Chinese Bioscience Association presents

VOYAGE TO THE FUTURE

Immunotherapies, AI-driven Drug Development, and More

26th Annual Conference

September 28th, 2024
8:00 AM – 5:30 PM

Crowne Plaza Hotel
Foster City, CA

CBA Mission

To Promote Networking

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

To Promote Awareness

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

To Update and Educate

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

To Foster Collaboration

Establish active collaborations with other organizations in areas of mutual interests

CBA Membership and Benefits

- Networking opportunities for success
- Connect with other professionals and share technical interests
- Keep skills and knowledge current and relevant
- Create new partnerships
- Free or discounted admission to seminars and workshops
- Free admission to Annual Summer Picnic
- Discounted admission to Annual Conference
- Access to career resources through job posting portal
- Eligibility to vote or become a board member

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State of the Association

It is an honor to serve as the President of the Chinese Bioscience Association (CBA) for 2024. Since its establishment in 1997, CBA has grown significantly, attracting more than a thousand members, who have formed a vibrant professional community where those in biopharma can come together to exchange ideas. Thank you to all the members, sponsors, speakers, and volunteers who have been a part of this wonderful journey. Your effort and participation have been the core of our success, and we hope that we have contributed to yours.

Over the past two decades, the field has witnessed transformative advancements, particularly the emergence of new technologies such as next-generation sequencing, multi-omics, and machine learning. These developments have significantly contributed to our understanding of biology and expedited the discovery of new targets for the development of more effective treatments for both acute and chronic diseases, including age-related illnesses.

The rise of artificial intelligence (AI), exemplified by ChatGPT, has already had a profound impact on many industries. Understanding how similar technologies may influence the biotech industry has become a pressing topic for professionals in our field. We have seen other transformative advances emerge from within bioscience research. Cell therapies have set a new bar for durability of therapeutic intervention in oncology, despite manufacturing challenges. Immunology research has revealed new targets across many disease areas. The list could continue: RNA medicines (both mRNA and RNAi), GLP-1 and metabolic disease, antibody-drug conjugates, etc. We have reached the point where the question is no longer if these breakthroughs will redefine our industry, but how. How much of drug development will change due to large language models (LLMs) like ChatGPT? The answer could be anywhere between "only email and meeting notes" and "pretty much everything". Likewise, the impact of new therapeutic modalities could end up on either end of the continuum. While no one could have an absolute answer to such questions, there is plenty of useful knowledge to be gained from paying attention to the latest developments.

The 26th Annual Conference brings together experts in these fields to discuss current research and to provide insight on the changes that might follow. We are very grateful to be hearing from scientific leaders in many of the topics mentioned previously, as well as those with deep expertise on industry trends. In the midst of so many rapid developments in technologies and platforms, it can feel chaotic and confusing. Our hope is that our speakers can offer us clarity and insight on both the broader view and how many of these new developments could impact our individual work. Our industry is characterized by bringing scientific research forward into the clinic. Today's

achievements aspire to be the tomorrow's therapeutics. By looking at recent successes through the lens of implications for the future, we aim to provide attendees with a glimpse of our collective voyage into the future.Sincerely yours,

Jia Jun Chia, M.S.
CBA 2024 President

Welcome Remarks

It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of anticipation that I welcome you to the 2024 Chinese Bioscience Association (CBA) Annual Conference. Today, we gather not just as members of the scientific community but as partners in shaping the future of healthcare and biotechnology.

For over 26 years, the CBA has been a vital force in advancing bioscience, fostering collaboration, and nurturing innovation. What began as a small gathering has evolved into an influential platform, where ideas are shared, partnerships are formed, and breakthroughs are made. Every year, this conference serves as a reminder of the boundless potential we have when we come together, and this year is no exception.

Our theme for 2024, ***"Voyage to the Future: Immunotherapies, AI-Driven Drug Development, and More,"*** *reflects the extraordinary moment we find ourselves in. We are on the brink of transformative discoveries, where artificial intelligence and groundbreaking therapies are converging to open new doors in medicine. Today, we will explore these exciting frontiers, guided by the expertise and vision of our remarkable speakers.*

We begin the day with a keynote from ***Dr. Edgar Engleman****, whose pioneering work on* ***The Tumor Immune Interface*** *has shed light on how the immune system interacts with cancer in profound ways. His insights will set the stage for what promises to be an inspiring journey into the latest advances in cancer research.*

Following Dr. Engleman, we will hear from ***Dr. Hani Goodarzi*** *and* ***Dr. Abraham Lin****, two innovators who are at the forefront of cancer discovery. Their research on* ***molecular QR codes*** *and* ***AI-powered organoid analysis*** *will challenge us to rethink how we understand and treat this complex disease.*

In our second morning session, we turn to ***Novel Advances in Healthcare****.* ***Dr. Jason Tsai*** *will share his groundbreaking work on* ***early disease detection****, while* ***Dr. Jonathan Chen*** *will delve into the potential—and limits—of AI in medicine. These talks will push us to consider the future of diagnostics and medical technology in ways we've never imagined.* ***Dr. Michele Cleary*** *will then present on* ***CobiCure's mission to accelerate life-saving treatments for children****, reminding us of the profound impact our research can have on young lives. Her work is a stirring example of how we can bridge cutting-edge science with the urgent needs of patients.*

As we move into the afternoon, we are privileged to hear from ***Dr. Cliona Rooney****, whose keynote on* ***T-cell therapies*** *will explore the remarkable progress made in*

*immunotherapy. We'll also hear from **Dr. Bowen Li**, **Dr. Frank Q. Li**, and **Dr. John Connolly**, who will present on topics ranging from **mRNA delivery systems** to **solid tumor immunotherapy**, offering fresh perspectives on some of the most pressing challenges in healthcare.*

*Finally, we will turn our attention to the practical aspects of success in biotech. **Dr. Thomas Fu** and **Dr. Marie Rippen**, along with a panel of experienced leaders, will share their stories of **global drug development**, offering valuable lessons on how to turn scientific breakthroughs into real-world solutions. The **panel discussion** will dive into key strategies on how to navigate and thrive in the biotech industry, touching on leadership, innovation, and the challenges of commercialization in a fast-evolving market. This discussion is a vital reminder that innovation is not only about discovery but about making a lasting impact on society.*

Throughout the day, I encourage each of you to engage fully with the ideas and people around you. This conference is an opportunity to connect, collaborate, and inspire one another. The relationships we build here today have the potential to spark the next great innovation, the next big leap forward in science and medicine.

