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Isaac Middleton
COO
Texas Medical Center

Isaac Middleton is the Chief Operating Officer of the Texas Medical Center. He is responsible for day-to-day operations as well as developing and driving critical initiatives in support of Texas Medical Center's strategic vision. Isaac joined Texas Medical Center in 2020.

Isaac previously served as a management consultant where he focused on strategy, operations, and capital excellence across the Logistics, Transportation, Real Estate, and High Tech industries. Isaac led global teams working on top-priority strategic initiatives for his clients throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia.

Prior to consulting, Isaac served as a commissioned officer in the United States Marine Corps, during this time he deployed to Iraq as part of a Light Armored Reconnaissance battalion.

Isaac holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Marquette University, and a Juris Doctor from Stanford Law School.

Reginald DesRoches, Ph.D.
Howard Hughes Provost
Rice University

Reginald DesRoches has served as Rice University's provost since July 2020. As the university's chief academic officer, DesRoches works closely with Rice's president, David Leebron, to advance the university's teaching, research and service mission. The provost leads the university's strategic efforts to ensure that Rice's academic and research programs are world-class and aligned with the university's commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity. The provost is responsible for the continued excellence of the university's research centers and institutes, and oversees the operations of the university's seven schools — School of Architecture, School of Business, School of Engineering, School of Humanities, School of Music, School of Natural Sciences and School of Social Sciences — and the Glasscock School of Continuing Studies.

Reginald DesRoches was appointed provost of Rice University in July. In this role, DesRoches serves as the chief academic officer of the university and its 7,500 students, seven schools and more than 700 faculty. He previously served as the William and Stephanie Sick Dean of Engineering at the George R. Brown School of Engineering at Rice. In this position, DesRoches provided leadership to a top-ranked engineering school with nine departments, 137 faculty and 2,500 students.

DesRoches' primary research interests are in the design of resilient infrastructure systems under extreme loads and the application of smart materials. His research is highly interdisciplinary and spans micro- to macro-scales. He has published approximately 300 articles and delivered more than

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100 presentations in over 30 different countries.

A fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the society's Structural Engineering Institute (SEI), DesRoches served as the key technical leader in the United States' response to the 2010 Haiti earthquake, taking a team of 28 engineers, architects, city planners and social scientists to study the impact of the earthquake. He also has participated in numerous congressional briefings to underscore the critical role that university research must play in addressing the country's failing infrastructure and enhancing the nation's resilience to natural hazards.

DesRoches chairs the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) National Construction Safety Team Advisory Committee (NCST) and is on the advisory board for the Natural Hazards Engineering Research Infrastructure (NHERI) Simulation Center and the California Department of Transportation Seismic Advisory Board. He previously served on the National Academies Resilient America Roundtable (RAR), the Global Earthquake Modeling Scientific Board and the National Science Foundation Engineering Advisory Council. In recent years, DesRoches has testified before U.S. House and Senate subcommittees on the science of earthquake resilience, and he has participated in Washington, D.C., roundtables for media and congressional staffers on topics ranging from disaster preparedness to challenges for African American men in STEM fields.

DesRoches received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) in 2002 — the highest honor bestowed upon scientists and engineers in the early stages of their careers. Most recently, he was a recipient of the Distinguished Arnold Kerr Lecturer Award in 2019, gave the John A. Blume Distinguished Lecture in 2018 and received the 2018 Earthquake Engineering Research Institute Distinguished Lecturer Award — one the highest honors in the earthquake engineering field. He is a recipient of the ASCE Charles Martin Duke Lifeline Earthquake Engineering Award (2015), the Georgia Tech Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Advisor Award (2010), the ASCE Walter L. Huber Civil Engineering Research Prize (2007) and the Georgia Tech ANAK Award (2008), the highest honor the undergraduate student body can bestow on a Georgia Tech faculty member. He was elected a member of the National Academy of Engineering in 2020.

In 2014, DesRoches became Georgia Tech's Faculty Athletics Representative, serving as the liaison between the university and its athletics department. He worked closely with the athletic director and university leadership — including the president, provost and senior vice provost for academic affairs — to formulate policies affecting intercollegiate athletics on campus. His responsibilities also included representing the institute to the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association. He was appointed to the ACC leadership team as vice president of the conference for the 2016-2017 school year.

DesRoches was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and grew up in Queens, New York. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and Master of Science in Civil Engineering degrees and a doctorate in Structural Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley, where he was elected

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to the civil and environmental engineering department's Academy of Distinguished Alumni.

Stephen Hahn, M.D.
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
CEO-Partner, Flagship Pioneering
Chief Executive Officer, Harbinger Health
Commissioner (fmr), U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Dr. Stephen Hahn is the CEO-Partner of Flagship Pioneering, Chief Executive Officer of Harbinger Health, and the former Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. As the 10th Annual Texas Life Science Forum keynote speaker, he will share his experiences and perspectives on leading during a pandemic, healthcare strategy and translational/clinical research. We are pleased to welcome back Dr. Hahn, a Rice Alumnus and former Chief Medical Executive at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, and have him provide our keynote address.

Tom Luby, Ph.D.
Director
TMC Innovation

Tom Luby Ph.D. is the Director of Texas Medical Center (TMC) Innovation. In this role, he oversees all of the innovation efforts of TMC focused on research, education, and commercialization of novel healthcare solutions. Prior to this, he was the head of JLABS @ TMC in Houston, Texas. In that role, he catalyzes and support the translation of science and technology into valuable solutions for patients and consumers across the pharmaceutical, medical device and consumer healthcare sectors.

Tom started at Johnson & Johnson Innovation as a New Ventures Lead at the Johnson & Johnson Innovation Center in Boston. In that role, he was instrumental in fostering many deals for the Boston office, which included the expansion of JLABS to JLABS @ Toronto. Prior to J&J, Tom spent 14 years in various R&D and business development positions, most recently as Sr. Director, Research Ventures at Shire. Nine of those years were spent working in R&D and operational roles across three start-up biotech companies in the Boston area.

Tom received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from State University of New York, and a Ph.D. in Immunology from the Sackler School of Biomedical Sciences at Tufts University.

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Jason Bock, Ph.D.
Vice President and Head of Biologics Product Development
MD Anderson

Jason Bock, Ph.D., has spent the last 20 years in small, medium and large biotech and biopharma companies developing biologic therapeutics. He has brought 15 novel drugs through preclinical development into clinical studies, as well as driven three biologics through the clinic to commercialization globally. He is excited to use his experience to build the Biologics Development team within Therapeutics Discovery to synergize the innovative basic research to world-class clinicians at MD Anderson.

Fiona Mack, Ph.D.
Head of JLABS @ TMC
Johnson & Johnson Innovation

As Head of JLABS @ TMC, Fiona is responsible for external engagement, innovation sourcing, company onboarding, portfolio management, operational excellence, educational programming and P&L. In this role, she catalyzes and supports the translation of science and technology into valuable solutions for patients and consumers across the pharmaceutical, medical device, consumer, and healthtech sectors.

