Breakout Session Speakers

Dennis S. Charney

Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
President for Academic Affairs, Mount Sinai Health System

Dennis S. Charney, MD, is Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and President for Academic Affairs for the Mount Sinai Health System. An internationally acclaimed expert in the neurobiology and treatment of mood and anxiety disorders, Dr. Charney has made fundamental contributions to the understanding of the causes of human anxiety, fear, and depression, and to the discovery of new treatments for mood and anxiety disorders.

Under Dean Charney’s leadership, the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai has risen to, and maintained, its strength among the top 15 U.S. medical schools in National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding, and currently ranks second in funding per faculty member from all sponsored projects. With an emphasis on innovation and discovery and a track record of strategic recruitments across the biomedical sciences and in genomics, computational biology, and information technology, the School has cultivated a supercharged, Silicon Valley-like atmosphere in the academic setting. As the sole medical school partnering with the seven hospitals of the Mount Sinai Health System, the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai has one of the most expansive educational, research and clinical footprints in the nation.

Early in his tenure as Dean, Dr. Charney unveiled Mount Sinai’s $2.25 billion strategic plan, which laid the foundation for establishing multidisciplinary research institutes as hubs for scientific and clinical collaboration. Within and across the institutes, faculty investigators and physicians work together to push the boundaries of science and medicine in order to address the most pressing biomedical challenges of our time. Dr. Charney is now overseeing the creation of complementary clinical institutes for the entire Mount Sinai Health System. These new institutes are Centers of Excellence for disease-specific areas such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, HIV, and pulmonary diseases. Together the research and clinical institutes are generating game-changing models in translational research, clinical excellence and standards of care.

Recent affiliations with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Google, IBM and Apple further enhance the landscape for discovery at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. These unique relationships have expanded opportunities for cross-fertilization of ideas and programs, and present exciting educational, scientific and clinical possibilities for our students and faculty alike.
Dean Charney's career began in 1981 at Yale University School of Medicine, where, within nine years, he rose from Assistant Professor to tenured Professor of Psychiatry. While at Yale, he chaired the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Board of Scientific Counselors, which advises the institute's director on intramural research programs. In 2000, the NIMH recruited Dr. Charney to lead their Mood and Anxiety Disorder Research Program — one of the largest programs of its kind in the world — and the Experimental Therapeutics and Pathophysiology Branch. That year, Dr. Charney was elected to the National Academies of Medicine. In 2004, Dr. Charney was recruited to Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai as Dean of Research. In 2007, he was appointed Dean of the School and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs of the Medical Center. In 2013, Dr. Charney was named President for Academic Affairs for the Health System. He is currently one of the longest-serving Deans of any American medical school.

Dr. Charney's own robust research program has garnered recognition through virtually every major award in his field. His investigations of the causes and treatment of depression have generated new hypotheses regarding the mechanisms of antidepressant drugs and have resulted in novel therapies, including Lithium and Ketamine for treatment-resistant depression. The work of his research team demonstrating that Ketamine as a rapidly acting antidepressant has been hailed as one of the most exciting developments in antidepressant therapy in more than half a century.

Recently, Dr. Charney's pioneering research has expanded to include the psychobiological mechanisms of human resilience to stress, and has led to the identification of ten key resilience factors for building the strength to weather and recover from stress and trauma. This work is in the basis for his inspiring book for lay audiences, Resilience: The Science of Mastering Life's Greatest Challenges, co-authored by Steven Southwick and published by Cambridge University Press in 2012.

A prolific author, Dr. Charney has written more than 600 publications, including groundbreaking scientific papers, chapters, and books. His many books include: Neurobiology of Mental Illness (Oxford University Press, USA, Fourth Edition, 2013); The Peace of Mind Prescription: An Authoritative Guide to Finding the Most Effective Treatment for Anxiety and Depression (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2004); The Physician's Guide to Depression and Bipolar Disorders (McGraw-Hill Professional, 2006), Resilience and Mental Health: Challenges Across the Lifespan (Cambridge University Press, 2011).

