



28th SAPA-NE Annual Conference

AI at the Bench – From Models to Medicines

Saturday, June 13th, 2026
8 am - 6 pm ET
Boston Marriott Cambridge
50 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02142

Greetings from SAPA-NE President

Dear distinguished guests, colleagues and friends,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 28th SAPA-NE Annual Conference. Today, we gather under the theme "AI at the Bench: From Models to Medicines" to explore how artificial intelligence is transforming every stage of the drug discovery and development pipeline.

We are at an extraordinary inflection point. From AI-driven target identification and molecular design to real-world evidence analytics and commercial strategy, the technologies reshaping our industry are evolving at unprecedented speed. At the same time, the path from promising algorithm to approved medicine remains long and complex, demanding the expertise, judgment, and collaboration that define our community.

Throughout today's program, you will hear from some of the brightest minds across pharma, biotech, and technology. From our Opening Keynote by Collin Burdick of OpenAI, to deep dives in drug discovery, clinical development, and real-world evidence, to candid discussions on AI adoption, CMC innovation, and China-US biopharma partnerships. Our hands-on GenAI workshop, poster session, and networking events are designed to spark the connections and ideas that drive our field forward.

This conference would not be possible without the dedication of our Executive Committee, the generosity of our sponsors, and the enthusiasm of our volunteers and attendees. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to making today happen.

Let us make the most of this opportunity to learn from one another, challenge conventional thinking, and chart a course toward a future where AI and human expertise work hand in hand to deliver breakthrough therapies to patients who need them most. Thank you for being here. Let's look forward to an inspiring and productive day ahead!

Sincerely,
Kejie Li
SAPA-NE President-Elect
www.SAPA-NEweb.org

Sino-American Pharmaceutical Professionals Association - New England

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Our *Leadership*

Dedicated professionals committed to advancing biotech innovation and fostering collaboration across the Sino-American pharmaceutical community.

23

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Agenda

- 8:00 AM - 8:45 AM Registration
- 8:45 AM - 9:00 AM Opening Remarks
Kejie Li, President-Elect, SAPA-NE

Opening Keynote

- 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM **Frontier AI Systems & Beneficial AGI Applications**
Collin Burdick
Life Sciences GTM Lead, OpenAI

Session I

AI Across the R&D Value Chain

Chair: Tao Long, Takeda

- 9:45 AM - 10:10 AM **Creating a Flywheel with AI, Automation, Data, and Talent**
Hans Bitter, Ph.D.
Head of Computational Science & Data Strategy, Takeda
- 10:10 AM - 10:35 AM **From Living Drugs to Learning Systems: Data Strategy and ML for Autologous Cell Therapy Development**
Dipen Sangurdekar, Ph.D., MBA
VP, Head of Data Science, KSQ Therapeutics
- 10:35 AM - 11:00 AM **Drug Development and Health Insurance: Speaking the Same Language**
R. Jason Reed, FSA, MS, MAAA
Senior Director, Analytics (FSA), UnitedHealthcare

- 11:00 AM - 11:15 AM **Coffee Break & Networking**

Session II

AI in Drug Discovery & Development

Chair: Hong Liu, Novartis

- 11:15 AM - 11:40 AM **From integrated R&D data to better decisions at scale**
Birgit Schoeberl, Ph.D.
VP, Global Head Data42, Novartis
- 11:40 AM - 12:05 PM **From Antigen Discovery to T-Cell Recognition: AI/ML for Cancer Therapy Design**
Wei Zheng, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Moderna
- 12:05 PM - 12:30 PM **Empowering Next-gen Pharma Development & Quality Assurance with AI**
Julia O'Neill
Founder & Principal Consultant, Direxa Consulting

- 12:30PM - 1:00 PM **Lunch, Exhibition, and Poster**

Agenda

Session III

AI in Clinical Development & Real-World Evidence (Main Ballroom)

Chair: Huichu Li, Takeda

1:00 PM - 1:25 PM

RWE Landscape in China

Sheng Feng, Ph.D.

Chief Data Scientist, LinkDoc

1:25 PM - 1:50 PM

Auditable Agentic AI for Clinical Trial Data Automation

Louise Liu, Ph.D., MBA

CEO, Hill Research

1:50 PM - 2:15 PM

From Patient B Cells to First-in-Class Biotherapeutics

Xingfeng Bao, Ph.D.

SVP, Head of Biology, GV20 Therapeutics

Breakout

CMC Panel (Breakout Room)

Chair: Huijuan Li, GSK

1:00 PM - 2:15 PM

Moderator: Amelia Zhang, Ph.D.

Associate Director and Drug Substance Leader, GSK

Panelists:

Gang Wang

Associate Director, CMC Quantitative Sciences, Moderna

Julia O'Neill

Direxa Consulting

Wanmei Ou, Ph.D.

VP of Enterprise AI R&D, GSK

Laura Daley, Ph.D.

