

TEXAS LIFE SCIENCE Forum

2023 TEXAS LIFE SCIENCE FORUM

CONVENING INNOVATORS IN LIFE SCIENCE, HEALTH TECH, THERAPEUTICS AND MED DEVICES AND MORE.

November 7, 2023 | Rice University | txlifescienceforum.org



2023 SCHEDULE - MORNING SESSIONS

	SHELL AUDITORIUM	ANDERSON FAMILY COMMONS	ROOM 316
7:30	ROTUNDA & WOODSON COURTYARD: Breakfast & Registration <i>Sponsored by DLA Piper</i>		
8:30	Welcoming Remarks Ann Tanabe , Chief Executive Officer, BioHouston Brad Burke , Managing Director, Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship		
8:35	Celebrating Texas Medical Center's Helix Park William McKeon , President and Chief Executive Officer, Texas Medical Center		
8:50	Keynote Fireside Chat: Insight and Trends: Early-Stage Fundraising in Life Sciences Moderator: Anna Valladolid , Executive Director, Commercial Banking - Life Sciences, J.P. Morgan Anya Schiess , Managing Director, Co-Managing Partner of Life Science Private Capital, J.P. Morgan Asset Management Barbara Alcaraz Silva, Ph.D. , Executive Director, Startup Banking Life Sciences and Healthcare, J.P. Morgan		
9:30	Building an Ecosystem for Biotechnology Innovation at Rice, Houston, and Beyond—Starting with the Biotech Launch Pad Omid Veisheh, Ph.D. , Associate Professor, CPRIT Scholar in Cancer Research, Director of Rice Biotech Launch Pad		
10:00	WOODSON COURTYARD : Networking Break <i>Sponsored by Transwestern</i>		
10:30	Creative Partnerships to Enable Success in Life Sciences Moderator: Sarah Hein, Ph.D. , Co-Founder and CEO, March Biosciences Jason Bock, Ph.D. , Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Cell Therapy Manufacturing Center (CTMC) Ferran Prat, Ph.D., J.D. , Senior Vice President, Research Administration and Industry Relations, MD Anderson Cancer Center Paul Wotton, Ph.D. , Executive Director, Rice Biotech Launch Pad	AFC moderated by: Ann Tanabe , Chief Executive Officer, BioHouston The Local Launchpad—But the Global Game—Be Prepared For Each Stage of Growth Elizabeth Hoff , Chief Evangelist, Galen Data	AFC moderated by: Meg Boulware, J.D. , Partner, Boulware & Valoir AI Trends in Life Sciences: How AI and Generative AI Are Driving Innovation Angela Holmes , Chief Executive Officer, Mercury Data Science
11:00	Public Company Spotlight Jeff Wade, J.D. , President and Chief Financial Officer, Lexicon Pharmaceuticals	Your Tech Alone is Not Enough But It's a Good Start-Shaping a Winning Story Elaine Lea-Chou, Ph.D. , Consultant, TMCi ACT Accelerator	
11:10	Private Company Spotlight Imran Alibhai, Ph.D. , Chief Executive Officer, Tvardi		

2023 SCHEDULE - MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS

	SHELL AUDITORIUM	
11:20	A New Resource - Gulf Coast Consortia Research Evaluation and Commercialization Hub (GCC REACH) Suzanne Tomlinson, Ph.D., MBA , Director of Research Programs and Strategic Initiatives, Gulf Coast Consortia	11:20
11:30	Company Presentations: Biopharmaceuticals I <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NKILT Therapeutics• March Biosciences• Nandi Life Sciences• AyuVis Research• Diakonos Oncology• Secretome Therapeutics• Velorum Therapeutics	11:30
12:00		WOODSON COURTYARD: Lunch & Network
1:00	Welcome Back Brad Burke , Managing Director, Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship	1:00
1:05	Company Presentations - TMC BioBridges: International Partnerships Devin Dunn , Head of the Accelerator for Health Tech, TMC Innovation, Texas Medical Center <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ScubaTx• AINOSTICS• Calon Cardio Technology• Somnus Scientific• 52North• Panakeia Technologies• NuVision Biotherapies	1:05
1:40	Company Presentations - Digital Health <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lasa Health• Glidance• Bairitone Health	1:40

