

Invited Speakers



John Leonard, MD

President & CEO, Intellia Therapeutics

Speaking at: 8:45 am - Opening remarks

After a 30-year career in pharmaceutical R&D, Dr. John Leonard retired from his position as Chief Scientific Officer and Senior Vice President of Research and Development at AbbVie in 2013. The following year, he returned to his life's passion and joined the Intellia team to make CRISPR/Cas9 technology into a therapeutic reality. Dr. Leonard is among the leading R&D executives who have led breakthrough medicines through their discovery, development and launch to become blockbuster drugs, including HIV protease inhibitors Norvir® and Kaletra® and all-time worldwide top-selling drug Humira®.

Introduction by

Julia Monfrini Peev

Partner, PACE Healthcare Capital



Robert Langer, ScD

Institute Professor, MIT • Co-Founder, Moderna Therapeutics

Speaking at: 2:00 pm - Invited Talk (Virtual)

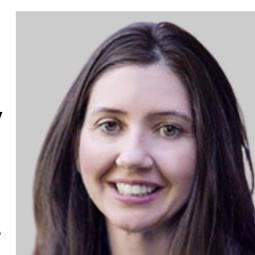
2:35 pm - Panel 2: Commercializing academic science

Dr. Robert Langer is one of nine Institute Professors at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He has written over 1,500 articles, which have been cited over 401,000 times. His patents have licensed or sublicensed to over 400 companies; he is a co-Founder of a number of companies, including Moderna. Dr. Langer served as Chairman of the FDA's Science Board (its highest advisory board) from 1999-2002. His over 220 awards include both the United States National Medal of Science and the United States National Medal of Technology and Innovation, and the Charles Stark Draper Prize (often called the Engineering Nobel Prize).

Introduction by

Nancy Sullivan

CEO & Managing Director, Illinois Ventures



Invited Speakers

**Anil Vasudevan, PhD***Executive Director, AbbVie***Speaking at:** 3:40 pm - Invited Talk: Developing early-stage assets

Dr. Anil Vasudevan is currently an Executive Director at AbbVie, where he is the Head of Technology and Therapeutic Platforms. In this role, he has responsibilities for a range of Chemistry and Chemical Biology platforms. He is also the global head of the Antibody Drug Conjugate and Protein Degradation Platform Teams.

Introduction by

Thelma Tennant, PhD*Assistant VP, Corporate Engagement, University of Chicago***Michael Frerichs***Illinois State Treasurer***Speaking at:** 4:15 pm - Fireside Chat: Investing in Illinois Biotech

Michael Frerichs was first elected Illinois State Treasurer on Nov. 4, 2014. He has since been re-elected twice and started his third term in January 2023. In Illinois, the Treasurer is the state's Chief Investment and Banking Officer, actively managing approximately \$52 billion. Under Frerichs' tenure, the office has earned more than \$1.5 billion for taxpayers through safe, smart investing. Frerichs was unanimously elected president of the bipartisan National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers in 2022. As vice chair of the Illinois State Board of Investment, Frerichs manages over \$23 billion in pension assets for state employees.

Introduction by

Paul Burton, JD, MBA*Managing Partner, 2Flo Ventures*



Panel 1: Biotech capital formation and Midwestern hubs

9:15 am, Main Stage



John Flavin, MBA

Founder & CEO, Portal Innovations

John Flavin is the Founder and CEO of Portal Innovations, a premier venture development engine that builds and invests in life sciences ventures. Flavin has a track record of bringing valuable corporate, academic, and civic enterprises from concept to reality, including Advanced Life Sciences, MediChem, MATTER and the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of Chicago. Flavin is co-Founder and Chairman of Pyxis Oncology (NASDAQ: PYXS), Executive Chair of ClostraBio, and Board member at Grove Biopharma. Over his career, Flavin has successfully raised more than \$425 million of private and philanthropic capital and three NASDAQ IPO's.



Vikram Chaudhery, PhD

Co-Founder & COO, General Inception

Dr. Vikram Chaudhery is co-Founder, President, and COO of General Inception. He has more than 15 years of experience as a business executive, life sciences investor, management consultant, and entrepreneur across life sciences. Since 2019, Dr. Chaudhery has also been a partner at Genoa Ventures. Dr. Chaudhery earned his PhD in electrical engineering and biomedical instrumentation at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.