In closing, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the organizing committee, our generous sponsors, and all those whose efforts have made today possible. Your dedication and support are the foundation upon which this event—and our shared future—is built.

Once again, welcome to the 2024 CBA Annual Conference. I look forward to the discoveries we will explore and the future we will shape, together.

Jade Hsu, Ph.D.
CBA 2024 Vice President & Conference Chair

Conference Agenda

Morning Sessions		
Opening		
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9:30 - 9:50	*Building Molecular QR Codes to Store Human Cancer Cell Identity*	Hani Goodarzi
9:50 - 10:10	*Unlocking Patient-Derived Tumor Organoids with AI-Powered Analysis for Cancer Drug Discovery*	Abraham Lin
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Morning Session 2: Novel Advances in Healthcare		
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11:05 - 11:25	*Artificial Intelligence in Medicine - Real Magic or Technological Illusions?*	Jonathan H. Chen
11:25 - 11:45	*Accelerating Solutions: CobiCure's Mission to Deliver Life-Saving Treatments to Children*	Michele Cleary
12:10 - 1:00	Lunch, Networking, Sponsor Exhibition	

Afternoon Sessions		
Afternoon Session 1: Rise of Advanced Therapies		
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1:05 - 1:10	Welcome Remarks, Introduction	Session Chair: Bo Wei (General Manager, Joinn Labs)
1:10 - 2:00	**Afternoon Keynote** *Development of therapeutic T-cell studies from bench to bedside and beyond*	Cliona Rooney
2:00- 2:20	*AI-Guided Development of mRNA Delivery Systems*	Bowen Li
2:20 - 2:40	*Targeting The Achilles Heel of Chronic Liver Diseases*	Frank Q. Li
2:40 - 3:00	*Advances & Challenges in Solid Tumor Immunotherapy: Current Strategies & Future Discussions*	John Connolly
3:00 - 3:15	Q & A	All
3:15 - 3:35	Break, Networking, Sponsor Exhibition	
Afternoon Session 2: How to Create A Success Story		
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3:40 - 4:00	*A Successful Story of Global Drug Development, Approval, and Commercialization*	Thomas Fu
4:00 - 4:20	*Parameters for Success: How Robotics and AI Are Revolutionizing Biotechnology*	Marie Rippen
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5:15 - 5:30	Closing Remarks, Lucky Draw	Jia Jun Chia, CBA President
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Morning Session I: The Fight Against Cancer

Session Chair: Xinguo Jiang, MD, Ph.D. *Principal Investigator at VA Palo Alto*

Dr. Jiang is a translational research biologist studying hypoxic signaling and leukotriene biology in various human diseases. He received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a degree in Medicine from Zhejiang University in China. Dr. Jiang completed his post-doc training at Stanford University. He has authored more than 45 peer-reviewed articles spanning areas such as tumor immunity, pulmonary hypertension, COPD, lymphedema, and transplant rejection; his significant contributions have been featured in journals such as Circulation, Science Translational Medicine, Journal of Clinical Investigation, American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, and Annual Reviews.

Keynote Address I Speaker

Edgar G. Engleman, M.D. *Professor of Pathology and Medicine at Stanford*

Dr. Engleman is Professor of Pathology and Medicine at Stanford, where he oversees the Stanford Blood Center and co-directs the Stanford Cancer Institute's Immunotherapy Program. His research is directed at discovering ways to manipulate the immune system for the treatment of disease. Early in his career, he generated the first monoclonal antibodies to human T lymphocytes, including anti-CD4 and anti-CD8, enabling investigators worldwide to study these cells. A decade later, he demonstrated that antigen-loaded dendritic cells can induce anti-tumor immunity in cancer patients, leading to the development of Sipuleucel-T (Provenge) for the treatment of advanced prostate cancer. Subsequently, his laboratory discovered an antibody-based strategy that activates dendritic cells in tumors and is now in clinical trials. Based on his group's recent discovery that metastasis is dependent on tumor-specific immune tolerance, the lab is currently focused on identifying the mechanism responsible for such tolerance with the goal of targeting it for the treatment of cancer. Beyond these endeavors Dr. Engleman has founded several biotech companies including Dendreon, Bolt Biotherapeutics, and most recently, ImmunEdge. He also co-founded Vivo Capital, a leading healthcare focused investment firm, where he is a managing partner and chief scientific advisor.

Title: The Tumor Immune Interface

Abstract: Cancer patients typically fail to mount an effective immune response to their tumors. A variety of therapeutic approaches have been developed to either strengthen this response (immune checkpoint blockade (ICB), vaccines) or bypass it altogether (CAR-T, antibody-drug conjugates). Indeed, ICB has become a standard of care for many cancers, although only a minority of patients benefit from it. We believe a key reason for ICB resistance lies in the ability of most cancers to induce tumor specific immune tolerance that thwarts the activation of tumor-killing T cells and enables tumors to grow and spread. The mechanism responsible for such tolerance is unknown, and the goal of our lab is to identify and target it for the treatment of cancer.

Morning Session I Speaker

Hani Goodarzi, Ph.D. *Core Investigator at Arc Institute & Associate Professor at UCSF*

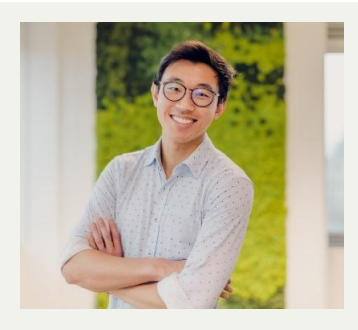
Dr. Hani Goodarzi is an Arc Core Investigator and Associate Professor at UCSF. His research combines novel discovery platforms and frontier AI models to reveal molecular mechanisms of cancer progression. Dr. Goodarzi has made key scientific contributions at the intersection of AI, RNA biology, and cancer research, and in both diagnostics and therapeutics. He has also co-founded several companies in this field, including Exai Bio, a next-generation liquid biopsy company, and Vevo Tx, a platform drug discovery leveraging AI to design better drugs. His work has been recognized with prestigious awards, including the Vilcek Prize for Creative Promise and the AACR-MPM Transformative Cancer Research Award. Dr. Goodarzi was previously honored with the Martin and Rose Wachtel Award in Cancer Research and named an American Cancer Society scholar