Dr. Charney is a committed educator and role model who lectures within Mount Sinai, nationally and internationally. He has mentored and taught scores of junior faculty, postdoctoral fellows, medical students and graduate students throughout his career.
Eric J. Nestler

Nash Family Professor of Neuroscience; Director, Friedman Brain Institute; Dean for Academic and Scientific Affairs, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Dr. Nestler is the Nash Family Professor of Neuroscience at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, where he serves as Dean for Academic and Scientific Affairs and Director of the Friedman Brain Institute. He received his B.A., Ph.D., and M.D. degrees, and psychiatry residency training, from Yale University. He served on the Yale faculty from 1987-2000, where he was the Elizabeth Mears and House Jameson Professor of Psychiatry and Neurobiology, and Director of the Division of Molecular Psychiatry. He moved to Dallas in 2000 where he served as the Lou and Ellen McGinley Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center until moving to New York in 2008. Dr. Nestler is a member of the Institute of Medicine and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is a past President of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology and President Elect of the Society for Neuroscience. The goal of Dr. Nestler's research is to better understand the molecular mechanisms of addiction and depression based on work in animal models, and to use this information to develop improved treatments of these disorders.

Darryle D. Schoepp

Vice President and Therapeutic Area Head, Neuroscience, Early Development and Discovery Sciences, Merck & Co.

Dr. Schoepp is responsible for Neuroscience discovery strategy and execution at Merck. He joined Merck Research Laboratories in 2007. During his tenure at Merck the Neuroscience group has successfully developed and launched Suvorexant (Belsomra) for insomnia and established an industry leading innovative Neuroscience pipeline for Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson's disease, pain/migraine, and schizophrenia. Prior to joining Merck, Dr. Schoepp was a drug discovery scientist at Eli Lilly for 20 years, where from 2004 – 2007 he served as vice president of neuroscience research responsible for the company's neuroscience strategy and pipeline. As a scientist, he is recognized for having made major contributions in the investigation of the excitatory amino acid neurotransmitter glutamate in disease pathophysiology, pharmacology and therapeutics.
Ana Fernandez-Sesma

Professor, Department of Microbiology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Dr. Fernandez-Sesma is a professor in the department of Microbiology at ISMMS. The work from her team on immune evasion strategies developed by human viruses such as dengue virus (DENV), influenza and HIV has contributed to the understanding of how these important human pathogens establish infection in humans. Her findings may lead to the identification of target molecules for therapeutic interventions and vaccine design against those viruses. She has recently been awarded with a U19 grant to study human responses to dengue, chikungunya and Zika viruses with a superb team of collaborators from top institutions in the US. She is also very committed to graduate education and mentoring and she has been serving as the co-director of the Microbiology Main Training Area (MTA) of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at ISMMS for the last 6 years.

Gail Shust

Assistant Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Pediatrics, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Dr. Gail Shust is an Assistant Professor of Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Medical Education at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (ISMMS). Her clinical work includes inpatient general infectious diseases consults as well as outpatient work with HIV positive children and adolescents. She is involved in the Obstetrics/Infectious Diseases clinic at Mount Sinai that cares for pregnant women with concurrent infectious diseases, primarily HIV. Dr. Shust is a member of the New York Knows Youth Subcommittee and PrEP for NYC Task Force. As part of the medical education team, she serves as a Faculty Advisor and is particularly interested in working with students in academic difficulty. She is the Faculty Leader for the student based tutoring program at ISMMS and has presented research on the topic at the AAMC Careers in Medicine Professional Development Conference.
4th Annual
Trainee Forum and Networking Reception

Neil Stahl
Executive Vice President, Research and Development, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals

