



BioBridge Breakthrough Summit

CONNECTING DISEASE BIOLOGY WITH BREAKTHROUGH TECHNOLOGIES TO ADVANCE HUMAN HEALTH

OCTOBER 3RD, 2026

Crowne Plaza Hotel
1221 Chess Drive, Foster City, CA



CBA Mission

To Promote Networking

Serve life science professionals' interest in the Bay Area and facilitate networking between professionals locally and globally

To Promote Awareness

Enhance public awareness of the progress and development of the life science industry

To Update and Educate

Facilitate a better understanding of key trends in life science as well as encouraging scientific innovations to address unmet medical needs

To Foster Collaboration

Establish active collaborations with other organizations in areas of mutual interest

CBA Membership and Benefits

- Networking opportunities for professional development
 - Connections with professionals with shared technical interests
 - Formation of new business partnerships
- Free or discounted admission to career development seminars and workshops, and social events like happy hours and annual summer picnic
 - Ability to stay ahead with current knowledge and relevant skills
- Discounted admission to the annual BioBridge Breakthrough Summit
- Access career resources through our job posting portal
- Eligibility to become a board member

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State of the Association

President's Message

Welcome to the BioBridge Breakthrough Summit (BBS) 2026, hosted by the Chinese Bioscience Association (CBA). Today we gather at a pivotal moment for biology, AI, and engineering — and for the innovators driving these advances.

Community and Momentum

In 2026, CBA continued to serve as a scientific and professional home for the Bay Area bioscience community. Our Lunar New Year Social, Career Workshop, Spring Hike, and AI Fireside Chat strengthened connection and purpose across our membership, culminating in a summer gathering that reaffirmed the value of community in scientific progress.

Insight and Collaboration

This year's summit showcases the forces shaping our field — tech-bio convergence, cardiometabolic innovation, AI-enabled drug discovery, immune regulation, and Treg biology. Afternoon sessions highlight biotech innovation, rapid-fire AI talks, and a panel on the AI startup ecosystem, followed by closing remarks, a raffle, and a networking reception designed to spark new collaborations.

Our Mission

BBS 2026 reflects CBA's commitment to advancing science, supporting emerging innovators, and building bridges across disciplines and institutions. We extend our sincere appreciation to our speakers, chairs, volunteers, sponsors, and attendees for your engagement and contributions.

Thank you for being part of today's summit. May the conversations here inspire new ideas, partnerships, and possibilities.

Warm regards,
Yu-Tzu Tai, PhD
2026 CBA President



Welcome Remarks

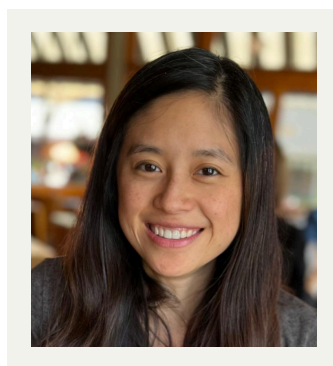
It is our great pleasure to invite you to join us at our inaugural BioBridge Breakthrough Summit (BBS)! As CBA marks its 28th year, we are proud to continue our tradition of bringing together experts and leaders across academia, biotech, pharma, and investment to foster connections, exchange ideas, and advance scientific innovation. This year's program reflects that tradition, bringing together an exceptional group of speakers from diverse fields to explore how advances across disciplines are reshaping the path from biological discovery to new medicines.

We are honored to feature three distinguished keynote speakers representing different perspectives across this ecosystem. We begin with Marc Tessier-Lavigne of Xaira Therapeutics, who will draw on his experience in neuroscience research to explore how AI and emerging technologies can reshape the future of biological discovery and drug development. We will then hear from Philip Tagari of insitro, who is exploring how AI and computational approaches are reshaping the drug discovery process. Last but not least, Joe Jimenez of Aditum Bio will share his insights on innovative approaches to translate breakthrough science into new medicines.

We are also privileged to hear from Brandon Ason of Merck, Hank Mansbach of 89bio, and Danny Chou of Stanford University, who will explore mechanisms and emerging therapeutic strategies in cardiovascular and metabolic diseases. Tangsheng Yi of Gilead Sciences, Weiwen Deng of Amgen, and Brian Weist of Gilead Sciences will highlight new approaches to Treg biology and immune regulation. The afternoon's AI Innovation Flash Talks will feature James Zou, Ash Alizadeh, Ci Chu, and Le Cong, bringing together perspectives on AI agents, liquid biopsies, virtual cells, and AI-enabled precision therapeutics. A closing panel with these innovators and Wen-Tse Tseng of AllianceBernstein will examine the evolving intersection of AI and the biotech startup ecosystem.

We hope this conference provides a forum not only for sharing scientific advances, but also for fostering connections and sparking conversations that will shape the next generation of breakthrough technologies. On behalf of CBA and the BBS organizing team, we thank our speakers, session chairs and moderators, sponsors, volunteers, and attendees for contributing to this year's program.

Jia Jun Chia & Chi-Ming (Kevin) Li
2026 BioBridge Breakthrough Summit Co-Chairs



Conference Agenda

Opening		
8:00 - 8:30	Registration, Networking	All
8:30 - 8:35	Welcome & Introduction	Yu-Tzu Tai (CBA President)
Keynote Session I		
8:35 - 8:40	Welcome Remarks, Introduction	Chi-Ming Li (BBS 2026 Co-Chair)
8:40 - 9:25	<i>Reimagining Drug Discovery and Development with AI</i>	Marc Tessier-Lavigne CEO, Xaira Therapeutics
Session 1: Cardiovascular and Metabolic Diseases Mechanisms, Risk, and Emerging Therapeutic Strategies		
9:25 - 9:30	Welcome Remarks, Introduction	Session Chair: Songli Wang (CBA Vice President)
9:30 - 9:50	<i>Targeting Modulated VSMCs in Atherosclerosis via FAP-Directed Immunotherapy</i>	Brandon Ason Executive Director, Merck
9:50 - 10:10	<i>The Pegozafermin Journey from IND to Global Phase 3 Program</i>	Hank Mansbach CMO, 89Bio
10:10 - 10:30	<i>Check and Brake: A New Era of Insulin Action Control</i>	Danny Chou Associate Professor, Stanford University
10:30 - 10:45	Coffee Break, Networking	
Keynote Session II		
10:45 - 10:50	Welcome Remarks, Introduction	Songli Wang (CBA Vice President)
10:50 - 11:35	<i>(Re)Building Drug Discovery with AI</i>	Philip Tagari CSO, insitro
Session 2: Treg Biology and Immune Regulation Maintaining Immune Balance in Health and Disease		
11:35 - 11:40	Welcome Remarks, Introduction	Session Chair: Chung-Ming (CM) Hsieh
11:40 - 12:00	<i>Novel Tolerogenic Biologics for Chronic Inflammatory Diseases</i>	Tangsheng Yi Executive Director, Gilead Sciences
12:00 - 12:20	<i>Selectivity, Safety, and Tolerance: New Insights from Treg-Biased IL-2 Therapeutics</i>	Weiwen Deng Scientific Director, Amgen
12:20 - 12:40	<i>Targeting Tumor Tregs: A Translational Journey from CCR8 Biology to Clinical Proof-of-Mechanism</i>	Brian Weist Principal Scientist II, Gilead Sciences
12:40 - 1:40	Lunch, Networking	