Prior to joining JLABS, Fiona was Senior Director of External Innovation at Ipsen, supporting the expansion of the Rare Disease and Neuroscience portfolios. Before joining Ipsen, Fiona was a Director of External Innovation Oncology Discovery at Roche. While at Roche, she led cross-functional teams to identify and evaluate opportunities based on their scientific merit and strategic alignment with oncology/immuno-oncology early discovery and clinical development pipelines. Notable activities include the acquisition of Tensha Therapeutics, Tusk Therapeutics and Ignyta, in addition to early discovery academic collaborations.

Fiona began her career in industry as a Senior Research Scientist at Wyeth Oncology and eventually took on a senior leadership role when the company was acquired by Pfizer. Fiona was able to complement internal early drug discovery expertise with external innovation as a program leader for pipeline projects. She also led external collaborations to support IND-enabling studies for anti-sense therapeutics, bi-specific immunotherapies and antibody drug conjugates.

Fiona earned her Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology from the University of Pennsylvania and her undergraduate degree in Biology from Cornell University. Her innovative work has been published in high impact journals and she also has several granted patents.

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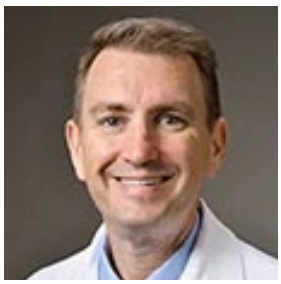
Torrey Adams, Ph.D.
Senior Director, Life Sciences
Greater Houston Partnership

https://www.linkedin.com/in/t-a-torrey-adams-phd-8939b91/

Adam Berman
CEO
Alleviant

Adam Berman is an experienced Chief Executive Officer in the medical device industry. His leadership experience is focused on creating new businesses, technologies and markets in Cardiovascular, Renal, Endovascular, Electrophysiology, Surgery and Robotics.



Sean Blackwell, M.D.
Professor and Chair, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences
McGovern Medical School-UTHealth

Dr. Blackwell specializes in maternal fetal medicine and has clinical and scientific expertise in preterm birth, medical complications of pregnancy, the role of obesity in pregnancy outcomes, pregnancy in women with physical disabilities, fetal brain injury and shoulder Dystocia.

He serves as the director of the Larry C. Gilstrap, M.D., Center for Perinatal and Women's Health Research at UTHealth Medical School. He is a graduate of the Physician Quality and Safety Academy at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center and UTHealth Medical School. He serves as vice chair for clinical research in the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and as assistant dean for Healthcare Quality in Perinatal Medicine and Women's Health at UTHealth Medical School.

He is a member of the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine, the Perinatal Research Society, the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, the Society for Clinical Trials and the Central Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

He is an associate editor of Pregnancy and Childbirth, BMC Research Notes, a guest editor of Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinics of North America and Obstetrics and Gynecology International, and on the editorial boards of Obstetrics and Gynecology International, the Journal of Pregnancy, Gynecology & Obstetrics: Current Research, and the American Journal of Perinatology.

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Meg Boulware, J.D.
Partner
Boulware & Valoir

Practice Areas
Intellectual Property

Practice Focus
Patent practice with emphasis on chemistry and biotechnology; contested trademark matters and global portfolio advice and intellectual property litigation.

Practice Description
In 2010, Ms. Boulware started a woman-owned boutique firm building on her years of experience in international and domestic IP work. She tried the first validity and infringement arbitration of a U.S. patent, which case was tried before the International Chamber of Commerce. She has represented clients in trademark infringement cases including over 100 cases before federal courts and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. In addition to litigation experience, Ms. Boulware has prosecuted patents in chemical, mechanical and biotech areas. She procured pioneer patents on cattle cloning in the U.S. Ms. Boulware supervises international trademark portfolios and advises on international market strategies for clients including Fortune 500 companies. Meg was the first woman president of the American Intellectual Property Law Association and is active in national IP associations.

Awards and Honors
In 2012 Ms. Boulware received the first ever Americas Women in Business Law Award for Best in Patent (www.expertguides.com). Since 2005, Ms. Boulware has been recognized in Chambers USA – Leaders in their Field. She also has been included in The Best Lawyers in America for Intellectual Property in IP Law & Business since 2006, and has been selected to The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers and Best Lawyers in America for the past 15 years along with numerous other recognitions both international and U.S. In addition, she is active in community activities and is a Trustee of the Houston Grand Opera and served on the Board of the Clemson University Foundation.

Professional Affiliations
BioHouston, Inc., Board Member
American Intellectual Property Law Association, past President
Patent Public Advisory Committee, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, appointed by the Secretary of Commerce as inaugural Chair 1999-2002
State Bar of Texas, Intellectual Property Section, past Chair
Houston Intellectual Property Law Association, past President
Advisory Board of the University of Houston Law Center Intellectual Property Law Program, Founding Chair
Texas Bar Foundation, Life Fellow
Houston Bar Foundation, Life Fellow
National Coordinator of the Bicentennial Celebration of the Patent and Copyright Laws 1990 in Washington, D.C. while serving as a Board member of the Foundation for a Creative America

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Bar Admittance
Texas
United States Patent and Trademark Office

Education
B.S., University of Georgia
M.S., Clemson University
J.D., University of Houston Law Center

Bruce Butler, Ph.D.
Vice President, Research and Technology Director, Office of Technology Management, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Dr. Bruce D. Butler is Vice President Research and Technology, and directs the Office of Technology Management at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth). The office handles the technology transfer activities including the creation of new start-ups for the six UTHealth schools and the UTHealth faculty at the Texas Heart Institute. Dr. Butler also holds an academic position as Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology at the Medical School and managed a research program in collaboration with NASA, U.S. Navy and several international pharmaceutical companies. He has over 200 published papers, abstracts and book chapters. Other positions he holds include VP for the Office of Global Health Initiatives, Associate Director of the UTHealth / MD Anderson Cancer Center-Center for Advanced Biomedical Imaging Research (CABIR). Dr. Butler is an inventor on numerous U.S. and associated foreign patents; several of which have been commercialized through UTHealth that include respiratory healthcare products and bio-pharmaceuticals. He has been involved with product development for medical and home-care devices, including FDA regulatory approvals and clinical trials. Dr. Butler has been personally involved in the creation of 5 life-science start-ups and numerous other business development partnerships.

Andrea Caracostis, M.D.
CEO
Hope Clinic

Dr. Andrea Caracostis is the Chief Executive Officer of the Asian American Health Coalition dba HOPE Clinic, which was designated a Federally Qualified Health Center in 2012. As a physician with a Master's in Public Health, Dr. Caracostis has over 10 years experience working with migrant and community health centers with special, vulnerable populations.

She worked as a provider at the 330 funded Migrant Health Center (MHC), and served as a consultant to the Migrant Clinicians Network providing technical assistance to Community Health Centers around the country. Dr. Caracostis has been active in the Bureau of Primary Health Care's Health Disparities Collaborative and is a member of many national health care advisory committees.

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The Asian American Health Coalition dba HOPE Clinic, under Dr. Caracostis' leadership since 2008, has advanced significantly in its efforts to reduce health disparities through community awareness campaigns, affordable prevention services and accessible treatment and medication while connecting patients to a health home.