Dr. Neil Stahl has been the Executive Vice President, Research and Development at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. since January 2015. Prior to that date, he served as Senior Vice President, Research and Development Sciences since January 2007 and Senior Vice President, Preclinical Development and Biomolecular Sciences, a position he held since January 2001. He served as a Vice President in various capacities since 1997. Dr. Stahl started his career at Regeneron as a Staff Scientist in Discovery Research in 1991, working on cytokine receptor signaling. He spearheaded the invention and development of Regeneron’s Trap Technology, which provided the basis of Regeneron’s first 3 approved drugs, ARCALYST, EYLEA, and ZALTRAP. He also built the pre-clinical and clinical development team for the company, and oversaw the IND enabling activities of over 19 therapeutic candidates, including 3 Trap and 16 fully human antibodies. From 2000 onwards, he has served as the Team Leader of many Clinical Development programs, which included clinical areas of oncology, inflammation, atopy, obesity, ophthalmology, and metabolic disease. Dr. Stahl received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Brandeis University in 1985, and then conducted Post-Doctoral Research at University of California San Francisco with Dr. Stanley Prusiner, who subsequently was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine.

Alan Belicha
Business Development Manager, Mount Sinai Innovation Partners, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Alan Belicha is a Business Development Manager at Mount Sinai Innovation Partners, the technology development and commercialization office at the Mount Sinai Health System. Alan is responsible for the evaluation of early-stage technologies, the development of commercial strategies, marketing and negotiation of license agreements with commercial partners. Alan also works as a Senior Advisor to the Inveniam Group, a boutique M&A and strategy advisory firm. Before joining Mount Sinai Innovation Partners Alan worked at Ascent Biomedical Ventures, an early stage venture capital group and at Grey Healthcare Group, a global leader in health advertising, branding, and marketing. Alan completed a PhD in tumor immunology at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, NY and was a postdoc at the Global Health and Emerging Pathogens Institute at Mount Sinai.
Nolan Skop

Business Development Analyst, Mount Sinai Innovation Partners, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Nolan Skop joined Mount Sinai Innovation Partners in 2014 as a Business Development Intern and became a Business Development Analyst in June 2015. His current responsibilities include technology scouting, evaluation of early-stage discoveries, marketing, assisting with the negotiation of license agreements, building relationships, and fostering partnerships with commercial entities. Before joining Mount Sinai, Nolan spent three years co-founding StemTrix, a university-based startup company focused on developing novel biomaterial products for stem cell research and therapeutic purposes. Nolan graduated from the University of Connecticut with a bachelors in biomedical and biochemical engineering and earned his doctoral degree in biomedical engineering and stem cell biology from the joint program between Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS) and New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). He did a postdoc in the Laboratory for Regenerative Neurobiology at Rutgers and has a patent application from his doctoral studies on stem cells.
### Keynote Speaker

#### Sean Ianchulev

**Clinical Associate Professor, University of California San Francisco**  
**Founder, Iantech Medical**  
**CEO, Eyenovia**

Dr. Ianchulev is a prolific inventor, innovator, physician-executive and public health expert with deep life-science and medical technology expertise covering the spectrum of biotech and med-tech.

As an innovator and technology developer, he has been at the core of medical products and technologies which have transformed the ophthalmic field and are impacting medical care for hundreds of thousands of patients every year.

While at Genentech, Dr. Ianchulev headed the ophthalmology research group and directed the development and the FDA approval of Lucentis, the most successful specialty biologic in the field of ophthalmology with more than $4Bn of annual sales. Dr. Ianchulev is also the inventor of the first ophthalmic intraoperative biometry device, ORA - intraoperative aberrometry for high precision, infrared laser-guided cataract surgery, which dramatically improved the outcomes of cataract surgery with more than half a million patients treated to date. Dr. Ianchulev was the patent holder and technology founder of Wave tec Inc., which was acquired by Alcon/Novartis.

In the glaucoma field, Dr. Ianchulev lead all the research and development efforts of the first suprachoroidal micro-stent (CyPass). As the Chief Medical Officer and the head of research and development for Transcend Medical (acquired by Alcon/Novartis) he has been at the forefront of the next generation MIGS (Micro-Incisional Glaucoma Surgery) innovation and oversaw one of the largest glaucoma surgical research programs.