Title: ***Building molecular QR codes to store human cancer cell identity***

Abstract: Cancer reshapes the biology of cells, leading to the creation of unique molecules specific to cancer. We have discovered a new species of cancer emergent RNAs, which we have called orphan non-coding RNAs (oncRNAs). These are small RNAs found only in cancer and may play a role in the development and progression of cancer. We have uncovered a large number of these oncRNAs that are not only cancer emergent but also cancer specific, acting as a unique molecular barcode for different types and subtypes of cancer. Interestingly, we found that some of these oncRNAs are released by cancer cells into the blood and therefore this molecular barcode is blood accessible. In a large study of breast cancer patients, we have shown that oncRNAs can be detected in the blood and that their levels change with the progress of the disease and the effectiveness of treatment. In summary, our findings suggest that oncRNAs are a new class of molecules specific to cancer that could help in detecting and tracking the disease through low-cost blood tests.

Morning Session I Speaker

Abraham Lin, Ph.D. *Co-Founder & CEO at Orbits Oncology*



Abraham received his bachelor's in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Michigan and his PhD in Biomedical Engineering from Drexel University. He has extensive experience leading multidisciplinary research at the intersection of engineering and life sciences, publishing over 40 scientific papers. Currently, he is an Adjunct Faculty at the University of Antwerp in Belgium and the co-founder and CEO of Orbits Oncology, an AI startup to provide advanced organoid analysis for cancer drug discovery.

Title: Unlocking Patient-Derived Tumor Organoids with AI-Powered Analysis for Cancer Drug Discovery

Abstract: Patient-derived tumor organoids better-represent patient tumors compared to traditional in vitro cell cultures because they preserve critical tumor characteristics from the originating patient, such as clonal heterogeneity, mutational landscape, and histological architecture[1]. Their potential to recapitulate the patient and predict drug responses in the lab, makes them promising models for drug discovery and personalized medicine. However, their predictive potential has not been fully realized, largely due to the limitations of available analysis methods. Current analysis methods largely rely on traditional assays for 2D cell lines, and the industry-standard, CellTiter-Glo3D, only extracts a fraction of the clinically-relevant insights that organoids could provide. Therefore, we hypothesized that using higher-dimensional analysis methods, will further unlock the predictive performance of organoids and facilitate translation of research from the lab to the clinic.

Here we present our artificial intelligence-driven analysis platform for live-organoid imaging. We developed advanced drug screening metrics that more accurately reflect organoid drug response compared to conventional methods, even delineating cytotoxic from cytostatic drug effects[2,3]. By combining drug screening metrics with dynamic quantification of organoids on a single-organoid resolution, we also quantified patient-specific tumor heterogeneity and resistance in response to therapies, which current analysis methods have long struggled with[2]. In our retrospective clinical trial with pancreatic cancer patients, we demonstrated that our organoid analysis method identified patient-specific sensitives to therapy that were in-line with clinical outcomes (n=8), and our readouts highly correlated with progression-free survival of matched patients (R=0.97)[2]. Taken together, our approach increased the clinical translatability of organoids by more accurately recapitulating and measuring the complexity of human tumors. This work highlights the potential applications of our technology to predict patient therapy response early in the lab for cancer drug development.

References:

1. *Nagle, P.W., et al. Seminars in Cancer Biology 52 (2018)*
2. *Compte, M.L., et al. npj Precision Oncology 7 (2023)*
3. *Deben, C., et al. Journal of Clinical & Experimental Cancer Research 42 (2024)*

Morning Session II: Novel Advances in Healthcare

Session Chair: Chung-Ming (CM) Hsieh, Ph.D. *Vice President of Protein Therapeutics at Gilead Sciences*

Morning Session II Speaker

Jason Tsai, Ph.D. *Co-founder and CTO at Enable Biosciences*

Dr. Tsai is the co-founder and Chief Technology Officer of Enable Biosciences. Dr. Tsai received his Ph.D in chemistry from UC Berkeley under the supervision of Nobel Laureate Prof. Carolyn Bertozzi. He received his B.S. in chemistry from National Taiwan University and was awarded with Dr. Y.T. Lee Prize, which was named after Nobel Laureate Dr. Lee. Prior to that, Dr. Tsai was the gold medalist in International Chemistry Olympiad. Dr. Tsai is passionate about positively impacting human health by leveraging his expertise in chemistry. Dr. Tsai has developed innovative solutions for early disease detection that are now being used in research and clinical programs worldwide.

Title: Transforming Early Disease Detection: The ADAP Platform for Accurate and Accessible Diagnostics

Abstract: Early disease detection enables timely intervention to prevent complications. For this to be effective, detection tools need to be readily deployable, cost-effective, and accurate. Dr. Tsai will discuss the development of ADAP platforms (Antibody Detection by Agglutination-PCR), which utilize chemically synthesized antigen-DNA conjugates to transform immunoassay signals into amplifiable DNA barcodes. He will also share his experience in applying ADAP assays for the early identification of type 1 diabetes in research and clinical settings worldwide, which could significantly impact millions of individuals affected by this condition.

Morning Session II Speaker

Jonathan H. Chen, M.D., Ph.D. *Assistant Professor at Stanford University,*

Dr. Jonathan H. Chen MD, PhD leads a clinical informatics research group to empower individuals with the collective experience of the many, combining human and artificial intelligence to deliver better care than either. Dr. Chen founded a company to translate his Computer Science graduate work into an AI system used by students around the world. His expertise is featured in the popular press with over 100 research publications and awards. Dr. Chen continues to practice medicine for the reward of caring for real people and to inspire his research to discover and distribute the latent knowledge embedded in clinical data.

Title: Artificial Intelligence in Medicine - Real Magic or Technological Illusions?

Abstract: Pandora's box has opened in the form of publicly available generative AI systems for every imaginable (and many unintended) purposes. With a global scarcity of medical expertise against the unlimited demand of people in need, AI's potential to democratize healthcare knowledge, access, and to recover efficiencies is desperately needed. The opportunities and pitfalls will be reviewed in the context of specific projects around user-studies of physician+AI decision making, integration of chart summarization workflows, and personalized clinical decision support through data-driven prediction and recommender algorithms. The implications are vast as we converge upon a point in history where human vs. computer generated content can no longer be reliably distinguished. This session will review the attention and intention required for AI applications in the high-stakes world of healthcare as we distinguish real magic from convincing illusions.