SESSIONS

	ANDERSON FAMILY COMMONS	ROOM 316
11:20		AI in Life Sciences - From Drug Development to Diagnosis and Treatment - It Affects Everything Moderator: Angela Holmes , Chief Executive Officer, Mercury Data Science Sahir Ali, Ph.D. , Founder and General Partner, Modi Ventures Pahini Pandya, Ph.D. , Founder and CEO, Panakeia Rima Chakrabarti, M.D. , Partner, KdT Ventures Rick Fontenot , Data Scientist, Lantern Pharma
11:30	CPRIT- Your Oncology Development Partner Kristin Doyle, J.D. , Deputy Executive Officer and General Counsel, CPRIT	

working | Sponsored by Pearland Economic Development Corporation

1:00	Entrepreneurial Progress in Academic Life Sciences: From Building a Company to Building an Ecosystem Moderator: Steve Lehmann, MBA , Director, Portal Innovation Jochen Reiser, M.D., Ph.D. , President, University of Texas Medical Branch; Co-Founder, Walden Biosciences Suzanne M. Tomlinson, Ph.D., MBA , Director of Research Programs and Strategic Initiatives, Gulf Coast Consortia Omid Veisheh, Ph.D. , Associate Professor, CPRIT Scholar in Cancer Research, Director of Rice Biotech Launch Pad	
1:30	Maximizing Your Drug Development Success Through Your CRO Relationship Samuel Chuang, Ph.D. , Director and Senior Principal Scientific Advisor, Charles River	

2023 SCHEDULE - LATE AFTERNOON SESSIONS

	SHELL AUDITORIUM	ANDERSON FAMILY COMMONS
1:55	Company Presentations - Medical Devices I	
2:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corveus Medical • NXgenPort • Insight Surgery • Ai-Ris • Atmo Biosciences • AiroSolve • Eisana • NeuraStasis 	Best Practices for Building Your New Facility Mike Barbera , President, Intersect Management Dichelle Burrus , Project Executive, DPR Construction Jason Chan, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C , Regional Practice Leader, Perkins & Will Michael Conway , Principal and Partner, GMC Commissioning
2:30	Race CARs to the Cure: Transformative Platforms in Cellular Immunotherapy Allison Rhines, Ph.D. , Site Head, Johnson & Johnson Innovation - JLABS@TMC Youngwook Won, Ph.D. , CSO and Co-Founder, Singular Immune Taylor Chartier, Ph.D. , CEO and Founder, Modicus Prime Alicia Chung, Ph.D. , President and Chief Corporate Development Officer, PointLoma Biosciences Xiaotong Song, Ph.D. , Founding Director, Cellula BioPharma	Succeeding at Securing Non-dilutive SBIR/STTR Funding For University Spinoffs and Advanced Technology Startups Carrie McAllister, Ph.D. , Funding Strategy Director, IntelliSpark, LLC
3:00	WOODSON COURTYARD : Networking Break <i>Sponsored by CNA</i>	
3:30	Company Presentations - Biopharmaceuticals II	
4:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mongoose Bio • PHIOGEN • Singular Immune • Kuria Therapeutics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systemic Bio • YAP Therapeutics • 7 Hills Pharma • OmniNano Pharmaceuticals
4:30	Company Presentations - Diagnostics	
4:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonnest • Resonantia Diagnostics • Vax-Immune DBA LabReady® 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Optroncis • Escher Biomedical Diagnostics • VUV Analytics
4:30	Company Presentations - Medical Devices II	
5:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ember Sleep • Vivifi Medical • StitchLock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taurus Vascular • Cardiost • Sonostics
5:00	Awards Presentation & Closing Remarks 10 Most Promising Life Science Companies Michael E. DeBakey Award People's Choice Award	
5:15	GRAND HALL, RMC : Networking Reception & Company Showcase <i>Sponsored by Caidya</i>	

COMPANY DIRECTORY



52North, United Kingdom

52North is a multi-award-winning Cambridge based med-tech company developing cutting-edge technologies to support remote monitoring and healthcare. Our solution Neurocheck® is a home-use, low-cost, portable and easy-to-use medical device and app that can identify patients at risk of the most fatal side-effect of chemotherapy treatment: a condition called neutropenic sepsis. Supported by the NHS, Texas Medical Center and Cedars-Sinai, Neurocheck is expected to save 1000s of lives, and prevent 250,000 unnecessary ER visits across the US each year, freeing up healthcare provider time, and achieving hundreds of millions in efficiency savings.

<http://www.52north.health>

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7 Hills Pharma, Houston, Texas

Integrins are a family of molecules that are critical for cell adhesion - bringing together the right cells at the right time to elicit an immune response. Poor integrin function results in a compromised immune response and, consequently, an increased risk of infection and cancer, and reduced effectiveness of oncology drugs and infectious disease vaccines. 7 Hills Pharma is a clinical stage immunotherapy company that has pioneered the concept of allosteric activation of integrins to facilitate cell adhesion and promote immune responses, particular in pathophysiological conditions where integrin and immune function may be compromised.

<http://www.7hillspharma.com>

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Advanced Optronics, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Advanced Optronics (AO) is a smart sensor company developing a guidance system for implantable medical devices, starting with cochlear implants. AO's first product provides real-time feedback during surgery to reduce trauma, avoid damage to residual hearing, and provide improved hearing outcomes, allowing patients to reconnect to the hearing world.