Sr Director Process Development & Cellular Biology, Catalent

2:15 PM - 2:30 PM

Coffee Break & Networking

Agenda

Hands-On Workshop

GenAI Hands-On Workshop (Main Ballroom)

2:30 PM - 3:25 PM

Using Claude Code for RNAseq Analysis

Tommy Tang, AstraZeneca

Director of Bioinformatics, AstraZeneca

Note: Live Code-Along: Limited to 25-30 Participants

Prerequisites to follow along:

- Active Claude Code subscription
- Claude Code installed on your laptop
- Comfortable using shell / command line

Pick up WiFi password at the Registration Desk during lunch.

All other attendees are welcome to watch the live demo.

3:25 PM - 3:30 PM

Bio Break

Session IV

Commercial, BD & Strategy (Main Ballroom)

Chairs: Yongle Pang, Kymera Therapeutics

3:30 PM - 3:55 PM

Towards 100,000 Small Molecules: Building AI-Ready Transcriptomic Datasets with DRUG-seq

Ayla Ergun, Ph.D.

Senior Director, Data Science & Functional Genomics, Ginkgo Datapoints, Ginkgo Bioworks

3:55 PM - 4:20 PM

AI partnerships for drug discovery

Dan Zheng, Ph.D.

Regional Head of Innovation & Partnerships, Takeda

4:20 PM - 4:45 PM

Beyond the Hype: AI & Open Science in Drug Discovery

Lipeng Lai, Ph.D.

Co-Founder & Chief Innovation Officer, XtalPi

Agenda



Breakout	China-US BD Panel (Breakout Room) Chair: Zhiyou Deng, Moderna
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Moderator: Jiamin Zhuo, Ph.D. <i>Director, Global Strategy Insight, EMD Serono</i> Panelists: Hemie Chang, J.D. <i>Partner, Arnold & Porter</i> Weisheng Chen, Ph.D. <i>Founder and CEO, Leveragen</i> Naveen Krishnan (Aetherium) <i>Chief Executive Officer, Aetherium Advisors, LLC</i> Jack Wu, Ph.D., MBA <i>Senior Director, Search & Evaluation, Takeda Oncology, Takeda</i> Youxin Zhang, Ph.D. <i>Vice President, Business Development, Innovent Biologics</i>
Session V	Panel Discussion: AI Adoption in Pharma – From Hype to Reality (Main Ballroom)
4:45 PM - 5:30 PM	Moderator: Bo Yan, Ph.D. <i>Senior Director, Analytical Development, Beam Therapeutics</i> Panelists: Bart Naughton, Ph.D. <i>Sr Dir, Head of Discovery Computational Biology, Eisai</i> Dann Huh <i>Sr Dir, Genomic Target Validation – Human genetics + multi-omics, RA Ventures</i> Parul Doshi <i>Chief Data Officer, Cellarity</i> Cathy Kuang <i>Head of Data, Digital & Tech for Research, Takeda</i>
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	Closing Remarks and Awards
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM	Gala Dinner



Keynote Speaker

Collin Burdick

Life Sciences GTM Lead
OpenAI

Collin Burdick helps life sciences organizations translate frontier AI into transformational capabilities that accelerate science and improve patient outcomes. At OpenAI, he works with leaders across pharma, biotechnology, diagnostics, and research to reimagine how scientific and operational work gets done, connecting frontier models with proprietary data, specialized tools, human judgment, and governed workflows. His work spans the journey from discovery to patients, including clinical development, regulatory, manufacturing, medical affairs, commercial, and enterprise operations. Collin also contributes to OpenAI's life sciences transformation efforts through scientific agents, executive enablement, strategic partnerships, and customer co-development. Over the past 15 years, he has helped many of the world's leading life sciences organizations translate ambitious technology visions into new ways of working, adopted systems, and measurable progress.



Speaker

Hans Bitter, Ph.D.

Head of Comp Science & Data Strategy

Takeda



As Head of Computational Science & Data Strategy, Research at Takeda Pharmaceuticals, Hans leads a talented team of scientists and engineers with the aim of becoming the most impactful data science organization in pharmaceutical research.

In Hans's 20+ years of experience, his work has spanned the disease areas of oncology, immunology, and virology; early target identification/validation to translation work in the clinic; various areas of data science including bioinformatics, cheminformatics, and machine learning; and small, mid, and large companies.

Previously, Hans led computational sciences at MOMA Therapeutics, where he built a cutting-edge function focused on integrating and mining biological and chemical data to deepen the understanding of molecular machines and to progress the drug discovery portfolio. He contributed to the development of the Knomatic Platform, which was integral for MOMA's collaboration with Roche and supported the two lead assets in clinical trials.

Prior to MOMA, Hans led data sciences at bluebird bio, a pioneering gene therapy company, developing gene therapies for severe genetic diseases and cancer. He built an integrated data science function comprised of scientists, biostatisticians, and engineers that supported both clinical and pre-clinical research and development. One area of focus was investigating from a correlative and translational perspective bluebird's CAR T therapies, including idecabtagene vicleucel (Abecma) for multiple myeloma.