As the founder of Eyenovia Bio (www.eyenoviabio.com) Dr. Ianchulev is also spearheading new technology for piezostatic high-precision micro-therapeutics and as the founder of Iantech, Inc. he is the inventor of micro-interventional, energy-free, phaco-fragmentation for cataract surgery.

Dr. Ianchulev is the president of the KeepYourSight.org foundation, the first e-public health foundation for online vision screening of glaucoma and macular disease. Utilizing new breakthrough technology for virtual online screening, KeepYourSight helps thousands of people every year to stop preventable blindness.
For his leadership in public health, innovation and medicine, Dr. Ianchulev was an invited expert by Congress during the deliberations on medical innovation and FDA regulation.

Dr. Ianchulev received both his medical degree and a master’s of public health from Harvard University and completed his specialty training at the Doheny Eye Institute, University of Southern California. He is currently an Associate Clinical Professor at UCSF where he actively maintains academic and research activities.

Dr. Ianchulev is a holder of multiple issued and pending patents. He has multiple high-impact publications in the field, which have been cited by more than 2,000 peer-reviewed publications. He also sits on a number of corporate and advisory Boards.
Young Innovators Pitch Competition Teams

**AVAC**

John and Christopher Di Capua created and patented the AVAC (Automated Ventilator with Assisted Compressions), a medical device designed to help bystanders perform CPR. The device has three main components: 1) an i-gel laryngeal airway device that secures the patient’s airway to deliver a steady flow of oxygen, 2) a compressed oxygen tank and 3) a computer controller that regulates the flow of oxygen to the patient and assists the rescuer in performing the properly timed chest compressions. The brothers hope to one day see the AVAC in all places of public assembly, similar to how AEDs are placed now. Paired with an AED, the AVAC has the potential to dramatically improve out of hospital sudden cardiac arrest survival rates.

**Edema Sock**

The Edema Sock is designed and developed by CardiMetrix, which is run by Benjamin Strauss. The Edema Sock is slipped on the foot and leg like an ankle brace, electronically measures the volume of the foot, and transmits it wirelessly to a Smartphone. The Smartphone app asks the patient about any new symptoms, and transmits the results and leg volume to a cloud that is accessible by the patient’s doctor. The daily information can be trended for comparison to the patient’s baseline, and used to determine if the patient’s therapy is sufficient, or if he is decompensating.

Furthermore, the device can be worn overnight by the large HF population which also has sleep apnea. By measuring leg volume changes in real time, the Edema Sock can determine how much fluid is exiting the leg, returning to the pulmonary circuit, and causing the oxygen desaturations associated with sleep apnea in HF patients.

The Edema Sock provides context to the daily weight measuring to determine if weight gain is being caused by fluid retention. It will enable us to prevent decompensations and rehospitalizations, reduce mortality, and improve symptoms, functional status, and quality of life.
4th Annual Trainee Forum and Networking Reception

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Founded by a team of doctoral and medical students driven to innovate diagnostic technology for those most in need, Multis is developing a handheld tool designed to reach patients in resource-limited settings. Our device rapidly screens for multiple diseases in one low-cost test – replacing the cumbersome need for many separate diagnostic tools. Multis is leveraging cutting-edge aptamer technology to build a detection platform that is temperature-resistant, customizable for various diseases, and more accurate than currently available field tests. Our technology is compatible with geotagging software to inform need-driven public health interventions for both medical screening and surveillance.

Merging our diverse backgrounds in life-sciences, policy, engineering, finance, and computer science, we are adapting our device to test for a panel of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). NTDs are a diverse group of infectious diseases that affect more than one billion of the world’s most impoverished people. A user-friendly, point-of-care test to screen for multiple NTDs will aid efforts to limit the spread of NTDs in the present and provide a more sensitive tool for NTD surveillance in the future.