Keynote Session III		
1:40 - 1:45	Welcome Remarks, Introduction	Jia Jun Chia (BBS 2026 Co-Chair)
1:45 - 2:30	Translating Breakthrough Science into New Medicines through Innovative Funding Models	Joe Jimenez Co-Founder & Managing Director, Aditum Bio
Session 3: AI Innovation Flash Talks Innovation, Translation, and the Future of Bioscience		
2:30 - 2:35	Welcome Remarks, Introduction	Session Chairs: Davina Chen (CBA Sponsorship Director) & Ingrid Ou (CBA Vice President)
2:35 - 2:50	The Virtual Biotech of AI Agents	James Zou Associate Professor, Stanford University, School of Medicine
2:50 - 3:05	Gleaning Signal in the Noise: AI/ML-Driven Liquid Biopsies	Ash Alizadeh Professor, Stanford University
3:05 - 3:20	What Does It Take to Build a Virtual Cell?	Ci Chu Chief Discovery Officer, Xaira Therapeutics
3:20 - 3:35	Programming Biology: Building Foundation Model and AI Co-scientists for Accelerating End-to-End R&D	Le Cong Associate Professor, Stanford University, School of Medicine Co-Founder, Phylo and Acelegen
3:35 - 3:50	Coffee Break, Networking	
Session 4: Panel Discussion AI and the Startup Ecosystem		
3:50 - 4:50	Panel Discussion	Moderators: Davina Chen & Ingrid Ou Ash Alizadeh Professor, Stanford University Ci Chu Chief Discovery Officer, Xaira Therapeutics Le Cong Associate Professor, Stanford University School of Medicine; Co-Founder, Phylo and Acelegen Wen-Tse Tseng SVP, AllianceBernstein James Zou Stanford University
4:50 - 5:00	Closing Remarks, Raffle	Yu-Tzu Tai (CBA President), Jia Jun Chia (BBS Co-Chair)
5:00 - Close	Happy Hour, Networking	



Keynote Speaker: Marc Tessier-Lavigne, PhD

Co-Founder, Chairman & CEO at Xaira Therapeutics



Marc Tessier-Lavigne is co-founder, Chairman & CEO of Xaira Therapeutics. Previously, he held executive positions in the private sector at Genentech, where he was Executive Vice President for research and Chief Scientific Officer, and in the academic sector, where he served as president of The Rockefeller University and then of Stanford University, where he remains professor of Biology (on leave). He also served previously on the faculty of the University of California, San Francisco, and was an investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. A Rhodes Scholar, Dr. Tessier-Lavigne has been a leader in understanding mechanisms that direct the wiring of the brain, and has helped elucidate mechanisms of neurodegeneration. He is the recipient of numerous scientific awards, including the 2020 Gruber Neuroscience Prize, and has been elected to multiple scientific societies, including the US National Academy of Sciences and US National Academy of Medicine; he is also an Officer of the Order

of Canada, one of that country's highest honors. Dr. Tessier-Lavigne has co-founded two neuroscience startups, Renovis and Denali, and served on the boards of Agios, Regeneron, Pfizer, Juno and Denali.

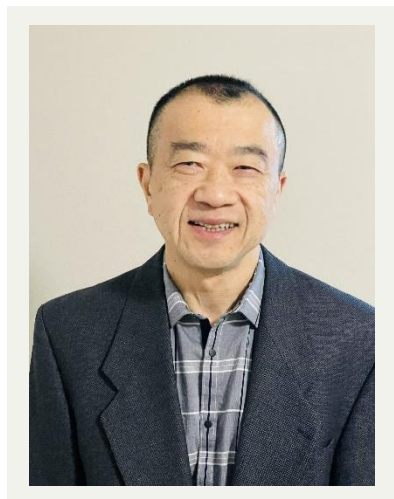
Reimagining Drug Discovery and Development with AI

The essential process of discovering and developing new drugs for unmet medical needs remains profoundly inefficient: on average making a new medicine takes 12-15 years and costs \$4B, and 90% of drugs entering clinical trials fail. The promise of AI is that, with enough data of the right kinds, we should be able to create AI models that improve each step of the process, increasing success rates, shrinking timelines and decreasing costs. This presentation will discuss progress being made in executing on this exciting vision, the challenges that remain, and what it will take to overcome them.



Session 1: Cardiovascular and Metabolic Diseases (Mechanisms, Risk and Emerging Therapeutic Strategies)

Session Chair: Songli Wang, PhD Founder & CEO at BioEdge Global



Songli Wang is a biotechnology leader dedicated to advancing medical science and improving health. With expertise in molecular biology, pharmacology, and genetics, Dr. Wang has spent over twenty years developing treatments for neurodegeneration, neuroinflammation, and metabolic disorders. Formerly an Executive Director at Amgen, Dr. Wang led research teams and supported innovative therapies.

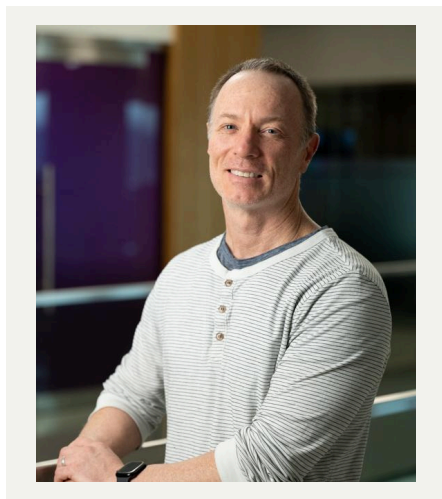
Currently, Dr. Wang is Founder and CEO of BioEdge Global, a consulting firm helping biotech and pharmaceutical companies discover and develop new medicines. Wang's work connects scientific breakthroughs with practical medical solutions, resulting in publications and collaborations across academia and industry.

