

Japan Biotech Showcase & Symposium ● 2026

Presented by the Japanese Government

Program Booklet

Date

2026.3.25 - 26
Wed. Thu.

Organizer

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

(Office of Pharmaceutical Industry and Venture Support Policy Planning Division for Pharmaceutical Industry
Promotion and Medical Information Management, Health Policy Bureau)

Program

* Please note that the start time and program content may be subject to change on the day of the event.

2026.3.25 (Wed)

13:00-13:15	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) of Japan
13:15-14:00	Keynote Address <ul style="list-style-type: none">Shimon Sakaguchi, M.D., Ph.D. Osaka University
14:00-14:15	Industry Perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none">Michael V. McCullar, Ph.D., MBA RegCell, Inc.
14:15-14:45	Introduction I : Japan Biotech Landscape <ul style="list-style-type: none">Takeshi Nakamura, Ph.D., MBA Boston Consulting Group
14:45-15:15	Introduction II : Japan R&D and Clinical Development Landscape <ul style="list-style-type: none">Alan Thomas IQVIA Solutions Japan G.K.
15:30-16:30	Government and Public-Sector Policies and Initiatives Supporting Healthcare Startups in Japan <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hirokazu Shimoda Japan Agency for Medical Research and DevelopmentTakeshi Annaka Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) of Japan
16:30-17:30	Pharma Panel : Opportunities for Collaboration with Global Venture Capital <p>[Moderator]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Toru Jay Seo, Ph.D. K.K. Newsight Tech Angels <p>[Panelists]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Eriha Dekura Tanabe Pharma CorporationKazuhiro Onuma, Ph.D. UBE CorporationSeiichi Inamura, Ph.D. Chugai Pharma USA, Inc.Yasuhito Yasogi Teijin Pharma Limited
17:30-18:30	VC Panel I : What Would It Take for Japan to Get on the Global VC Map? <p>[Moderator]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hiroki Ashida, Ph.D. Silvertrail Partners <p>[Panelists]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Adam Simpson Frazier Life SciencesBen Auspitz Curie.BioBrian Matesic, M.D. Norwest Venture PartnersRajeev Dadoo, Ph.D. SR One Capital ManagementShinichiro Fuse, Ph.D. TPG Life Sciences Innovations
18:30-18:40	Wrap-Up of Day 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Shinichiro Komoto Eight Roads Ventures JapanShuji Honjo, Ph.D., MBA Honjo International / Tama Graduate School of Business

* Invitation-only partnering on-site session : March 25 and 26 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

* Invitation-only on-site Networking : March 25 from 6:40 PM to 8:30 PM.

2026.3.26 (Thu)

13:00-13:30	Invited Lecture : Navigating Global Clinical Trials and the Future of Drug Development <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toshihiko Doi, M.D., Ph.D. National Cancer Center Hospital East
13:30-13:50	Academic Research Highlights 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kumiko Ui-Tei, Ph.D. Institute of Science Tokyo / ANRis Inc.
13:50-14:10	Academic Research Highlights 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masayo Takahashi M.D., Ph.D. Kobe City Eye Hospital / Ritsumeikan University / VCCT Inc.
14:20-14:40	Academic Research Highlights 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hiroaki Suga, Ph.D. University of Tokyo
14:40-15:00	Academic Research Highlights 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yosuke Togashi, M.D., Ph.D. Okayama University
15:00-15:45	VC Panel II : Being Active in Japan – Realities and Opportunities [Moderator] <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Robert Weisskoff, Ph.D. F-Prime Capital [Panelists] <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jonathan Yeh, Ph.D., MBA Saisei Ventures• Ken Horne AN Venture Partners• Makoto Otori, Ph.D. UTokyo Innovation Platform Co., Ltd.• Shinichiro Komoto Eight Roads Ventures Japan• Tai Harada, MBA Fast Track Initiative• Takeshi Takahashi, MBA Catalys Pacific, LLC• Taro Inaba, MBA Remiges Ventures, Inc.
15:45-16:00	Closing Remarks

Speaker Introductions

2026.3.25 (Wed)

Opening Remarks

13:00-13:15

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) of Japan

Keynote Address

13:15-14:00



Shimon Sakaguchi, M.D., Ph.D.

Distinguished Honorary Professor, Immunology Frontier Research Center (IFReC) Experimental Immunology, Osaka University

Sakaguchi is currently a Distinguished Honorary Professor at the Immunology Frontier Research Center (IFReC) Osaka University, Japan. He obtained M.D. in 1976 and Ph.D. in 1982 from Kyoto University, Japan. He was elected to Foreign Member of National Academy of Sciences USA in 2012, and has been awarded many international prizes including Canada Gairdner International Award in 2015, the Crafoord Prize in 2017, the Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Prize in 2020, the Robert Koch Prize in 2020, and Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 2025. He received the Order of Culture from the Emperor of Japan in 2019.

Industry Perspective

14:00-14:15



Michael V. McCullar, Ph.D., MBA

CEO, RegCell, Inc.

Michael V. McCullar, Ph.D., MBA is President and CEO of RegCell, Inc., co-founded by 2025 Nobel Laureate, Professor Shimon Sakaguchi, advancing an epigenetic reprogramming platform to restore immune tolerance in autoimmune disease. He previously held senior leadership roles at Astex Pharmaceuticals (acquired by Otsuka) and served as COO of Tolero Pharmaceuticals (acquired by Sumitomo Dainippon Pharma), leading new drug approvals in the US. He has international R&D and commercial operational experience, including in China. He is affiliated with the University of Tokyo Edge Capital Partners (UTECE). He has led RegCell's efforts to secure two AMED Venture Ecosystem Grants to advance its platform through clinical POC across multiple disease settings.

Introduction I : Japan Biotech Landscape

14:15-14:45



Takeshi Nakamura, Ph.D., MBA

Managing Director & Partner, Tokyo Office, Boston Consulting Group

Takeshi Nakamura joined BCG in 2014 after engaging in drug discovery research in diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis at Chugai Pharmaceutical. Following an assignment to the Boston office, he is currently based in Tokyo, where he has worked on numerous projects primarily for pharmaceutical companies. He serves as the leader of the Pharma R&D team and the cross-industry R&D team in the Japan office, with broad experience in disease-area strategy, technology landscaping, AI-enabled R&D operating model design, technology-driven new business creation, and organizational transformation and change management. He holds a Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Sciences from the University of Tokyo and a Ph.D. in neuroscience.



Alan Thomas

Senior Director, Thought Leadership, IQVIA Solutions Japan G.K.

Alan brings over 25 years experience in healthcare consulting and services, 13 of which as head of the IQVIA Japan, Japan Thought Leadership team.

In this role Alan develops IQVIA Japan's perspective on key industry issues and trends impacting the pharmaceutical market, and their implications on pharmaceutical companies and other healthcare players.

He works with multiple stakeholders within the pharmaceutical and broader healthcare industries, delivering data-driven intelligence and decision support including clinical and commercial insights, dynamics within the Japan and global markets, and impact of policy and trends on the future outlook of healthcare

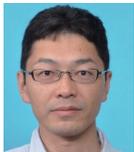
Government and Public-Sector Policies and Initiatives Supporting Healthcare Startups in Japan



Hirokazu Shimoda

Senior Director, Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development

Hirokazu Shimoda joined the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (METI) in 1999, he worked in industry promotion bureaus including IT, cybersecurity, bio/regenerative medicine, healthcare, and the service industry, serving as Deputy Director of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) San Francisco Office from 2016 to 2020 and a fellow at the World Economic Forum's Fourth Industrial Revolution Center at the same time. After returning to Japan, he served as Director of the Information Systems and Welfare Division and Director of the Biochemical Industry Division, which is responsible for bioindustry policy, at the METI. He has been in his current position in Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) since July 2025, where he is responsible for promoting the drug discovery ecosystem.



Takeshi Annaka

Director, Policy Planning Division for Pharmaceutical Industry Promotion and Medical Information Management, Health Policy Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) of Japan

Mr. Takeshi Annaka has held key leadership positions at the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare since joining in 1998, working across diverse fields such as public health, social security, and crisis management. He led child-rearing policy initiatives in Yamagata Prefecture and subsequently contributed to national pension policy, science and technology policy, and Japan's health emergency management. As Director of the Division of the Health Services System for the Elderly, he played a central role in developing policies for an aging society. Since 2025, he has served as Director of the Policy Planning Division for Pharmaceutical Industry Promotion and Medical Information Management, leading initiatives to promote the sound growth of the pharmaceutical industry and strengthen the drug discovery ecosystem in Japan.

[Moderator]**Toru Jay Seo, Ph.D.**

CEO, K.K. Newsight Tech Angels

Dr. Toru Jay Seo is the CEO of Lucidaim Co. Ltd. and Newsight Tech Angels. He earned his Ph.D. in Molecular and Cellular Pathology from Wake Forest University and completed postdoctoral training in cardiovascular and metabolic diseases at Columbia University, where he later served as an Assistant Professor in Pediatrics, conducting independent research in lipid metabolism. In 2007, he transitioned to industry, holding R&D, leadership, and business development roles at GSK, Merck, Taisho, and Pfizer. In 2019, he became APAC Head of Search and Evaluation within Worldwide Business Development at Pfizer. Since 2021, he has founded biotech ventures and an investment firm, while advising startups and VCs and serving as a visiting lecturer at Osaka University and Waseda Business School.