Morning Session II Speaker

Michele Cleary, Ph.D. *CSO at Advancium Health Network*

Michele Cleary is the Chief Scientific Officer of Advancium Health Network, a public charity created by Deerfield Management and the Deerfield Foundation to bridge significant healthcare gaps for underserved patients. Previously, as Vice President of Academic Outreach at the Deerfield Discovery and Development Corporation, Michele managed a network of research institutions to identify new drug targets for the initiation of early-stage drug discovery and development campaigns. With extensive experience in biopharmaceutical R&D, Michele has held several senior-level positions at Bristol Myers Squibb and Merck, Sharpe & Dohme. Her nonprofit sector experience includes founding and launching the Mark Foundation for Cancer Research, where she served as the first Chief Executive Officer.

Michele earned her PhD in Molecular Microbiology and Genetics from Stony Brook University. She conducted her graduate research at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and completed her postdoctoral training at Princeton University.

Title: Accelerating Solutions: CobiCure's Mission to Deliver Life-Saving Treatments to Children

Abstract: The Advancium Health Network, a public charity created by Deerfield Management and the Deerfield Foundation, aims to bridge significant healthcare gaps for underserved patients. In line with this mission, Advancium founded CobiCure, LLC, a non-profit company dedicated to transforming pediatric healthcare. CobiCure focuses on supporting the development of devices tailored for pediatric patients and creating innovative therapeutics for childhood cancers and rare diseases. Leveraging an established healthcare investment ecosystem, philanthropic resources, and expert leadership, CobiCure ensures that financial return is not the primary driver in bringing life-changing medical technologies and treatments to children in need.

The advancement of effective treatments for pediatric patients faces substantial barriers, including perceived small market sizes, limited funding, and lower returns on investment compared to adult-focused initiatives. To address these and other unique challenges in pediatric medicine, the CobiCure team brings together committed stakeholders from various sectors who share a passion for delivering solutions to children. This vision extends beyond immediate solutions, aspiring to a future where every child has access to life-saving treatments, ensuring no child is left behind in the pursuit of better health.

Afternoon Session I: Rise of Advanced Therapies

Session Chair: Bo Wei, Ph.D. *General Manager at JOINN labs*

Dr. Wei has demonstrated a professional career in basic medical research, translational medicine and biotech. He was a former faculty member of UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, focusing on the studies of host-pathogen interactions at mucosal interface. He published more than 50 research papers in the field of microbiology and mucosal immunology. Dr. Wei worked as the deputy director of China National Vaccine and Serum Institute in 2011. He filled the position as the Executive Vice President of JOINN Labs CA Inc. in 2017 and the general manager in 2023.

Dr. Wei graduated from Xian JiaoTong University School of Medicine in 1985. He earned a Master of Science Degree in Microbiology and Immunology in 1993 and a Ph.D. Degree in Pathogen Biology from China CDC in 1998.

Keynote Address II Speaker

Cliona Rooney, Ph.D. *Professor at Baylor College of Medicine*

Cliona Rooney, PhD, is a Professor in the Center for Cell and Gene Therapy (CAGT) and in the Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology, and Immunology at Baylor College of Medicine and the Director of the Translational Research Laboratories (TRL) of the CAGT. Her scientific training is in viral immunology and since 1992, together with her colleagues, she has used virus-specific T-cells (VSTs) for the treatment of virus-associated diseases and malignancies. She first used EBV-specific T-cells to prevent and treat the EBV+ post-transplant lymphoma, then extended this successful therapy to other post-transplant viral infections, and to EBV+ malignancies that occur in immunocompetent individuals. She developed strategies to render T cells resistant to inhibition by the tumor microenvironment, such as a dominant-negative TGFb receptor and a constitutively active IL-7 receptor, as well as an inducible caspase 9 suicide safety switch for gene-modified T-cells, all of which have proved successful in clinical trials. She is currently evaluating the C7R in EBV-specific T-cells for the treatment of EBV+ lymphoma and together with a GD2.CAR for the treatment of GD2+ malignancies To overcome the lack of in vivo proliferation of tumor-specific T-cells, she has evaluated VSTs as hosts for CARs, so that CAR-VST activation and expansion can be induced by endogenous viruses, viral vaccines or oncolytic viruses. She has been a principal investigator on over 20 clinical protocols involving cellular therapies and co-investigator on over 40. She is an author on over 300 peer-reviewed scientific publications and has been the primary mentor for ~57 graduate students or postdoctoral fellows, many whom have gone on to leadership positions in both Academia and Industry. Since June of 2016, she has been the Co-Director of the graduate program in Translational Biology and Molecular Medicine (TBMM).

Title: Development of therapeutic T-cell studies from bench to bedside and beyond

Abstract: T-cell immunotherapies have the potential to cure cancer with few of the devastating long term side effects of standard therapies. T-cells expressing chimeric antigen receptors (CARs) have proved highly effective against B-cell malignancies, and 6 clinical products targeting CD19 or BCMA have been approved by the FDA. Recent approval of tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) for metastatic melanoma and a MAGE-A4-specific HLA A2-restricted TCR (Tecelra) to treat synovial sarcoma, bring that to a grand total of 8 approved products, while there are ~600 cell and gene therapy companies worldwide. Each product took many years to approve, eg 16-years for Tecelra, and the chances of return on investment are slim, as

apparently are the chances of company survival. The products are expensive; TILs @ >$500K; Tecelra @>$700K. It is not clear how the American healthcare system will support these products. Investors are getting wary.