Dr. Wang holds a Ph.D. in Pharmacology from the University of Pennsylvania and is active in multiple scientific societies, demonstrating ongoing leadership and teamwork in science and healthcare.



Brandon Ason, PhD

Executive Director at Merck



Brandon earned his doctorate in Biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and completed postdoctoral fellowships at the Hubrecht Institute in the Netherlands and the University of California, San Francisco. He joined Sirna following its acquisition by Merck, where he built strong collaborations within the dyslipidemia group and developed deep expertise in cardiovascular biology.

He subsequently spent 14 years at Amgen leading cardiovascular drug discovery programs and established key collaborations with academic partners to advance our understanding of gene-regulatory networks driving inflammation-induced cardiac injury and atherosclerosis.

He is currently an Executive Director at Merck, where he leads strategic efforts to build and advance a portfolio of first-in-class therapeutics to treat cardiovascular, renal and respiratory diseases. Brandon is recognized for his ability to translate emerging biology into impactful therapeutic programs and for leveraging advanced omics approaches to accelerate drug discovery.

Targeting Modulated VSMCs in Atherosclerosis via FAP Directed Immunotherapy

Atherosclerosis remains a major cause of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality despite effective lipid lowering therapies highlighting the need for treatments that address lipid independent mechanisms of disease. Using single cell and spatial profiling of human coronary arteries, we identified modulated vascular smooth muscle cells as a cell state enriched for genetic risk associated with coronary artery disease. Fibroblast activation protein (FAP) emerged as a selective surface marker of this cell state and was localized to the intima of both human and mouse atherosclerotic plaques. Spatial and in vitro analyses revealed interactions between FAP+ modulated smooth muscle cells and lipid laden macrophages within the plaque microenvironment. Targeted depletion of FAP+ cells using a FAP directed bispecific T cell engager reduced atherosclerotic burden in mice. These findings identify a disease associated vascular cell state that may provide a new, lipid independent therapeutic target for atherosclerosis.



Hank Mansbach, MD

Chief Medical Officer at 89Bio



Hank Mansbach, MD is a biotech leader with nearly 30 years of experience developing and commercializing transformative medicines in multiple therapeutic areas. Most recently he was the Chief Medical Officer at 89bio. Hank joined 89bio shortly after the company was founded and was the R&D leader for its growth from a private, venture-backed start-up to a publicly traded midsize biotech that was ultimately acquired by Roche/Genentech in 2025. He was responsible for strategic design and rapid execution of pegozafermin's innovative clinical development plan from first-in-human testing to an extensive global phase 3 program in MASH and severe hypertriglyceridemia.

During prior leadership positions at both Medivation (acquired by Pfizer in 2017) and Ultragenyx, Hank gained unique experience as the head of medical affairs responsible for building the department from scratch to support each company's transition from development stage to commercial stage. He started his career at GlaxoWellcome/GSK where he supported global drug development programs in numerous neurological diseases and provided medical expertise for commercialization of Imitrex (sumatriptan), a first-in-class therapy for migraine.

Hank received his BA from Yale University, MD from Duke University School of Medicine and completed his residency training in neurology at University of Michigan. He was a practicing neurologist at Henry Ford Health Systems before joining industry.

The Pegozafermin Journey from IND to Global Phase 3 Program

Pegozafermin is a long-acting FGF21 analog in phase 3 for MASH and severe hypertriglyceridemia. The talk will describe how 89bio was formed to develop pegozafermin and how we successfully executed the program from IND to multiple global phase 3 studies. Topics related to the build out of 89bio itself and impact of the external environment on the program and company will also be discussed. The talk will conclude with the acquisition of 89bio by Roche/Genentech in 2025.



Danny Chou, PhD

Associate Professor at Stanford University



Danny Chou is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and by courtesy, of Chemical & Systems Biology at Stanford University. He is an affinity group leader at Stanford Diabetes Research Center. His research interests lie in the intersection of peptide therapeutics and metabolic diseases. He is also a recipient of American Peptide Society Early Career Lectureship, Boulder Peptide Society Young Investigator Award, American Diabetes Association Junior Faculty Award and JDRF Career Development Award.

Check and Brake: A New Era of Insulin Action Control

Maintaining glucose homeostasis is akin to operating a vehicle: safety depends on the dynamic balance between acceleration and braking. While modern medicine has mastered the "gas pedal" through various insulin analogs to lower blood sugar, the absence of a functional "brake" leaves patients vulnerable to the life-threatening risks of over-correction and hypoglycemia. Our work introduces a precision "brake system" using newly designed insulin receptor antagonists developed via advanced peptide engineering. By providing the molecular tools to actively modulate receptor signaling, we move beyond simple blood sugar lowering toward a dual-control strategy. This "Check and Brake" approach allows for the fine-tuning of metabolic pathways, offering a safer and more sophisticated framework for managing complex metabolic disorders.



Keynote Speaker: Philip Tagari

Chief Scientific Officer at insitro



Philip Tagari is currently Chief Scientific Officer and Head of R&D (interim) of insitro, a leading AI – Drug Discovery company. His team of multidisciplinary scientists and engineers are redefining disease biology and implementing AI approaches to dramatically speed the delivery of meaningful therapeutics to patients with grievous disease. Prior to insitro, Philip spent over a decade as Vice President of Research (Therapeutic Discovery) at Amgen Inc. During that time, his global teams advanced over 30 innovative molecules into clinical development and commercialization most recently including Imdelltra® (first-in class (DLL3 BiTE®); Lumukras® (first-in-class KRASG12C inhibitor); Maritide® (anti-obesity bispecific) and Efavaleukin alfa

(AMG 592) a novel IL-2 mutein Fc fusion. He is a Director of CQDM (Consortium Quebecois sur la Decouverte du Medicament; Quebec Consortium for Drug Discovery) and SAB member for BenchSci (biology machine learning) and NutcrackerRx (mRNA therapeutics).

Prior to joining Amgen in 1998, Philip was a Research Fellow at Merck Frosst (Canada) Inc, where he contributed to the discovery of Singulair® and Vioxx®. Philip is a graduate of Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge University (UK), and performed neurobiology research using pioneering quantitative image analysis at McGill and Oxford Universities.