[Panelists]**Eriha Dekura**

Head of License Department (Vice President), License Department, Tanabe Pharma Corporation

I joined Tanabe Pharma and began my career as a safety researcher before transitioning into the field of business development. Along the way, I worked in the Product Strategy function, where I was responsible for defining strategic focus areas and leading multiple research alliances, gaining cross-functional experience spanning research, strategy, and external collaboration. Since 2024, I have served as Head of Business Development. In this role, I have proposed and driven a model to out-license early-stage assets outside the company's core focus to venture capital partners and advance their development through NewCos. All such assets have progressed to just before regulatory submission, reinforcing my strong belief in the value of VC-enabled NewCo models.

**Kazuhiro Onuma, Ph.D.**

Research Manager, Drug Discovery Group2 Pharmaceutical Research Laboratory Pharmaceutical Division, UBE Corporation

Kazuhiro Onuma is a research manager of Pharmaceutical Research Laboratory at UBE Corporation with twenty years of experience, specializing in Molecular and Cellular Biology and Pharmacology. Kazuhiro has received his Ph.D. from Yamaguchi University. Kazuhiro has studied at Stanford University for two years as a visiting scholar. Over the past five years, his research focuses on antibody-drug-conjugate (ADC), especially linker and payload based on UBE's chemical technology. Kazuhiro is engaged in research essential for creating next-generation ADCs, including prodrug payloads and dual-payload systems. In his free time, Kazuhiro enjoys playing tennis, watching movies, and traveling to new cities to walk around and explore.

**Seiichi Inamura, Ph.D.**

Director of Partnering, Chugai Pharma USA, Inc.

Dr. Seiichi Inamura is Director of Partnering at Chugai Pharma USA, leading scouting activity for research collaboration and licensing of innovative drug discovery technologies. He began his career as a medicinal chemist, contributing to preclinical and clinical candidate generation before transitioning into business development. Dr. Inamura holds a Ph.D. in Synthetic Organic Chemistry from Osaka University and completed postdoctoral research in Germany in biochemistry and innate immunity. Over more than a decade in partnering roles, he has advanced external innovation initiatives and is committed to connecting global research organizations with Chugai's R&D strategy.

**Yasuhito Yasogi**

Manager, BD & License Department/Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Research Management Department, Teijin Pharma Limited

Mr. Yasuhito Yasogi serves as a Manager in both the BD & License Department and the Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Research Management Department at Teijin Pharma Limited. With over 20 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry, Yasogi had led and managed clinical trials across the United States, China, and Japan, as well as overseen drug discovery programs at the Teijin Institute for Bio-medical Research.

In his current role, he is responsible for identifying, developing, and executing strategic partnerships, including licensing opportunities, research collaborations, and the creation of VC-backed startup ventures. His work spans the full spectrum of business development, from early partnership exploration to driving long-term strategic value.

[Moderator]**Hiroki Ashida, Ph.D.**

Founder and CEO, Silvertrail Partners

As a Company Builder, he serves as Founder and Fractional CXO, building multiple cross-border biotechs. He became independent from a global VC in 2026 and is currently preparing the launch of several stealth companies in the US.

He spent nearly nine years at Eight Roads Ventures, investing in biotechs across the US, Japan, Europe, and China, while leading company building efforts in the US and Japan. He led company formation from academia and pharma spin-outs, US inversions, and the establishment of Japanese subsidiaries for US biotechs.

He holds a Ph.D. in Computational Biology from the University of Tokyo and previously worked in management consulting.

[Panelists]**Adam Simpson**

Venture Partner, Frazier Life Sciences

Adam is a Venture Partner at Frazier Life Sciences, where he is focused on company creation opportunities. In addition, Adam currently serves as the Executive Board Chair at Callio Therapeutics, a company developing multi-payload antibody-drug conjugates.

Prior to Frazier, Adam served as co-founder, Chief Executive Officer and Board member at Icosavax (Nasdaq: ICVX), a company leveraging its virus-like particle platform to develop vaccines for respiratory diseases. He built a team that brought multiple product candidates into the clinic, including Icosavax's RSV/hMPV combination vaccine, and led the company through its IPO and subsequent acquisition by AstraZeneca. Prior to Icosavax, Adam served as the Chief Executive Officer and Board member at PVP Biologics, a company developing an oral enzyme to treat celiac disease. Adam led the company from founding through its acquisition by Takeda. Previously, Adam served as co-founder and Chief Business Officer of Meritage Pharma from inception until its sale to Shire, leading to the first FDA-approved oral product to treat eosinophilic esophagitis.

**Ben Auspitz**

Managing Partner, Breakout Fund, Curie.Bio

I have worked in biotechnology for over two decades as an investor, operator, and founder. I started my career in small company biotech and now have moved back and forth multiple times between operating roles and venture capital. All told I've been involved in founding or funding over 20 companies, which collectively have been responsible for seven approved drugs, with many more programs currently in clinical development.

At Curie.Bio, I am responsible for our Breakout Fund. The Breakout Fund has two goals. First, to help scale our seed stage companies to move their programs through transformative clinical data. Second, to identify Series A opportunities from outside our own seed ecosystem where Curie's talented team of drug hunters and developers can give us an edge in diligence or improve a company's chances of success.

Most recently, before joining Curie.Bio, I was a co-founder, founding CEO, and later chairman of IDRx, a company focused on precision oncology. I also co-founded Forge Life Science Partners, a venture capital fund focused on translational stage therapeutic opportunities. Most people in biotech know me from my time at F-Prime Capital where I spent over a decade focused on company formation and Series A investing.

**Brian Matesic, M.D.**

Principal, Norwest Venture Partners

Brian Matesic, M.D. is a Principal at Norwest Venture Partners where he focuses on biotech and MedTech investments. He has co-led investments in over 10 private biotech companies, including Ouro Medicines, Avalyn Pharma, Nectero Medical, MBX Biosciences, Zenas BioPharma, Ray Therapeutics, Nuvig Therapeutics, and Callio Therapeutics.

Prior to joining Norwest, Brian was an investor at Blackstone Life Sciences, where he helped lead over \$1.5B of investments across biotech, medical devices, and diagnostics. Brian was previously an Engagement Manager at McKinsey & Company, where he advised companies across the healthcare industry.

Brian has a medical degree from Stanford and MBA from Harvard. His research on prostate cancer, diabetic macular edema, and patient safety has been published in multiple peer-review journals. He is based in San Francisco, California.



Rajeev Dadoo, Ph.D.

Managing Partner, SR One Capital Management

Rajeev is a Managing Partner of SR One based in the San Francisco Bay Area. He joined SR One in 2004 and is an alum of the Kauffman Fellows Program. Rajeev has leveraged his broad operational and strategic experience to invest in a number of successful companies, both in the therapeutics space and in healthcare-technology companies. His prior roles have included working in the Competitive Excellence group at GSK on various global projects and at Genentech in technology and clinical development. Rajeev obtained a BA in Chemistry and Mathematics from Knox College, a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Stanford University and an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.



Shinichiro Fuse, Ph.D.

Partner/Managing Director, TPG Life Sciences Innovations

Dr. Shinichiro Fuse, is Partner at TPG Life Sciences Innovation. He co-leads the Life Sciences Innovations fund at TPG and serves on the Board of Directors at Ouro Medicines, Santa Ana Bio, Sudo Biosciences, and a stealth company, and as a board observer at Curium. He served as a board observer for Elektrofi until its acquisition by Halozyme in Nov 2025. Previously, he was Managing Director at MPM Capital, where he served on the investment committee of the Oncology Impact Fund (OIF) and BioVentures Funds. Shin served on the Board of Directors of Orna Therapeutics (acquired by Eli Lilly), iOmx Therapeutics, Triplet Therapeutics and ReNAGade Therapeutics, and as a board observer for ElevateBio and Repare Therapeutics. Shin also played operational roles at MPM portfolio companies as the interim CEO of Orna Therapeutics, interim/founding SVP of Business Development at ElevateBio, and one of the co-founders of Crossbow Therapeutics. Prior to joining MPM, he was Director of Business Development at bluebird bio.

He currently serves on the Board of Advisors of the Guarini School of Graduate and Advanced Studies at Dartmouth College. He previously served as a columnist for Nikkei Biotech, writing on trends within the US biotech sector. Shin received his Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology from Dartmouth College, an M.S. from the University of Tokyo, and a B.Eng. from Keio University in Japan.

Wrap-Up of Day 1

18:30-18:40



Shinichiro Komoto

Partner, Eight Roads Ventures Japan

With deep expertise in the healthcare space, Shinichiro has led healthcare investments at Eight Roads Ventures Japan since 2017. Before that, during his long tenure at Mitsui & Co., he gained hands-on experience in healthcare investments, M&A, and managing subsidiaries across the U.S., Asia, and Japan.

Today, as an outside director of several portfolio companies, he works closely with founders-helping them scale globally. Passionate about nurturing Japanese healthcare startups with worldwide potential, he brings both strategy and support to the table. He holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Tokyo Metropolitan University and completed an executive education program at INSEAD.