Previously, he was global head of bioinformatics oncology at the Novartis Institutes of Biomedical Research (NIBR) leading a team of 40+ scientists and engineers, where he oversaw work across the oncology portfolio ranging from target identification (including Project Drive, a systematic interrogation of cancer dependencies across cancer subtypes) to translational biomarker research (including identification of biomarkers of response and resistance to the CD19-targeting CAR T Kymriah).

Prior to NIBR, he was head of bioinformatics for virology and immunology at Roche. Hans began his career at two San Francisco area start-ups and received his PhD from the University of California at Berkeley and his AB from Princeton University.

Speaker

Dipen Sangurdekar, Ph.D., MBA

VP, Head of Data Science

KSQ Therapeutics

Dipen Sangurdekar, Ph.D. MBA, is a biotech data science and translational research leader with over 14 years of experience applying computational biology, machine learning, and multimodal data strategy to drug development. His work has focused on translational strategy and biomarker discovery for modalities spanning small molecules, biologics, cell and gene therapies in multiple therapeutic areas. His current focus is on using data strategy and machine learning to make complex cell therapies more measurable, interpretable, and clinically developable.



Speaker

R. Jason Reed, FSA, MS, MAAA

Senior Director, Analytics (FSA)

UnitedHealthcare



Jason Reed is a Senior Director at UnitedHealthCare in Boston, Massachusetts. He has more than 20 years of experience applying advanced statistics and data mining techniques to actuarial problems in health insurance. His work centers around risk adjustment and application of statistical techniques in pricing and risk stratification.

Jason is a member of Predictive Analytics Section of the Society of Actuaries. He has numerous publications in Health Watch as well as the Predictive Analytics Section Newsletter, and is working to bridge the gaps between the actuarial and data science professions.

Jason has Masters degrees in Statistics and Mathematics from Texas A&M University. He is a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries and a member of the American Academy of Actuaries.

Title of presentation: "Drug Development and Health Insurance: speaking the same language"

Health insurers and Drug Developers intersect when Pharma needs real-world evidence, and when demonstrating to payers that their therapies are worth paying for. Appropriate and valuable leveraging of AI is also a priority for us both. But we don't use the same data or models in the same way. This discussion will illuminate the way health insurers understand and represent data, and some of the important problems we are working to solve using AI.

Speaker

Birgit Schoeberl, Ph.D.

VP, Global Head Data42

Novartis

Dr. Birgit Schoeberl currently serves as the Global Head of Data42 at Novartis BioMedical Research (BR), based in Cambridge, USA. Data42's mission is to provide Biomedical Research with human- and AI- ready data and insights across drug development stages. Under Birgit's leadership Data42 brings together innovative data science, enterprise data platforms, agentic solutions, and data governance under a single, integrated umbrella to unlock the full value of our data.

Throughout her career in biotech and pharma, Birgit has been recognized for her innovative contributions in drug discovery and development, particularly through the use of data science, AI/ML and quantitative systems pharmacology.

Prior to her current role, she led Modeling and Simulation in PK Sciences at Novartis, where she built a novel and externally recognized Data Science and Modeling & Simulation function. Earlier in her career, she served as SVP of Science Delivery at GNS Healthcare and was a founding member and ultimately Chief Scientific Officer—at Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, where she pioneered systems biology approaches to drug development. Dr. Schoeberl earned her Ph.D. in Biological Engineering from the Max Planck Institute in Magdeburg, Germany, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at MIT, where she developed early computational models of signaling networks.



Speaker

Wei Zheng, Ph.D.

Executive Director of Oncology Bioinformatics
Moderna

Wei Zheng, PhD, is Executive Director of Oncology Bioinformatics at Moderna, where she provides strategic and scientific leadership for computational oncology across the therapeutics portfolio. She leads a multidisciplinary team of data scientists and computational biologists focused on accelerating drug discovery and development through AI/ML, integrative multi-omics, and data-driven translational research. Before joining Moderna, Dr. Zheng held scientific leadership roles at Aitia and Novartis, applying computational biology, genomics, and precision medicine approaches to biomarker discovery and therapeutic innovation. She received her PhD in Genetics and MS in Biostatistics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and completed postdoctoral training in genomics at Yale University. Dr. Zheng has contributed broadly to the fields of bioinformatics, immuno-oncology, and mRNA therapeutics, with publications in journals including Cancer Discovery, Nature Communications, Science Advances, and Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer.



Speaker

Julia O'Neill

Founder & Principal Consultant

Direxa Consulting

Julia O'Neill has advised more than twenty biotechnology innovator companies since 2015 and supported approval of multiple pioneering products including vaccines, gene therapy, microbiome, and regenerative medicines. From 2020 to 2023 she was a Distinguished Fellow in the Moderna Technical Development Leadership Team and member of the Spikevax vaccine technical development team. Previously she worked at Merck (MSD) as Senior Scientific Fellow – Statistics in Regulatory & Analytical Sciences; and Director in Global Technical Operations, with a primary focus on vaccines and biologics.