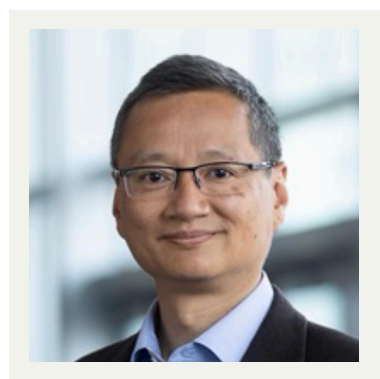
(Re)Building Drug Discovery with AI

Insitro is rebuilding drug discovery around machine learning (ML) and AI, integrating large human cohort data with high-content cellular data to create a unique model of causal human disease biology. Our Clin-ML, Cell-ML and Ther-ML platforms seamlessly span target discovery to drug design. In metabolic disease, ML models predict liver fat and pathologic adiposity from widely available DXA, metabolite and blood biomarker data. This expands genetic studies from ~25,000 to >260,000 individuals and increases liver-fat loci from 7 to 314. The studies found the first human genetic support for FGF21 and novel targets, validated by pooled optical CRISPR screening (POSH). Lead candidate CTRO-1013, an siRNA directed against a novel target, produced sustained liver triglyceride reduction and protection against fibrosis in obese mice. In ALS, POSH screening of an ML-defined disease axis in TDP-43 deficient iPSC motor neurons identified a novel target whose knockout reversed disease phenotypes, including cryptic exon expression, and restoration of neurite outgrowth. AI-guided chemistry delivered a selective, well tolerated oligonucleotide inhibitor that is advancing to development. These results show how integrated AI accelerated all stages of drug discovery from target biology through to molecule identification



Session II: Treg Biology and Immune Regulation (Maintaining Immune Balance in Health and Disease)

Session Chair: Chung-Ming (CM) Hsieh, PhD Vice President of Protein Therapeutics at Gilead Sciences



CM Hsieh currently serves as the VP of Protein Therapeutics Research at Gilead Sciences. In this role, CM is responsible for overseeing the large molecule research project portfolio, technology platforms, and the generation of biologics drug candidates for Gilead's Virology, Oncology, and Inflammation therapeutic areas. Prior to joining Gilead in 2022, CM spent two decades in various positions at Merck Research Labs in Boston and AbbVie Bioresearch Center in Worcester, MA. During this time, CM established biologic technology platforms and led biologic discovery teams supporting projects from early discovery through IND. CM holds a doctoral degree in Biological Sciences from Harvard and a bachelor's degree

in Zoology from the National Taiwan University.



Tangsheng Yi, PhD

Executive Director of Inflammation Biology at Gilead Sciences



Tangsheng Yi, Ph.D., is Executive Director of Inflammation Biology at Gilead Sciences, where he leads drug discovery programs across rheumatologic, gastrointestinal, and allergic diseases, spanning early discovery through clinical proof of concept. Prior to joining Gilead, he was a Principal Scientist and Laboratory Head in Research and Early Development at Genentech. Dr. Yi completed his postdoctoral training at UCSF and earned his Ph.D. in Immunology from City of Hope National Medical Center and his B.S. in Biochemistry from Nanjing University. He has published extensively in top-tier journals and is an inventor on multiple biotechnology patents. Outside of work, he enjoys coaching a middle school science team, playing badminton, and running.

Novel Tolerogenic Biologics for Chronic Inflammatory Diseases

Tolerogenic cytokines play an essential role in regulating immune responses and controlling aberrant immune activation. However, recombinant cytokines often exhibit unfavorable drug-like properties, including short half-lives and dose-limiting toxicity. In this presentation, I will describe the design and engineering of fully synthetic cytokine-agonistic antibodies with cell-type specificity for the treatment of autoimmune inflammation.



Weiwen Deng, PhD

Scientific Director in Inflammation Research at Amgen



Dr. Weiwen Deng is a Scientific Director in Inflammation Research at Amgen, where she leads translational immunology and therapeutic innovation efforts focused on autoimmune and inflammatory diseases. With over 20 years of experience in immunology, molecular biology, and translational research, her work centers on precision targeting of pathogenic cells and restoration of immune tolerance to develop next-generation therapies.

At Amgen, Dr. Deng leads cross-functional collaborations spanning discovery research, translational science, and clinical immunology to advance innovative biologics and immune modulation strategies. Her research interests include immune tolerance, T-cell biology, cytokine engineering, and translational approaches for inflammatory diseases. She served as biology lead for AMG 592 and led next-generation IL-2 programs demonstrating how receptor-tuned IL-2 fusion proteins can uncouple Treg expansion from injection-site reactions.

Prior to joining Amgen, Dr. Deng held scientific leadership roles at Aduro Biotech. She received her Ph.D. in Cell Biology from Shanghai Institutes of Biological Sciences and completed her postdoctoral training at the University of California, Berkeley as a Cancer Research Institute Fellow in the laboratory of Dr. David Raulet, where she studied NK cell biology and tumor immune surveillance.

Dr. Deng has authored numerous publications in leading journals and is passionate about advancing innovative therapies through collaborative science and mentorship.

Selectivity, Safety, and Tolerance: New Insights from Treg-Biased IL-2 Therapeutics

This presentation explores recent advancements in Treg-biased IL-2 therapeutics, focusing on novel engineering strategies designed to optimize the therapeutic window. We will first demonstrate how receptor-tuned IL-2 muteins significantly improve safety profiles by decoupling protective regulatory T cell (Treg) expansion from cutaneous inflammation driven by group 2 innate lymphoid cells (ILC2s). Furthermore, we will highlight new mechanistic insights revealing that Tregs actively suppress autoimmune responses by functioning directly as tolerogenic antigen-presenting cells. Together, these findings provide a compelling developmental framework for engineering highly selective, next-generation immunotherapies to restore tolerance in autoimmune disease.



Brian Weist, PhD

Principal Scientist II at Gilead Sciences



Brian Weist is a Principal Scientist II in Oncology at Gilead Sciences, where his research focuses on developing small and large molecule therapeutics that target regulatory T cells to overcome immunosuppression in solid tumors. He earned his PhD from the University of California, Irvine, studying T cell signaling and transplant tolerance. Brian then completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley in the laboratory of Dr. Ellen Robey, where he investigated the thymic development of regulatory T cells. His current work centers on translating insights in Treg biology into novel cancer immunotherapies.