Shuji Honjo, Ph.D., MBA

Managing Director, Honjo International

Visiting Professor, Tama Graduate School of Business

Dr. Honjo advises startups, large companies, and investors in Japan, US and Asia. He is active in entrepreneurial education and community development, as a mentor with Techstars, Endeavor, Shido Next Innovator etc. Dr. Honjo is the Chair of Expert Panel on the Promotion of Medical Startups, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, a committee member of IPA's MITOU Advanced Program, and a judge of Japan Startup Award. He has consulting experiences with BCG Tokyo and CSC in California. He was Assistant to Chairman and Group Strategy Manager at CSK/SEGA Group and Japan Country Representative of General Atlantic, a US growth equity firm.

2026.3.26 (Thu)

Invited Lecture :
Navigating Global Clinical Trials and the Future of Drug Development

13:00-13:30



Toshihiko Doi, M.D., Ph.D.

Director, National Cancer Center Hospital East

Dr. Toshihiko Doi graduated from Okayama University of Medicine in 1989 and began his career in internal medicine and gastroenterology at leading national cancer centers in Japan. He has held multiple leadership roles at the National Cancer Center Hospital East, including head of the Clinical Trial Management Office, chief of Gastrointestinal Oncology and Experimental Therapeutics, and deputy director. Since 2022, he has served as director of the Exploratory Research & Clinical Trial Center, and in 2024 became director of the hospital. His research focuses on gastrointestinal oncology, early-phase clinical trials, regenerative medicine, biomarkers, imaging analysis, and AI- and IoT-based medical infrastructure.

Academic Research Highlights 1

13:30-13:50



Kumiko Ui-Tei, Ph.D.

Director, NucleoTIDE & PepTIDE Drug Discovery Center, Institute of Science Tokyo
Scientific Advisor and Chief Technology Officer, ANRis Inc.

Dr. Kumiko Ui-Tei is the Director of the NucleoTIDE & PepTIDE Drug Discovery Center at the Institute of Science Tokyo, specializing in nucleic acid and peptide-based therapeutics. Her research integrates fundamental biological mechanisms with the development of innovative drug discovery strategies. She has extensive experience in interdisciplinary research and academia-industry collaboration. In addition to her academic leadership, Dr. Ui-Tei serves as Scientific Advisor and Chief Technology Officer at ANRis, a biotechnology company focused on siRNA-based therapeutic platforms, where she supports the translation of academic discoveries into industrial and clinical applications.

Academic Research Highlights 2

13:50-14:10



Masayo Takahashi M.D., Ph.D.

Senior advisor, Research Center, Kobe City Eye Hospital
Fellow, Ritsumeikan Advanced Research Academy (RARA), Ritsumeikan University
President & CEO, VCCT Inc.

Masayo Takahashi is an ophthalmologist who completed her doctoral program (Visual Pathology) at the Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University. She served as the leader of the Laboratory for Retinal Regeneration, RIKEN Center for Biosystems Dynamics Research from 2006 to 2022, conducting groundbreaking clinical research using the world's first induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells in 2014. In 2017, she collaborated with the city of Kobe to establish the "Kobe Eye Center." After leaving RIKEN in 2019, she became the CEO of Vision Care Inc. and subsequently founded two subsidiary companies dedicated to gene therapy development and cell therapy research.

Academic Research Highlights 3

14:20-14:40



Hiroaki Suga, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Chemistry, Graduate School of Science, University of Tokyo

Hiroaki Suga is a Professor of the Department of Chemistry, Graduate School of Science in the University of Tokyo. He received Ph. D. in Chemistry (1994) from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is the recipient of many awards, e.g. Max-Bergmann Gold Medal 2016, Vincent du Vigneaud Award 2019, The Research Award of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation 2020, MIT T.Y. Shen Lectureship 2022, ETHZ Prelog Medal Lecture 2022, Wolf Prize in Chemistry 2023, Japan Academy Prize 2024, and Kobe Grand Prize 2025. He is a founder of PeptiDream Inc. (2006) and a founder of MiraBiologics Inc. (2017).

**Yosuke Togashi, M.D., Ph.D.**

Professor, Department of Tumor Microenvironment, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Okayama University

Yosuke Togashi earned his M.D. from Kyoto University School of Medicine in 2006 and initially worked as a clinician in the Department of Respiratory Medicine. After serving as an Assistant Professor at Kyoto University, he obtained his Ph.D. in Genome Biology at Kindai University in 2015. His early career was distinguished by a research fellowship at the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. He subsequently began basic and translational research in cancer immunology as a postdoctoral fellow at the National Cancer Center (Nishikawa Lab) in 2016. Since 2021, he has been a Professor at Okayama University, focusing on translational research of the tumor microenvironment. Additionally, he has been a Professor at OKAYAMA UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, Department of Respiratory Medicine, concurrently since 2024. His recent work includes researches on regulatory T cells, published in PNAS in 2019 and Nature Immunology, Science Immunology, and Immunity in 2020, and studies on exhausted tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) using single-cell sequencing (Cell Reports 2022; Cell Reports 2024; Cancer Research 2024). He has also investigated the metabolic landscape of the tumor microenvironment, particularly focusing on mitochondrial biology, with notable publications in Nature (2025).

[Moderator]**Robert Weisskoff, Ph.D.**

Senior Partner, F-Prime Capital

Robert Weisskoff, Senior Partner, joined F-Prime in 2004. Robert has worked extensively in both academia and the bioscience industry for thirty years. Prior to F-Prime, he held various senior roles in R&D and Business Development at both pharmaceutical and medical device companies. In his academic career, Dr. Weisskoff was Associate Professor of Radiology at Harvard Medical School, on the faculty of the Harvard-MIT Health Sciences Technology (HST) Program, and performed research at Massachusetts General Hospital, where he was Associate Director of the MGH-NMR Center. There he worked at the intersection of basic research, medical technology development, and clinical research in a variety of areas. Robert is the author of over 100 peer-reviewed scientific papers, and an inventor on 6 US patents.

Robert holds a Ph.D. in Physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an M.B.A. from Columbia University. He received his A.B. degree in Physics from Harvard University, graduating magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa.

[Panelists]**Jonathan Yeh, Ph.D., MBA**

Managing Partner, Saisei Ventures

Jonathan Yeh is Managing Partner and co-founder of Saisei Ventures, a cross-border life science venture capital firm. A builder at heart, Jonathan has created venture funds, biotech companies, and investment platforms that bridge science and capital to accelerate transformative therapies.

Jonathan has led the formation and growth of pioneering biotech companies, with investments and operating roles that have advanced cutting-edge therapies from concept to clinic. At Healios K.K. and CCRM, he shaped early-stage investments in regenerative medicine, and through Genome Canada, he spearheaded the development and commercialization of novel diagnostics for acute leukemia. He has been instrumental in launching and scaling pioneering companies, in the United States, Canada, and Japan, including Kenai Therapeutics, Notch Therapeutics, ExCellThera, and Senno Therapeutics where he has served as co-founder, investor, and board member. Jonathan also advises the International Society of Cell and Gene Therapy (ISCT) and the Creative Destruction Lab, mentoring next-generation entrepreneurs and companies at the frontiers of biotechnology.

Outside of venture and science, Jonathan is committed to building resilience and leadership in youth. He serves as chairman of a non-profit organization that delivers outdoor education for inner-city children, fostering self-confidence, perseverance, and a lasting connection with nature.



Ken Horne

Managing Partner, AN Venture Partners

Ken Horne is Managing Partner of AN Ventures, a global biotech investment firm focused on identifying scientific opportunities in Japan and building them into U.S.-based companies. Ken serves on the boards of Typewriter Therapeutics, Imbria Pharmaceuticals, Capacity Bio, Pahr Therapeutics, and Ando Therapeutics.

Ken is a seasoned healthcare investor, entrepreneur, and executive with more than two decades of experience founding, scaling, and financing life sciences companies. Previously, he served as Chair of RDiscovery (Remiges Ventures). As an entrepreneur, he co-founded or led Aline Aesthetics (acquired by Allergan), Symic Bio (acquired by Nordic Bio), and Teon Therapeutics.

Earlier in his career, Ken was a founding member of TauTona Group, an early-stage life sciences venture capital fund. He began his career at The Foundry, a leading medtech incubator, and was involved in eValve (acquired by Abbott) and Cierra (acquired by Terumo).

Ken holds BS and MS degrees in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University and is a Kauffman Fellow (Class 17), where he was the Jeff Timmons Leadership Award recipient.



Makoto Ohori, Ph.D.

Partner (Chief Investment Officer, Life Science) , UTokyo Innovation Platform Co., Ltd.

Makoto (Mark) Ohori, Ph.D joined UTokyo IPC in October 2020. Prior to UTokyo IPC, Mark was Executive Director, Head of Early-stage Partnering at Astellas Innovation Management LLC (Cambridge, MA), where he established and managed dozens of strategic partnerships with life science companies and academic institutions in the US, Europe, and Japan. Before that, he worked for Astellas Venture Management LLC (Menlo Park, CA) as Investment Director and made investments in around fifteen biotech ventures. More than half of them already achieved Exits (IPO or M&A). Mark also led the efforts of partnering and collaboration management with portfolio companies including build-to-buy NewCos. He was working in-residence at Potenza Therapeutics, where he served as Co-chair of the Joint Steering Committee. The company was successfully achieved Exit (M&A) with three clinical programs, which were discovered under the collaboration. Mark also has more than twenty years of experience of drug discovery research in Fujisawa Pharmaceuticals and Astellas Pharma. Mark advanced his training as a molecular biologist in the Faculty and Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Tokyo, where he received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D.