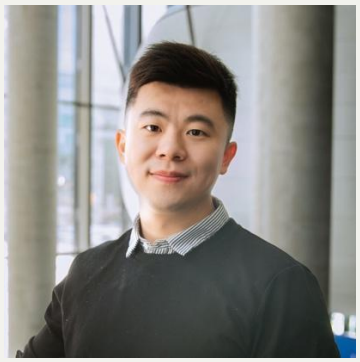
How are we going to bring effective cell therapies for other malignancies to patients? Cell therapies targeting non-B-cell malignancies have been less effective, due to lack of T-cell migration to and infiltration of solid tumors, the complex immunosuppressive tumor microenvironment and the multiple specific requirements for T-cell activation, expansion and persistence. Multiple iterative and adaptive clinical trials are required to develop a truly effective therapy. These should be small, agile and inexpensive and the timeline required is not desirable for most companies, who want to go directly to licensure without modification and with phase 3 level manufacturing, regardless of the current performance of the product. Most cell products brought to the clinic, often at great expense, fail to meet endpoints even though they may be promising, resulting in company demise and an abandoned product.

Can we develop an effective cell therapy product without Biotech!! One of the many cell therapy products developed academically at the CAGT is the GD2.CAR T-cell. The first study, circa 2005, investigated a fist generation CAR targeting GD2, a disialoganglioside expressed on a range of tumors including neuroblastoma and diffuse midline glioma (DMG). The GD2.CAR1 was expressed in both Epstein-Barr virus-specific T-cells (EBVSTs) to generate GD2.CAREs and in CD3-activated T-cells (GD2.CARTs). Of 11 patients with active disease 5 had tumor responses that were complete in 3. Enhancing the activity GD2.CARTs in 2nd and 3rd generation CARs by our group and others enhanced expansion and persistence, but without increased clinical benefit. We have now expressed a constitutively active IL7 receptor in a 2nd generation GD2.CAR and shown impressive responses in patients with DMG, including one patient in continued response at over 30 months. However, increased anti-tumor activity came at the cost of increased toxicity and so future studies must seek to both increase potency and decrease toxicity and to this end we are returning to CAREs and an inducible suicide gene.

Novel strategies just entering the clinic involve multi gene-edited T-cells using synthetic switches that respond to the environment and avoid over or under-stimulation of tumor-specific T-cells and combinations with other therapies, including drugs, viruses and tumor-colonizing bacteria.

Afternoon Session I Speaker

Bowen Li, Ph.D. *Assistant Professor at University of Toronto*



Dr. Bowen Li is a tenure-track Assistant Professor at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, the Institute of Biomedical Engineering, and the Department of Chemistry at the University of Toronto. He is also an Affiliate Scientist at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre. Dr. Li holds the Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in RNA Vaccines and Therapeutics and the GSK Chair in Pharmaceutics and Drug Delivery. He earned his Ph.D. in Bioengineering from the University of Washington, Seattle, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship under Profs. Robert Langer and Daniel Anderson at MIT. Dr. Li's lab employs interdisciplinary strategies, including combinatorial chemistry, high throughput platforms, and AI-driven design of experiments, to develop advanced delivery systems for RNA medicines. Dr. Li has authored over fifty publications in top-tier journals, such as Nature Biotechnology, Nature Materials, Nature Biomedical Engineering, Nature Medicine, PNAS, and Science Advances, and holds eight patents. His research has been recognized with awards including the Moderna Fellowship, AAPS Emerging Investigator Award, CSPS Early Career Award, Marsha Morton Early Career Investigator Award, ACS Rising Star in Biological, Medicinal, and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Gairdner Early Career Investigator Award, J.P. Bickell Medical Research Award, and Connaught New Researcher Award.

Title: AI-Guided Development of mRNA Delivery Systems

Abstract: The ability to transfect selective cell types within the targeted tissue in vivo is critical for potential therapeutic applications of mRNA. Although great advances have been made in mRNA vaccines, the ideal chemical and formulation composition of lipid nanoparticles (LNPs) for extra-hepatic delivery of nucleic acids are largely unknown. The traditional development of new lipids and formulations has been challenging, given the complexity of biological systems. In this talk, I will introduce an AI-guided high-throughput platform where thousands of chemically diverse libraries of lipid-like materials can be rapidly synthesized using multicomponent reactions and formulated into LNPs, which can then be screened for tissue- or cell-specific gene delivery. This platform technology increases the diversity of synthetic material structures and facilitates the identification of structure-function relationships.

Afternoon Session I Speaker

***Frank Q. Li, M.D., Ph.D.** Co-Founder, President, and CEO at Hepanova, Inc.*

Dr. Li is an experienced scientific entrepreneur who has founded and successfully operated multiple biotech and innovative drug development companies over the past decade. He has led several First-in-Class new drugs from early discovery to global clinical and commercial stages. With over 12 years of cutting-edge research experience in translational hepatology at the NIH and 7 years of clinical practice as a Hepatologist, he is a recognized expert in liver disease translational medicine and therapeutics.

Title: Targeting The Achilles Heel of Chronic Liver Diseases

Abstract: Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH), formerly known as nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), is emerging as a significant public health threat in the 21st century. The etiology of MASH is complex, and its pathogenesis remains not fully understood. Current therapeutic agents under development have struggled to simultaneously improve hepatic steatosis and fibrosis, the two critical clinical endpoints. HPN-01, a new molecular entity discovered and developed by Hepanova, represents a breakthrough in the treatment of MASH and liver fibrosis. Unlike other MASH candidate drugs currently in clinical development, HPN-01 targets different molecular pathways and mechanisms of action. Our study has demonstrated that HPN-01 effectively modulates multiple key molecular pathways involved in lipid metabolism, inflammation, and fibrogenesis in the liver, significantly alleviating hepatic steatosis and fibrosis. Moreover, systematic toxicology studies and first-in-human clinical trials have shown that HPN-01 has an excellent safety profile. HPN-01 is poised to address the unmet medical needs of patients suffering from devastating liver diseases.

Afternoon Session I Speaker

John Connolly, Ph.D. *Chief Scientific Officer, Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy*

John Connolly, PhD, is the chief scientific officer (CSO) at the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy (PICI), where he designs and executes PICI's overall research strategy in close collaboration with the institute's leadership team, center directors and scientific steering committee.

As a human immunologist, his research interests focus on immune monitoring and immunometabolism. Dr. Connolly previously served as CSO of Tessa Therapeutics, a clinical stage cell therapy company focused on solid tumor immunotherapy, and one of PICI's strategic partners. He is an associate professor at National University of Singapore and an adjunct associate professor of Immunology at Baylor University, where he served on the Board of Governors for the Institute of Biomedical Sciences.