Targeting Tumor Tregs: A Translational Journey from CCR8 Biology to Clinical Proof-of-Mechanism

Regulatory T cells (Tregs) are key suppressors of anti-tumor immunity, making them an attractive therapeutic target. Yet selectively eliminating tumor-associated Tregs while preserving systemic immune tolerance has proven challenging. CCR8 has emerged as a promising target due to its preferential expression on intratumoral Tregs and its suitability for depletion-based approaches. Preclinical studies demonstrated that targeted Treg depletion can enhance anti-tumor immunity and improve responses to complementary therapies. As these strategies move into clinical development, emerging translational findings are validating key preclinical hypotheses while uncovering new insights into Treg biology, biomarkers, and mechanisms of response. This presentation will highlight lessons learned from the translation of Treg depletion from preclinical models to patients and how those insights are informing future research and clinical development.



Keynote Speaker: Joe Jimenez, MBA

Co-Founder and Managing Director at Aditum Bio



Mr. Jimenez is Co-Founder and Managing Director at Aditum Bio, a biotech venture firm. From 2010 to 2018, he held the position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Novartis, one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies. Under his leadership, Novartis developed one of the largest pipelines of self-originated drugs in the industry, driven by a strong commitment to R&D.

Mr. Jimenez is currently a member of the Board of Directors of General Motors Company and the Procter & Gamble Company, where he is lead independent director.

He holds a bachelor's degree from Stanford University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of

California, Berkeley.

Translating Breakthrough Science into New Medicines through Innovative Funding Models

Breakthrough science alone does not create new medicines. Successful translation also requires focused capital, experienced development teams, smart clinical strategy and aligned partnerships. This discussion examines how Mr. Jimenez' experience as CEO of Novartis led to the creation of Aditum Bio's purpose-built company creation model, and how it can be applied repeatedly to bring together these elements to transform promising science into new medicines.



Session 3: AI Innovation Flash Talks (Innovation, Translation and the Future of Bioscience)

Session Chairs: Davina Chen Director at Asymchem Group & **Ingrid Ou, PhD, RAC** Executive Director at BeOne Medicines



Davina Chen serves as the Sponsorship Director for CBA, where she leverages her passion for community-building to foster industry partnerships and support the vibrant bioscience network in the San Francisco Bay Area. Dedicated to fostering collaboration, she focuses on connecting the dots between people and resources to drive growth across the region's world-class biotech ecosystem.

Professionally, Davina specializes in translating scientific complexity into actionable strategies that drive patient impact. As the Director of Business Strategy and Market Intelligence at Asymchem Group, she acts as a strategic enabler in the CDMO sector, bridging the gap between technical innovation and global drug development to streamline the "Bench to Bedside" continuum.

With over 15 years of experience—ranging from leading regional vaccine launches to advising on AI-driven health innovations—Davina's perspective is anchored in a multidisciplinary academic foundation, holding a BS in Agricultural Extension from National Taiwan University and an MS in Marketing from Johns Hopkins University.

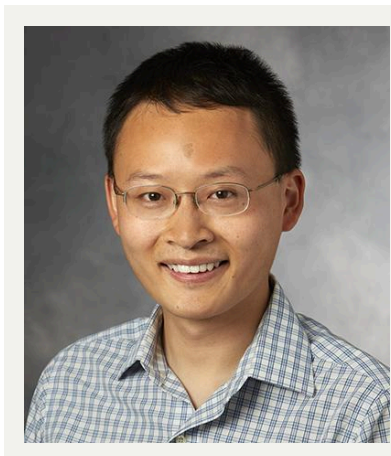


Ingrid Ou, PhD, RAC, is Executive Director and Group Lead of Clinical Pharmacology at BeOne Medicines. With more than 25 years of experience in clinical drug development and regulatory science, she has contributed to the successful registration of seven approved medicines, including BRUKINSA® and KYPROLIS®. Her expertise centers on leveraging predictive modeling approaches, including PBPK, QSP, and AI, to inform critical development decisions, optimize clinical study design, and accelerate drug development. Prior to joining BeOne, she held positions at Amgen, Onyx, Roche, and Johnson & Johnson. Dr. Ou has authored more than 50 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters and earned her PhD from the University of Washington.



James Zou, PhD

Associate Professor at Stanford University



James Zou is an associate professor of Biomedical Data Science and, by courtesy, of CS and EE at Stanford University. He works on developing cutting-edge AI for biomedical applications. His group developed many widely used innovations including EchoNet AI (FDA cleared for assessing cardiac function), Gradio (used by over a million developers), and SyntheMol (NY Times 2024 Good Tech). He has received the Overton Prize, Sloan Fellowship, NSF CAREER Award, two Chan-Zuckerberg Investigator Awards, a Top Ten Clinical Achievement Award, best paper awards at ICML and other AI conferences, and faculty awards from Google, Amazon, Adobe and Apple.

The Virtual Biotech of AI Agents

AI agents—large language models equipped with tools and reasoning capabilities—are emerging as powerful research enablers. This talk will explore how agentic AI can accelerate scientific discoveries. I will introduce the Virtual Biotech, a platform where tens of thousands of AI agents work together to advance drug discovery and development.



Ash Alizadeh, MD, PhD

Professor at Stanford University



Ash A. Alizadeh, MD, PhD is the Moghadam Family Professor of Medicine at Stanford University and a practicing oncologist and physician-scientist in the Division of Oncology. His research focuses on the development of data-driven approaches to better understand cancer biology, improve diagnostics, and personalize therapies. Dr. Alizadeh is a recognized leader in oncology informatics and translational research, contributing extensively to the advancement of precision medicine.

Gleaning Signal in the Noise: Lessons I Learned from Taking AI/ML-Driven Liquid Biopsies from Discovery to Diagnostics

Cancer is fundamentally a measurement problem: most of the patients whom we fail are arguably those whose tumors we cannot detect early or precisely enough. Cell-free DNA and RNA offer us a non-invasive window into tumor genotypes, disease burden, and response dynamics.

Yet the signal of interest is often vanishingly rare against a background of normal DNA and sequencing error. Extracting it has demanded as much innovation in data science and machine learning as in molecular biology.