Shinichiro Komoto

Partner, Eight Roads Ventures Japan

With deep expertise in the healthcare space, Shinichiro has led healthcare investments at Eight Roads Ventures Japan since 2017. Before that, during his long tenure at Mitsui & Co., he gained hands-on experience in healthcare investments, M&A, and managing subsidiaries across the U.S., Asia, and Japan.

Today, as an outside director of several portfolio companies, he works closely with founders-helping them scale globally. Passionate about nurturing Japanese healthcare startups with worldwide potential, he brings both strategy and support to the table. He holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Tokyo Metropolitan University and completed an executive education program at INSEAD.



Tai Harada, MBA

Partner, Fast Track Initiative

Tai Harada is a Partner at Fast Track Initiative (FTI), where he launched and leads its US office. At FTI, Tai creates value by orchestrating cross-border collaborations to accelerate early-stage science. In the past, he worked at McKinsey & Company as a Junior Manager, focusing on new business development and corporate strategies for healthcare industry clients. He also worked with ARCH Venture Partners as an Investment Consultant where he evaluated early-stage life science companies. Tai holds a Master of Engineering from the University of Tokyo and an MBA from the University of Chicago.



Takeshi Takahashi, MBA

Managing Director, Catalys Pacific, LLC

Takeshi Takahashi is a Managing Director with Catalys Pacific. He holds extensive experience in M&As, IPOs, and financing in the healthcare sector. Prior to Catalys Pacific, he worked for the investment banking division of Morgan Stanley for 12 years and played a significant role in over 30 distinguished transactions including, but not limited to, Japanese companies' acquisitions of U.S. listed companies with an enterprise value of over US\$10.0 billion, acquisitions of global healthcare companies with an enterprise value of over US\$5.0 billion, and a number of alternative financing transactions. Prior to working for Morgan Stanley, Takeshi was an analyst and a portfolio manager for global and Japan fixed income and managed a \$3.0+ billion portfolio in Japan and the U.S. at Merrill Lynch's asset management division.

Takeshi graduated from Waseda University with a degree in Political Science and Economics, and holds an M.B.A. from Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. Proficiently bilingual and bicultural.



Taro Inaba, MBA

Managing Partner, Remiges Ventures, Inc.

Taro is Founder and Managing Partner at Remiges Ventures. He has over 30 years of business experience including over 20 years in start-up financing and company creation in the life science area. At Remiges, Taro is engaged in technology sourcing, company creation, leading negotiation for investments and serving as director for the Remiges' portfolio companies including Inflectis, Omeicos, Imel, Tranquis, and Capacity Bio. Prior to establishing Remiges Ventures, Taro spent 13 years at divisions of Mitsui & Co., Ltd. engaged in venture investment activities where he built and managed the biopharma investment team and investment portfolio. He served as President & CEO of Mitsui & Co. Venture Partners in Menlo Park, California from 2008 to 2009. Taro holds a B.E. in Polymer Chemistry, Kyoto University and MBA from European University.

Invited International Venture Capitalist

ARCH Venture Partners



Mayu Yoshikawa, Ph.D.

Venture Partner

Dr. Mayu Yoshikawa joined ARCH Venture Partners as a Venture Partner in 2025, focusing on company creation and business development leveraging innovations from Japanese academia. She is an experienced biotech investor and company builder with deep connections in Japan's academic and startup communities, dedicated to bridging cutting-edge science from Japan into global ventures.

Dr. Yoshikawa launched her career at McKinsey & Company and subsequently spent six years leading biotech investments at a venture capital firm in Japan. She also served as a Program Promoter at the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), working to advance academic research toward commercialization. She played a key role supporting the formation of AN Ventures, a Japan–U.S. biotech fund dedicated to building blockbuster biotech companies leveraging science from Japan.

Previously, Dr. Yoshikawa served as a Senior Advisor at ARCH, where she was deeply involved in supporting multiple cross-border biotech startups between Japan and the U.S., including City Therapeutics. Leveraging her deep networks within Japanese academia and innovation ecosystems, she has been instrumental in guiding these ventures from inception through growth. Her expertise spans cross-border company formation, biotech investing, and academic technology commercialization. Her Japanese background and experience uniquely position her to bridge scientific innovation between Japan and the United States.

Dr. Yoshikawa holds a Ph.D. in Life Sciences from the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Frontier Sciences.

B Capital



Kelly Qiao, Ph.D.

Senior Principal

Dr. Kelly Qiao is a Senior Principal at B Capital, where she leads healthcare investments across Asia. She focuses on opportunities in biotech, medtech and digital health.

Since joining B Capital, Kelly has invested in and serves on the boards of Insilico Medicine, ProfoundBio (acquired by Genmab), Grit Biotechnology, Rona Therapeutics, Vivacta Bio, Spectrumedics Medical, Macrolux Medical, and AlphaLife Sciences. She has also invested in MediTrust Health and Yuanxin Technology.

Prior to joining B Capital, Kelly built over a decade of experience across healthcare investing and operations. She previously worked as Managing Director for global healthcare investment at Fosun (656.HK). Prior to that, Kelly served as an Executive Director at Vertex Ventures, where she invested in Chipscreen Biosciences (688321.SH) and Phoenix Healthcare Group (1515.HK), and served on the Board of Chipscreen. She also worked in drug discovery at GlaxoSmithKline and sales and marketing at Roche.



Jason Grosz

Principal

Jason is an Investor in B Capital's San Francisco office, where he focuses on life sciences investments including biotech, medtech, and diagnostics. Previously, he was a consultant at the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), where he focused on strategic initiatives and operational transformations for F500 biopharma and medical device clients. He also had extensive experience in BCG's Principal Investors and Private Equity group, where he conducted commercial due diligences for leading private equity clients.

Originally from Boston, Jason received his bachelor's and master's degrees in Bioengineering from the University of Pennsylvania. In his free time, he is an avid skier and loves to spend time outside enjoying nature.

Curie.Bio



Ben Auspitz

Managing Partner, Breakout Fund

I have worked in biotechnology for over two decades as an investor, operator, and founder. I started my career in small company biotech and now have moved back and forth multiple times between operating roles and venture capital. All told I've been involved in founding or funding over 20 companies, which collectively have been responsible for seven approved drugs, with many more programs currently in clinical development.

At Curie.Bio, I am responsible for our Breakout Fund. The Breakout Fund has two goals. First, to help scale our seed stage companies to move their programs through transformative clinical data. Second, to identify Series A opportunities from outside our own seed ecosystem where Curie's talented team of drug hunters and developers can give us an edge in diligence or improve a company's chances of success.

Most recently, before joining Curie.Bio, I was a co-founder, founding CEO, and later chairman of IDRx, a company focused on precision oncology. I also co-founded Forge Life Science Partners, a venture capital fund focused on translational stage therapeutic opportunities. Most people in biotech know me from my time at F-Prime Capital where I spent over a decade focused on company formation and Series A investing.

Curie.Bio



Molly Cole, Ph.D.

Senior Associate

I am an immunologist by training and have focused my career on advancing novel therapies as both an investor and an operator in biotech. I began at F-Prime Capital, supporting early-stage investments and working closely with the management team at Shinobi Therapeutics. I later joined Shinobi full-time as an early employee, gaining firsthand experience building a startup across the US and Japan. This experience gave me a unique perspective on global biotech ecosystems and a deep appreciation for cross-border collaboration. At Curie.Bio, I now focus on identifying, evaluating, and building companies developing transformative, game-changing therapies for patients worldwide.

Deerfield / 3DC



Frank Nestle, M.D.

Partner & CEO

Frank Nestle, M.D., FMedSci, is a Partner on the Deerfield Therapeutics team and the Chief Executive Officer of Deerfield Therapeutic Discovery and Development (3DC). His focus is on creating the next generation of therapeutics companies and advancing early-stage therapeutics from scientific discovery through preclinical stages to clinical proof of concept. Prior to joining Deerfield in 2024, Dr. Nestle served as the Global Head of Research and Chief Scientific Officer at Sanofi, where he oversaw all research platforms and therapeutic areas, including Immunology & Inflammation, Oncology, Neuroscience, Rare Diseases, and Genomic Medicine. He has also held leadership roles in several academic and professional organizations and served on the boards of several private companies. With over 220 scientific articles to his name, published in prestigious journals such as Nature, Nature Medicine, Cell, the New England Journal of Medicine, The Lancet, the Journal of Clinical Investigation, and the Journal of Experimental Medicine, Dr. Nestle has made significant contributions to the field. Dr. Nestle holds an M.D. from the Julius Maximilian University of Würzburg and is a Fellow of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences.

Deerfield Management



Jason Fuller, Ph.D.

Partner

Jason Fuller, Ph.D., is a Partner on the Therapeutics team and joined the Firm in 2021. Prior to Deerfield, Dr. Fuller was an investor at New Enterprise Associates (NEA), where he co-managed several investments in therapeutics, as well as in tools and diagnostics. Previous to NEA, he served as Head of Corporate Development at Jounce Therapeutics, one of several company formation projects he helped initiate in his role as Principal at Third Rock Ventures before joining Jounce. Dr. Fuller holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Michigan State University, an M.Phil. from Cambridge University, and a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he completed his degree in the lab of Robert Langer.