*He is also a senior principal investigator and director for translational immunology at the Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology (IMCB) A*Star. Additionally, Dr. Connolly serves as director for the IMPACT Program, a multi-disciplinary national initiative focused building cell therapy manufacturing, clinical and regulatory capability for Singapore.*

Dr. Connolly received his PhD in Immunology from Dartmouth Medical School and studied human dendritic cell biology under Dr. Michael Fanger. During this time he was involved in the development of immunotherapeutic preclinical models and clinical trials for glioblastoma multiforme (GBM). He moved to the Baylor Institute for Immunology Research, a fully translational research institute dedicated to rationally designed vaccines against cancer and infectious disease. Dr. Connolly served as the director of Research Initiatives for the Baylor Research Institute, leading a large integrated translational research resource and multi-institutional programs that involved a number of international sites. During his tenure at Baylor, he was the central core facility director of the NIAID Centers for Translational Research on Human Immunology and Biodefense, an NIH-funded consortium of basic, translational research and clinical trials focused on vaccine design. Dr. Connolly is the past president of the Board of Directors of The American Cancer Society in N. Texas and founding director of the Singapore Immunology Network's Immunomonitoring Platform.

Title: Advances & Challenges in Solid Tumor Immunotherapy: Current Strategies & Future Discussions

Afternoon Session II: How to Create a Success Story

Session Chair: Patrick Yang, Ph.D. *Director at Latigo*

Dr. Yang is currently the Director at Latigo. He has been working mainly in the Bay Area for many years in various pharmaceutical companies in the field of CMC including analytical development and quality control. Dr. Yang obtained his Ph. D. in pharmaceutical sciences from University of the Pacific, USA.

Patrick has been serving on the CBA board for several terms since 2003. His roles include directors of membership, activity, and alliance. He successfully organized CBA education seminars and has been working as a committee member for the Ho Family Scholarship. He was the president of CBA in 2017 and is now a CBA advisor.

Besides CBA board member's duty, Patrick also participated in many other activities in the Bay Area. He helped organize a big literature seminar for Sichuan earthquake fundraising, led local student math team and science bowl teams, took judge and judge leader roles in the Silicon Valley science fair, and served as CABS journal editor for "Trends in Bio/Pharmaceutical Industry" for seven years. He is also an active writer with many readers.

Afternoon Session II Speaker

Thomas Fu, Ph.D. *Senior Vice President at HUTCHMED*

Since 2021, Dr. Thomas Fu has overseen the quality and the compliance of HUTCHMED's clinical, non-clinical, manufacturing, storage, and distribution operations globally in addition to his EHS roles.

He joined HUTCHMED with more than 25 years of quality management and leadership roles from leading biopharmaceutical companies including Pfizer, AstraZeneca, and Amgen. Recently, he successfully led Fruquintinib clinical/non-clinical/manufacturing new drug approvals inspections of US, EU, and Japan with results of zero findings.

Dr. Fu received his Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Maryland at College Park, USA, and Bachelor degree in Chemistry from Fu-Jen Catholic University, Taiwan.

Title: A Successful Story of Global Drug Development, Approval, and Commercialization

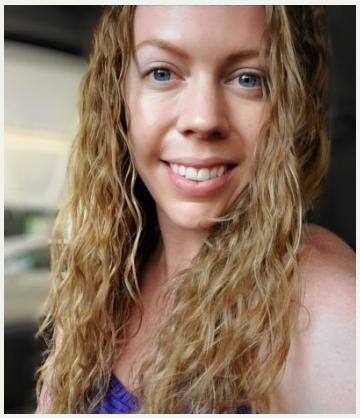
Abstract: Developing, gaining approval, and commercializing a new drug product globally is an arduous and resource-intensive endeavor. The journey, spanning from initial discovery to market launch, typically takes over a decade and requires investments amounting to billions of dollars. This intricate process, encompassing clinical testing, regulatory review, manufacturing, and commercialization, poses formidable challenges, with only a small fraction of investigational drug candidates successfully navigating through it.

This presentation will chronicle the remarkable odyssey of a breakthrough oncology drug, tracing its transformative path from conception to global approval and commercialization. This extraordinary journey offers invaluable insights into the multifaceted landscape of multinational drug development, clinical trials, regulatory submissions, inspections, and worldwide commercialization strategies.

Attendees will gain a comprehensive understanding of the multidisciplinary efforts, strategic decision-making, and operational alignment required to successfully translate a promising drug candidate into a transformative, globally accessible therapy. Despite formidable obstacles, this drug's journey exemplifies the power of perseverance, collaboration, and unwavering commitment to improving patient outcomes worldwide.

Afternoon Session II Speaker

Marie Rippen, Ph.D. *Associate Director of Business Development at Emerald Cloud Lab*



Marie Rippen is a scientist and entrepreneur with expertise in supporting biotechnology innovation. She received her PhD in Genetics, Molecular, and Cell Biology from the University of Southern California before becoming co-founder and CEO of Lab Launch, a biotechnology incubator, where she spent eight years. During this time she helped construct two additional laboratories, including University Lab Partners in Irvine, CA, and built up the biotech ecosystem in the Los Angeles area. In 2017 she was presented the Catalyst Award by Biocom for this work. Marie joined Emerald Cloud Lab in 2024 to enable biotech innovators everywhere to access crucial resources and to help end the reproducibility crisis in biomedical research.

Title: Parameters for Success: How Robotics and AI Are Revolutionizing Biotechnology

Abstract: Emerald Cloud Lab (ECL) is a remotely controlled lab which employs robotics, computer programming, logistics, and infrastructure to enable scientists to design, run, and analyze experiments from anywhere in the world. This improves efficiency, productivity, and reproducibility. PragmaBio worked with ECL and found that there were many benefits, as shown in our case study. Top 20 pharmaceutical companies also find that efficiency and quality in the cloud lab are far beyond what they can accomplish at geographically dispersed, stand-alone sites. Working with collaborators, ECL published a paper in Nature Communications describing a multi-LLMs-based intelligent agent capable of autonomous design, planning, and performance of complex scientific experiments. This capability may lead to AI-driven experimental optimization in cloud laboratories, allowing the biotech and pharma communities to bring candidates into the clinic faster than ever before.

