Genentech
A Member of the Roche Group

Ron Mazumder, PhD, MBA

VP, Global Head of Oncology Biomarker Development and Companion Diagnostics

Abhijit "Ron" Mazumder obtained his B.A. from The Johns Hopkins University, his PhD from the University of Maryland, and his MBA from Lehigh University. After working in several biotech companies, he joined Johnson & Johnson in 2003 and led molecular diagnostics programs and biomarker collaborations. In 2008, he joined Merck as a Senior Director and Biomarker Leader in External Discovery where he was responsible for the development of pharmacodynamic and predictive biomarkers. Ron rejoined Johnson & Johnson in 2010 and led the development of companion and complementary diagnostics across the therapeutic pipeline. In October 2016, he joined Genentech where he is currently Vice President and Global Head of Oncology Biomarker Development and Companion Diagnostics

Keynote: Biomarkers and translational research in cancer therapy

Abstract Predictive biomarkers and translational research can be used to help identify patients most likely to derive benefit from therapeutic regimens and to inform new combination regimens. Focusing on immuno-oncology, I will provide examples and perspectives of current and future research in this area.

药明康德集团
WuXi AppTec Group

Jason Liu, PhD, MBA
CEO, WuXi Diagnostics

Jason Liu is a seasoned executive with nearly 30 years of experience in life science industry, including 20 years of senior leadership in multinational clinical diagnostics and medical device companies. Dr. Liu has extensive experience in cross-culture business integration, merger & acquisition, new business development, international investment, post-merger integration, and operation. Dr. Liu joined WuXi AppTec Group in 2014 as Senior Vice President and Division Chief Operation Officer. He established the Lab Testing Division (LTD) through integrated testing platforms in China and US, rapidly expanded its global operation, and enhanced LTD's leading position in pharmaceutical and medical device testing sector. In January 2018, Dr. Liu led teams to establish WuXi Diagnostics (WXDX), a joint venture between WuXi AppTec Group and Mayo Clinic. He became the CEO for WuXi Diagnostics on Jan 1st, 2019.

Before joining WuXi AppTec Group, Dr. Liu worked at Hologic-Gen Probe, Life Technologies-Applied Biosystems, and Bio-Rad as regional GM for APAC and China, global business unit GM at US headquarters etc.

Dr. Liu received his Ph.D. in Molecular Biology & Human Genetics from Loma Linda University, MBA from Pepperdine University, and BA in Biochemistry from Shandong University, China.

Speech Title: New Diagnostics Ecosystem to Accelerate Drug Discovery and Medical Innovation

Abstract (TBA)

BeiGene

John V. Oyler, BS, MBA

Founder, CEO and Chairman

John V. Oyler Co-Founded BeiGene, Ltd. and has been its Chief Executive Officer since 2010. Mr. Oyler Co-founded BioDuro, LLC and served as its Chief Executive Officer and President from 2005 to 2009. He co-founded Telephia, Inc. (now Nielsen Mobile, Inc.) and served as its President from 1997 to 2002. He served as Chief Executive Officer of Galenea Corp. from 2002 to 2004. Mr. Oyler served as the Co-Chief Executive Officer of Genta, Inc., from 1997 to 1998. Mr. Oyler began his career as a management consultant at McKinsey & Company. Mr. Oyler serves as the Chairman at BeiGene, Ltd. and has been its Director since 2010. Mr. Oyler earned an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business and a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from MIT.

2019 K. Fong Award Winner Speech

The Future of the Biopharma Industry: Innovation Beyond Science

Abstract (TBA)

MORRISON
FOERSTER

Joseph Benkert

Senior Advisor
National Security Group

Joseph Benkert is a senior advisor in Morrison & Foerster's National Security practice group. He advises clients on critical national security matters pertaining to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), export controls, and various regulatory and compliance issues. Mr. Benkert previously served as a leading civilian official in the Department of Defense (DoD) under both the Bush and Obama administrations, including as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global Security Affairs after being nominated by President Bush and confirmed by the Senate. While at the DoD, Mr. Benkert led the department's involvement in numerous complex matters before CFIUS. Mr. Benkert's responsibilities also included managing technology security policy, the reform of export control processes, numerous sensitive nonproliferation projects, and a broad range of other defense-related issues. More recently, Mr. Benkert served as a Vice President of a leading global consultancy group, under former Secretary of Defense William Cohen. Mr. Benkert was a career Navy officer with extensive experience both in operational command and in national security policy formulation and implementation.