Daniel Gottlieb, MBA

Associate Director, Broadview Ventures

Daniel Gottlieb is Associate Director at Broadview Ventures. His prior experience includes roles in corporate venture capital, business development, marketing, and strategy at Proteon Therapeutics, Abbott Vascular, and Guidant. Gottlieb holds a BA from the University of Pennsylvania and an MBA from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth. He has board roles at Cardiosense, Nyra Medical, XII Medical, and CroiValve, and prior board roles at Puzzle Medical, Nido Surgical (acquired), CardioMEMS (acquired), and Neovasc (acquired).

Panel 1: Biotech capital formation and Midwestern hubs

9:15 am, Main Stage



Stephen Squinto, PhD

Chief Investment Officer, JP Morgan Life Sciences Private Capital

Dr. Stephen Squinto is an entrepreneur and biotechnology industry veteran with more than 30 years in drug development and more than 8 years as a venture capital investor. He is currently the Chief Investment Officer for the newly formed JP Morgan Life Sciences Private Capital organization. He has contributed to multiple drug approvals in the US, EU, and other major global markets. In November 2014, Dr. Squinto retired as the Executive VP and Chief Global Operations Office at Alexion Pharmaceuticals, where he guided the discovery, development and commercial launches of Soliris and Stensiq. Prior to co-founding Alexion, Dr. Squinto helped build the drug discovery program at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals.



Anya Schiess, MBA

Managing Partner, JP Morgan Life Sciences Private Capital

Anya Schiess is co-Managing Partner of the LSPC platform, which leverages the global scale, robust healthcare service ecosystem and healthcare data intelligence of JP Morgan to invest in life sciences and healthcare companies. Prior to joining LSPC, Anya was a Founder and General Partner of Healthy Ventures, an early-stage venture capital firm that invests in healthcare and life science technology. Previously, Schiess was a venture capitalist at Thomas, McNerney & Partners where her focus included biopharmaceuticals, medical devices, and genomic technology. Schiess has co-founded, helped build, or served on the boards of over 30 companies. Prior to investing, Schiess led strategy and business development for Cardinal Health and held several sales & marketing leadership roles at Medtronic. She has launched neurological, cardiovascular, and cardiac rhythm therapies around the world. Schiess earned a B.A. cum laude from Princeton University and an M.B.A. with honors from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.



Panel 2: Commercializing academic science - what works

2:35 pm, Main Stage



Michal Preminger, PhD, MBA

Regional Head, Johnson & Johnson Innovation, East North America

Dr. Michal Preminger is Head of Johnson & Johnson Innovation LLC, East North America, which builds, advances, and manages the External R&D portfolio of co-investments spanning across pharmaceutical, consumer health and medical devices. Previously, Dr. Preminger served as the Executive Director of Harvard University’s Office of Technology Development (OTD) Harvard Medical School site, where she was responsible for development and commercialization of technologies emerging from research at HMS laboratories for new company formation, and for the strategy and execution of all industry collaborations. Prior to that role, Dr. Preminger held a number of senior business and technology development leadership positions in the biotech and tech industries and co-founded a biotechnology startup. Dr. Preminger has served on several Scientific Advisory Boards and Boards of Directors. She holds an MSc and Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from the Weizmann Institute of Science, an MBA from INSEAD, Fontainebleau, France, and a BA in Medicine from Hadassah Medical School, Hebrew University, Jerusalem.



Shana Kelley, PhD

President, Chan Zuckerberg Biohub Chicago

Dr. Shana Kelley is the President of the Chan Zuckerberg Biohub Chicago and the Neena B. Schwartz Professor at Northwestern in the Departments of Chemistry, Biomedical Engineering, and Biochemistry & Molecular Genetics. Dr. Kelley is a founder of four startup companies: GeneOhm Sciences (acquired by Becton Dickinson in 2005), Xagenic Inc. (acquired by General Atomics in 2017), cTRL Therapeutics (founded in 2019) and Arma Biosciences (founded in 2021).