Michael Hurley, M.D.

Managing Director

Michael Hurley, M.D., is a Managing Director on the Medical Technologies team and joined the Firm in 2022. Prior to Deerfield, Dr. Hurley was a Senior Associate at Blackstone Life Sciences where he focused on investments across medtech, biotech, and pharma. Before Blackstone, he served as an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) and was a practicing physician at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center. He completed his residency at UCSF and is board certified in Internal Medicine. Dr. Hurley holds a B.S. in Materials Science and Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an M.S. in Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and an M.D. from Stanford University School of Medicine.

EQT Life Sciences



Christoph Broja

Partner

Christoph Broja is a Partner in the EQT Life Sciences team since 2022.

Prior to joining EQT, Christoph was a Principal in the investment team at Gurnet Point Capital based in Boston, where he was involved in a number of investments in biopharma, medical devices, and molecular diagnostics. Prior to that, Christoph worked at B-Flexion Capital in London.

Christoph started his career as investment analyst at private equity firm Franz Haniel & Cie. in Germany. He holds a degree in Business Administration and is a CFA Charterholder.



Laurenz Govaerts, Ph.D.

Director

Laurenz Govaerts is a Director in the EQT Life Sciences team. Laurenz worked for LSP from 2021 until 2022, when LSP joined forces with EQT and was renamed EQT Life Sciences.

Prior to joining LSP, Laurenz worked as a Ph.D. researcher at Vlerick Business School and KU Leuven University in Leuven, Belgium and as a protein engineer at Roche GmbH in Munich, Germany.

Laurenz holds a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences from KU Leuven University & Vlerick Business School, a M.Sc. in Drug Development from KU Leuven University, a M.Sc. in Healthcare Management and Policy from KU Leuven University and a B.Sc in Pharmaceutical Sciences from KU Leuven University.

Flagship Pioneering



André Andonian, MBA

Chair of Asia Pacific

André Andonian is the Chair of APAC at Flagship Pioneering, the Chairman of Invaio Sciences, and a Board Director of Montai Therapeutics, Mirai Bio, and Terrana Biosciences.

André joined Flagship in 2023 and has over three decades of experience advising companies around the globe on a broad range of strategic, operational, and organizational topics. André is Senior Partner Emeritus at McKinsey & Company, where he worked for 34 years including as Senior Partner, Chairman of Japan, and Managing Partner of Korea. He was a member of McKinsey's leadership teams in Asia, Europe, and the US and was a long-term member of the firm's global board. André also serves as Chair of the Compensation and Talent Committee on the Board of ADI, Chair of the Board of Cogniaize in the US, and NC Chair of AEM Holdings in Singapore. As a Fulbright Scholar, André received an MBA at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, an MA and BA in Social & Economic Sciences as well as a BSc in Engineering, all with highest distinction, from institutions in his hometown of Vienna, Austria.



Hwee Juin Lee

Vice President, Asia-Pacific

Hwee Juin leads strategy and business development for Flagship Pioneering in Asia-Pacific, which includes advancing strategic partnerships across industry, academia and healthcare systems, as well as supporting the expansion of Flagship Pioneering and its portfolio companies in the region.

Her professional experience spans across pharmaceuticals, management consulting and economic development, including roles in Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicines, McKinsey & Company as well as the Singapore Economic Development Board.

Hwee Juin holds a Bachelor of Arts and Science with Distinction in Biomechanical Engineering and French, as well as a Master of Science in Management Science & Engineering from Stanford University.

Forbion



Melanie de Almeida, Ph.D.

Senior Associate

Melanie is a Senior Associate at Forbion and joined the investment team in September 2022 working across both the Ventures and Growth Strategies. Melanie currently serves as a Board member on Gyes and its two spinout companies Olethros and Moirea, and holds observer role on the Boards of Mestag and Citryll. She has been involved in various investments across both strategies including Capstan (acquired by Abbvie), VOR, and Cellcentric.

F-Prime Capital



Robert Weisskoff, Ph.D.

Senior Partner

Robert Weisskoff, Senior Partner, joined F-Prime in 2004. Robert has worked extensively in both academia and the bioscience industry for thirty years. Prior to F-Prime, he held various senior roles in R&D and Business Development at both pharmaceutical and medical device companies. In his academic career, Dr. Weisskoff was Associate Professor of Radiology at Harvard Medical School, on the faculty of the Harvard-MIT Health Sciences Technology (HST) Program, and performed research at Massachusetts General Hospital, where he was Associate Director of the MGH-NMR Center. There he worked at the intersection of basic research, medical technology development, and clinical research in a variety of areas. Robert is the author of over 100 peer-reviewed scientific papers, and an inventor on 6 US patents.

Robert holds a Ph.D. in Physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an M.B.A. from Columbia University. He received his A.B. degree in Physics from Harvard University, graduating magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa.

F-Prime Capital



Brian Yordy, Ph.D.
Principal

Brian joined F-Prime in 2018 and focuses primarily on investments in the biopharmaceutical and medical technology sectors. Prior to joining F-Prime, Brian was an engagement manager at McKinsey and Company, where he advised pharmaceutical and medical technology companies on business development, R&D, and strategy topics.

Brian holds a Ph.D. in immunology from Yale University and received his B.S. in biochemistry from the University of Notre Dame.

Frazier Life Sciences



Aditya Kohli, Ph.D.
Partner

Aditya is a Partner with Frazier Life Sciences, where he focuses on company creation.

Since joining Frazier in 2016, he has co-founded six companies including HilleVax (NASDAQ: HLVX), Phathom Pharmaceuticals (NASDAQ: PHAT), and Scout Bio (Acquired by Ceva). He served as Chief Business Officer of Phathom Pharmaceuticals from 2019-2021 and Chief Operating Officer of HilleVax from 2020 to 2024. He previously served on the boards of HilleVax and Scout Bio.

Prior to Frazier, Aditya was an Engagement Manager with McKinsey & Company, where he served biopharmaceutical companies on business development, research and development, and marketing/sales strategy. He received his Ph.D. from the UC Berkeley and UC San Francisco joint graduate program in bioengineering and holds B.S. and M.Eng. degrees in biological engineering from MIT.



Adam Simpson
Venture Partner

Adam is a Venture Partner at Frazier Life Sciences, where he is focused on company creation opportunities. In addition, Adam currently serves as the Executive Board Chair at Callio Therapeutics, a company developing multi-payload antibody-drug conjugates.

Prior to Frazier, Adam served as co-founder, Chief Executive Officer and Board member at Icosavax (Nasdaq: ICVX), a company leveraging its virus-like particle platform to develop vaccines for respiratory diseases. He built a team that brought multiple product candidates into the clinic, including Icosavax's RSV/hMPV combination vaccine, and led the company through its IPO and subsequent acquisition by AstraZeneca. Prior to Icosavax, Adam served as the Chief Executive Officer and Board member at PVP Biologics, a company developing an oral enzyme to treat celiac disease. Adam led the company from founding through its acquisition by Takeda. Previously, Adam served as co-founder and Chief Business Officer of Meritage Pharma from inception until its sale to Shire, leading to the first FDA-approved oral product to treat eosinophilic esophagitis.

GV (Google Ventures)



Karthik Ardhanareswaran
Investing Partner

Karthik Ardhanareswaran is a San Francisco-based investing partner at GV, where he focuses on life sciences investments.

Before GV, Karthik was a Vice President and Quant at D.E. Shaw & Co., where he developed algorithmic trading strategies and statistical models of markets. He also spent time in the firm's business development and high-frequency options trading units. Before D.E. Shaw, Karthik was a stem cell and bioinformatics researcher at the Yale Child Study Center, focused on understanding the pathogenesis of various neurodevelopmental and neuropsychiatric disorders.

Karthik completed his undergraduate and graduate work at Yale in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology.

Johnson & Johnson Innovation - JJDC



Wei Wu, Ph.D
Senior Director, Venture Investments

At JJDC, the corporate venture group of J&J, Wei Wu is currently the lead for JJDC investments in Asia Pacific and cross-border transactions. She initiates and manages equity investments in biotech and medical device to fuel new business for J&J. Prior to joining JJDC, Wei was a Senior Associate at Illumina Ventures with a focus on genomics-enabled precision medicine including therapeutics, diagnostics, and life science tools in US. Prior to that, she was the Director of Healthcare Investment and Business Development of BOE technology group where she focused on VC fund investment, direct investment, and business development opportunities at the intersection of technology and life sciences. Before becoming an investor, Wei was a R&D project lead at NuGEN Technologies (later acquired to become TECAN Genomics). Wei received her Ph.D. from UCLA in Biological Chemistry and completed her postdoctoral research in the Department of Pathology at Stanford University. She received a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences from Peking University, China. She published in top-tier journals including Cell, Nature, Neuron, Nature Review Genetics and served as a reviewer and editorial board member for numerous international biomedical journals.

Monograph Capital



Tim Funnell, DPhil
Partner

Tim Funnell is a Partner and co-Founder at Monograph, a Life Sciences Venture fund based out of San Francisco and London. Tim is both an investor and a company builder, taking operating roles in his portfolio companies to support their development. He has experience across therapeutic modalities and geographies, previously holding investment roles with Syncona and Third Rock Ventures. He began his career at the Boston Consulting Group in London. Tim trained as a pharmacologist with an undergraduate degree from University of Cambridge and DPhil from the University of Oxford.