Panel Discussion - How to Navigate a Successful Biotech Company

Session Chair: Lin Sun-Hoffman, J.D., Ph.D. *Founding Partner at Ambiz Law*

Dr. Lin Sun-Hoffman is a patent attorney with a PhD in molecular biology/biochemistry. She has more than 20-year experience focusing on innovative life sciences client matters and she has handled all aspects of intellectual property matters, including the drafting and prosecution of patent application, IP due diligence, opinion work, cross board licensing transactions and technology transfers. She represents many innovative startup companies as well as public companies.

Dr. Sun-Hoffman served as a patent examiner at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), worked as in-house patent counsel for ABI (now Thermo Fisher) and Celera (now Quest), and did many years of government relationship work for US non-profit organizations such as BIO (Biotechnology Innovation Organization) and GMA (now Consumer Brands Association). Before entering into law, she did her postdoctoral work at National Cancer Institute at NIH. Dr. Sun-Hoffman holds a JD from University of Maryland. She is licensed in Maryland and USPTO.

Dr. Sun-Hoffman serves as The Bayhelix Group Chapter Head in Northern California; Board member of Chinese Health Initiative, Mountain View,CA; Advisor for Chinese Antibody Society; Board member of 1990 Institute; Secretary General of US-China Green Energy Council. She was the President of the Chinese Bioscience Association in Silicon Valley in 2013, and President of the Chinese Biopharmaceutical Association (CBA-USA) 2008-2009; PTA executive council board of Palo Alto School District (2015-2017), and taught underprivileged students during summer in rural area Yunnan China.

Panel Discussion Panelist

Keting Chu, Ph.D. *Founder, Chairman, and CEO at Bluejay Therapeutics*

Dr. Keting Chu is an experienced biotech executive, entrepreneur and life science venture investor with a broad range of experiences in therapeutic development in both large and small biotechnology companies and venture investments.

Prior to founding Bluejay, Keting was a Partner and a Venture partner at LYFE Capital. Working with the team in Lyfe capital, Keting helped to close $550M Lyfe Capital Fund III and invested in Ansun Biopharm, Pliant Therapeutics and Tempest Therapeutics. Pliant and Tempest went IPO in NASDAQ successfully in 2020 and 2021. Keting was previously a venture partner in Apple Tree Partners briefly. Before joining Apple Tree Partners, Keting spent five years as VP, Research TAP at The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS). There she was responsible for venture philanthropy, also known as the Therapy Acceleration program. At LLS, Keting led the investment into Celator, Stemline, Constellation, Affimed, ArgenX, Kite Pharma, Kiadis, OncoPep, Valor and a number of projects in academic institutions with the focus on proof-of-concept (POC) studies in patients. Three of the nine companies received "Breakthrough" designation by the FDA in 2016 after positive proof-of-concept studies. Celator was acquired by Jazz Pharma for $1.5B, Kite by Gilead for $12B and Stemline by Menarini for $677M. Three NDAs, by Celator, Kite and Stemline, were approved by the US FDA successfully. Prior to LLS, Keting was the CEO of Mission Therapeutics and the Co-Founder, President and CEO of DigitAB, Inc. and BioCubed Corporation. For her first startup company, Five Prime Therapeutics, Keting was Vice President of Biology and Head of R&D where she built the R&D strategy and team, established the technology platform and generated a product pipeline. Prior to Five Prime, Keting was the Head of Immunotherapy and Antibody Therapeutics Division at Chiron Corporation, where she engaged in preclinical and clinical developments of protein, DNA-based, and small molecule therapeutics for cancer and inflammatory diseases. Three cancer therapeutic antibodies that keting led the team from discovery to phase I clinical trials are in phase II and III testing now.

Keting received her MD in Sun Yat-Sen Medical University where she specialized in infectious diseases in China, and PhD in Microbiology and Immunology at University of California at San Francisco (UCSF). She also conducted her postdoctoral training at Cardiovascular Research Institute at UCSF.

Panel Discussion Panelist

Can Cui, J.D., Ph.D. *Partner at Goodwin Procter LLP*

Dr. Can Cui is a partner in Goodwin's Life Sciences group and a co-leader of the firm's Life Sciences practice in Asia. His practice focuses on technology transactions and investment in the life sciences industry, especially those transactions related to China, including cross-border technology licensing and acquisition, collaboration and strategic partnership, joint venture (JV), and other forms of investment.

Dr. Cui has extensive experience representing both licensors and licensees in US-China life sciences licensing transactions. In private equity and venture capital transactions, he regularly represents institutional and individual investors, established life sciences companies and startups in intellectual property (IP) due diligence and the negotiation and drafting of related investment documentation. He also advises clients on IP aspects of mergers and acquisitions.

Dr. Cui has deep knowledge of China's increasingly complex regulatory landscape, including not only the IP laws, but also laws and regulations governing cross-border transactions, such as technology import and export regulations, regulations of human genetic resources, and data privacy laws and regulations. He also has rich experiences in corporate matters, patent prosecution and IP dispute resolution, which, together with his scientific background, make him a go-to person for advice in various legal matters life sciences companies may have.

In addition to his legal services to the life sciences industry, Dr. Cui is also an active participant in a wide variety of pro bono matters.

Panel Discussion Panelist

Xiang Gao, Ph.D. *Professor at Nanjing University & Founder and Chairman of GemPharmatech Co., Ltd.*

Dr. Xiang Gao received his Ph.D. from Thomas Jefferson University in the United States and has been teaching at Nanjing University since 2000. He founded the "National Resource Center for Mutant Mice," the "Model Animal Research Center of Nanjing University," and the "Comparative Medicine Research Institute of Jiangsu Industrial Technology Research Institute." He was involved in the establishment of the "Asian Mouse Mutagenesis and Resource Association," the "International Mouse Phenotyping Consortium," and the "Jiangsu Society of Developmental Biology." Dr. Gao has published over 200 research papers in SCI-indexed journals and led a team that won the Second Prize of the National Science and Technology Progress Award in 2017.

At the end of 2017, he founded GemPharmatech Co., Ltd., which went public on the Sci-Tech Innovation Board (STAR Market) of the Shanghai Stock Exchange in 2022. The company focuses on the development, production, supply, and phenotypic analysis of mouse models. It has subsidiaries in Chengdu, Foshan, Beijing, Shanghai, Suzhou, Changzhou, and the United States, making it the world's largest resource center for mouse model strains, serving thousands of universities, research institutes, and new drug development companies worldwide.