Our Stanford group has spent the past decade building data-driven liquid biopsy stack to attack this problem in lymphomas and beyond. CAPP-Seq enabled tumor-informed ctDNA profiling across cancer types including B-cell lymphomas and solid tumors (Newman et al., Nat Med 2014). PhasED-Seq — the centerpiece of this talk — leverages phased somatic variants co-occurring on individual cfDNA molecules to suppress background error and achieve parts-per-million sensitivity. In DLBCL, PhasED-Seq identifies an additional 25% of patients with residual ctDNA missed by SNV-based methods after two cycles of therapy, and these patients have markedly worse outcomes (Kurtz et al., Nat Biotechnol 2021). EPIC-Seq extends cfDNA analysis to gene-expression inference and molecular subtyping from blood (Esfahani et al., Nat Biotechnol 2022), and CIBERSORT recovers tumor microenvironment composition from bulk data (Newman et al., Nat Methods 2015). Together, these platforms have revealed dynamic risk stratification and noninvasive subtype discovery in Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin lymphomas (Alig et al., Nature 2023), and motivated the founding of Foresight Diagnostics/Natera to deliver this stack prospectively to patients. In this Flash Talk, I will share both the science and the lessons learned in translating data-enabled molecular profiling from discovery to commercial diagnostics.

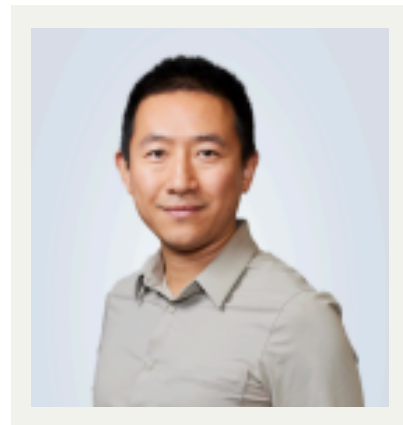
Full references:

1. Newman AM, Bratman SV, et al. Nature Medicine 20, 548–554 (2014). [CAPP-Seq]
2. Kurtz DM, Soo J, Co Ting Keh L, et al. Nature Biotechnology 39, 1537–1547 (2021). [PhasED-Seq]
3. Esfahani MS, Hamilton EG, Mehrmohamadi M, et al. Nature Biotechnology 40, 585–597 (2022). [EPIC-Seq]
4. Newman AM, Liu CL, Green MR, et al. Nature Methods 12, 453–457 (2015). [CIBERSORT]
5. Alig SK, Shahrokh Esfahani M, Garofalo A, et al. Nature 615, 728–736 (2023). [Hodgkin ctDNA subtypes]



Ci Chu, PhD

Chief Discovery Officer at Xaira Therapeutics



As Chief Discovery Officer of AI-Enabled Discovery at Xaira Therapeutics, Ci Chu leads the High-throughput Biology group, overseeing the generation of large-scale data to drive protein design and build virtual cell models. A leader at the convergence of biotechnology and artificial intelligence, Chu brings over a decade of experience in scaling discovery platforms.

Previously, as Senior Director of Advanced Cellular Technologies at insitro, he directed high-throughput screening campaigns that combined human iPSC disease models, optical and transcriptomic screening, and machine learning to decode complex neurological and metabolic conditions. Earlier in his career, Chu led genomics technology development at Google[X] and Verily Life Sciences, where

he co-developed the Immune Profiler platform – a key asset in a \$90 million strategic collaboration with Gilead. Chu holds a Ph.D. from Stanford University, where, under the mentorship of Dr. Howard Chang, he invented the ChIRP method for RNA-interactome analysis. His research has been published in Cell and Nature, garnering over 5,000 citations, and he holds five patents in genomic technology.

What Does It Take to Build a Virtual Cell?

Predicting how genetic perturbations reshape cellular states is essential for understanding disease biology and identifying therapeutic targets, yet current models struggle to generalize across biological contexts. We present X-Atlas/Pisces, a genome-wide CRISPRi Perturb-seq compendium comprising 25.6 million perturbed single-cell transcriptomes across 16 diverse cellular contexts, and X-Cell, a diffusion language model that integrates these data with multimodal biological information to predict perturbation responses. X-Cell achieves state-of-the-art performance on key prediction metrics, while its 4.9-billion-parameter version, X-Cell-Ultra, demonstrates zero-shot generalization to unseen cellular contexts, including primary human CD4+ T cells. These results show that jointly scaling perturbation data and model capacity enables generalizable cellular foundation models, with potential applications in drug target identification, validation, and context-specific therapeutic prioritization.



Le Cong, PhD

Associate Professor at Stanford University School of Medicine; Co-Founder at Phylo and Acelegen



Le Cong is an Associate Professor with Tenure at Stanford. His research spans CRISPR gene-editing, immune and stem cell biology, and AI co-scientist for life science. His team pioneered AI-driven CRISPR technology for large-scale genome writing, novel tools for engineering human immune and stem cells to proactively extend human health. His lab co-developed AI co-scientists that can reason, see, and work in real-world discovery, such as CRISPR-GPT and LabOS. His team's long-term goal is building AI co-scientists for precision genomic medicine (www.conglab.com).

Programming Biology: Building Foundation Model and AI Co-scientists for Accelerating End-to-End R&D

Modern biology is becoming an information-rich, programmable discipline, but translating data into actionable hypotheses and physical experiments remains slow and expensive. We bring together three complementary advances to move from molecules to machines: a generalist RNA foundation model (RNAGenesis), a large-language-model agent for gene editing (CRISPR-GPT) and a multimodal AI-XR co-scientist (LabOS). RNAGenesis combines a BERT-style encoder, query-based latent compression and diffusion-guided decoding to unify sequence representation and de novo design, enabling generation of highly functional aptamers and gene-editing RNAs. For end-to-end workflows, LabOS AI-XR co-scientist connects computational design with physical experimentation. A multi-agent system performs planning, coding and critique, while an extended-reality interface allows AI to see what scientists see and provide context-aware guidance. Multi-modal AI captures spatiotemporal lab workflows and enables human-AI-robotics collaboration. Across applications—from cancer immunotherapy target discovery to cell engineering—LabOS turns the laboratory into an intelligent, collaborative environment where human and machine discovery evolve together.



Session 4: Panel Discussion (AI and the Startup Ecosystem)

Moderators: Davina Chen Director at Asymchem Group & **Ingrid Ou, PhD, RAC** Executive Director at BeOne Medicines



Davina Chen serves as the Sponsorship Director for CBA, where she leverages her passion for community-building to foster industry partnerships and support the vibrant bioscience network in the San Francisco Bay Area. Dedicated to fostering collaboration, she focuses on connecting the dots between people and resources to drive growth across the region's world-class biotech ecosystem.