Norwest Venture Partners



Brian Matesic, M.D.
Principal

Brian Matesic, M.D. is a Principal at Norwest Venture Partners where he focuses on biotech and MedTech investments. He has co-led investments in over 10 private biotech companies, including Ouro Medicines, Avalyn Pharma, Nectero Medical, MBX Biosciences, Zenas BioPharma, Ray Therapeutics, Nuvig Therapeutics, and Callio Therapeutics.

Prior to joining Norwest, Brian was an investor at Blackstone Life Sciences, where he helped lead over \$1.5B of investments across biotech, medical devices, and diagnostics. Brian was previously an Engagement Manager at McKinsey & Company, where he advised companies across the healthcare industry.

Brian has a medical degree from Stanford and MBA from Harvard. His research on prostate cancer, diabetic macular edema, and patient safety has been published in multiple peer-review journals. He is based in San Francisco, California.

OrbiMed



Mona Ashiya, Ph.D.
General Partner

Mona is a General Partner of OrbiMed and has been with OrbiMed since 2010. Prior to OrbiMed, Mona covered the biotechnology industry as a member of J.P. Morgan's biotechnology equity research team. Her previous experience includes positions at the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development and the Harvard Business School. Mona earned a B.A. degree from the University of California at Berkeley, a Ph.D. in Cellular, Molecular, and Developmental Biology from the University of Pittsburgh, and was a post-doctoral fellow at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.



Evan Caplan, M.D.
Partner

Evan joined OrbiMed in 2018 and is a Partner focused on venture investments in therapeutics, medical devices, and healthcare tech and services. Prior to joining OrbiMed, he advised public and private biotech, medtech, and healthtech companies as an investment banker at J.P. Morgan. Evan received a B.A. from Middlebury College, an M.D. from Harvard Medical School, and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.

Polaris Partners



Alexandra Cantley, Ph.D.
Partner

Alexandra joined Polaris in 2019 and serves as a partner in the New York office. She is primarily focused on early stage biotech and healthcare investments.

She currently serves on the Board of Directors of Auron Therapeutics, Cirrus Therapeutics, Crossbow Therapeutics, EpiBiologics, Amplifire, Podimetrics, SunBird Bio, and TRex Bio, and as a Board Observer to Capstan Therapeutics and Engine Bio.

Prior to joining Polaris, Alexandra was part of the initial research team at Inzen Therapeutics, where she helped develop their platform technologies. She moved to Inzen from Vertex Pharmaceuticals, where she held a research fellowship.

Alexandra received a Ph.D. in Chemical Biology from Harvard University, where she studied natural product discovery. Alexandra performed her undergraduate studies at New York University.

Samsara BioCapital



Aditya Asokan, Ph.D.
Investor

Aditya Asokan has been part of the investing team at Samsara BioCapital for almost 6 years where he has played an integral role in several Samsara investments across various therapeutic areas, modalities and has experience in early seed stage to late stage investing across public and private companies. Aditya currently serves on the Board of several companies in the metabolic, neurology and oncology space. Prior to Samsara, Aditya was an academic researcher having spent over 10 years doing research in the field of neuroscience through his doctorate and post doctoral work at the University of Florida and Stanford University.

SR One Capital Management



Rajeev Dadoo, Ph.D.
Managing Partner

Rajeev is a Managing Partner of SR One based in the San Francisco Bay Area. He joined SR One in 2004 and is an alum of the Kauffman Fellows Program. Rajeev has leveraged his broad operational and strategic experience to invest in a number of successful companies, both in the therapeutics space and in healthcare-technology companies. His prior roles have included working in the Competitive Excellence group at GSK on various global projects and at Genentech in technology and clinical development. Rajeev obtained a BA in Chemistry and Mathematics from Knox College, a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Stanford University and an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

SV Health Investors



Miles Gerson, JD/MBA
Partner

Miles joined SV Health Investors as a Partner in 2026 and is co-leading the Dementia Discovery Fund, focused on investments in therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases.

Prior to SV, Miles served as Global Head & President of Takeda Ventures, where he managed Takeda Pharmaceutical's corporate venture team and strategic investment portfolio. Additionally, he served as interim Head of GI Business Development for Takeda's R&D unit.

Prior to Takeda, Miles served as founding management of early-stage companies, led investment diligence for venture and private equity firms based in the US and Europe, and held multiple senior operational roles for venture-backed and publicly-traded life sciences companies.

Miles holds a JD/MBA in Strategic Management in Life & Engineering Sciences from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, as well as Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Neuroscience & Behavioral Studies from Wesleyan University in Connecticut.

TPG Life Sciences Innovations



Shinichiro Fuse, Ph.D.
Partner/Managing Director

Dr. Shinichiro Fuse, is Partner at TPG Life Sciences Innovation. He co-leads the Life Sciences Innovations fund at TPG and serves on the Board of Directors at Ouro Medicines, Santa Ana Bio, Sudo Biosciences, and a stealth company, and as a board observer at Curium. He served as a board observer for Elektrofi until its acquisition by Halozyme in Nov 2025. Previously, he was Managing Director at MPM Capital, where he served on the investment committee of the Oncology Impact Fund (OIF) and BioVentures Funds. Shin served on the Board of Directors of Orna Therapeutics (acquired by Eli Lilly), iOmx Therapeutics, Triplet Therapeutics and ReNAGade Therapeutics, and as a board observer for ElevateBio and Repare Therapeutics. Shin also played operational roles at MPM portfolio companies as the interim CEO of Orna Therapeutics, interim/founding SVP of Business Development at ElevateBio, and one of the co-founders of Crossbow Therapeutics. Prior to joining MPM, he was Director of Business Development at bluebird bio.

He currently serves on the Board of Advisors of the Guarini School of Graduate and Advanced Studies at Dartmouth College. He previously served as a columnist for Nikkei Biotech, writing on trends within the US biotech sector. Shin received his Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology from Dartmouth College, an M.S. from the University of Tokyo, and a B.Eng. from Keio University in Japan.

Participating Startups

Alchemedicine, Inc.



"SEVEN new drug candidates, THREE license agreements, ONE clinical introduction" Alchemedicine has accumulated track record leveraging proprietary medicinal chemistry platform "HiSAP®" since company inception in 2019. Alchemedicine can advance seed compounds into new drug candidate by rapid improvement of drug issues using unique core structures and in silico drug design support system. In addition to out-license of internal new drug candidates, **ALCHEMEDICINE IS INTERESTED IN COLLABORATIVE DRUG DISCOVERY.** If any of your portfolio companies are interested in collaborating with us or seeking our support, please feel free to contact us.

Alpha Fusion Inc.



We pioneer Targeted Alpha Therapy (TAT) using 211At, overcoming the limitations of conventional isotopes through direct covalent bonding with small-molecule ligands. Lead asset af-001 targets the NIS transporter—a mechanism uniquely enabled by 211At—for refractory thyroid cancer, with Phase 1 already confirming efficacy and safety. Our broader pipeline addresses massive unmet needs in brain and pancreatic cancers where no TAT exists today. As the only company with clinical-stage 211At drugs, we are redefining oncology.

Atransen Pharma Ltd.



Atransen Pharma Ltd. (APL) is a preclinical stage biotech developing APL1101 as a novel anti-tumor drug for solid tumor. The target molecule is the amino acid transporter 1 (LAT1) selectively expressed in the surface of tumor cells, acting as a source of essential amino acids and promotes the mTORC1 pathway, critical for tumor cell growth. The lead pipeline is APL1101 for solid tumor, the 2nd pipeline is APL1202 for Boron Neutron Capture Therapy (BNCT). at the stage towards IND-ready, and now under the Series A2/B fundraising, followed by the fundraising for getting clinical PoC.

BTB Therapeutics, Inc.



BTB Therapeutics, based in San Diego, CA, is a clinical-stage drug development company founded on innovative research from Kyoto University. Our portfolio features BTB-101, a novel non-opioid analgesic designed to manage acute post-operative pain; an advanced treatment targeting rare genetic disorders; and state-of-the-art immuno-oncology initiatives. We have completed Phase 1 and 2 single-dose trials of BTB-101 in Japan, with a Phase 1b study planned to commence in the US in the latter half of 2026. We are currently looking for investors and strategic pharmaceutical partners to help accelerate our pipeline and bring groundbreaking therapies to patients around the world.

CLOVERNA Inc.



CLOVERNA Inc. is a preclinical-stage biotech from Japan developing RNA-targeted therapeutics for neurodegeneration. Our lead program, CLV-201, is a first-in-class antisense oligonucleotide that targets an aggregation-specific non-coding RNA to reverse TDP-43 pathology, the driver in ~97% of ALS and many FTD cases. Using our proprietary CRISPR/dCas13 screening platform, we systematically identify druggable ncRNA "codes" inside RNA aggregates and condensates. CLOVERNA aims to bring disease-modifying treatments to the majority of ALS patients and to expand this approach to other TDP-43 and RNA-misfolding disorders.

FELIQS CORPORATION



FELIQS is a clinical-stage ophthalmology company advancing de-risked pipelines targeting pediatric and age-related ocular diseases with significant unmet medical need. Our lead program, FLQ-101 for retinopathy of prematurity, is in Phase 1b clinical development in the U.S. and has received FDA Orphan Drug and Fast Track designations. In parallel, we are developing FLQ-105 for dry AMD and FLQ-106 for recurrent pterygium, with first-in-human and Phase 2 studies planned for 2027. FELIQS is raising a \$40M Series B to achieve key clinical value inflection points.

