infrequent administration, delivering potentially curative solutions that remain resident and endure the host environment.

The company has an initial focus on orphan disease applications, specifically targeting phenylketonuria (PKU), a 〉$2.4 billion market with significant unmet need. The broad applicability of our platform for larger indications such as colon cancer and Type 2 diabetes presents significant opportunities for partnerships with other companies to develop and commercialize.

FOUNDER

Mark S. Wilson, MBA, CEO
mwilson@endurebio.com

The company is led by Mark S. Wilson, Engr, MBA, Founder and founding CEO of MatriSys Bioscience, a leading skin microbiome therapeutics company. Mr. Wilson has 30 years of biopharmaceutical development experience including Hybritech, Pfizer Global R&D, and Halozyme Therapeutics where he brought in the $612 million deal with Hoffman La Roche, turning the company into a $7 billion valuation today.

ADVISORY TEAM

- Introduced by: Kevin Leach, Senior Vice President Scientific and Regulatory Affairs, Avance Clinical
- Caleb Bell, Venture Partner, Corundum Systems Biology
- Matthew Metz, Strategic Alliances Director, Natera
- Masoud Mokhtarani, Clinical Development/CMO Consultant, MOK BioPharma Consulting Inc.
- Crystal Hsu, Engagement Manager, Back Bay Life Science Advisors
- Susan Krumplitsch, Life Science Patent Litigation Partner, DLA Piper
- Joe Markunas, Partner, CFOs2GO
- Andrea Loewendorf, CEO & Founder, ImmunoVENtion
- Alexander Varond, Partner, Goodwin

Track B – FAST Kansai Pitch Session

Investor Q&A

Stuart Hwang, PhD
Venture Partner,
Remiges Ventures

Susan Lacey, PhD
Senior Director
Integrative Sciences
Oncology,
Bristol Myers Squibb

Kazu Matsuda, MBA
CEO, KORTUC

Sunil Maulik, PhD
Azca Inc., Partner

Christoph Pittius, PhD
SVP, Research
Business Development,
City of Hope

Lesley Stolz, PhD
Vice President,
Early Innovation
Partnering, Johnson &
Johnson Innovation

Paola Torre, PhD
Investment Member,
Life Science Angels

RegCell

RegCell is developing stable/functional epigenetically modified Tregs: a novel therapeutic platform and frontier in Autoimmune and Transplantation Therapy.

Founded based upon world-class scientific leadership, the platform demonstrated efficacy across multiple disease areas, especially auto-immune diseases. First target indication for Proof of Concept in humans will be the rare disease Pemphigus Vulgaris, an ideal disease model for assessing safety and autoantibody suppression with a phase I trial in Japan planned for 2024. RegCell's significant competitive advantage lies in its ability to address a wide range of pathogenic antigens, including unknown antigens. The manufacturing process is efficient and does not require complex genetic manipulation. Underlining its robustness, RegCell's approach showcases stability even under aggressive inflammatory conditions. Notably, the stable and functionally enhanced Epigen-Tregs persist in various disease models, achieving infectious tolerance. RegCell is currently raising an extended Seed Round. Total funds raised to date $10m.

PRESENTER

Daisuke Ishikawa, PhD
Director, Chief Operating Officer
daisuke.ishikawa@regcell.jp

SCIENTIFIC FOUNDER

Prof. Shimon Sakaguchi

Distinguished Professor at Osaka University and Professor at Kyoto University, world-renowned for discovery of regulatory T-Cells in 1995; Awarded Canada Gairdner International Award (2015), Robert Koch Award (2020).

FAST ADVISORY TEAM

- Introduced by: Yuko Terasawa, Principal Consultant, biomedwoRx, Life Science Consulting
- Krishna Alamneni, PhD, Chief Development Officer, Concarlo Therapeutics
- Chimmy Salgado, CMC cell therapy leader (former GSK), Head of Analytics at Exmoor Pharma
- Dalia Rayes, Founder and CEO, BioLaunch Advisors, commercialization and portfolio strategy
- Takeshi Sumida, Senior Counsel, Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP

ImmuniT Research Inc.

First adjuvant cell therapy as part of tumor immunotherapy.

Scientific evidence shows that Th7R, a novel immune cell cluster and CD4 T-cell subset, is central to anti-tumor immunity and can be used as a marker to predict prognosis of patients treated with Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors (ICI). Problem of ICI is the low rate of treatment efficacy, for example in lung cancer 15-20% which will be the first target indication. There are 5,500 plus clinical combination trials with ICIs, many have failed. Patients with more Th7R cells respond well to combination therapy with anti-CTLA-1 and anti-PD-1 antibodies (published in cancer research; 82(24) December 15, 2022. The goal is to establish a new company in the US/CA for immune cell adjuvant therapy and establishing R&D collaborations. ImmuniT is raising Seed funds to execute in vivo experiments and prepare for clinical phase I trial.