<http://www.advancedoptronics.com>

Jay Reddy : jay@advancedoptronics.com



Ai-Ris, Houston, Texas

At Ai-Ris, we are on a mission to save 1 million eyes by detecting vision loss in diabetics with our NSF-funded, clinically validated AI Headset. Vision loss due to diabetes is the leading cause of blindness in the US and affects 34 million diabetics. Early detection is key to prevention but due to discomfort associated with dilation drops and lack of easy access, over 60% patients skip their annual eye exam. To eliminate this problem, we are building an AI headset that can perform eye exams without and dilation drops and can be used by Primary care providers, making them a one stop screening center where diabetics frequent. Our business model is a pay per use+subscription model with avg. revenue opportunity of \$13000 per device. Target market is a \$500M opportunity and total market size is \$20B+.

<https://www.ai-ris.org/>

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AINOSTICS, United Kingdom

AINOSTICS uses AI to revolutionise dementia diagnosis -- making it automated, accurate, and timely. Our proprietary deep learning technology, BR[AI]N, utilises only non-invasive MRI scans to provide precise and prompt diagnosis and subtyping. Operating non-invasively and compatible with most hospital hardware, BR[AI]N is capable of processing multi-model imaging data from (MRI, PET, CT) and non-imaging data such as demographics and cognitive assessment scores. Notably, it demonstrates to be unbiased towards race and gender. BR[AI]N has received FDA Breakthrough Device Designation owing to its high accuracy in predicting dementia conversion among subjects classified with mild cognitive impairment (MCI).

<http://www.ainostics.com>

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AiroSolve, New York, New York

AiroSolve is a groundbreaking healthcare technology company that specializes in automated oxygen titration. Their platform seamlessly integrates with hospital oxygen delivery systems to optimize patient oxygen levels. By leveraging artificial intelligence and real-time data analysis, AiroSolve ensures patients receive the precise oxygen therapy they need, reducing the risks of hyperoxemia and hypoxemia. This innovation significantly enhances patient care, improves clinical outcomes, and reduces healthcare costs. AiroSolve's system also has the potential to revolutionize inpatient monitoring and offers a competitive edge in the rapidly evolving healthcare technology landscape.

<http://airosolve.ai>

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Atmo Biosciences, San Diego, California

Atmo Biosciences is a digital health and medical device startup commercialising the world's first ingestible gas-sensing capsule, which provides clinicians and researchers with insight into the gut microbiome and gastrointestinal health and dysfunction. After ingestion, the capsule measures important gaseous biomarkers continuously as it travels through the gut and sends the data wirelessly to the cloud for aggregation and analysis. We are completing a pivotal trial and preparing to submit a regulatory application with the FDA for an initial indication, and we are capital raising to prepare for launch next year in the USA.

<http://www.atmobiosciences.com>

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AyuVis Research, Fort Worth, Texas

Ayuvis is developing first-in-class immunotherapies that modulate white blood cells to prevent and treat life-threatening inflammation. The company's lead asset, AVR-48, is a novel, small molecule immunotherapy targeting bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD) in preterm neonates and other respiratory disorders. BPD is a disease with high unmet need for which there are no approved drugs. AVR-48 is an asset with strong composition of matter IP protection out to 2037 and has been granted both Orphan Drug and Rare Pediatric designations by FDA. AyuVis filed an IND and applied for Fast Track Designation for AVR-48 in BPD in Q3 2023 and is raising a \$20 million Series A round to support its clinical development through Top Line Results of a Phase 2a for BPD and through Phase 1 in ARDS.

<http://www.ayuvvis.com>

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Bairitone Health, Houston, Texas

Bairitone is an MVP stage company building a scalable diagnostic system for sleep apnea anatomy utilizing a home-use wearable, passive Sonar technology, & AI techniques with team, timing, and tech alignment unlocking a bottleneck in therapeutic delivery in a billion-dollar beachhead diagnostic market.

<https://bairitone.com/>

Meagan Pitcher : meagan@bairitone.com



Calon Cardio Technology, United Kingdom

Calon is developing the Next Generation Long Term Ventricular Assist System with wireless power transfer and 24/7 patient monitoring to greatly improved quality of life for these Class IV heart failure patients.

<http://www.caloncardio.com>

Peter Hinchliffe : peter.hinchliffe@caloncardio.com



Cardiost, Houston, Texas

Cardiost is primarily focused on Heart Failure, a chronic condition affecting more than 6.2M Americans and projected to reach 8M by 2030. Cardiost's Left Atrium Unloading Device (LAUD) is a durable mechanical circulatory support (MCS) to treat late-stage patients suffering from HFpEF (3M Americans). HFpEF has NO device-based therapies approved by the FDA and the existing pharmacological treatments have proven ineffective at late stages of the condition. HFpEF is responsible for 500K hospitalizations/year and had the highest 30-day readmission rate in the US healthcare system (23%), with each patient having 3.6 episodes/year each one costing \$50K.