Rima Chakrabarti, M.D.
Partner
KdT Ventures

https://www.linkedin.com/in/rschakmd/

Daniel Crank
Senior Associate
Gensler

With 22 years of experience, Daniel is passionate about the intersection of science and people. He is focused on the design and delivery of technically complex science-based projects, ranging from cGMP manufacturing to biological and chemistry-based research laboratories to heavy manufacturing and industrial complexes. In his work, Daniel provides critical programming, planning, and design for these specialized projects and clients across the globe.

Michael Dilling, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Commercialization, Technology Management
Baylor College of Medicine

The Director of the Baylor Licensing Group (BLG), the technology licensing team at Baylor College of Medicine, a leading biomedical research institution and the only private medical school in the Southwestern United States. Responsible for managing the activities of five licensing professionals, an industry agreements professional, and two administrators. Currently leading efforts at BCM to restructure technology commercialization efforts to increase effectiveness and improve outcomes. Guided the development and launch of an online disclosure application to simply faculty interaction with BLG. Responsible for spearheading collaborative efforts with BCM Technologies (BCMT), BCM's wholly-owned venture development subsidiary, to identify and catalyze the formation of new start-up companies. Serves on the Board of Directors for mAbVista, Inc., a new BCM start-up company dedicated to the production of monoclonal antibodies.

Fifteen years technology transfer experience managing a diverse portfolio of biomedical technologies in a leading university technology transfer program with a focus on producing licensing outcomes. Strong pragmatic, principled focus on finding common ground to get deals closed and executed so that

important innovations can get to the market and be developed into new products.

Negotiated and closed over 80 license/option agreements, including exclusive licenses for therapeutics, vaccine technologies, gene therapy and immunotherapy technologies, and medical devices. A number of the exclusive licenses were transactions involving equity as part of the license consideration. I have also negotiated and closed many non-exclusive licenses for research tool technologies - knockout mice/cell lines/DNA constructs, etc. I have also licensed software. A number of technologies that I have licensed are now in clinical development, including a T-cell-based vaccine against multiple sclerosis, a vaccine against Norwalk and associated noroviruses, and an immunotherapeutic cancer vaccine.

Specialties:
Negotiation of exclusive and non-exclusive license agreements for biomedical technologies.
Negotiation of other university/industry agreements including sponsored research agreements, confidential disclosure agreements, research collaboration/partnership agreements, clinical trial agreements, testing agreements.
Coordination of patent prosecution strategy with outside legal counsel.
Marketing of technologies to potential industry partners.

Philip Eckels
Head of Operations
K2 Biolabs

Celebrating his 12th year working in the cell and gene therapy field, Mr. Eckels' career spans research & development, process development, and clinical manufacturing in the U.S. and Europe. Mr. Eckels has extensive knowledge in viral and non-viral gene modification techniques, cell processing, process automation, vector development, quality, regulatory, and both FDA and EMA Chemistry, Manufacturing and Controls (CMC) strategy. Mr. Eckels is versed in developing end-to-end manufacturing processes, aseptic (closed) processing strategy, and best practices having spent time as person-in-plant at multiple CMOs in the U.S. and abroad. He also has substantial experience tech transferring processes to and from academic and industry partners. As the Director of Cell Therapy Technical Operations at Ziopharm Oncology (now Alaunos Therapeutics), he oversaw the product development of CAR-T and TCR-T product platforms that were successfully accepted by the FDA for Phase I/II trials, as well as the buildout of in-house manufacturing capabilities and teams. Mr. Eckels holds a BA in Biology from Gustavus Adolphus College and a Master of Public Health in Biostatistics and Epidemiology from Drexel University.

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Vince Flickinger
Senior Associate and Design Director
Gensler

Over the past 21 years, Vince has developed a strong appreciation for the fast-paced and detail-oriented nature of design. His elegant and thoughtful solutions create unique experiences that both clients and end-users truly appreciate. Vince's involvement in all phases of projects—from design to construction administration—gives him a unique perspective and allows him to add value in a multitude of ways. His depth of knowledge in corporate workplace design has delivered successful projects for clients like Johnson & Johnson/JLABS, The Ion, Howard Hughes, Chevron, and a variety of other client and project types including the recent completion of the Gensler Houston office. Outside of work, Vince is an active member in several AEC organizations including the Texas Association for Interior Design (TAID) and the International Interior Design Association (IIDA).

Jonathan Gallion, Ph.D.
Principal Data Scientist
Mercury Data Science

Jonathan Gallion is a Principal Data Scientist at Mercury Data Science (MDS). Jonathan leads the MDS data science practice to accelerate innovation and improve outcomes. He manages AI/ML strategy and lifecycles to design, create, and deploy AI-driven solutions, guide product development priorities, and shape data driven strategies to solve the unique challenges faced by organizations within healthcare and life sciences. 10+ years of experience within computational biology spanning drug discovery, personalized medicine, genomics/proteomics, biotech, med devices, and SaMD. Ph.D. in Quantitative Computational Biology from Baylor College of Medicine and Bachelors degrees in Biochemistry/Biophysics and Microbiology from Oregon State University.

Papia Ghosh, Ph.D.
Licensing Manager, Office of Technology Commercialization
MD Anderson Cancer Center

Papia joined Office of Technology Commercialization in 2016 and is involved in identifying and translating internal developments to commercial opportunities.

Prior to working at OTC, Papia was a Consultant at L.E.K. Consulting in Boston and London (UK) for over 3 years and focused exclusively in the life sciences. While there, she provided strategic insights on, but not limited to, market assessment, market access and pricing, competitive positioning, valuation, and portfolio / life cycle management. She was an advisor to various biotechs and large pharmas in a wide range of therapeutic and diagnostic areas. Papia conducted her post-doctoral work in Oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, received her Ph.D. in Genetics from Yale University, and B.S. in Biology from Duke University.

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Arthur Greenspan, J.D.
Partner
Perkins Coie (New York Office)

Arthur Greenspan's 30-year career has included the successful representation of financial firms and other companies, board committees, and senior executives and professionals. He assists these clients in complex and high-stakes criminal, legislative, and regulatory investigations and proceedings, internal investigations, and securities and other litigation. His particular focus includes cases and issues involving accounting and disclosure, taxation, securities and derivatives trading and markets, and complex financial products and transactions.

Arthur possesses broad experience and a deft touch with investigatory agencies. He has regularly represented clients before the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), and the New York attorney general's office. He also has appeared before the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), the Federal Reserve Board, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) and committees of the U.S. Congress. In addition, Arthur has a strong track record of success in representing clients in complex criminal and civil cases in federal court and in arbitration.

Arthur's exemplary work and professionalism have earned him recognition as a top litigator and a leader within the legal community. He is currently a director of the Federal Bar Foundation and is a former president of the Federal Bar Council American Inn of Court and vice president of the Federal Bar Council.

Gabrielle Guttman
Business Operations Senior Lead
Johnson & Johnson Innovation – JLABS

Gabrielle is the Business Operations Senior Lead for Johnson & Johnson Innovation, JLABS @ TMC. In this role, Gabrielle is responsible for managing the day-to-day business operations for the site, which includes onboarding strategically aligned companies into the Johnson & Johnson Innovation portfolio and maintaining a healthy P&L. She supports the resident companies onsite and virtually, while also ensuring JLABS @ TMC is operating at its optimal potential. Additionally, Gabrielle is responsible for company sourcing and selection processes for the global JLABS portfolio.