Panel Discussion Panelist

Amit Joshi, Ph.D. *Senior Director at Autobahn Labs*

Amit Joshi is an accomplished biomedical scientist and strategic leader with a strong track record in driving preclinical program development across both academic and industry settings. With expertise in therapeutic innovation, Amit has led research programs targeting diabetes, neurodegenerative diseases, and oncology, collaborating with renowned institutions like Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and UCSF.

Amit excels in establishing and managing high-impact partnerships, securing critical funding, and advancing drug discovery initiatives. Known for his ability to optimize project outcomes, Amit has delivered cost-effective solutions while guiding cross-functional teams in bringing novel therapeutics closer to clinical development.

Panel Discussion Panelist

Ella Li, Ph.D. *Founding Partner of H7 BioCapital*

Dr. Ella Li is the Founding Partner of H7 BioCapital, where she leads growth initiatives for healthcare companies through its venture and accelerator arms. Additionally, she serves as an advisor at Pegasus Tech Ventures and is a venture partner at Network VC, specializing in early-stage investment in the life science and medtech sectors. As the former CEO of ZGC Captial and partner of its U.S. funds, Dr. Li successfully established and managed several VC and fund of funds, including one with portfolio funds such as KPCB, Menlo, Andreessen Horowitz, Accel, and Foundation Capital. Prior to her current positions, she led life science investments at Hanhai BioLabs as CEO.

With over a decade of experience in biotech research, Dr. Li possesses a wealth of knowledge in therapeutic investment opportunities, from discovery to commercialization. Dr. Ella Li earned her postdoctoral fellowship from Harvard Medical School, her Ph.D. from the University of Texas Health Science Center, and her B.S. and M.S. degrees from Peking University. Dr. Li has extensive publications in prestigious journals with IMF over 10 including Nature Communication, Cell Metabolism, Journal of Clinical Investigation, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), Molecular Cell, and Diabetes.

Panel Discussion Panelist

Wentao Zhang, Ph.D. *Executive Vice President of Frontage Global Drug Discovery Services*

Dr. Wentao Zhang is the Executive Vice President of Frontage Global Drug Discovery Services. Dr. Zhang joined Frontage in 2021 through the acquisition of Quintara Discovery, a drug discovery service company he founded in the San Francisco Bay Area in 2012. Before founding Quintara, Dr. Zhang was Senior Director of New Lead Discovery at Exelixis of South San Francisco where he managed key drug discovery platforms and functions that included compound repository, assay development and high-throughput screening, lead optimization, DMPK operations, and safety pharmacology.

Dr. Zhang made significant contributions to over twenty compounds from discovery to clinical development, including two FDA-approved small molecule drugs targeting oncogenic protein kinases. Dr. Zhang has been an ad hoc member of the NIH study section on assay development & HTS. He has authored and co-authored discovery data packages (biology) and preclinical DMPK study reports for IND and NDA filings, as well as over thirty scientific publications. Dr. Zhang received his Ph.D. in biophysical chemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, M.S. from Emory University and B.S. from Peking University. He has also conducted research in the area of DNA replication as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California-Berkeley.

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Volunteers

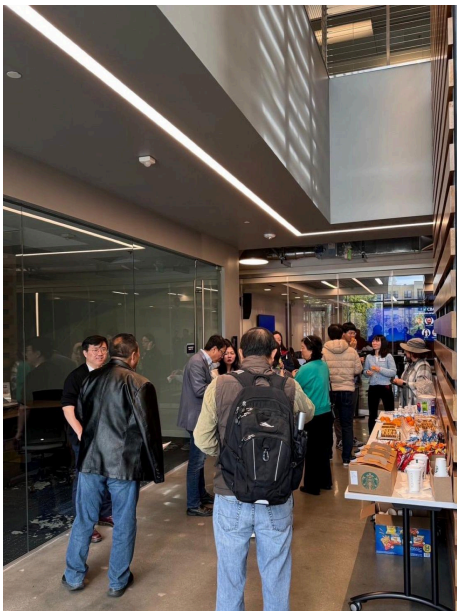
Blithe Gao, Wenjia Gu, Yi-chun Han, Lu Lu, Sylvia Lu, Sherry Ouyang, Jichu Pang, Yujie Qin, Shengqin Su, Katherine Wang, Zhiqing Wang, Esther Wu, Cindy Wu, Amy Yang, Li Yang, Jessica Yuan

Key Events: CBA Career Workshop

Date: May 4, 2024 (Saturday)
Venue: Q Bay Center, 160 East Tasman Drive, San Jose CA 95134

We hosted Dannis Chang, Shichang Miao, SJ (Shian-Jiun) Shih, Wei Wu, and Jay (Jingyao) Zhang, experienced biopharma leaders who described their diverse experience across different facets of biopharma. They shared personal stories and insights, and offered expert advice and guidance from both sides of the hiring process. Attendees were also encouraged to bring their resumes, and our experienced speakers helped review resumes at the end of the session. We hope attendees drew inspiration from the impressive successes of the speakers, and felt more confident about their resumes and their career path after this workshop.


CBA
CAREER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP
Navigating the Hiring Process in Biopharma
Dennis Chang
Shichang Miao
Shian-Jiun Shih
Jingyao (Joy) Zhang




CBA
CAREER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Key Events: CBA Networking Happy Hour

Date: June 28, 2024 (Friday)
Venue: Blue Line Pizza, 1108 Burlingame Ave, Burlingame, CA 94010

We hosted our first networking happy hour event at Blue Line Pizza in Burlingame. We saw upwards of 60 attendees who came to enjoy pizza, wine, beer and networking in a more casual setting. Great food and great company made for lively conversation, and we hope everyone was able to make new connections, as well as strengthen existing ones.

Key Events: CBA Picnic

Date: August 24, 2024
Venue: Mitchell Park, 600 East Meadow Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94303

The CBA picnic is our annual community-focused event, bringing together our families and friends. For the long-standing CBA members, it was an opportunity to rekindle old friendships and reminisce about shared experiences. Newcomers were welcomed to the CBA community, and we hope that everyone was able to relax and enjoy. The picnic is also a food-focused event, where volunteers contribute their tried-and-true dishes. Thank you to all the volunteers, who contributed special dishes covering everything from BBQ to noodles, from salad to dessert.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