<https://www.cardiost.com/>

Nicolas Anzellini : nico@cardiost.com



Corveus Medical, Houston, Texas

Corveus Medical is developing a one-time, catheter-based solution that provides instant relief from the symptoms of chronic heart failure. Heart failure affects over 6M Americans, and hospitalizations contribute to a mounting cost burden of \$35B on the healthcare system. Corveus' device performs a unique, targeted nerve ablation to inactivate a sympathetic nerve branch, which has been shown in several publications to provide significant benefit for class III heart failure patients.

<https://www.corveusmedical.com/>

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Diakonon Oncology, Houston, Texas

Diakonon Oncology, a clinical-stage biotech company, stands at the forefront of cancer immunotherapy, targeting aggressive cancers like Glioblastoma Multiforme (GBM). Awarded FDA's Fast Track designation, Diakonon's novel Dendritic Cell Vaccine (DCV) harnesses a patient's immune response to target and eliminate cancer cells. With early clinical successes in some of the most difficult-to-treat cancers, Diakonon is set to lead the next wave in cancer treatment, backed by a robust patent portfolio and an expert management team.

<http://www.diakonononcology.com>

Jay Hartenbach : j.hartenbach@diakonononcology.com



Eisana, The Woodlands, Texas

Eisana is preventing devastating side effects from cancer treatment, starting with a cryo-device for hands and feet, tailored to the unique needs of cancer patients, to prevent painful and incurable nerve damage caused from many common chemo drugs. We previously raised a \$900k pre-seed and have a \$400k SBIR from NIH/NCI. A presentation at this year's ASCO showed a 55% reduction in nerve damage with cooling and recommended that all patients cool their hands and feet on the day of chemo. Problem is, there's no easy and safe way to do it right now. We are solving that.

<http://www.eisana.com>

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Ember Sleep, Houston, Texas

Our company is creating the next generation medical device to treat sleep apnea. Our vision is to be the first go-to therapy for obstructive sleep apnea. We are building a more comfortable, effective, and non-invasive wearable device. The device is worn underneath the chin to actively stimulates the tongue muscles to open the airway at night. Traditionally, this method of tongue stimulation requires a surgery, however we have a non-contact muscle stimulation technology that has been demonstrated to have the same effect without the need for surgery.

<https://embersleep.com>

Aaron Glick : aglick@embersleep.com



Escher Biomedical Diagnostics, Austin, Texas

Escher Biomedical Diagnostics, LLC is commercializing the powerful and novel BT-MED® platform technology for analyzing microbes and pathogens central to human health, providing timely and actionable information, improved clinical decisions, better outcomes, lower costs. The BT-MED® system directly detects and characterizes all microbe types in many medical circumstances and from most human specimen types. The platform uses proprietary methods and AI-mediated automation to realize quantitative FISH results, with direct detection at very low levels, capability in difficult sample types, and rapid results. Initial applications include Microbiome of the GI Tract, Lyme & Tick-borne Infections, and Antibiotic Resistance in Infectious Disease.

<http://www.escherbiomedicaldiagnostics.com>

Phil Speros : p.speros@escherbiomedicaldiagnostics.com



Glidance, Seattle, Washington

Glaucoma, diabetes and macular degeneration lead to sight loss for many millions of Americans each year, leading to a rapid deterioration in their mental health and sense of independence, and to heightened need for care, that is exasperated by their difficulty to get around. Traditional mobility aids such as the white cane or guide dog require extensive training, take years of practice, and may not be suitable for everyone. For the cost of a cellphone subscription our self-guided mobility aid will get an individual back on their feet in an afternoon, and put them on a path to self-determination, confidence and health.

<http://glidance.io>

Amos Miller : amosm@glidance.io



Insight Surgery, Houston, Texas

Insight Surgery's focus is digital planning surgery and automating the design of Surgical Guides for Orthopedic, Oncology and Paediatric cases. Insight Surgery has developed a propriety digital platform "Embedmed".

- Automates the design process, reducing engineer time by upto 75%.
- FDA approved, ISO13485 certified.
- PCT patent published, pending registration in UK and USA. Over 1000 devices have been supplied, with delivery times reduced from weeks to days.

Insight Surgery are generating revenues in UK and USA with facilities at 5 UK hospitals as well as in the Texas Medical Centre. Clients include: MDAnderson, Houston Methodist, Hospital for Special Surgery and Johnson&Johnson.