Key Developments: CFIUS, Export Control Reform, and Recent Decisions Affecting Life Sciences Investment and Licensing

Abstract Legislation enacted late last summer put in motion potentially significant changes to the review of inbound investments by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) and export control for outbound licensing, joint ventures and other arrangements. CFIUS subsequently issued regulations creating a pilot program to implement changes related to critical technologies, and the Commerce Department issued a notice to begin defining and possibly controlling such technologies. Further regulations implementing these changes are on the way in the coming months, and recently, CFIUS was reported to be forcing the unwinding of several closed transactions, including one in the life sciences sector. These developments in CFIUS and export control take place in the context of ongoing trade tensions between the U.S. and China, which many see as affecting the cross-border investment climate as well. This podium talk will provide updates on recent developments, what to expect in the months ahead, the effects on cross-border investment and licensing in general and life sciences in particular, and how to navigate these changing circumstances.

Stanford University

Shivaani Kummar, MD

Professor of Medicine

Shivaani Kummar is Professor of Medicine and Director of the Phase I Clinical Research and Translational Oncology Programs at Stanford University. Prior to joining Stanford in 2015, Dr. Kummar served as the Head of Early Clinical Trials Development in the Office of the Director, Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland. Her research interests focus on developing novel therapies for cancer, conducting pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic driven first-in-human trials. The clinical studies integrate genomics, imaging, and laboratory correlates into early phase trials. She serves on multiple national and international scientific committees and has published >125 papers in peer review journals.

Speech Title: Applying Precision Medicine One Patient at a Time

Dramatic responses to targeted agents, durable responses to checkpoint inhibitors, identification of potential new therapeutic targets, and modifications to the regulatory framework, have generated a growing excitement for anticancer drug development. With the increasing number of therapeutic choices, we need to improve our ability to tailor these therapies for individual patients most likely to derive clinical benefit with a high safety margin. In this talk I will discuss emerging biomarkers for immune based therapies, recent data on genomic drivers, and the considerations around applying precision medicine in the clinic for an individual patient.

GILEAD

Romas Geleziunas, PhD
Executive Director, Biology

Romas Geleziunas, is an Executive Director in the Biology department at Gilead Sciences. Dr. Geleziunas received his Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology from McGill University (Montreal, Canada) and conducted post-doctoral studies at UCSF. Dr. Geleziunas has worked on HIV for 32 years in academia and the pharmaceutical industry, and is an author on 83 scientific articles. At Gilead, Dr Geleziunas has led multidisciplinary HIV antiviral drug discovery and early drug development programs for the past 14 years. He established and led Gilead's HIV eradication program and is currently the head of the HIV clinical Virology group. Prior to joining Gilead, he worked on a number of drug discovery programs at Dupont Pharmaceuticals (acquired by Bristol-Myers Squibb) and Merck Research Laboratories.

Speech Title: Designing Therapies to Cure HIV

Combinations of antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) are used to treat people with HIV infection, and their use prevents progression to AIDS. Unfortunately, ARVs do not cure HIV, hence people living with HIV must take ARVs for life. The establishment of a long-lived viral reservoir in memory CD4+ T-cells that is impervious to ARVs is the reason for life-long therapy. Gilead has been working on therapeutic strategies to eradicate HIV infection for about a decade. The program is centered on immune-based therapies that are comprised of combinations of TLR7 agonists, monoclonal antibodies targeting the HIV envelope protein and therapeutic vaccines capable of inducing HIV-specific CD8 T-cell responses.

DENALI THERAPEUTICS

Zachary Sweeney, PhD

Head of Therapeutic Discovery

Zach Sweeney leads the Therapeutic Discovery group at Denali. In this role, he supports the discovery chemistry, protein engineering, protein sciences, antibody discovery, AAV-discovery, discovery pharmacology and discovery data sciences teams.Before joining Denali, Zach was a Director of Global Discovery Chemistry and Head of Analytical Chemistry at Novartis Emeryville. Zach also worked as a scientist and team leader at Genentech and Roche. His project teams have contributed to the identification of more than a dozen candidates that have entered IND-enabling studies, and five of these molecules have progressed into clinical studies. He has also co-authored more than 60 patent applications and 35 scientific articles. Zach graduated with a degree in chemistry from Stanford University, received a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley, and completed a NIH-postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard University.