Multis is comprised of Kieran Chacko, Brandon Hogstad, Michela Masi Leone, David Sachs, and Olivia Torre.
# Young Innovators Pitch Competition Judges

## Gad Berdugo

**Managing Partner, Explorium Capital LLC**

Mr. Berdugo is the Founder and Managing Partner of Explorium Capital LLC, a New York City based, life sciences focused, financial and strategic advisory firm. He brings over 25 years of experience in investment management and banking, strategic financial advisory, business and corporate development in the biomedical industry. He was previously CFO & EVP of Nasdaq listed Immune Pharmaceuticals; Managing Director and Head of Global Life Sciences at Tegris Advisors and Director at Lazard Asset Management, managing life sciences investments across Lazard Funds. Mr. Berdugo started his career at Abbott before joining Baxter Healthcare, where he was Director of Global Business Development for the Bio-Pharmaceutical Group. Mr. Berdugo received his M.B.A. from H.E.C. School of Management in Paris and studied at Northwestern Kellogg School of Management, his M.Sc. in Biochemical Engineering from University College London and his B.Sc. with Honors, in Biotechnology from Imperial College London.

## Dov A. Goldstein

**Director of ADMA Biologics, Cempra Pharmaceuticals and Esperion Therapeutics**

Dr. Goldstein joined Aisling Capital in 2006 and currently serves as one of the Managing Partners. Prior to joining Aisling, Dr. Goldstein served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Vicuron Pharmaceuticals for five years, up until its acquisition by Pfizer. While at Vicuron Pharmaceuticals, he raised over $250 million in an IPO, PIPE, follow-on and block trade transactions. He led the valuation and finance due diligence for the merger with Biosearch Italia (Nuovo mercato: BIO.MI), the first U.S. and Italian public-to-public company merger. He also ran the investor relations and press relations efforts for the company. Prior to Vicuron, Dr. Goldstein was Director of Venture Analysis at Healthcare Ventures. He also completed an internship in the Department of Medicine at Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital.

Dr. Goldstein currently serves as a director of ADMA Biologics, Cempra Pharmaceuticals and Esperion Therapeutics. Previously, he served as a director of Durata Therapeutics (acquired by Actavis), Loxo Oncology (also served as Chief Financial Officer) and Topaz Pharmaceuticals (acquired by Sanofi) and on other private company Boards.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Dr. Goldstein received his M.D. from Yale School of Medicine. He received his M.B.A. from Columbia Business School and his B.S. with honors from Stanford University.</th>
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| **Jason Park**  
**Principal, Flagship Ventures**  

Jason Park is a Principal at Flagship and focuses on life science investments. He is based in New York City, where he is helping lead the firm’s activities in the development of the city’s life sciences industry.  

Prior to joining Flagship, Jason was with the Boston Consulting Group where he was a core member of the Health Care, Strategy, and Technology teams. Jason led projects across a broad variety of topics, including early stage R&D, portfolio investment strategy, biopharmaceutical manufacturing, strategic and commercial due diligence, and global health. His time at BCG included wide geographic exposure, including years abroad as a member of the Mumbai and Paris offices. Earlier in his career, Jason was a director at an early stage biotech start-up focused on targeted drug delivery as well as the co-founder of an internet advertising firm.  

Jason holds a Ph.D., an M.S. and a B.S. in biomedical engineering from Yale University where he continues to serve as an external venture creation mentor. His research focused on the use of nanotechnology for immunomodulatory purposes and he is the author of several book chapters and numerous peer-reviewed publications. |
| **Cameron L.W. Pitt**  
**Associate, Versant Ventures**  