<https://www.insightsurgery.com/>

Henry Pinchbeck : henry@insightsurgery.com



Kuria Therapeutics, Little Rock, Arkansas

Ten percent of the US population over 50, and over 200M worldwide, are affected by some form of Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) which can lead to blindness. Kuria Therapeutics is developing a platform of small molecules to treat blinding diseases like AMD with a team that has significant experience in ophthalmology. Kuria's Nrf2 activators work to restore mitochondrial dysfunction that is a root cause of diseases of the retina and cornea. Kuria is seeking a Series A investment to fund Phase 2 trials in three initial indications which we expect will create a large value inflection in about 2 years.

<http://www.kuriatx.com>

Misty Stevens : misty.stevens@kuriatx.com



Lasa Health, Dover, Delaware

Lasa Health turns patients into partners. Our end-to-end patient engagement platform optimizes how women interact with their healthcare providers, allowing any clinic to adopt a new standard of care for women. Our software integrates into clinician's existing workflows and EHR to facilitate provider-patient communication and improve time to diagnosis. Our initial focus is on chronic pelvic pain, which impacts 25% of women and can take an average of 10 years to diagnose.

<http://www.lasahealth.com>

Margaret Melville : margaret@lasahealth.com



Lexicon Pharmaceuticals, The Woodlands, Texas

Lexicon Pharmaceuticals is a biopharmaceutical company that is applying a unique approach to gene science based on Nobel Prize-winning technology to discover and develop precise medicines for people with serious, chronic conditions. Using a patient driven approach, we are working to discover and develop innovative medicines to safely and effectively treat disease and improve patient lives.

<https://www.lexpharma.com>



March Biosciences, Houston, Texas

March Biosciences is a spinoff from the Baylor College of Medicine Cell and Gene Therapy Center with a mission to target challenging cancers not currently addressed by immunotherapy. The lead asset, MB-105, is a CD5-targeted CAR T-cell therapy already in Phase I trials for adults and pediatric patients with treatment refractory T-cell lymphoma and leukemia, rare diseases with few immunotherapy options and an exceptionally poor prognosis. MB-105 has already demonstrated strong safety and efficacy signals in these indications, with multiple patients alive 4 years after treatment. The company is now preparing to expand safety response data in a company-sponsored Phase 2 trial.

<https://march.bio/>

Sarah Hein : sarah@march.bio



Mongoose Bio, Houston, Texas

At Mongoose Bio, we pioneer precision T cell-based therapies for diverse solid tumors. Our proprietary platform addresses major adoptive cell therapy challenges in adoptive cellular therapy: identifying TCR targets across multiple cancers and enhancing the longevity of transferred T cells. Leveraging our groundbreaking immunopeptidome discovery platform, we have identified robust TCR targets and created corresponding TCR-T vectors. With our unique reprogramming protocol, we produce memory TCR-T cells that persist and provide durable immunoprotection. Mongoose Bio is the product of more than 20 years of scientifically grounded research and the solution for the next generation of TCR-based therapies in cancer patients.

<http://www.mongoosebio.com>

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Nandi Life Sciences, Houston, Texas

Nandi is developing first-in-class antibodies, starting with targeting CD5L, a novel immune checkpoint seen in Avastin® resistant ovarian cancer, with further application in breast, colorectal and lung cancer. Our platform has a rich pipeline of additional monoclonal and bispecific antibodies for overcoming primary and secondary resistance in difficult to treat solid tumors.

<https://nandilifesciences.com/>

Tinashe Chandauka : tinashec@nandilifesciences.com



NeuraStasis, Houston, Texas

NeuraStasis helps stroke survivors living with disabilities reclaim their lives. 90% of stroke survivors live with a neurological deficit, unable to move past a plateau in their recovery. Using proprietary non-invasive neuromodulation, NeuraStasis harnesses the body's innate reflexes to modulate neurotransmitters and cerebral perfusion to enable new learning. Built for home use, the device offers clear safety and usability advantages over a recently cleared and growing implanted neurostimulation solution. Currently, NeuraStasis is launching a pilot clinical trial that is powered to demonstrate a treatment effect for upper limb motor recovery in chronic stroke survivors.

<http://www.neurastasis.com>

Joe Upchurch : joe@neurastasis.com



NKILT Therapeutics, Houston, Texas

NKILT Therapeutics is a seed stage cell therapy biotech, developing a novel and proprietary Chimeric ILT-Receptor (CIR™), featuring a unique binding technology, targeting the inducible immune checkpoint, HLA-G (expressed in over 50% of human cancers). Our initial armored CIR™NK cells will be able to exquisitely target and directly kill cancer cells but will also activate innate immunity and directly target the tumor's defense mechanisms. Initial indications are Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML), as a pre-clinical/clinical proof of concept, and a large array of HLA-G+ Solid Tumors, such as Colorectal Cancer (CRC), Ovarian Cancer, Clear Cell Renal Carcinoma, Endometrial Cancer, and more.