PRESENTER

Akio Ametani, PhD
CSO / Director of R&D Division

akio@imtr.jp

With over 40+ years of researching at various universities and non-profit and for-profit research institutes, he has established a strong network of professional relationships. Highly regarded by peers both in Japan as well as overseas, he brings strong leadership, credibility, and industry connection.

Masafumi Yasukochi, PhD
Director, Chief Executive Officer

masafumi@imtr.jp

After working on R&D and marketing at Otsuka Pharmaceutical, he participated in the launch of the intellectual property department of Saitama Medical University. He founded Immunity Research as a university-launched venture company and he is familiar with IP strategy for drug discovery.

FAST ADVISORY TEAM

- Introduced by: Yuko Terasawa, Principal Consultant, biomedwoRx, Life Science Consulting
- Michael Nowak, General Partner, Nowak Ventures
- Michael Guderyon, PhD, Process Development Scientist II, MSAT
- Ambreen Farook, Partnerships and CorporateLicensing leader (former Halozyme, Pyxis Oncology, Pfizer)
- JD Roth, Managing Director Prima Capital
- Uma Lakshmipathy, PhD, Site Head of Pantheon Cell & Gene Translational Services, Thermo Fisher

FerroptoCure
フェロトーシス創薬で病気を治す

Developing the World's 1st to market Ferroptosis inducing Anti-cancer therapy.

Ferroptosis is Cell death by oxidative stress. Cancer cells, like any cell type depend on Anti-Oxidant System for survival. Ferroptocure is developing the first Ferroptosis-inducing oncology drug by simultaneously inhibiting xCT+ALDH. xCT and ALDH are collaborating in suppressing oxidative stress (published in Cancer Science, 2019). FerroptoCure discovered two existing compounds with strong evidence of efficacy in colon cancer cell lines and other solid tumors including Triple Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC) without serious side effects, unlike traditional cancer treatments. Repurposing existing drugs for effective therapies especially in refractory cancers has been discussed in many papers globally including NIH publications taking advantage of 505b2 regulatory pathway which allows accelerated time to market by using existing safety documentation, bridging studies for the new indication and 7 years of market exclusivity in the US for an orphan indication like TNBC. FerroptoCure is currently raising funds to conduct a "bridging clinical trial" for TNBC in Japan for the lead drug combination FC001. A provisional PCT and Japanese patent has been filed in 2020 for the combination of Sulfasalazine (approved for Ulcerative Colitis) and Oxyfedrine (approved for Angina Pectoris), FC001. The lead candidate FC001 is also in development for Companion Animals. Two additional pipeline candidates are part of FerroptoCure's portfolio: FC002, chemically improved existing drug combination through Drug Delivery System (DDS) for solid tumors and FC003, novel original compound for solid tumors.

PRESENTER

Yuji Otsuki, MD, PhD
Fujita Health University, Keio University Researcher
uzotk0128@gmail.com

Director, Chief Executive Officer and Co-founder, Dr. Otsuki was a thoracic surgeon having experience treating many cancer patients with poor prognosis. However, in 2016 he became a researcher of cancer biology because he was shocked that the current treatments were not able to cure the patients with refractory cancers. Based on the research findings he developed the new anti-cancer therapy and established FerroptoCure.

FAST ADVISORY TEAM

- Introduced by: Yuko Terasawa, Principal Consultant, biomedwoRx, Life Science Consulting
- James Feeney, President, ApoConsult, Global Partnering & Corporate Licensing Leader /Oncology
- Shinji Ogino, PhD, Director, Strategy and Operations, Xyphos Biosciences, an Astellas company
- Jonard Valdoz, PhD, Head of In Vitro Development, Frontier Bio
- Kevin Leach, PhD, SVP, Scientific & Regulatory Affairs, Avance Clinical
- Ron Carozza, PhD, Executive VP, North American Operations, Avance Clinical

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California Life Sciences' entrepreneur initiatives connect life science startups to the resources needed to help them effectively scale their ventures. Our programs create a platform for accessing business partners, investors, foundations and patient advocacy organizations, peers, and other industry leaders.

CLSFAST
FOSTERING INNOVATION

FAST California provides early-stage first-time founders of disruptive innovative life science technology companies with a customized advisory program to perfect their business models, assess strategic focus, maximize IP and help develop a milestone and scale-up plan to exit. A group of curated advisors, each with deep domain expertise, will work with them over twelve weeks to build a compelling commercialization strategy and prepare them for an Innovation Showcase to a curated audience of potential investors and collaboration partners. The FAST program takes place twice a year and promises to build a strong life sciences community of innovators, advisors, and investors throughout California that will support early-stage innovation (Pre-Seed to Series A) and attract the attention of investors and strategics globally.

Now accepting applications for our Spring 2024 FAST cohort. Deadline January 6.

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