Speaker

Tommy Tang

Director of Bioinformatics
AstraZeneca

Ming Tommy Tang is a computational biologist with over 14 years of experience in genomics, epigenomics, and single-cell transcriptomics. He earned his PhD from the University of Florida in 2014, trained at MD Anderson, and held non-tenure-track faculty roles at Harvard and Dana-Farber. At AstraZeneca, he leads epigenetics bioinformatics for oncology. A former wet-lab biologist, Tommy is passionate about open science and helping biologists gain computational skills. With over 130K followers across social media platforms, he aims to transform bioinformatics education. Learn more at divingintogeneticsandgenomics.com.



Speaker

Sheng Feng, Ph.D.

Chief Data Scientist

LinkDoc



冯胜博士，现任零氦科技首席数据科学家，真实世界研究院院长。1991年进入中国科学技术大学少年/零零班学习。1996年获分子生物学学士学位，2005年于北卡罗来纳州立大学获生物统计博士学位，研究方向为基因组学及机器学习。

博士毕业后先后执教于华盛顿大学、杜克大学生物统计系，并共同主导了著名的默多克/杜克大学真实世界精准医疗项目群（PI是后来的FDA主任Robert Califf博士）。2012年，进入生物制药公司，在Biogen、AbbVie等企业领导了阿尔茨海默症、自免药物药王修美乐二代的临床研发。2018年回国，担任国际顶级CRO公司精鼎医药亚太区真实世界数据负责人，集团副总裁。期间推动真实世界数据在新冠疫情防控研究中的应用，领导了多个知名新冠临床药物、疫苗研发，包括再生元的新冠鸡尾酒混抗。2025年加入零氦科技，任首席数据科学家。

Dr. Feng Sheng is the Chief Data Scientist at LinkDoc Tech and Dean of the Real-World Research Institute

He received a bachelor's degree in Biology in 1996 from the University of Science and Technology of China and earned a Ph.D. in Biostatistics from the North Carolina State University in 2005, with research focused on genomics and machine learning.

After completing his doctorate, he taught in the Departments of Biostatistics at the University of Washington and Duke University and co-led the renowned MURDOCK/ Duke real-world precision medicine project cluster.

In 2012, he joined the biopharmaceutical industry and co-led clinical development programs at companies such as Biogen and AbbVie, focusing on Alzheimer's disease and Humira, the blockbuster autoimmune therapy.

In 2018, he returned to China and became Vice President of the global CRO leader Parexel, serving as the Head of Real-World Data for the Asia-Pacific region. During this period, he promoted the application of real-world data in COVID-19 prevention and control research and led multiple high-profile COVID-19 drug and vaccine development programs, including Regeneron's COVID-19 antibody cocktail therapy.

Recently, he led the RCT-Duplicate in China project with Chinese FDA.

Speaker

Louise Liu, Ph.D., MBA

CEO

Hill Research

Dr. Louise Liu is the Founder and CEO of Hill Research, where she built TriClick™, an AI platform that turns clinical data into regulatory-ready outputs with full audit traceability in hours. Trained in biostatistics at Yale University, she focuses on deploying trustworthy AI in real-world clinical trials. Hill Research is backed by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority and Top AI funds, and was named to the New Jersey Innovate100 in 2026. Louise is also a 40 Under 40 honoree by the Boston Business Journal 2025.



Speaker

Xingfeng Bao, Ph.D.

SVP, Head of Biology

GV20 Therapeutics

Xingfeng Bao is Senior Vice President at GV20 Therapeutics, a clinical-stage biotechnology company pioneering AI- and human immunology-driven antibody therapeutics. He leads the company's discovery and translational research efforts across its oncology and immunology pipeline.

Prior to joining GV20, Dr. Bao held senior research leadership positions at H3 Biomedicine and Eisai, where he directed innovative programs in small molecules, antibody therapeutics, and antibody-drug conjugates. He has a proven track record of translating scientific discoveries into clinical-stage medicines and leading multidisciplinary teams across stages of drug development.

Dr. Bao earned his Ph.D. from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and completed postdoctoral training at the Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute in La Jolla, California.



Moderator

Amelia Zhang, Ph.D.

Associate Director and Drug Substance Leader
GSK

Amelia Zhang is an Associate Director and Drug Substance Leader at GSK, where she leads integrated CMC strategy and execution for late-phase large molecule programs spanning accelerated development, commercialization, launch readiness, and lifecycle management across global manufacturing networks. With more than 13 years of end-to-end biologics CMC development, launch, and commercial lifecycle management experience across GSK and BMS, Amelia has led complex programs across Development, Manufacturing, MSAT, Quality, Regulatory, Supply Chain, Licensing Partners, and global CDMO/CMO partnerships. During the COVID pandemic, she served as the Drug Substance Lead for GSK's COVID asset and delivered required clinical and commercial supplies under extremely volatile and evolving global regulatory and operational landscapes. Amelia is recognized for translating complex CMC and operational challenges into scalable, cross-functional execution strategies that enable speed, quality, and supply continuity. She is particularly interested in pragmatic and enterprise-minded applications of AI/LLM-integrated knowledge management and digital workflows to improve operational efficiency, accelerate decision-making, and operationalize scalable solutions within regulated pharmaceutical environments.