<http://www.nkilt.com>

Henri Bayle : henri.bayle@nkilt.com



NuVision Biotherapies, United Kingdom

NuVision Biotherapies has developed and proven a treatment for the 30 million people in the US living with dry eye disease, a chronic and debilitating condition that can have a devastating impact on quality of life. Following a single treatment of 5-7 days, patients in a randomised clinical trial benefitted from a 66% reduction in dry eye symptoms that was sustained for at least 6 months. NuVision's Omnigen and OmniLenz products are together transforming the lives of patients living with dry eye disease. The company is raising a series A round to scale its commercial activity and operations, take the business to profitability and exit.

<http://www.nu-vision.co.uk>

Andy Hill : hill@nu-vision.co.uk



NXgenPort Inc, Saint Paul, Minnesota

NXgenPort addresses an unmet need in cancer care by remotely monitoring patients between chemotherapy treatments with a Software as a Medical Device (SaMD) and an implanted Smart Port with intravascular cytometry sensors. Using a combination of optical sensors and machine learning to measure blood cell counts, vitals, and heart function in vivo, NXgenPort will alert physicians to early signs of infection, determine a patient's readiness for next treatment, and improve health equity and access.

<https://www.nxgenport.com/>

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OmniNano Pharmaceuticals, Houston, Texas

OmniNano Pharmaceuticals is dedicated to advancing its platform drug delivery technology that can significantly improve the efficacy while reduce the toxicity for treating solid tumors. OmniNano is focusing on pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC), a devastating disease with poor survival and rising incidence. OmniNano's lead drug candidate, ONP-001, consists of novel polymeric micelles encapsulating two naturally occurring compounds: an FDA-approved chemotherapeutics and a drug capable of depleting cancer stem cells, modulating tumor stroma to enhance drug delivery efficiency. ONP-001 displays significant antitumor activity in preclinical PDAC models. Currently, OmniNano has obtained a SEED grant from CPRIT to perform IND-enabling studies.

<https://www.omninanopharma.com/>

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Panakeia

Panakeia Technologies, United Kingdom

Panakeia's proprietary AI-based software provides multi-omic biomarker (genetic, protein etc.) information in minutes instead of days or weeks. Panakeia does this by rapid analyses of routinely used H&E-stained tissue images, without needing wet-lab assays. The speed of Panakeia's solutions has the potential to save lives by accelerating drug development for biopharma and enabling 1-day turnaround time for treatment decision-making. Panakeia's RuO platform can identify 4,500 known multi-omics cancer markers and the company has a UKCA & CE-marked clinical product for Breast cancer.

<http://www.panakeia.ai>

Pahini Pandya : pahini@panakeia.ai



PHIOGEN, Houston, Texas

PHIOGEN's proprietary first-of-its-kind technology platform is capable of discovering and screening, at-scale, naturally occurring bacteriophages, singling out those with elite bacteria-fighting abilities, and directing biological changes to evolve the phage into antimicrobials which overcome resistance. This technology creates a new business model for phage therapy as we are able to create products which treat populations of people instead of on a per patient basis. By optimizing nature's defenders, our team has produced unprecedented phage products which have already been successfully administered to patients in FDA approved compassionate use cases.

<http://www.phioigenpharma.com>

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Resonantia Diagnostics, Dallas, Texas

We are developing an 'end-to-end' diagnostic microfluidic platform to address the omnipresent burden of drug resistant bacterial and fungal infections by providing the information clinicians need to treat patients in hours, not days. There were 2.8M+ drug resistant infections last year in the US alone and current technology takes at least 48 hours to diagnose these infections. Our next generation microfluidic point of care diagnostic platform will rapidly identify, ~30 minutes, a pathogen from a clinical specimen, and then determines the pathogen's antimicrobial susceptibility within 30-45 additional minutes. Our diagnostic platform is based on two pieces of technology developed at Sandia National Laboratories.

Matt Jones : matt.jones@resonantiadx.com



ScubaTx, United Kingdom

ScubaTx has developed a simple, small and affordable organ preservation device which uses Persufflation to extend the preservation of organs. While ScubaTx is the first company to develop and patent the use of this technique in an automated way, there is a wealth of clinical data to support the effectiveness of Persufflation. The ScubaTx device is based on an entirely new system architecture, coupled with state-of-the-art software systems, that oxygenates organs and delivers major advantages over existing systems.