Prior to joining JLABS, Gabrielle was in the Global Operations Leadership Development Program at J&J. Her first rotation in the Program was in R&D Procurement, where she was responsible for contracting, supplier management, and negotiations. In her second rotation, as a Project Manager for Janssen's Supply Chain, Gabrielle focused on leading cross-functional global teams to simplify and optimize Janssen's portfolios.

Gabrielle holds a B.S.E in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania. She is currently pursuing her MBA at Rice

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University and will graduate in 2023.

Dan Hargrove, J.D.
Co-Founder and President
Cancer Insight

Dan Hargrove is the co-founder and president of Cancer Insight, LLC, a clinical research organization dedicated to discovering, developing and testing emerging biotechnologies related to cancer immunotherapy. His expertise spans biotechnology commercialization, FDA regulatory compliance, government contracts, and military law.

Sarah Hein, Ph.D.
Entrepreneur in Residence, ACT
TMC Innovation

Sarah Hein, Ph.D., is an Entrepreneur in Residence for the Texas Medical Center's Cancer Therapeutics Accelerator.

Previously, Sarah was cofounder and VP of Operations at Courier Therapeutics, where she helped develop a novel immune-targeted cancer immunotherapy. She was also Director of Research at Resonant Therapeutics, an antibody therapeutics platform technology company. She began at Mercury Fund as a Venture Fellow directly after graduating with her Ph.D. from Baylor College of Medicine. She has participated in Enventure from 2013 to 2017, coming on as a core member in 2015 and launching the Foundations workshop series to provide in-depth entrepreneurship education to the Texas Medical Center community.

Sarah earned her Bachelor's and Master's of Science from the University of Wyoming. In her free time, Sarah volunteers with the Prisoner Entrepreneur Program, which gives incarcerated men the tools for economic freedom upon reentry into society. When not otherwise engaged, Sarah likes to play with code, hang out with her husband and dogs, garden, and grow things.

Michelle Ho, Ph.D.
Senior Associate
5AM Ventures

Michelle Ho, Ph.D. joined 5AM Ventures in 2018 as an Analyst and was promoted to Senior Associate in 2022. Dr. Ho serves as an Observer of the Boards of Artiva Biotherapeutics, Cleave Therapeutics, Ensoma, Purigen, Radionetics Oncology and RareCyte. Through 5AM's 4:59 Initiative, she helped to build and launch Ensoma, serving as acting Head of Corporate Strategy. Prior to 5AM, Dr. Ho was an Entrepreneurship Fellow at Fannin Innovation Studio, where she led R&D and BD for two life science startups in Houston, TX. Previously, Dr. Ho was a T32 Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Gynecologic Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center and the Department of Bioengineering at Rice University developing targeted AAV vectors for

ovarian cancer treatment. She earned her Ph.D. in Bioengineering from Rice University developing next-generation AAV-based gene therapy vectors in the Suh Lab. She received her B.S. in Bioengineering from the University of California – Berkeley, where she was a Regents' and Chancellor's scholar. Dr. Ho is based in the San Francisco, CA office.

Angela Holmes
COO
Mercury Data Science

Angela Holmes is COO of Mercury Data Science (MDS). At MDS, we build AI solutions for life sciences and healthcare to support drug discovery, medical devices, digital health and clinical trials. Angela is an AI strategist with 15+ years of experience working with venture backed / high growth and F500 organizations in healthcare, life sciences, energy, and financial services. She has experience in designing and implementing data and AI-driven solutions, guiding product development priorities, and growing software adoption and revenue. She has held leadership roles in machine learning (ML) driven software companies across sales, product strategy, marketing, and customer success. Completed the Texas Medical Center startup accelerator program (TMCx). Key roles in global consultancies including Ernst & Young, Capgemini, and Perficient. Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering from Georgia Tech and Johns Hopkins University.

Aleece Hobson
Venture Partner
HX Venture Fund

Aleece Hobson is a Venture Partner leading the activation efforts at HX Venture Fund in Houston, Texas. She is responsible for connecting VCs, Houston startups, and the firm's Limited Partners in ways that benefit Houston's startup ecosystem. Aleece comes to HX Venture Fund with a background in the VC fund-of-funds industry, serving as the Investor Relations Manager at Weathergage Capital, a venture capital fund-of-funds managing approximately $1 billion in venture partnership commitments. She also has over 10 years of business strategy and development experience with an extensive involvement in event planning, relationship building, and strategic communication. Prior to Aleece's venture fund-of-fund experience, she was a consultant at Hollinden | marketers + strategists and a Program Coordinator at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Aleece holds an MBA from Texas Woman's University and a BBA in Marketing from Texas A&M University. She is currently serving as the Director of Special Events Marketing for AMA Houston.

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George Hutchinson, Ph.D.
CEO
Invictus Medical

https://www.linkedin.com/in/george-hutchinson-3406024/

Ricardo Jimenez
Vice President of Technical Operations
Neurogene

Ricardo Jimenez serves as the Vice-President of Technical Operations for Neurogene Inc., a company focused on gene therapy for rare neurological disorders. Mr. Jimenez has spent more than 20 years in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry, with >15 of those years in the gene therapy field. Prior to Neurogene, Mr. Jimenez was the site head of the Lonza Houston manufacturing facility and played a leadership role in establishing Lonza as a major contract cellular and gene therapy manufacturer, including designing and managing the construction of the flagship cell and gene therapy facility in Pearland, TX. He started in gene therapy in 2005 at Introgen Therapeutics, where he was responsible for the validation activities for adenoviral-based products and served as Head of Quality in what became in 2009 Vivante GMP Solutions, a contract manufacturing organization acquired by Lonza. Mr. Jimenez holds a B.S. in biomedical science from Texas A&M University.

Kieron Jones
Co-Founder,
CEO & President

Kieron Jones has over 13 years of success in delivering results through direct sales, strategic revenue-generating partnerships and building collaborative long-term relationships in a variety of government and commercial contracting environments.

Over the past 10+ years he gained expertise as a Project Management Professional with experience in pre-clinical through Phase 3 biopharmaceutical development, product life cycle management, cross-functional collaborations, financial analysis and budgeting, project and portfolio management, and global strategic planning. Kieron has a demonstrated track record of leading by example, adapting to evolving industry demands, and promoting efficiency through analysis of key performance indicators.

Kieron held multiple positions at Fujifilm Diosynth Biotechnologies —Texas (formerly Kalon Biotherapeutics), most recently Director, Commercial Development, where he brought in more than $50 million in new business and participated in successful negotiations of Commercial Supply Agreements and other strategic partnerships. During his eight years at Fujifilm/Kalon he worked with the COO on global strategic planning and also managed

a $175 million multi-option contract with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA).

Previously, Kieron held positions as project manager and program analyst at BAE Systems, Atlantic Marine, Inc., Rham Construction and the Haskell Company. He holds a bachelor's and a master's degree from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech).