FerroptoCure Inc.



FerroptoCure Inc. is pioneering innovative cancer therapies that harness the power of ferroptosis—a unique iron-dependent cell death pathway—to overcome tumor resistance. Their lead program targets triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC), with demonstrated early signal signs in an ongoing Phase 1 First-in-Human trial. Importantly, their approach is broadly applicable and holds promise for treating multiple cancer types. Supported by world-class science and a robust pipeline, FerroptoCure aims to deliver breakthrough options for patients with hard-to-treat malignancies. The company is seeking strategic partners and investors to accelerate clinical development and global expansion of their ferroptosis-inducing cancer therapeutics.

Kanade Therapeutics, Inc.



Kanade's patented technology involves optimizing intracellular domains and LNP technology for the CAR-DC pipeline. Overcoming the limitations of CAR-T, this is a promising next-generation technology for cancer immunotherapy. CAR-DC is superior to CAR-T in terms of mRNA/LNP delivery. mRNA/LNP in vivo technology can reduce drug costs compared to conventional cell therapies. Reduced side effects (cytokine storm). Maintains long-term CTL activity and avoids CTL exhaustion. Addresses issues such as tumor antigen escape and metastatic tumors with altered antigens. It features a specialized internal cell domain tailored for CAR-DC and holds patents for its optimization.

KORTUC INC



KORTUC is a late-stage oncology company developing a first-in-class intratumoral radiosensitizer to overcome tumor hypoxia, a major cause of radiotherapy resistance. Radiotherapy is used in approximately 50% of cancer patients globally, representing a large and established market opportunity. KRC-01 is currently in a registrational Phase 2 trial in breast cancer, with near full enrollment and top-line data expected in 2027. The company is targeting regulatory approval and product launch in the U.S. and EU in 2030. KORTUC is differentiated as one of the few Japanese-origin oncology companies approaching commercialization.

Lcarna Therapeutics



Former Takeda LNP architects and a former global VC investor have joined forces to build a pharma-grade active-targeting LNP company. While others build on legacy mRNA platforms, we redesign LNPs from first principles to enable re-dosable, ultra-low-dose in vivo CAR-T. Our Kaizen-LNP™ platform meets rigorous pharma-grade CMC standards to enable in vivo CAR-T as a viable commercial modality. Incorporated in the US with a subsidiary in Japan, we are positioned to capture global and local opportunities.

Liid Pharmaceuticals, Inc.



Liid Pharmaceuticals Inc. is a Japan-based biotech developing next-generation antisense therapeutics through its proprietary molecular design platform, BROTHERS. The platform thermodynamically controls biomolecule interactions of ASOs to enhance potency and tissue selectivity, addressing key limitations of current oligonucleotide drugs. While Liid's initial pipeline targets rare diseases to efficiently validate the platform, the company's broader mission is to establish a new molecular design standard for antisense therapeutics across multiple disease areas. By combining rational design with capital-efficient development, Liid aims to create differentiated clinical assets and scalable global value.

LinqMed Inc.



LinqMed Inc. is developing Copper-64 (^{64}Cu) "visible" cancer radiotherapeutics that combine PET imaging and therapy in a single drug—enabling true theranostics (patient selection, efficacy/toxicity prediction, and monitoring). Our lead program, LM001 (^{64}Cu -ATSM), showed strong Phase 1 outcomes and is now in a Japan pivotal Phase 3 trial for recurrent glioblastoma/high-grade glioma, skipping Phase 2. LinqMed has established a ^{64}Cu GMP manufacturing site in Japan and seeks global pharma and investor partners to accelerate US/global clinical development and commercialization, including expansion into additional indications.

Luxna Biotech Co., Ltd.



Luxna Biotech is a Japan-based biotechnology company specializing in proprietary antisense oligonucleotide (ASO) chemistry for CNS, ocular, and neuromuscular diseases. Founded in 2017 as an Osaka University spin-out, Luxna has developed the LuxiAP™ platform, enabling long-acting, low-toxicity ASO therapeutics without complex delivery systems. The company's lead program targets Duchenne muscular dystrophy with a mutation-independent approach supported by strong in vivo proof of concept. Luxna collaborates with academia and pharmaceutical partners to advance innovative nucleic acid medicines toward clinical development.

MiraBiologics Inc.



MiraBiologics Inc. is a biotech startup from the University of Tokyo and the University of Osaka, co-founded by Professors Hiroaki Suga and Junichi Takagi. Utilizing the "RaPID system" and "LassoGraft Technology®" platforms, the company engineers high-affinity macrocyclic peptides with exceptional cellular specificity. Unlike competitors focused solely on blood-brain barrier (BBB) crossing, MiraBiologics employs a unique "post-BBB" strategy centered on enabling more selective engagement of the target cell populations within the brain. With exclusive licenses and a robust IP portfolio, the company is well-positioned to advance next-generation therapeutics for various conditions, including central nervous system diseases.

MOLCURE Inc.



MOLCURE Inc. is an AI-driven antibody discovery and optimization company accelerating biologics R&D for pharmaceutical and biotech partners via a proprietary, closed-loop AI-wet lab platform. In real-world pharma partner programs, our specialized antibody LLM-trained on 1B+ proprietary experimental data points accumulated over 10+ years—has delivered antibodies with 100x higher affinity than conventional approaches. With 27 collaborations across 19 partners, including Boehringer Ingelheim and Ono Pharmaceutical, MOLCURE has a proven track record against high-difficulty targets. By iterating design-make-test-analyze in the loop, we rapidly generate high-performance biologics for the next generation of AI-driven biopharmaceuticals.

NB Health Laboratory Co., Ltd.



NBHL is developing five breakthrough functional antibodies targeting G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) for the treatment of connective tissue disease-related interstitial lung disease (CTD-ILD) and tissue fibrosis—serious diseases with high unmet medical need and substantial global market opportunity. We plan to initiate a clinical trial within two years. Our programs are powered by MoGRAA, a proprietary antibody discovery platform powered by specialized AI technologies that generate high-confidence therapeutic hypotheses. By combining deep GPCR biology expertise with advanced AI-driven target discovery for specific diseases, we are positioned to significantly compress preclinical timelines and advance multiple lead candidates into clinical development.

Optium Biotechnologies Inc.



Optium Biotechnologies is a Japan-based CAR T company advancing two core pillars. Lead candidate OPTF01, backed by \$39M non-dilutive funding, targets FAPa to disrupt tumor stroma in glioblastoma and solid tumors, with IND submission planned for winter 2026. Our proprietary Eumbody™ System is a high-throughput functional screening platform that identifies CARs optimized for potency, specificity, and persistence. This enables rapid pipeline expansion in both ex vivo and in vivo applications. We're launching Series B fundraising this spring with a target of \$20M.

ORBIO Corporation



The International Agency for Research on Cancer estimates that both cancer incidence and mortality will continue to rise by 2050. Finding the deadliest part as early as possible is crucial to reduce cancer deaths relative to new cases. ORBIO represents a deep-tech startup aiming for introducing a fundamentally new category in oncology. Cells need fuels to proliferate. Based on our own data, we noticed an ability of hard-to-treat cancer cells to use normally unmetabolizable nutrients as fuels. We use L-glucose, the least metabolizable sugar of its kind, to both detect and treat undifferentiated, highly aggressive cancer cells.

Periotherapia Co., Ltd.



Periotherapia, The University of Osaka spin-out developing first-in-class anti-periostin antibodies designed to remodel the tumor microenvironment by modulating pathological stroma, including cancer-associated fibroblasts (CAFs) and epithelial–mesenchymal transition (EMT). Our lead asset, PT0101, is in a Phase I/IIa clinical trial in Japan for HER2-negative metastatic breast cancer. PT0101 has shown a favorable safety profile to date and is being developed to address tumor invasion and treatment resistance. With U.S. clinical studies planned for 2026 and a cardiovascular pipeline in development, we are seeking growth capital and strategic partners to accelerate global development.

PurinoScience



PurinoScience is a Japan-based biotech company in formation developing an oral, two-component therapy to restore muscle energy and function in sarcopenia, in R&D collaboration with Prof. Ken Okamoto (University of Tokyo). Our lead program enhances ATP salvage by combining inhibition of purine degradation with a salvage substrate, shifting metabolites back toward ATP resynthesis in muscle. We initially target acute post-fracture and perioperative functional decline, where rapid recovery can reduce rehab burden and long-term care costs. Nonclinical studies show in vivo functional signals, and we are advancing CMC and IND-enabling work toward first-in-human studies and partnering.

Reborna Biosciences, Inc.



Reborna Biosciences is a Japan-based biotech developing RNA-targeted small-molecule therapies for genetic diseases. Unlike competitors that rely on RNA fragments, we uniquely conduct full-length RNA screening, enabling superior efficacy and safety. Our platform addresses significant unmet needs in dementia (including FTL) and Huntington's disease, with scalability from rare to high-prevalence indications. Founded as a spin-out from Takeda Pharmaceutical Company, we combine pharma-grade R&D with a Ph.D.-driven leadership team. We have raised approximately \$20M to date and are preparing our next financing round to advance pipelines into clinical development and expand global strategic partnerships.

