

## CREATING THE CHICAGO PIPELINE

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Moderator: Andrew Mazar (NU, Entrepreneur-in-residence)

Panel Members: Joe Barrett (Senior Director, Corporate Technology Development, Baxter),  
Kevin Haug (Director, New Frontier Science, Takeda), Steve Kuemmerle (Head, Venture  
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The Chicago area encompasses a wealth of resources that could be mobilized for the discovery and development of new therapeutics. Several large pharmaceutical companies including Abbott, Baxter, Takeda, and Astellas have a significant corporate footprint in Chicago and there are several large academic centers that pursue dynamic basic research with potential therapeutic implications. Yet, despite this fertile ground for new drug discovery and development, there is a disconnect between the early research carried out in universities and moving this research into drug development and pharmaceutical company pipelines. Over the past several years, Chicago area universities have begun to formalize their internal project pipelines and have begun to identify creative ways to advance novel targets and potential therapeutic compounds toward pre-clinical development. Our panel, titled Creating the Chicago Pipeline, will attempt to create a dialogue between the various pharmaceutical and academic stakeholders that are interested in seeing novel therapeutic concepts created in Chicago advance toward development and ultimate commercialization. This discussion will examine ways that Chicago academic centers and area pharmaceutical companies and investors interested in funding spin-out companies can begin to bridge the gaps that currently prevent more basic research from being advanced toward the clinic. Can academia advance projects in a systematic and milestone-driven way to sufficiently derisk these projects in a way that increases pharma and investor interest? Are pharma and investors willing to look earlier and share some of the early stage risk? Are there funding solutions that can support and accelerate this early stage work independent of government grants? Can academia and pharma begin a dialogue on projects of mutual interest where pharma can provide input on milestones and deliverables even before IP is created and can academia benefit from this early value creation? Will this make technology transfer more effective? Finally, what are the existing resources that can assist with these processes and what resources need to be developed and put into place that would benefit all of the Chicago area academic institutions? Our panel contains a mix of pharmaceutical leaders, investment leaders and academic translation stakeholders and should provide the basis for a productive and meaningful discussion on how we as a community create the Chicago pipeline.