Professionally, Davina specializes in translating scientific complexity into actionable strategies that drive patient impact. As the Director of Business Strategy and Market Intelligence at Asymchem Group, she acts as a strategic enabler in the CDMO sector, bridging the gap between technical innovation and global drug development to streamline the "Bench to Bedside" continuum.

With over 15 years of experience—ranging from leading regional vaccine launches to advising on AI-driven health innovations—Davina's perspective is anchored in a multidisciplinary academic foundation, holding a BS in Agricultural Extension from National Taiwan University and an MS in Marketing from Johns Hopkins University.



Ingrid Ou, PhD, RAC, is Executive Director and Group Lead of Clinical Pharmacology at BeOne Medicines. With more than 25 years of experience in clinical drug development and regulatory science, she has contributed to the successful registration of seven approved medicines, including BRUKINSA® and KYPROLIS®. Her expertise centers on leveraging predictive modeling approaches, including PBPK, QSP, and AI, to inform critical development decisions, optimize clinical study design, and accelerate drug development. Prior to joining BeOne, she held positions at Amgen, Onyx, Roche, and Johnson & Johnson. Dr. Ou has authored more than 50 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters and earned her PhD from the University of Washington.



Panelist: Ash Alizadeh, MD, PhD

Professor at Stanford University

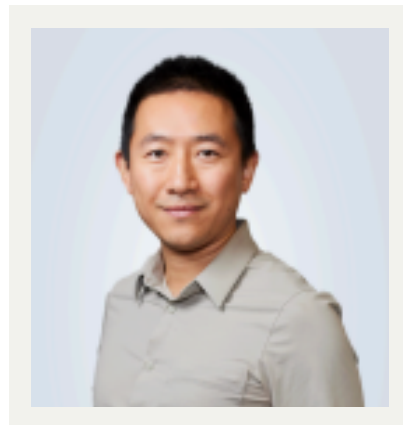


Ash A. Alizadeh, MD, PhD is the Moghadam Family Professor of Medicine at Stanford University and a practicing oncologist and physician-scientist in the Division of Oncology. His research focuses on the development of data-driven approaches to better understand cancer biology, improve diagnostics, and personalize therapies. Dr. Alizadeh is a recognized leader in oncology informatics and translational research, contributing extensively to the advancement of precision medicine.



Panelist: Ci Chu, PhD

Chief Discovery Officer at Xaira Therapeutics



As Chief Discovery Officer of AI-Enabled Discovery at Xaira Therapeutics, Ci Chu leads the High-throughput Biology group, overseeing the generation of large-scale data to drive protein design and build virtual cell models. A leader at the convergence of biotechnology and artificial intelligence, Chu brings over a decade of experience in scaling discovery platforms.

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Panelist: Le Cong, PhD

Associate Professor at Stanford University School of Medicine; Co-Founder at Phylo and Acelegen



Le Cong is an Associate Professor with Tenure at Stanford. His research spans CRISPR gene-editing, immune and stem cell biology, and AI co-scientist for life science. His team pioneered AI-driven CRISPR technology for large-scale genome writing, novel tools for engineering human immune and stem cells to proactively extend human health. His lab co-developed AI co-scientists that can reason, see, and work in real-world discovery, such as CRISPR-GPT and LabOS. His team's long-term goal is building AI co-scientists for precision genomic medicine (www.conglab.com).



Panelist: Wen-Tse Tseng, MBA

Senior Vice President at AllianceBernstein



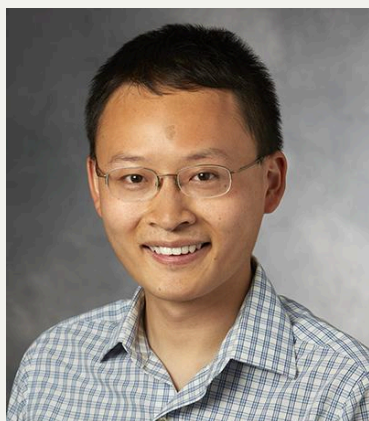
Mr. Tseng joined AllianceBernstein in 2006 and is responsible for research and portfolio management for the Small/SMID/MID Cap Growth healthcare sector. Prior to joining the firm, he spent four years as the healthcare portfolio manager for the small-cap growth team at William D. Witter (the same team had previously managed assets for Weiss, Peck & Greer). Prior to that, Mr. Tseng was a senior healthcare analyst at JP Morgan Fleming Asset Management for a year and a half. He also spent six years as a research associate at Amgen Inc., and was an assistant scientist at Hoffman-La Roche for one year. Mr. Tseng holds a BS from National Taiwan University, an MS in Molecular Genetics and Microbiology from Robert Wood Johnson Medical School–University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, and an MBA from Graziadio School of Business

and Management at Pepperdine University. Location: New York.



Panelist: James Zou, PhD

Associate Professor at Stanford University



James Zou is an associate professor of Biomedical Data Science and, by courtesy, of CS and EE at Stanford University. He works on developing cutting-edge AI for biomedical applications. His group developed many widely used innovations including EchoNet AI (FDA cleared for assessing cardiac function), Gradio (used by over a million developers), and SyntheMol (NY Times 2024 Good Tech). He has received the Overton Prize, Sloan Fellowship, NSF CAREER Award, two Chan-Zuckerberg Investigator Awards, a Top Ten Clinical Achievement Award, best paper awards at ICML and other AI conferences, and faculty awards from Google, Amazon, Adobe and Apple.



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Key Events

Lunar New Year Social

Date: February 7th, 2026 (Saturday)

Venue: Startup Island Taiwan Silicon Valley (299 California Ave Ste 300, Palo Alto, CA 94306)



CBA, together with the Taiwanese American Industrial Technology Association, Silicon Valley (TAITA), hosted a special Lunar New Year celebration, bringing together members, friends, and families to welcome the new year and celebrate the festive season.

The gathering featured a variety of activities, including traditional New Year cuisine, games, spring couplet writing, and lucky draws. In a warm and festive atmosphere, attendees had the opportunity to reconnect with old friends, meet new members of the community, and share in the traditions and spirit of the Lunar New Year.

The celebration provided a joyful occasion for members of both organizations and their families to come together, strengthen community connections, and begin the new year with good company and festive cheer.