Red Arrow Therapeutics, Inc.



IL-12 is one of oncology's most powerful cytokines—and one of its greatest failures. Systemic toxicity has blocked every clinical attempt. Red Arrow Therapeutics is changing that. Our proprietary pH-sensitive nanopolymer silently masks IL-12 in circulation, then unleashes it precisely within the acidic tumor microenvironment—a molecular on/off switch eliminating systemic toxicity while maximizing tumor kill. Preclinical results: complete tumor eradication, durable immune memory, and an unprecedented therapeutic window. A University of Tokyo spinout now headquartered in Boston, Red Arrow is led by top industry veterans and advancing toward a 2027 IND with exceptional capital efficiency.

RegCell



RegCell Inc., founded by 2025 Nobel Laureate Professor Shimon Sakaguchi, is developing a novel epigenetic reprogramming platform designed to restore immune tolerance in autoimmune diseases. The company has secured over \$70M in non-dilutive capital to advance its technology toward clinical proof-of-concept across multiple autoimmune indications. RegCell is a Johnson & Johnson JLABS portfolio company and plans to initiate clinical trials in the United States and Japan in 2026. Unlike current standard-of-care therapies that broadly suppress the immune system, RegCell's platform reprograms disease-causing T cells into antigen-specific regulatory T cells that selectively suppress pathogenic immune responses while preserving healthy immune function.

Rege Nephro Co., Ltd.



Rege Nephro is a Kyoto-based clinical-stage biotech company developing disease-modifying therapies for severe kidney diseases. Leveraging proprietary human iPSC-derived disease models, we enhance translational predictability by directly targeting human renal pathophysiology. Our lead program, RN-014, is an orally available RAR agonist currently in Phase II clinical trials for autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD). RN-014 has demonstrated emerging clinical efficacy and favorable tolerability. With a differentiated multi-layered mechanism targeting both cyst formation and downstream inflammatory and fibrotic remodeling, Rege Nephro aims to deliver next-generation therapeutics in a commercially validated market.

RIN Institute Inc.



RIN Institute is a biotech focusing on refractory solid tumors derived from the National Cancer Center Japan. By targeting the cancer stroma that impedes cancer treatment, we bring hope to patients suffering from intractable cancers. We created an antibody specific to insoluble fibrin present in the cancer stroma and incorporated a unique linker that cleaves exclusively within the stroma, achieving both efficacy and safety. We will carve out this asset and establish a new co.

Sharkey Technologies



Sharkey Technologies is a deeptech venture pioneering next-generation antibodies derived from sharks. At 1/60th the size of traditional IgG, our "world's smallest antibodies" target unreachable by current medicine. This incredibly small size, combined with their unique features, enables transformative advantages over other modalities, including druggability, superior penetration, safety, cost-effective manufacturing, and possibility of non-invasive administration. We are committed to solve high-burden unmet medical needs, with a primary focus on treatments in oncology, neurology and intractable diseases. Strategically positioned for a 2028 corporate launch, we are seeking global connections with VCs, pharmaceutical leaders and CROs/CDMOs to scale our clinical portfolio.

Shinobi Therapeutics, Co. Ltd.



Shinobi creates iPSC-derived cell therapies for solid tumors and autoimmune diseases. Our KATANA platform integrates hypimmune edits and cytokine armoring technology to create a pipeline of off-the-shelf cell products with enhanced persistence, ideal for redosing. With \$71M in non-dilutive AMED funding, Shinobi plans to file two INDs in 2026 (NJA-001 and NJA-201). Shinobi leverages a highly cost-efficient US-Japan R&D ecosystem and is backed by top-tier investors including F-Prime, Eight Roads, and EQT. Our scalable manufacturing process ensures uniform quality at low cost, effectively transforming the commercial landscape for off-the-shelf CAR/TCR-T and CAR-NK cell therapies for patients worldwide.

STAND Therapeutics Co., Ltd.



Antibody therapeutics offer high specificity and binding affinity and are widely used as effective medicines. However, inside cells they are unstable and tend to aggregate, preventing them from acting on intracellular disease targets. We have developed a broadly applicable method to create antibodies that remain non-aggregating and functional intracellularly simply by fusing a peptide tag enriched for specific amino acids. Using this technology, we are developing therapeutics that clear intracellular amyloid implicated in neurodegenerative diseases and inhibit intracellular protein-protein interactions (PPIs).

Toregem BioPharma Co., Ltd.



Toregem BioPharma is a clinical-stage biotech company originating from Kyoto University, developing the world's first antibody therapy for tooth regeneration. Our lead program, TRG035, targets USAG-1 to stimulate natural tooth development and aims to provide a curative treatment for congenital tooth agenesis. Following successful Phase 1 completion in Japan and a U.S. FDA Pre-IND meeting, we are advancing toward Phase 2 clinical trials. Our mission is to establish a new standard of care in regenerative dentistry and address significant unmet medical needs worldwide.

United Immunity, Co., Ltd.



United Immunity has developed active targeting nanoparticle (Myeloid Targeting Platform) to deliver payloads to macrophages and dendritic cells well as other myeloid cells such as tumor-associated macrophages (TAM), liver Kupffer cells, and microglia. UI-102 (lead program): A pullulan encapsulated TLR7/8 small molecule agonist targeting M2-like tumor macrophages to modulate the tumor. UI-102 aims to increase the efficacy of immunotherapies while significantly reducing safety risks associated with TLR agonism. A Phase I clinical study will be initiated early 2026 as monotherapy. UI-103: An off the shelf in vivo CAR-macrophages P-LNP for the treatment of cancer and autoimmune diseases, including B cell depletion. IND filing is planned for the second half of 2026.

VCCT Inc.



Founded by Dr. Masayo Takahashi, a pioneer known for the world's first clinical application of the iPSC-based therapy to patient, VCCT Inc. is dedicated to the development of allogeneic iPSC-derived cell therapy for retinal degeneration diseases including AMD and Retinitis pigmentosa. Pipeline includes the gene edited photoreceptor organoids and the gene edited RPE cell strip which are now heading toward clinical development backed by the promising preclinical POC data. VCCT has implemented a clinical-grade automated manufacturing process utilizing a humanoid robot to achieve the stable manufacturing of quality cells: a key success factor in the cell therapy field.

xFOREST Therapeutics Co., Ltd.



xFOREST Therapeutics is a Kyoto-based biotech pioneering RNA-targeting small molecule drug discovery. Leveraging our proprietary platforms, "MatrixFOREST" and "SpliceVerse", we unlock "undruggable" targets by directly modulating RNA structures and splicing junctions. This approach enables diverse mechanisms of action against severe unmet medical needs, particularly in oncology and neurological diseases. Having validated our technology through extensive partnerships with leading global and domestic pharmaceutical companies, we are rapidly advancing our internal pipeline of cell-validated hit compounds. We are currently seeking \$10M in funding to accelerate our platform and pipeline development toward clinical stages.

Contributors

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributors for their valuable support in planning this symposium.



Hiroki Ashida, Ph.D.

Founder and CEO, Silvertrail Partners

As a Company Builder, he serves as Founder and Fractional CXO, building multiple cross-border biotechs. He became independent from a global VC in 2026 and is currently preparing the launch of several stealth companies in the US.

He spent nearly nine years at Eight Roads Ventures, investing in biotechs across the US, Japan, Europe, and China, while leading company building efforts in the US and Japan. He led company formation from academia and pharma spin-outs, US inversions, and the establishment of Japanese subsidiaries for US biotechs.

He holds a Ph.D. in Computational Biology from the University of Tokyo and previously worked in management consulting.



Jun Kusunoki, Ph.D., R.Ph.

Senior Director, Japan Country Lead, External Scientific Innovation, Johnson & Johnson

Jun spent 23 years in small molecule drug discovery in metabolic disorder area at several pharmaceutical companies and 3 years at medical affairs to support several product launches to Japanese market. In 2014, Jun joined Johnson & Johnson Innovation (now External Scientific Innovation, Johnson & Johnson) as Japan Country Lead, responsible for activation and search & evaluation for Japan market, harnessing Japan and Asia Pacific region with global J&J R&D organization.



Shinichiro Komoto

Partner, Eight Roads Ventures Japan

With deep expertise in the healthcare space, Shinichiro has led healthcare investments at Eight Roads Ventures Japan since 2017. Before that, during his long tenure at Mitsui & Co., he gained hands-on experience in healthcare investments, M&A, and managing subsidiaries across the U.S., Asia, and Japan.

Today, as an outside director of several portfolio companies, he works closely with founders-helping them scale globally. Passionate about nurturing Japanese healthcare startups with worldwide potential, he brings both strategy and support to the table. He holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Tokyo Metropolitan University and completed an executive education program at INSEAD.



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Dr. Honjo advises startups, large companies, and investors in Japan, US and Asia. He is active in entrepreneurial education and community development, as a mentor with Techstars, Endeavor, Shido Next Innovator etc. Dr. Honjo is the Chair of Expert Panel on the Promotion of Medical Startups, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, a committee member of IPA's MITOU Advanced Program, and a judge of Japan Startup Award. He has consulting experiences with BCG Tokyo and CSC in California. He was Assistant to Chairman and Group Strategy Manager at CSK/SEGA Group and Japan Country Representative of General Atlantic, a US growth equity firm.