Panelist

Gang Wang, Ph.D.

Associate Director, CMC Quantitative Sciences
Moderna

Dr. Gang Wang is Associate Director, Quantitative Sciences in the Technical Development department of Moderna, Inc., supporting statistics, mechanistic modeling, AI/ML, and data science for process development and mRNA pharmaceutical development platform. He graduated from MIT with a Ph.D. degree in chemical engineering, and has applied mechanistic modeling and machine learning technologies in the chemical and biopharmaceutical industries.



Panelist

Wanmei Ou, Ph.D.

VP of Enterprise AI R&D
GSK

At GSK, Wanmei leads artificial intelligence (AI) strategy, product development, and implementation across clinical operations, CMC, and regulatory science. She brings extensive AI and product experience spanning the healthcare and life sciences continuum. Most recently, Wanmei served as Vice President of Product at McKesson Corporation, where she led real-world data analytics and clinical decision support initiatives in oncology. Her tenure there included founding an AI Center of Excellence and deploying scalable GenAI solutions that extracted clinical insights from over 100 million documents to enrich longitudinal patient journeys.

Prior to McKesson, Wanmei held senior roles at Merck and served as a White House Presidential Fellow detailed to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, where she drove data-driven initiatives that improved clinical outcomes and operational efficiency — including an AI-based clinical endpoint for vaccine studies and enhancements to medication adherence programs. Wanmei holds a PhD in Computer Science from MIT, where her research applied functional imaging and cognitive experimental design to the study of brain function.



Panelist

Laura Daley, Ph.D.

Sr. Director Process Development & Cellular Biology
Catalent

Laura Daley is Senior Director of Cell Biology and Process Development at Catalent, where she leads multidisciplinary teams advancing cell line development, molecular biology, and process development programs. With more than 16 years of biopharmaceutical industry experience, Laura has built and led high-performing R&D and process development organizations across cell and gene therapy, immuno-oncology, and biologics development. She is recognized for translating scientific innovation into accelerated development timelines and successful client outcomes.



Speaker

Ayla Ergun, Ph.D.

Senior Director, Data Science & Functional Genomics,
Ginkgo Datapoints,
Ginkgo Bioworks

Ayla Ergun is Senior Director of Data Science at Ginkgo Datapoints, where she leads the perturbation response profiling platform. She holds a PhD in Biomedical Engineering from Boston University and has held positions of increasing responsibility in biotech and pharmaceutical companies. In her current role, she leads the analysis of high-throughput transcriptomic screening data (DRUG-seq) using compound and genetic perturbations. She is committed to leveraging multi-omic high-throughput screening approaches in disease-relevant models and computational tools to discover disease-modifying treatments.



Speaker

Dan Zheng, Ph.D.

Regional Head of Innovation & Partnerships
Takeda

Dan Zheng is the Head of Regional Innovation and Partnerships at Takeda's Strategy and Portfolio Development team, driving global ecosystem engagement and strategic collaborations. She has over a decade of business development experience across therapeutic areas and development stages at Takeda and Sanofi, and began her career advising pharmaceutical companies at ZS Associates. She holds a PhD from Northwestern University and a BS from Nanjing University.



Speaker

Lipeng Lai, Ph.D.

Co-Founder & Chief Innovation Officer
XtalPi

Dr. Lipeng Lai is the co-founder and Chief Innovation Officer of XtalPi. He leads the XtalPi Innovation Center in the development and incubation of novel drug discovery platforms, including PepiX™—XtalPi's AI platform for peptides, and Kodexia™—XtalPi's AI platform for mRNA and siRNA. Dr. Lai also leads the innovative virtual cell program to advance clinical translation.



Moderator

Jiamin Zhuo, Ph.D.

Director, Global Strategy Insight
EMD Serono

Jiamin Zhuo, Ph.D., is a seasoned professional with a diverse background spanning scientific research, Wall Street equity analysis, and commercial strategy in biopharma. His career includes impactful roles at Decision Resources Group, Guggenheim Investment Bank, and commercial positions at Takeda and bit.bio., an innovative iPSC cell therapy biotech, where he shaped strategies for drug development and commercial pathway. Currently, he serves as Global Strategy Insight Director at EMD Serono, focusing on optimizing drug potential and driving commercial growth.

Beyond his corporate work, Jiamin co-founded InScienceWeTrust Community (ISWTC), a not-for-profit organization supporting the Asian Biotech ecosystem, and edits its Weekly Newsletter, which reaches over 6,000 subscribers. He holds a BS from Peking University, a Ph.D. from Mayo Clinic, and completed post-graduate training at Boston University and MIT. Passionate about bridging science and business, Jiamin is dedicated to advancing innovation and fostering collaboration in the biopharmaceutical industry.



Panelist

Hemmie Chang, J.D.