Panel 2: Commercializing academic science - what works

2:35 pm, Main Stage



Steve Elmore, PhD

Vice President, AbbVie

Dr. Steve Elmore has over 25 years of experience in biopharma focused on discovering and advancing new therapeutics to clinical development. He is currently Vice President, Small Molecule Therapeutics & Platform Technologies at AbbVie. This highly multidisciplinary global team integrates chemistry, biology, and technology platforms to drive the AbbVie pipeline of small molecule programs from early exploratory research through clinical candidacy and beyond.



William Slatterly

Partner, Deerfield Management

William Slatterly is a Partner on the Therapeutics team at Deerfield. Previously, Slatterly was a senior healthcare analyst at Amerindo Investment Advisors, where he oversaw biotechnology investments. He has held various positions in research including those at National Medical Enterprises, Johnson & Johnson, and HMSS. Slatterly is the Chairman of Gilda's Club New York City, a non-profit organization supporting cancer patients and their families. He holds an undergraduate degree in Biology and Chemistry from State University of New York at Albany and completed graduate coursework in Immunology at Rutgers University.



Lightning Talks - Morning Session

10:45 am, Main Stage

Introductions by

Lisa Dhar, PhD

Associate VP for Innovation, Northwestern University



Lev Becker, PhD

Co-Founder, Onchilles Pharma •

Associate Professor, University of Chicago

Dr. Lev Becker uses a multi-disease approach to develop a comprehensive understanding of macrophage biology and translates this mechanistic understanding to develop biologics and small molecules across a spectrum of human disease including cancer, anti-cancer immunity, and atherosclerosis. He is a co-Founder of Onchilles Pharma, MacroLogic, Maponos Therapeutics, and rMark Bio.



Alexis Demonbreun, PhD

CSO & Co-Founder, Ikaika Therapeutics •

Associate Professor, Northwestern University

Dr. Alexis Demonbreun's research focuses on understanding the genetic mechanisms of myopathies and using these genetic signals to drive therapy development. She holds multiple technological patents for the treatment of muscle membrane injury. Ikaika Therapeutics develops immunotherapies for fibrotic diseases such as muscular dystrophy.



Brad Merrill, PhD

Co-Founder, SyntaxBio •

Associate Professor, University of Illinois Chicago

Dr. Brad Merrill has contributed to the understanding of how transcription factors and the Wnt/beta-catenin signaling pathway control properties of stem cells. In 2021, he co-founded Syntax Bio, which has developed a unique sequential genetics technology for programming stem cells toward therapeutic uses. Syntax Bio has raised over \$9M as a seed stage company and is pursuing its next stage of development.

Lightning Talks - Afternoon Session

3:40 pm, Main Stage

Introductions by

Jami Ellis*Vice President of New Product Planning, Horizon Therapeutics***John Rogers, PhD***Co-Founder, Sibel Heath • Co-Founder, Rhaeos •
Professor, Northwestern University*

Dr. John Rogers is Director of the Querrey Simpson Institute for Bioelectronics. He has co-authored nearly 900 papers and he is co-inventor on more than 100 patents. He is co-Founder of several biotech companies including Sibel Health, Epicore Biosystems, Rhaeos, Neurolux and Wearifi. His research has been recognized by many awards such as the Benjamin Franklin Medal and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

**Allison Squires, PhD***Assistant Professor, University of Chicago • Institute for
Quantum Sensing for Biophysics and Bioengineering (QuBBE)*

Dr. Allison Squires leads an interdisciplinary research group studying biomolecular systems at the single-molecule level. Her labs engineers advanced sensing platforms to deliver novel manipulation and high-precision spectroscopic measurement capabilities. QuBBE is an NSF Quantum Leap Challenges Institute that aims to create quantum measurements and imaging systems to extract novel information from biology.

**Nora Vásquez-Laslop, PhD***Research Professor, University of Illinois Chicago*

Dr. Nora Vásquez-Laslop's research interests are elucidating fundamental principles of protein synthesis and ribosome function and understanding the mechanism of action of ribosome-targeting antibiotics and induction of antibiotic resistance genes.