Speech Title: New Approaches To Neurodegenerative Disease Drug Discovery and Development

Significant advances in our understanding of the genetics, pathology and cell biology associated with neurodegenerative diseases have identified biological pathways that contribute to disease onset and progression. Denali Therapeutics has developed a portfolio of novel drug candidates that modulate several of these pathways, including microglial function, lysosomal function, and the cellular stress response. This presentation will provide an overview of selected development programs and our research and development principles, including our emphasis on leveraging genetic information to guide our therapeutic approach, and focusing clinical development through the discovery and use of biomarkers.

Leonard Post, PhD
CSO

Leonard Post is Chief Scientific Officer of Vivace Therapeutics, a company focused on drug discovery in the hippo pathway. Before Vivace he was CSO of BioMarin. Len was involved in the discovery of the PARP inhibitor talazoparib while CSO of LEAD Therapeutics, and continued working on the compound in preclinical development through the beginning of Phase 3 while at BioMarin. Prior to LEAD he was SVP of R&D at Onyx Pharmaceuticals, and before that had positions at Parke-Davis Pharmaceuticals and The Upjohn Company. He is currently on the boards of directors of Orphagen, Fedora, Oxyrane, and ColdGenesys. Prior board positions include Praecis, BioVex, and Viralytics. His training included a PhD in Biochemistry and postdoctoral research in virology.

Speech Title: Talazoparib: From Virtual Drug Discovery to FDA Approval

Abstract LEAD Therapeutics was founded in 2007 to do virtual drug discovery by using strengths of both the US and China. The most successful project was the discovery of a PARP inhibitor, talazoparib, that led to acquisition of LEAD by BioMarin. Talazoparib resulted from an extensive medicinal chemistry program beginning with known PARP inhibitor scaffolds but evolving in novel directions. Surprisingly, talazoparib was 100-10,000 fold more potent in tumor cell killing than other PARP inhibitors in clinical development at the time, even though the compounds all have similar potency for inhibition of PARP enzymatic and cellular activity. This greater potency was not understood until researchers at NCI characterized the ability of PARP inhibitors to trap PARP onto damaged DNA. The clinical program conducted across three successive companies led to approval of talazoparib in 2018 for breast cancer patients with germline deleterious brca mutations.

Beijing VitalStar Biotechnology

Ming Yin, PhD
VP

Ming Yin PhD in Basic Veterinary Medicine, MBA (technology commercialization) at Cambridge and Warwick universities in the UK with a Chevening Scholarship. Used to be the Grand Challenges in Global Health Project Manager of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, experienced in humanized animal model and its applications. Currently Ming is VP of Beijing VitalStar Biotech. Ltd, with over 10 years' experience in Business Development, R&D and Licensing/Partnering Activities in the Biotechnology Industry.

Lunch workshop: Humanized mouse model accelerates biomedicine research & drug development

Spontaneous, induced or genetically engineered mouse tumors and derived cell lines, as well as syngeneic allografts, provide approaches to understand the mechanisms of tumorigenesis, disease development, and metastasis, or to carry out proof of concept study of novel cancer therapies. In addition, the target gene humanized mice may serve as in vivo evaluation models for many cancer immunotherapeutic drugs, such as immune check point inhibitors, bispecific T cell engaged (BiTe) antibodies, and so on. Human tumor cell line-derived xenografts (CDX) and patient-derived xenografts (PDX) on immunodeficient mice allow in vivo screening of some anti-tumor drugs that directly kill cancer cells. But defect in immune system restricts their application in IO study. Humanized immune system mouse models established through engraftment of human peripheral blood mononuclear cells or hematopoietic stem cells, plus CDX or PDX, represent prospective IO models allowing in vivo evaluation of many cancer immunotherapies and reconstitution of immune microenvironment of human tumors to some extent, helping to elucidate the interaction between tumor and immune system. Tumor and immune system-dual humanized mouse models have been successfully applied to efficacy study of novel anti-cancer drugs or treatments, such as immune modulator antibodies, targeting antibodies, BiTe antibodies, CAR-T therapies, protection of cytokine release storm, and so on. Although there are still some restrictions for these humanized mouse models, many efforts are being made to solve the defects by developing next generation models.