<https://www.scubatx.com/>

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Secretome Therapeutics, Dallas, Texas

Secretome Therapeutics (STx) is the next-generation cell therapy platform developing novel regenerative therapies from neonatal cardiac progenitor cells (nCPCs). Our nCPCs are derived from discarded tissue during life-saving surgery. It was founded by Sunjay Kaushal MD/PhD, a leading pediatric cardiac surgeon and researcher. nCPCs resolve the key potency and manufacturing issues apparent in previous attempts to develop stem cells, due to their low donor-to-donor variability and high potency. Our lead nCPC, STM-01, will begin a Phase 1 multiple-ascending dose study in Q4 in adult dilated cardiomyopathy (fully funded by Emory). In addition, we are planning to launch a second Phase 1 study in HFpEF (heart failure with preserved ejection fraction) with Northwestern in Q1 next year. STx is also creating the future of cell therapy via secretomes, the medicinal unit of nCPCs, which we are developing for a range of inflammatory diseases. Preclinical data has shown significant improvements in ALS.

secretometherapeutics.com/ Vinny Jindal : vjindal@secretometx.com

Singular Immune

Transforming Cancer Care Through Personalized Immunotherapy

Singular Immune, Dallas, Texas

Singular Immune has developed a novel in vivo CAR protein that can generate CAR-T or CAR-NK cells in the patient's body without the need for genetic engineering. The in vivo CAR protein is a recombinant fusion protein that can be administered systemically. Upon injection, the protein selectively and immediately transforms T or NK cells into CAR-T or CAR-NK, respectively. This breakthrough technology can provide instant therapeutic benefit from state-of-the-art CAR therapy to patients, who cannot afford to wait for the conventional ex vivo CAR-technology that takes more than four weeks to produce.

<https://singularimmune.com>

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SOMNUS S C I E N T I F I C

Somnus Scientific, United Kingdom

Somnus Scientific was established by experienced MedTech entrepreneurs to fulfil a well described unmet need in global healthcare; real-time, near patient blood propofol monitoring. Propofol is an intravenous hypnotic used to sedate ventilated patients in ICU and to produce general anaesthesia for surgery. In the absence of real-time monitoring, patients are frequently over sedated with poorer outcomes, spending longer in ICU, and have more chance of dying. Ventilators are occupied for longer and pharmacy costs higher. Somnus has developed and patented propofol sensors and is now validating them against human samples before building a dataset showing health economic benefit.

<https://somnus-scientific.com>

Tim Craft : tim.craft@somnus-scientific.co.uk

SONEST

Sonnest, Baltimore, Maryland

Sonnest, Inc. is pre-clinical healthcare company developing Electrast™, an ultrasound imaging drug that circulates through the body in the inactive state (dark on ultrasound) and is selectively activated (turned on) in the myocardium. With Electrast™ doctors will be able to evaluate the perfusion and function of the heart quickly and cost-effectively at the point of care without exposure to ionizing radiation or toxic dyes. The technology was developed by a talented team of cardiologists and chemical engineers at Drexel University with grant funding from the Coulter-Drexel Program.

<http://www.sonnest.com>

Josh White : jwhite@sonnest.com

SONOSTICS[®]

Sonostics, Endicott, New York

Sonostics has developed, patent-pending, non-invasive neuromodulation technology for the treatment of soleus muscle atrophy. The soleus muscles are responsible for blood and interstitial fluid return to the heart. Soleus muscle atrophy results in insufficient cardiac return, and correspondingly, reduced cardiac output, depressed diastolic blood pressure, and poor cerebral blood flow. Poor cerebral blood flow leads to cognitive impairment, which commonly progresses to dementia. Over 80% of individuals over age 65 suffer from soleus muscle atrophy and health complications associated with reduced cardiac output and poor cerebral perfusion.

<http://www.sonostics.com>

Kenneth McLeod : kmcleod@sonostics.com



StitchLock, Webster, Texas

StitchLock is a medical device company developing a surgical suturing device that eliminates the need to tie knots. StitchLock devices will transform the art of suturing by making it easier and faster to place interrupted sutures, thereby driving significant cost savings and OR/physician efficiency within healthcare systems worldwide. StitchLock's innovative devices are being designed to be simple to use and quick to deploy and should be primarily useful during endoscopic and robotic procedures.

<http://www.stitchlock.com>

Jerry Baty : JB@StitchLock.com



Systemic Bio, Houston, Texas

Systemic Bio, a subsidiary of 3D Systems based in Houston, TX, is devoted to creating bioprinted organ and disease models for drug discovery and development. Established in August 2022 with \$15M seed funding, we invented the patent-pending h-VIOS platform. This platform includes chips with vascularized biomaterials and human cells, ensuring a more accurate recapitulation of human biology. We manufacture thousands of these chips monthly from our ISO 7 cleanroom and have a team of 30 scientists and engineers that collaborate with pharmaceutical companies to advance therapeutic innovations.