Partner, Life Sciences Transactions, Head of Boston Office,
Arnold & Porter

Hemmie Chang, head of Arnold & Porter Boston office, is a leading lawyer in the life sciences industry. She regularly advises life sciences companies on high-profile intellectual property transactions, finding creative solutions for their complex needs, and helping them navigate the legal landscape as they develop their innovative IP and look to commercialize it globally. Hemmie has been recognized by LMG and Legal 500 as a "Hall of Fame" attorney for Licensing and Collaboration (2024-2025), by Chambers as a "Notable Practitioner" (2023), and by Massachusetts Lawyer Weekly as a "Go-To Lawyer" for Life Sciences (2022).

Hemmie is an experienced advisor with a keen and strategic business sense, deep substantive knowledge and sharp strategic business perspective and legal acumen, developed more than three decades of experience representing innovators and investors in the biopharmaceutical, medical device, diagnostics, gene and cell therapy, and genomics sectors. She advises both established and emerging companies on a wide variety of licensing matters — from development to marketing deals — all of which involve a broad range of intellectual property assets, including patents, trade secrets, brand names, and copyright. In recent years, Hemmie has closed more than \$20 billion in deals across diverse therapeutic areas.



Panelist

Weisheng Chen, Ph.D.

Founder and CEO

Leveragen, Inc.

Dr. Weisheng Chen is the Founder, CEO, and Scientific Director of Leveragen, a Boston-based biotechnology company pioneering next-generation platforms for antibody discovery.

At Leveragen, Dr. Chen led the development of the Singularity Suite, Universality Suite, and Infinity Suite of genetically engineered mouse models, spanning fully human single-domain antibodies, common light chain antibodies, and conventional full-length antibodies. These platforms enable a streamlined, high-throughput discovery process to efficiently generate diverse and highly developable antibodies, broadly applicable to multispecific antibodies, antibody–drug conjugates (ADCs), mRNA-based medicines, and gene and cell therapies. Under his leadership, Leveragen has established strategic partnerships with leading global pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies to advance innovation across therapeutics, diagnostics, and animal health. Combining deep expertise in genetic engineering with a strong vision for translational impact, Dr. Chen continues to drive Leveragen's mission to transform antibody discovery and accelerate the development of next-generation therapeutics. Dr. Chen received his bachelor's degree from Nanjing University and his master's degree from Peking University, earned his PhD in Cell, Developmental, and Neural Biology at the University of Michigan under the mentorship of Philippe Soriano, and conducted postdoctoral research with Tom Maniatis at Harvard University and Columbia University. Prior to founding Leveragen in 2017, he was a Founding Scientist and Head of Genetic Models at Kallyope, Inc.



Panelist

Naveen Krishnan

Chief Executive Officer

Aetherium Advisors, LLC

Naveen Krishnan is the Founder and CEO of Aetherium Advisors Life Science Consulting. He was formerly the founder and Managing Director of Mirae Asset Capital Life Science and has 15+ years of experience in healthcare spanning biomedical research, clinical/medical training, biotech operating experience, and venture capital investing. Prior to leading Mirae Asset Capital Life Science, he helped lead healthcare investments for Bayer as part of its venture arm, Leaps by Bayer. In this role he sat on the board of seven companies and led or supported over 20 deals over the past few years including companies that underwent exit, developed partnerships with big pharma, or became profitable. Prior to Bayer he helped build biotech companies in cell and gene therapy (Aspen Neuroscience) and regenerative medicine (PolarityTE) including leading operations, business and corporate development, clinical trials, clinical operations, and analytics for public and private companies. Before building biotech companies, Dr. Krishnan was a surgical resident based out of Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C. and drug discovery researcher at the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT and the Center for Human Genetics Research at MGH.

Naveen received his Bachelor's degree in Brain and Cognitive Sciences from MIT, a Master's degree in Public Health from the University of Cambridge (Gates Cambridge Scholar), and his medical degree from Dartmouth (Albert Schweitzer Fellow, Dartmouth International Health Group Fellow).



Panelist

Jack Wu, Ph.D., MBA

Senior Director, Search & Evaluation, Takeda Oncology
Takeda

Dr. Wu is Senior Director of Search & Evaluation at Takeda Oncology, where he leads the assessment of late-stage business development opportunities aligned with the company's BD priorities and integrated Disease Area Strategies. He has played a key role in major transactions, including an \$11.4 billion partnership with Innovent and a \$1.1 billion collaboration with Keros, and contributes to shaping Takeda's global oncology BD strategy.

Previously, Dr. Wu led Global Business Development at Antengene, where he secured multiple strategic partnerships with leading biopharmaceutical companies, including Merck and Bristol Myers Squibb. He also served as U.S. Head of Business Development at Adlai Nortye USA Inc., managing alliances with Novartis, Merck, and Eisai. Earlier in his career, he held business development leadership roles at ATCC and GenScript.

Dr. Wu holds an MBA from Columbia University and a PhD from North Carolina State University.



Panelist

Youxin Zhang, Ph.D.

Vice President, Business Development
Innovent Biologics

Youxin Zhang is VP of Business Development at Innovent. Before Innovent, he was VP of business development and strategy at Larkspur Biosciences, leading business development, academic licensing, product strategy, and supporting fund raising and closing of Series A. Before that, he was at Kira pharma and BeiGene with increasing responsibility of business development and strategy. Youxin started his biotech industry career as a strategy consultant at Navigant Consulting.