CBA x SBG Career Development Workshop

Date: April 4th, 2026 (Saturday)

Venue: Lokey Stem Cell Research Building, Room G1002, Stanford University (265 Campus Drive, Stanford, CA 94305)

JOINTLY HOSTED BY

 **CBA** Chinese Bioscience Association

 **STANFORD BIOTECH GROUP**

CAREER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 4, 2026, 2:00 - 4:30 PM
Stanford Lokey Stem Cell Research Building
265 Campus Drive Room G1002, Stanford, CA



MICHAEL BRODY
Formulation Manager
Brabant Biotech



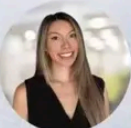
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FREE REGISTRATION



AGENDA

2:00-2:30 PM | Opening & Speaker Introductions
2:30-3:30 PM | Panel Discussion
3:30-4:30 PM | Networking

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CBA, together with the Stanford Biotechnology Group, hosted a Career Development Workshop that brought together experienced professionals, students, and postdoctoral researchers to share career experiences and insights. Designed especially for those in the early stages of their careers, the workshop offered attendees an opportunity to learn about the skills, mentorship, and experiences that contribute to building a successful career in the life sciences industry.

Speakers shared their individual career journeys, including the challenges they encountered, lessons learned along the way, and the different paths that led them to where they are today. The discussion highlighted both the common themes and the diverse experiences that shape careers in biotechnology, providing attendees with practical perspectives on navigating their own professional development.

The workshop concluded with a networking session, giving attendees the opportunity to connect more personally with the speakers and with one another, exchange ideas, and build connections across academia and industry.





CBA, TAITA-SV, BATBA, and Startup Island Taiwan Networking Hike

Date: May 16th, 2026 (Saturday)

**Venue: Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge
(Fremont, CA)**

**CBA | TAITA | BATBA | SIT
SPRING HIKE**

Join CBA, TAITA-SV, BATBA, and SIT
for a refreshing hike at Don Edwards!
Enjoy stunning Bay views, connect
with new friends, and start your
Saturday with nature.

DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026

MEETING TIME: 9:30 AM

LOCATION: DON EDWARDS

Event Highlights:

- Free Parking
- Dog-Friendly; Bring Your Furry Friends!
- Post-Hike Lunch at Chef Cho
(6180 Jarvis Ave suite c, Newark, CA)

Trailhead meeting point:
Don Edward
(1 Marshlands Rd, Fremont, CA)

FREE REGISTRATION

Post-hike Lunch
Requires an
On-site Payment

CBA, together with the TAITA-SV, the Bay Area Taiwanese Biotech Association (BATBA), and Startup Island Taiwan, hosted a community hike at Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The event brought together members and friends from different organizations for a relaxing afternoon outdoors, enjoying the beautiful weather and scenic Bay views.

The casual hiking setting offered a refreshing opportunity for members of different communities to come together, reconnect with familiar faces, meet new friends, and build connections beyond their usual professional circles. It was a wonderful way to enjoy the outdoors while strengthening ties across the broader Bay Area community.





Fireside Chat

Date: August 8th, 2026 (Saturday)

Venue: Lokey Stem Cell Research Building, Room G1002, Stanford University (265 Campus Drive, Stanford, CA 94305)



CBA Chinese Bioscience Association

Fireside Chat with Dr. Sherry Xuan Xian

Come learn about Dr. Xian's career path as a Stanford alum in AI drug discovery, how AI is reshaping drug discovery pipelines in China, and the evolving landscape of Chinese biopharma on the global stage.

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Saturday, 8th Aug 2026

Lokey Stem Cell Research Building,
Room G1002, Stanford University

RSVP



CBA hosted a fireside chat at Stanford University with Dr. Sherry Xian, Chief AI Officer at TYK Medicines (TongYuanKang). The event brought together members of the Bay Area life sciences community for an engaging discussion on career development, leadership, and the evolving role of artificial intelligence in drug discovery.

Dr. Xian shared her unique career journey from psychology and neuroscience to data science and AI-driven drug discovery, including her leadership experience at iCarbonX, GenSci Pharmaceutical, and TYK Medicines. The conversation also explored the development of AI capabilities within pharmaceutical organizations and the broader AI drug discovery landscape in China.

The event offered attendees a valuable opportunity to learn from Dr. Xian's career and leadership experience while exchanging perspectives on the rapidly evolving intersection of AI and biopharmaceutical innovation.





CBA x BATBA Summer BBQ Picnic

Date: August 29th, 2026 (Saturday)

Venue: Mitchell Park (600 East Meadow Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94303)



CBA co-hosted its annual barbecue with BATBA, bringing together members, colleagues, friends, and furry companions from both organizations. The event provided a welcoming opportunity for attendees to reconnect with longtime colleagues, meet new members of the community, and exchange ideas in a relaxed setting.

The annual barbecue has become a wonderful opportunity for CBA members to reconnect with old friends, catch up with familiar faces, and build new connections within the Bay Area life sciences community. We look forward to bringing our community together again at future events.



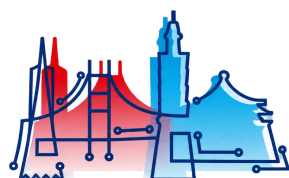


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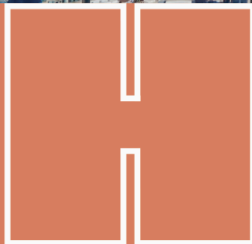
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Hsinchu
- GMP Manufacturing
- PAD

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Manufacturing:
0.1-6g/Batch, 67 batches/year

Gene Therapy

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Manufacturing:
Current: 200L
Expansion (2027): 2x 200L, 1x 500L

Cell Therapy

Autologous & allogeneic T cells and MSCs, adapting to diverse clinical and manufacturing
Manufacturing:
Autologous CAR-T: Approx. 500 patients/year
MSC: Approx. 100 batches/year, 2x 10¹⁰ cell/batch

Biologics

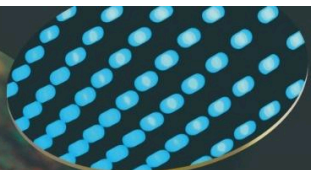
Scalable mammalian platform enabling efficient transition to commercial production
Proprietary CHO-C platform: HTP to GMP production, fast, stable, PAT-driven bioprocessing
Manufacturing:
Current: 200L
Expansion (2027): 2x 2,000L

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