<https://systemic.bio/>

Taci Pereira : taci@systemic.bio



Taurus Vascular, Houston, Texas

Taurus Vascular is a medical device startup and recent spin-out of the Texas Medical Center Innovation Biodesign program. We are developing a novel, catheter-based solution for treating endoleaks, which are a severe complication affecting over half of all patients treated for aortic aneurysms. Endoleaks cost the US healthcare system over \$1.5B every year and can be fatal. There is an expressed, urgent need for a solution to this unmet clinical need - we are confident our technology will be standard-of-care for over 250,000 procedures performed each year to treat patients with aortic aneurysms. We are looking to partner with investors and advocates who believe in our mission to transform the standard of care for patients in dire need of a better treatment solution.

<http://www.taurusvascular.com>

Matthew Kuhn : matt@taurusvascular.com



Tvardi Therapeutics, Houston, Texas

Tvardi Therapeutics is a clinical stage, private biotechnology company developing a new class of breakthrough medicines for diverse cancers, chronic inflammatory diseases, and fibrotic diseases. Founded in 2017 and based in Houston, Texas, the company is led by experienced entrepreneurs, innovative scientists, and dedicated physicians.

<https://tvarditherapeutics.com>



LabReady[®]

Vax-Immune DBA LabReady[®], Houston, Texas

LabReady is addressing the need for broader and faster gold-standard qPCR infection testing at the point-of-need. The absence of cost-effective, rapid multi-target testing obstructs targeted anti-infective treatments proven to prevent hospitalizations in high-risk patients by 90% when used early. We're developing MyLabReady, the world's first multiplex qPCR-AI rapid diagnostic to fuse AI/ML and PCR. After a quick swab, MyLabReady automatically detects 5 infections in under 30 minutes. On-board AI eliminates expert analysis, thereby enabling 98.9% faster targeted treatment at 300X the sensitivity of current solutions. Allowing multiplex qPCR accessible for low-resource locations like GPs, ER, urgent care, and pharmacies.

<http://www.labready.com>

Leonard Weisman : lweisman@labready.com



Velorum Therapeutics, Dallas, Texas

Velorum is developing breakthrough cancer therapies by leveraging a pan-cancer metabolic vulnerability to inhibit tumor growth and reprogram the tumor microenvironment in lung, breast, and other cancers. Based on the discovery that elevated labile heme uptake fuels tumor growth, they have designed VEL-03 as a potent first-in-class cancer treatment. Highly effective as a single-agent and in synergy with radiation therapy in animal models, VEL-03 is being developed towards first-in-human clinical trials. Velorum is additionally developing a pipeline of heme-targeting assets for oncology and non-oncology indications. Velorum is headquartered at BioLabs Pegasus Park, bringing together a team of enterprising scientists and established drug developers.

<http://velorumtx.com>



Vivifi Medical, Houston, Texas

Vivifi Medical is developing a permanent solution that reverses Benign Prostate Hyperplasia (BPH) through a robotic/laparoscopic procedure. 12M+ men are currently under treatment for BPH in the US alone. All the existing treatments provide temporary symptomatic relief only (nocturia), in exchange of severe side effects, such as repeat surgery (up to 40% patients), urinary complications (blood in urine, UTI, burning sensation, stress incontinence) and sexual complications (ejaculatory and erectile dysfunctions). BPH can be reversed by minimizing prostate's exposure to testosterone, redirecting testosterone-rich blood away from the prostate, that normalizes systemic testosterone. This is best achieved by replumbing the pelvic vasculature via vascular anastomosis. Our first-of-its-kind device enables sutureless-anastomosis through a small incision.



VUV Analytics, Cedar Park, Texas

VUV Analytics is the first and only company to harness the power of vacuum ultraviolet spectroscopy at benchtop scale. Our first product is well established at most of the leading hydrocarbon and low carbon companies, approaching EBITDA breakeven run rates. Our second GC-VUV product in production opens up key life science applications, such as trace level impurity (e.g. NDMA) testing in routine settings, capturing multiple impurity types in a single run, green chemistry, and precise moisture detection in critical solvents for oligonucleotides. We are raising capital to launch LC-VUV in 2024, opening a very large market opportunity with significant unmet needs in critical applications like mRNA.

<http://www.vuvanalytics.com>

Clark Jernigan : clark.jernigan@vuvanalytics.com



YAP Therapeutics, Laguna Hills, California

YAP Therapeutics, Inc. is a preclinical stage biotechnology company driving innovation for patients in the new field of in vivo regeneration. YAPtx develops genetic medicines that leverage the company's tissue renewal and regeneration platform to reverse and cure severe diseases, such as heart failure, pulmonary diseases, retinal degeneration and hearing loss, among others. The emerging field of gene therapy has made significant advances toward cures for rare inherited diseases; now, YAPtx pushes the field into a new frontier by applying its regenerative technology platform to develop transformative genetic medicines with the mission of improving and lengthening patients' lives.

<http://www.yaptx.com>

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