Chester Koh, M.D.
Professor of Urology, Pediatrics, & OB/GYN, Texas Children's Hospital, Baylor College of Medicine; Director, Southwest National Pediatric Device Innovation Consortium (SWPDC)

My clinical area of expertise and interest is in minimally invasive surgery in children for their pediatric urologic conditions, especially with robotic surgery and single incision laparoscopic surgery, and I am the director of the Pediatric Robotic Surgery Program. We have shown that minimally invasive surgery in children has been associated with smaller incisions, shorter hospital stays, and decreased pain medication usage in comparison to open surgery in the field of pediatric urology for procedures such as pyeloplasty for ureteropelvic junction (UPJ) obstruction, nephrectomy (kidney removal), and ureteral reimplantation for vesicoureteral reflux. This often leads to faster recoveries for children, and allows their parents to minimize their time away from work. Robotic surgery can also be used for select genitourinary reconstructive procedures in pediatric urology as well. Our program serves as a pediatric robotic surgery research and training center that collaborates with the other institutions here in the Texas Medical Center.

I collaborate with our Pediatric Urology Laboratory, which is supported in part by NIH funding, as my NIH-funded laboratory in the past investigated novel therapeutic pathways for bladder regeneration / inflammation and other non-cancer urologic conditions.

I also serve as the co-founder and co-PI of a FDA-supported pediatric medical device consortium (the Southern California Consortium for Technology and Innovation in Pediatrics (CTIP)), a pediatric medical device consortium that is based in Los Angeles and which includes Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine, as well as the founder of the Texas Children's Hospital / Baylor College of Medicine-based consortium, the Southwest Pediatric Device Consortium (swpdc.org). These consortia are dedicated to improving children's health by supporting the development of innovative pediatric medical devices through all of the necessary stages - concept formation, prototyping, preclinical, clinical, manufacturing, marketing, and commercialization. The need for these consortia arose from the slow pace of pediatric medical device development, which currently lags behind the development of adult devices by five to ten years. In addition, children differ from adults in terms of their size, growth, development, body chemistry, and disease propensity.

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Christine Luk, MBE
Associate Principal
Fannin Innovation Studio

I am an Associate Principal at Fannin Innovation Studio focusing on medical device commercialization. I am the project lead for ChorioAnchor, a device that enables safer minimally-invasive fetal surgery procedures, and part of the steering committee for the Southwest national Pediatric Device innovation Consortium.

A Houston transfer from Oklahoma City, I received a BA in Biochemistry and Cell Biology with a minor in Global Health Technologies from Rice University in 2018. Interested in furthering my studies in medical device development, in 2019, I received a master's in bioengineering in the Global Medical Innovation program from Rice. While completing my master's, I co-founded LilySpec, a startup developing devices for women's health and worked at the Johnson & Johnson Center for Device Innovation at the Texas Medical Center to develop novel electrophysiology devices.

Upendra Marathi, Ph.D.
President & CEO
7Hills Pharma

Upendra Marathi is the founder, investor, and an inventor of 7HPtechnology. He has led the development of three novel pain and cardiovascular drugs, including one which has recently been approved by the FDA. He co-developed one of the first genetically modified stem cells to improve bone marrow function in chemotherapeutic patients. As a venture capitalist, he was involved in the founding and launch of several biotechnology companies. He has helped raise over $50 million in equity financing. Upendra was a post-doctoral fellow at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, and earned a Ph.D. in Pharmacology from Loyola University Chicago. Upendra has an M.B.A. from Rice University and has served as a faculty member.

Tim Marx
Venture Partner
Baird Capital

Tim Marx is an independent consultant who has been providing his expert advice to Baird Capital since 2018. Marx works with Baird Capital's Venture team to pursue new investment opportunities and help build value within the existing portfolio. Marx joined after two decades of experience in consulting and corporate strategy at The Boston Consulting Group (BCG), most recently as Managing Director and Partner. Marx has worked domestically at Morgan Stanley and internationally at Grupo Financiero Banorte (Mexico). Marx also serves on the Investment Committee for the Texas Medical Center Venture Fund in addition to his role as senior advisor and mentor for several start-ups. Additionally, Marx is president of Marx Capital Advisors, an advisory firm supporting single family office clients with their direct investing decisions as

well as strategic and operational initiatives across their portfolio companies.

Marx holds a bachelor's degree in finance, international business and Spanish from The Pennsylvania State University and a MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business. He was a 2000-01 Fulbright Scholar at ITESM in Monterrey, Mexico.

Jordan Miller, Ph.D.
Co-Founder
Volumetric
SVP, Chief Scientist for Regenerative Medicine
3D Systems

Jordan Miller is the SVP, Chief Scientist for Regenerative Medicine at 3D Systems, which acquired Volumetric, in 2021. Jordan Miller received his Ph.D. from Rice University in 2008, returned to the Department of Bioengineering as an Assistant Professor in 2013. He spun out and led Volumetric in 2018, on a mission to empower the next generation of advanced biofabrication.

Kristin Naidysh, J.D.
Associate, Winstead PC

IPOs vs. SPACS: Considerations for Emerging Life Science Companies

Kristin Naidysh is a member of Winstead's Corporate, Securities/M&A Practice Group. She works with private equity groups, venture capital firms, established businesses, and emerging technology companies in structuring a wide variety of general corporate, M&A, and investment transactions. Kristin's broad industry experience includes healthcare and physician practices, biotechnology, energy, SaaS, ecommerce, telecommunications, technology infrastructure, design, professional services, and social applications. When not in the office, Kristin enjoys spending time with her husband and their three dogs. She's an avid Peloton rider and frequently volunteers at local entrepreneurship events.

Professional & Community Involvement

State Bar of Texas
Colorado Bar Association
Admitted to Practice

Texas, 2017
Colorado, 2018

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Donica O'Connor
Director of Practice Operations
Privia Health Gulf Coast

Donica O'Connor is the Director of Practice Operations at Privia Health Gulf Coast. Privia Medical Group Gulf Coast is 300 multiple specialty providers engaged in providing the best in class health care experience. Donica scales and optimizes practices across the region, by implementing innovative programs and technologies, supporting practice managers, and helping our providers succeed in value-based programs.

Christopher Pavlos, Ph.D.
Director of Research & Development, Jurata Thin Film

Dr. Christopher M. Pavlos holds a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from Johns Hopkins University. He has over 15 years of experience developing advanced materials and novel processes for a variety of pharmaceutical and biotech applications. His expertise lies at the intersection of polymer science, organic chemistry, surface science, and drug delivery. Working for a variety of small businesses and startups, he has developed significant experience taking technologies from the lab bench through pilot-scale and into full production.

Valeska Pederson Hintz, J.D.
Partner, Perkins Coie (Austin Office)

Valeska Pederson Hintz's practice focuses on the areas of corporate and securities laws. She represents entrepreneurs and investors in venture financings and regularly manages mergers and acquisition and special purpose acquisition company (SPAC transactions), tender offers, joint ventures, and general corporate representation on behalf of public and late-stage private companies and private equity funds. Valeska also assists public companies, underwriters, and investors with public offerings and U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) reporting and compliance.

Valeska's representations emphasize technology companies, including software, media and ad tech, biotechnology, semiconductor, ecommerce, machine learning, fintech, blockchain, and social networking. She has spent most of her legal career in Silicon Valley advising emerging growth companies, investment banks, and venture capital and private equity firms.