Youxin obtained his B.S. degree in Physics from Peking University and his Ph.D. in biophysics from University of Michigan. He also conducted research as a postdoc fellow at Harvard University.



Panelist

Bart Naughton, Ph.D.

Sr. Director, Head of Global Discovery

Computational Biology Dept.

Eisai US

With nearly 20 years of leadership experience in computational biology in the pharmaceutical industry, Bart has built and led large, globally distributed bioinformatics teams that support early discovery programs. His work has focused strongly on immuno-oncology and neuro-immunology drug and biomarker development.

As drug target discovery increasingly relies on large-scale, high-dimensional datasets such as single-nucleus RNA sequencing and spatial omics technologies, Bart has led transformations in IT architecture and bioinformatics workflows. These efforts have enabled the effective integration of AI and machine learning as core drivers of innovative pharmaceutical science. His expertise spans multi-omics analytics and global, cloud-based informatics infrastructure, supporting robust target discovery, validation, and credentialing efforts.



Panelist

Dann Huh, Ph.D.

Senior Director of Genomic Target Validation
RA Ventures

Dann Huh is a Senior Director of Genomic Target Validation at RA Ventures. He is leading target identification by leveraging human genetics and multi-omics data alongside advanced computational methodologies and innovative approaches. Before joining Raven, Dann was the Head of Computational Analytics at Biogen, where he focused on bridging data to drug discovery. Through integrative multi-omics analysis, he identified novel targets for neurodegenerative diseases and provided human molecular evidence for target genes. He also led early fluid biomarker discovery and the development of platforms for data integration. During his postdoc training at Harvard University, he gained expertise in in-vitro and tissue profiling experiments. He holds a PhD in Chemistry from Harvard University and a BS and MS in Chemistry from Seoul National University.



Panelist

Parul Doshi, MBA

Chief Data Officer

Cellarity

Parul Doshi is a technology, data, and digital executive with more than 20 years of experience across biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and technology organizations. Most recently, she served as Chief Data Officer at Cellarity, where she led data, AI, computational platforms, and technology initiatives supporting the company's innovative approach to drug discovery.

Prior to Cellarity, Parul held senior leadership roles at Takeda Pharmaceuticals, driving data, digital, and technology strategies across research, development, manufacturing, and commercial organizations. Throughout her career, she has led transformational initiatives, supported multiple product launches, and built scalable data ecosystems that accelerate innovation and business outcomes. Parul is passionate about the convergence of biology, data science, and artificial intelligence and their potential to transform how medicines are discovered, developed, and delivered to patients.



Panelist

Cathy Kuang

Head of Data Digital and Technology for Research and Labs

Takeda

Cathy Kuang is a senior data, digital, and technology leader with 20+ years of experience driving digital business transformation across the life science industry. Across Takeda Pharmaceuticals, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, and CRO contract labs, she led data, digital, and technology across the entire biopharmaceutical and MedTech value chain—from research and development through supply chain, manufacturing, and commercial operations. She is also a board member of the Pharmaceutical R&D Technology Executive (PRISME) forum to drive pre-competitive collaboration in the biopharmaceutical industry on how trusted data, AI, and automation can accelerate R&D, improve decision-making, and enable the lab of the future.



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2025 -2026 Zhao Jun Volunteer Award for Outstanding Service

SAPA-NE announced the establishment of the JUN ZHAO Volunteer Award for outstanding service, in honor of JUN ZHAO, who dedicated over 20 years to SAPA-NE with unwavering commitment and excellence prior to her passing. The award recognizes individuals who exemplify the same dedications and impact that JUN ZHAO brought to SAPA-NE. The inaugural award was presented at our 26th SAPA-NE annual conference on June 8th, 2024.



Wenyu Wang



Yan Tan



Huichu Li



Joyce Chen



Zhiyou Deng



Tracy Zhang



Haishan Li



Shizhe Hui



Hong Liu



Leo Qian



Yao Zhang

2026

SAPA-NE High School Excellence Scholarship

SAPA-New England Chapter (SAPA-NE) established and conducted the first SAPA-NE High School Excellence Scholarship in 2008. This program is a merit-based award to graduating high school seniors who have demonstrated excellent academic performance and leadership and will pursue their first undergraduate degree at U.S. accredited institutions. As a professional organization, SAPA-NE encourages the candidates' interest and dedication toward a career in life science/healthcare. Two outstanding high school students were selected out of a competitive candidate pool to be the winners of 2026 SAPA-NE High School Excellence Scholarship.