Valeska's practice is informed by her experience as in-house counsel for a late-stage biotechnology company, as well as her work in the finance and strategic marketing departments of a public semiconductor company. With a breadth of experience in the technology and biotechnology fields, Valeska is highly attuned to the business and legal challenges that emerging growth companies routinely face

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Daniel Powell
CEO
Spark Medical

Daniel Powell has over 25 years developing and selling technical solutions across multiple industries and has served in multiple leadership roles in Marketing, Business Development, Program Management and Software Engineering. Mr. Powell's found his true passion in medical devices, specifically neurostimulation and has since launched multiple product in the space including Deep Brain Stimulation for movement disorders and Vagus Nerve Stimulation for Epilepsy. Mr. Powell co-founded and serves as CEO of Spark Biomedical, the developer of the FDA cleared Sparrow Therapy System; a novel, wearable neurostimulation solution to address opioid withdrawal and addiction.

Jorge Ramirez
Head of Investments and VP Business Development
TrialSpark

Jorge Ramirez is the Head of Investments & VP Business Development at TrialSpark. Previously, Jorge was with H.I.G. Capital where he was responsible for development stage and growth investments in the biotechnology, medical device and diagnostics industries. During his six years with H.I.G., Jorge represented the firm in several successful investments. Prior to H.I.G., Jorge was with ProQuest Investments, a healthcare dedicated venture capital firm, and Monitor Company, a strategy consulting firm. He currently serves on the advisory board of the NJ Bioscience Center, a life sciences incubator funded by the NJ Economic Development Authority. Jorge earned degrees in neuroscience and Spanish literature from Amherst College and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.

Rachel Rath
Director, BARDA Alliance
Johnson & Johnson Innovation

Rachel is the Director of the BARDA Alliance for Johnson & Johnson Innovation, based at JLABS Washington, DC. In this role, she manages the collaboration between JLABS and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), part of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which is focused on emerging technologies and the advancement of medical countermeasures aimed at securing our nation from chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats, as well as from pandemic influenza (PI) and emerging infectious diseases (EID).

Before joining JLABS, Rachel was the Chief of Staff for the National Evaluation System for health Technology Coordinating (NESTcc)—an initiative of the Medical Device Innovation Consortium (MDIC). Rachel helped lead the development of NESTcc and managed strategy and operations, including

overseeing governance, communications, sustainability planning, and stakeholder engagement. Prior to her work at MDIC, Rachel was based at the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), helping to launch the Patient-Centered Clinical Research Network (PCORnet), a national effort to engage patients and leverage electronic health data to improve the speed and efficiency of clinical research in the United States.

She received her MBA from Georgetown University and MPH in global health policy from The George Washington University.

John (JR) Reale, Jr.
Venture Lead, TMC Venture Fund; EIR, TMC Innovation; Managing Director, Integr8d Capital

John S. Reale, Jr. (JR) serves as Executive in Residence (EIR) at TMC Innovation. As EIR, he is an in-house resource for companies throughout the community. In addition, he advises the Healthcare Accelerator on strategy to advance how the TMC delivers value to its Member Institutions and entrepreneurs. JR also leads the TMC Venture Fund, a $25 M fund that invests in early-stage companies changing the face of healthcare connecting through the Texas Medical Center.

JR is an experienced early-stage technology company investor, entrepreneur and executive. JR founded Integr8d Capital, an early-stage venture capital firm launched in 2017. Integr8d Capital partners with founders launching their ventures in-and-through the City of Houston to build transformative companies.

Previously, he co-founded Station Houston, Inc. (Station), Houston's hub for tech innovation and entrepreneurship, where he served as its CEO from inception through August 2018. In April 2018, Station announced its partnership with the City of Houston, Rice University and the Texas Medical Center to develop and launch the Houston Innovation District in midtown Houston. Prior to Station, he was an Operating Partner with Fraser McCombs Capital (FMC), an early-stage venture capital firm based in Boulder and San Antonio. Through FMC, JR served in various leadership roles with their portfolio companies. JR founded Arete which advises early-stage companies on their launch and growth operations. JR started his career in financial services at Morgan Stanley and JP Morgan, as well as Founding Member of Avalon Advisors, a wealth management and advisory firm based in Houston.

Civicly, JR serves a variety of organizations focused on education and entrepreneurship. Most notably, JR Chaired Mayor Sylvester Turner's Innovation and Technology Task Force to further the City of Houston's strategy and plan to spark the long-term growth of Houston's innovation and technology entrepreneurship economy. Additionally, he served on the Greater Houston Partnership's Innovation Advisory Board. These task forces helped lead to the formation of Houston Exponential (HX), an organization charged with sustainably promoting Houston's entrepreneurship and innovation economy. JR currently serves on the Board of HX, where amongst its initiatives, helped launched the HX Venture Fund, a fund of fund venture

model to attract more venture capital to the region.

JR serves on the Advisory Board for the Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship; the Investment Committee for the Cougar Venture Fund at the University of Houston; as Entrepreneur in Residence for the Liu Idea Lab for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (LILIE) at Rice University; was the past-President of The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Houston chapter; and mentor at numerous start-up acceleration programs. JR is a member of the Startup Champions Network, a national organization of startup ecosystem leaders. Finally, JR co-founded the Mentoring Initiative at Cristo Rey Jesuit Preparatory High School in Houston (Viva Cristo Rey!).

JR received his B.S. in Finance and Investments from Babson College in Massachusetts. JR and his wife, Kim, are the proud parents of the first Houston-born member of their family, their daughter, Juliana!

Emily Reiser, Ph.D.
Associate Director
TMC Innovation

Dr. Emily Reiser is the Associate Director of TMC Innovation's Accelerator for health tech and Biodesign programs. Emily served previously as the Innovation Community Engagement Senior Manager and draws on her extensive experience managing the TMC Innovation network ensuring all stakeholders have the opportunity to connect to the resources they need to be successful.

She has supported the Houston life science innovation community for the past five years on the leadership team of Enventure, a grassroots, non-profit organization supporting entrepreneurship training and company formation in the life sciences. Through Enventure, she has contributed to business development projects with more than a dozen local life science startups, helped form four new companies, and supported eight individuals transitioning to careers in entrepreneurship. Emily also worked directly with TMCx company, Noleus Technologies, directing business development.

Emily earned a bachelor's degree in Biology from Emory University and a Ph.D. in Bioengineering from Rice University focused on drug delivery for cancer immunotherapy.

Thomas Richardson, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist, Cell & Gene Therapy Process Development, Emerging Technologies Division, Lonza

Thomas Richardson is a Senior Scientist in Cell and Gene Therapy Process Development, part of the Emerging Technologies Division of Lonza. He earned a BS in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University, and later earned his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh. His dissertation work concentrated on the development of novel propagation techniques for the scalable culture and differentiation of

human pluripotent stem cells (hPSCs). In particular, he focused on the effect of biomaterial encapsulation on the pancreatic differentiation of hPSCs to support biomanufacturing of hPSC-derived insulin producing cells.

At Lonza his work has focused on the development of GMP cell therapy processes with autologous and allogeneic cell sources, utilizing a myriad of devices such as multi-layered planar vessels, stirred-suspension bioreactors, and closed automated isolation and concentration/wash technologies.

His talk will provide an overview of some these exciting technologies as well as discuss the specific challenges faced in developing GMP manufacturing processes for cell-based therapies and how Lonza is addressing them.

John Schultz
Director, Office of Technology Transfer
Houston Methodist Hospital and Research Institute

John is currently the Director for the Office of Technology Transfer at Houston Methodist Hospital and Research Institute. Previously, he was Acting Vice President of Business Development at Pharmozyme Inc., an engineered enzyme production platform company. Prior to that he was Vice President of Corporate Development at Intrexon Corporation where he led all corporate development activities supporting a portfolio of synthetic biology assets in the healthcare, food and industrial biotech sectors. He was also Director of Business Development at Roche Tissue Diagnostics and the Senior Vice President of Licensing and Strategic Development at Clinical Data Inc. a drug development (vilazodone) and laboratory services provider of patient testing and contract DNA sequencing services for pharma, which was acquired by Forest Laboratories. John has also worked in various general management, sales and marketing positions for BioChem Pharma and Sigma-Aldrich Chemical. He began his career as the Asia-Pacific Sales and Marketing Manager –for Mallinckrodt. He joined the Office of Technology Transfer in 2016.

Juan Pablo Segura
Co-Founder & President
Babyscripts

Juan Pablo is one of the founders of Babyscripts, a next generation maternity monitoring company. Through his platform as an innovator in healthcare, he is an active voice in advocating for greater access to care through technology for the underserved. He is a founding board member of Heathtech4Medicaid and a frequent speaker on the subject of new care models for Medicaid and low-income populations. Since 2014, Juan Pablo has been named a Healthcare Transformer by the Startup Health Academy in New York, a Wireless Lifechanger by CTIA for his work in detecting problems in pregnancy faster, selected as a finalist for the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2019 Mid-Atlantic Award, and named to the inaugural class of the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's Hispanic Business Hall of Fame.

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Juan Pablo has raised more than $31 million in venture/strategic financing for furthering his vision of a data centric model in prenatal care. He has orchestrated large partnerships that include investments from Cigna Healthcare, Philips International, and General Electric. He has also led the Babyscripts growth team, closing large hospital deals with more than 75 health systems around the country that manage over 250K pregnancies annually.

Andrew (Andy) Smetana, J.D.
Partner
Perkins Coie (Austin Office)

Andrew Smetana serves as a trusted advisor to entrepreneurs, emerging companies, and investors in a wide variety of industries, including technology and life sciences. Focusing on exceptional service and long-term relationships, Andy guides clients through bet-the-company transactions involving venture capital, private equity, and strategic investors. Andy also advises clients in complex mergers and acquisition deals and capital markets transactions. Committed to partnering with high-paced emerging companies and the investors who support them, Andy negotiates and executes transactions that allow companies to grow, flourish, and then successfully exit.

Andy's experience includes acting as an outsourced general counsel to start-up companies, advising them through all phases of their existence. He has counseled venture capital and private equity investors in equity and convertible debt financings, buyers and sellers in M&A transactions, and issuers and underwriters in securities offerings, including initial public offerings (IPOs) and private investments in public equity (PIPEs). He also advises on corporate governance matters and public company reporting requirements.

As the former general counsel for an early-stage technology startup, Andy possesses valuable perspective on the challenges and opportunities faced by entrepreneurs in growing businesses.

Dedicated to protecting children and advocating for their interests, Andy also is an active volunteer with CASA of Travis County.

Rachel Stillman
Senior Associate
7 Wire Ventures

Rachel Stillman serves as a Senior Associate at 7wireVentures where she focuses on investments in digital healthcare and technology. She was a member of the deal team for CirrusMD, Jasper, Clarify Medical, and higi. She is active with the portfolio, having provided strategic project support to companies including CirrusMD, Transcarent, NOCD, HomeThrive, RecoveryOne, ConsejoSano, and Carebox.

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Rachel's prior experience in venture capital includes her time at Qure Ventures, Israel's first exclusively focused digital health fund. Prior to Rachel's career in venture capital, she worked in the Healthcare Group at MB Financial Bank where she advised and supported healthcare organizations and healthcare service providers with their financing and risk management needs. There, she gained copious amounts of transaction experience structuring acquisition financings, leveraged financings, private syndications, and credit derivative products.

Rachel is a co-founder of Dropping Claims, a content platform written by women in HealthTech, powered by the HealthTech Grind.

Rachel received a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and a Bachelor of Arts degree with Honors from Indiana University.

Frank Stokes
CFO
Castle Biosciences

Frank Stokes has served as our Chief Financial Officer since December 2017. From January 2017 to December 2017, Mr. Stokes served as Chief Financial Officer of Hammock Pharmaceuticals, a specialty pharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of women's health and urology products. From May 2011 to December 2016, Mr. Stokes served as a Managing Director of Leerink Swann (now SVB Leerink). Mr. Stokes also held positions as a Managing Director at Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated and Wachovia Securities, LLC. While at SVB Leerink and Robert W. Baird & Co., Mr. Stokes led life sciences, tools and diagnostics sector investment banking efforts, and managed financings, and mergers and acquisitions transactions. Mr. Stokes serves as a director of Exagen (NASDAQ:XGN), as the Audit Committee chair. Mr. Stokes holds a B.S. degree in business administration and J.D. and MBA degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Andrew Strong, J.D.
Partner
Hogan Lovells

Andrew Strong is an experienced trusted advisor and counsel to global life sciences, pharmaceutical, and emerging technology clients on matters involving corporate formation, public and private financing, mergers and acquisitions, cross-border licensing and joint ventures, employment and executive compensation, and intellectual property.

Andrew represents public and private life sciences, pharmaceutical, and emerging technology companies as well as public and private academic and research institutions on a variety of diverse matters. He has experience starting up and selling a successful biotech company that has now grown to 600+ employees, has served and presently serves as the general counsel

for several private and publicly traded drug development biotech clients, and has served as a board member and in leadership positions for NYSE, Nasdaq, and private corporations. His experience working in the c-suite and as chief legal counsel for startups, academic centers, and publicly traded corporations provides him with a unique perspective on which he draws in advising and counseling the firm's clients.

Andrew previously served as the general counsel and compliance officer for the Texas A&M University System where he was responsible for, among other things, crisis management and internal investigations for the system's 11 public universities, seven state agencies, and health science center. Additionally, he was the founding CEO of Kalon Biotherapeutics, a startup biotech company spun out of the A&M System, which he successfully grew over several years and sold to Fujifilm and Mitsubishi. Recently, Andrew cofounded and presently serves as the chairman of K2 Biolabs, a drug development company accelerator for early stage biotech companies. Andrew was appointed to and serves as the co-chair of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute's (CPRIT) Product Development Advisory Committee.

Jaye Thompson, Ph.D.
Clinical Advisor
Proxima

EDUCATION:
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth), Doctorate in Biostatistics

Texas A&M University, Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:
She has 25+ years of experience in the healthcare industry.

She is an entrepreneur and has been an executive at several biotech companies: Synergos Inc (Founder, acquired by inVentiv Health), Opexa Therapeutics, and Repros Therapeutics.