Katie Lin is a high school senior at Lexington High School who will be attending Cornell University in the fall. She is the founder and President of Promised Protagonists, a literary organization promoting representative characters in children's literature. Through Promised Protagonists, she has published biannual magazine issues and a book anthology, as well as led writing workshops for 200+ kids. Promised Protagonists has been recognized by The Contribution Project, Hershey's Heartwarming Grant, and Education 2.0, and Katie was interviewed for national teacher's magazines such as Teachers and Writers and Words Without Borders. For life sciences, Katie authored her own research manuscript on cholera in 19th century Britain and was a USA Finalist in the OurEcho Biodiversity Challenge. She has also placed in national Science Olympiad invitationals, including 2nd Place in Geologic Mapping, 4th in Codebusters, and 5th in Disease Detectives. In school, Katie serves as captain of her school's 2x regional champion Mock Trial Team and is the Editor-in-Chief of the cultural and political review. She has received three Scholastic Gold Keys for her creative writing, in addition to being 1st Place in the international Wax Poetry Competition.

Katie hopes to eventually become a neurologist, driven to learn more about the brain and memory. In college, she wants to study sociology with a focus in Science, Technology and Medicine to better understand the connection between human nature and medical science.

2026

SAPA-NE High School Excellence Scholarship



Arianna Sun is an incoming first year at Harvard University whose work sits at the intersection of life sciences, public service, and food justice. She is the founder of NoVasta, a national student-led food recovery and advocacy organization that partners with restaurants to redirect surplus food to shelters and community organizations serving individuals experiencing food insecurity. Through NoVasta, she has helped recover tens of thousands of meals while advocating

for policies that reduce food waste and strengthen food access.

Her commitment to service stems from a belief that scientific innovation should improve people's lives. Through experiences ranging from food recovery efforts and working at the Governor's office to serving on Governor Maura Healey's Anti-Hunger Task Force, Arianna has seen how challenges such as hunger, nutrition, and sustainability require both community action and scientific solutions. Working in state government showed her that many of society's most pressing challenges, from food insecurity and public health to environmental sustainability, require collaboration between scientists, policymakers, and community leaders. She saw how data, research, and scientific expertise inform decisions that affect millions of people.

As she begins her studies at Harvard, Arianna hopes to explore the life sciences and biotechnology as tools for addressing global challenges, including food insecurity, agricultural sustainability, and public health.

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Headquartered in Shanghai, China, Sanyou has established global business centers across Asia, North America, and Europe, forming an international business network. The company currently operates and has planned over 20,000 square meters of R&D and GMP facilities.

Sanyou has established strong collaborations with more than 2,000 pharmaceutical and biotech companies worldwide, empowering over 1,200 new drug discovery and development projects. It has completed more than 50 collaboration projects, over 10 of which have advanced to IND approval and clinical development stages.

The company has filed over 170 invention patents, with more than 30 granted. It has also obtained over 10 national and international qualifications and system certifications, including National High-Tech Enterprise, Shanghai "Specialized and Innovative" Enterprise, ISO9001, and ISO27001.

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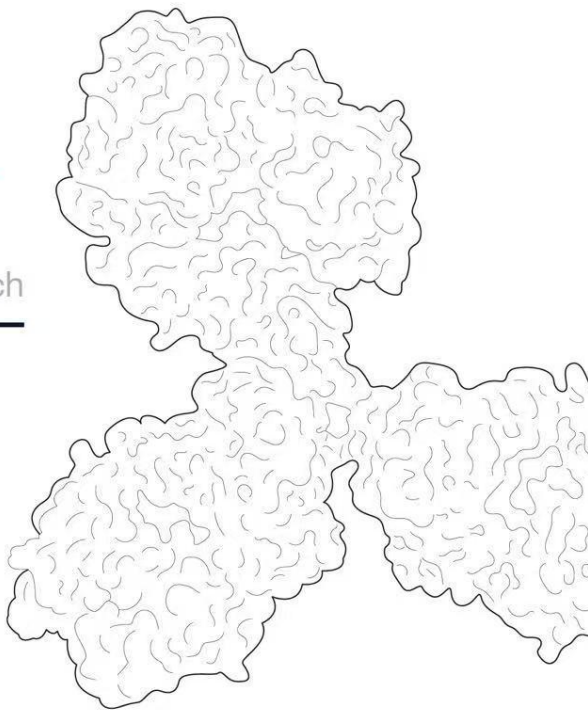
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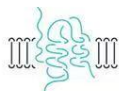
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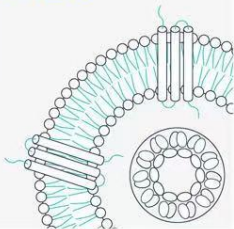


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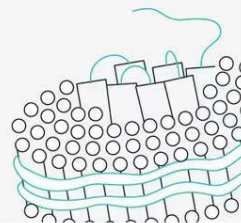
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Source: **Frost & Sullivan**, April 2026

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Market Position

- DIP
- Competitor A
- Competitor B
- Competitor C
- Others

Data Source: **Frost & Sullivan** Market Research Report

Key Metrics

2017

Company Established
Deeply rooted in the clinical trial services vertical

400+

Global Employees
Covering China, the US, Japan, Australia, and other regions

1000+

Clients Served
Pharmaceutical companies, biotech, hospitals, research institutes, and universities

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Full-Service Projects
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