Jaye is a biostatistician with clinical trial and regulatory expertise and has a history of assisting emerging companies meet their milestones.

Suzanne Tomlinson, Ph.D.
Director, Research Programs, Gulf Coast Consortia
Rice University

Dr. Suzanne Tomlinson is the Director of Research Programs for the Gulf Coast Consortia. Her primary responsibilities include direction of the 10 GCC research consortia and clusters. In addition, she directs the development of new interinstitutional research initiatives, scientific conferences, grant proposals, curriculum, and manages the John S. Dunn Foundation Collaborative Research Award Program for the BioScience Research Collaborative. In addition, she directs the award winning Rigor

and Reproducibility Workshops and is the Co-PI of the Cancer Therapeutics Program. She earned her Ph.D. at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), Galveston, TX, in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, specializing in computational drug discovery and lead optimization in the development of West Nile and dengue virus protease inhibitors. As a Postdoctoral Fellow, she developed aldose reductase inhibitors as potential colon cancer therapeutics. Her current research interests remain in the development of flavivirus antivirals.

Roger Trinh
Owner
Roger Trinh Talent Solutions

Roger Trinh is the Owner of Roger Trinh Talent Solutions. His connections consist of a diverse network of exceptional candidates and outstanding companies, from life sciences to health professionals. Roger fills nearly any position in settings as varied as gene therapy, biologics, pharmaceuticals, biotech, medical devices, clinical research, medical centers, or large hospital systems.

Roger is an award-winning recruitment leader with over a decade of experience forming dynamic teams in the life sciences, biotech, pharma, and health sectors. Skilled in branding, negotiations, and career development for professionals, he is committed to building relationships to know the suitable candidates to bring forward. Clients continually praise him for being personable and compassionate while tirelessly ensuring great matches.

Leading with a clear-cut sense of ethics, Roger oversees recruiting qualified candidates, creating strong business partnerships, and brokering rewarding contracts. His experience as a recruiter has nurtured deep connections within clinical development, pharmaceutical, and health organizations. Roger has proven mastery of the laws and concerns of the industry by also achieving the Certified Staff Professional (CSP) credential.

Sarma Velamuri, M.D.
CEO & Co-Founder
Luminare

Dr. Velamuri is a board-certified Internal Medicine physician, residency at Baylor College of Medicine, before working as a hospitalist at CHI-St. Luke's. He has served on process improvement, health informatics and patient safety committees at large hospitals in and around the greater Houston area.

He has acted as a sepsis committee member for Catholic Health Initiatives at the Baylor College of Medicine St. Luke's hospital, represented BCM in the TMC Sepsis Collaborative, was appointed the 2018 Sepsis Champion for HCA-Houston, and has served as the Medical Director of Kindred Hospitals, Houston.

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Dr. Velamuri is an active advisor at the Texas Medical Center's Innovation Institute and helps emerging companies in the biotechnology space.

Jeffrey Wade
President & CFO
Lexicon Pharmaceuticals

Jeffrey L. Wade is president and chief financial officer of Lexicon Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq: LXRX), a biopharmaceutical company with a mission of pioneering transformative new medicines, having previously served in a series of finance, corporate development, administrative and legal executive roles since joining the company in 1999. He has played an instrumental role in completing securities offerings for Lexicon totaling more than $1 billion; completing the acquisition of Coelacanth Corporation that established the basis for the company's small molecule drug discovery efforts; and negotiating collaborations and licenses involving more than $1 billion in committed funding to the company, including strategic alliances with Sanofi, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Genentech, Ipsen and Takeda. Before joining Lexicon, Mr. Wade was a partner with the law firm of Andrews & Kurth, where his practice consisted primarily of corporate finance and securities transactions, mergers and acquisitions, and partnerships and alliances. He is a member of the boards of directors of the Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute and BioHouston. Mr. Wade received his B.A. (Plan II) and J.D. from The University of Texas.

Cindy WalkerPeach, Ph.D.
Chief Product Development Officer,
Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)

Dr. WalkerPeach leads CPRIT Product Development Research, which critically evaluates and invests in Texas-based companies with promising novel cancer-focused products (drugs, diagnostics, medical devices and other non-traditional oncology applications) that will benefit cancer patients and society.

Prior to joining CPRIT, she served as Program Director for the National Science Foundation (NSF) Innovation Corps (I-Corps) program (Washington, DC area). She joined NSF from the University of Texas at Austin where she was a Director at the Austin Technology Incubator, having served as lead advisor for healthcare-focused life sciences startups. She was responsible for evaluating new business ventures, managing a portfolio of bioscience startups and providing business mentoring to technology-focused faculty and entrepreneurs.

Prior to government service, Dr. WalkerPeach had more than 20 years experience in the biotechnology sector as a member of several life science company management teams. Her responsibility areas included product development and technology assessment, licensing, business management/ operations, corporate development and strategic product partnering, drug and companion diagnostic assay co-development, university and commercial

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collaborations. Dr. WalkerPeach completed a BS in Chemistry and holds a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology.

Dan Watkins, Ph.D.
CEO
Mercury Data Science (MDS)
Partner & Co-Founder
Mercury Fund

CEO Mercury Data Science (MDS). Also, Partner/Co-Founder of Mercury Fund where I am an investor in life sciences and industrial sectors with a focus on AI/ML differentiated businesses. Representative portfolio companies include Benson Hill (NYSE: BHIL), Confluence Life Sciences (acquired by ACRS), and Olea Edge Analytics. Former director and founding CEO of Courier Therapeutics (acquired by Valo Health for over $500M in cash and milestone payments). Co-Founder of the Rice Alliance. Ph.D. in Materials Science from Carnegie Mellon University and BS in Materials Science from Rice University.

Ann Tanabe
Texas Life Science Forum Co-Host
Chief Executive Officer
BioHouston

Ann Tanabe, the current Chief Executive Officer of BioHouston has over 15 years of experience working in numerous roles in the Biotechnology Industry. Ann was promoted to CEO of BioHouston in October 2015 after serving four years as VP of Investor Relations at Synthesis Energy Systems, a publicly traded energy company from May 2008 to December 2010. Preceding her success at both BioHouston and Sythesis Energy Systems, Ann served as VP of Corporate Communications & Investor Relations at Encysive Pharmaceuticals, previously know as Texas Biotechnology.

Brad Burke
Texas Life Science Forum Co-Host
Executive Director
Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship

Brad Burke is the Managing Director of the Rice Alliance and has led the Rice Alliance since 2001. During that time, Rice's graduate entrepreneurship program has achieved the #1 ranking in the U.S. (having been previously unranked). The Rice Alliance's Rice Business Plan Competition has become the world's largest and richest student startup competition in the world. Previously, Brad founded and managed the Houston office of Viant Corporation, a premier internet consulting firm, that went public via IPO in 1999, before being acquired in 2002. Prior to Viant, Brad was a Principal with CSC Index, the former management consulting division of Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC). Before CSC, Brad held executive management positions with Exxon. He received his M.B.A. from Northwestern University's

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Kellogg Graduate School of Management as an Austin Scholar and his B.S. from Vanderbilt University.