Cameron Pitt is an Investment Professional at Versant Ventures, a healthcare VC firm based in San Francisco. He joined last year as the firm expanded into New York to open the biotech incubator Highline Therapeutics. Cameron has since worked on several venture deals and played operational roles in launching Highline’s first companies. Cameron completed his PhD in Biomedical Sciences at UCSF as a NSF Graduate Research Fellow and he earned his BS in Biology with Honors from Stanford University. |
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<th>Networking Reception Attendees</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Alejo Chorny</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Scientific Editor, Journal of Experimental Medicine</td>
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<td>Alejo completed his PhD in cellular and molecular immunology at Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Spain. After postdoctoral work at the Icahn School of Medicine Mount Sinai studying marginal zone and mucosal B cell responses, he joined The Journal of Experimental Medicine as a Scientific Editor in 2015. Alejo is also in charge of JEM Collections and Insights.</td>
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<td><strong>Wendy Cornell</strong></td>
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<td>Principal Research Staff Member, IBM T.J. Watson Research Labs</td>
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<td>Wendy Cornell is Principal Research Staff Member at IBM T.J. Watson Research Labs in Yorktown Heights, NY where she carries out drug discovery related research in the Healthcare and Life Sciences Department. She previously worked for 20 years in the pharmaceutical industry leading Computer-Aided Drug Discovery groups at both Merck and Novartis and most recently leading a global Text Mining and Knowledge Management group at Merck. Her Merck experience provided the rare opportunity to lead teams in three distinct organizational verticals: Research, Licensing, and IT. Wendy is a Fellow of the American Chemical Society (ACS) and past Division Chair and Program Chair of the ACS Computers in Chemistry (COMP) Division.</td>
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**John Friedman**  
Managing Partner, Easton Capital

John H. Friedman is the Founding and Managing Partner of Easton Capital Group. Prior to founding Easton Capital, John was the founder and Managing General Partner of Security Pacific Capital Investors. Security Pacific Capital Investors was a $200-million private equity fund geared towards expansion financings and recapitalizations. Prior to joining Security Pacific, John was a Managing Director and Partner at E.M. Warburg, Pincus & Co., Inc., where he spent eight and a half years. Previously, John was an attorney with Sullivan and Cromwell. During his career he has invested in six transactions that generated 100x-to-1 returns (including a company he co-founded). John currently serves on the Boards of Promedior, Trellis Bioscience, MedCPU, PerceptiMed, TigerText, Within3, and Precise Light. He was also co-chairman of the President’s Council at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and serves as a Trustee of The New Museum of Contemporary Art and The Sculpture Center.

**Samuel Globus**  
Director, Scientific Operations, Celmatix

Sam is currently the Director of Scientific Operations at Celmatix. He completed a Ph.D. in molecular biology and biochemistry from Weill Cornell University Medical College in New York City. His doctoral research, performed at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, focused on the basic molecular processes that can lead to various forms of cancer. Prior to his graduate studies, he worked at a biotechnology company developing personalized therapies for non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. In addition to his Ph.D., Sam also holds a M.Sc. from University of Oxford in History of Science & Technology, an M.A. from Columbia University in Biotechnology, and a B.A. from Wesleyan University.

**Chris Grantham**  
Director, Editorial and Scientific Affairs, AXON
### Monica Harrington

**Manager, Research Communications, JDRF**

As manager of research communications at JDRF, Monica works to engage the type 1 diabetes (T1D) community by sharing our progress in our mission to accelerate life-changing breakthroughs to cure, prevent and treat T1D. She strives to relate the importance of JDRF’s research accomplishments to people who live with T1D or care for others who do every day.

Monica came to JDRF from the world of scientific publishing, where she developed content strategy, managed production and edited and wrote content for peer-reviewed journals covering genetics and biomedical research at Nature Publishing Group. She also has prior experience in nonprofit communications as a medical editor at the Cardiovascular Research Foundation and began her career as an environmental scientist at a global multidisciplinary contracting firm.

Monica dedicated her postgraduate studies to estuarine phytoplankton community dynamics and holds a master’s degree in marine sciences from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

### Jennifer M. Johnston

**Associate Principal Scientist, Merck & Co.**

Jennifer Johnston completed her DPhil under Professor Mark Sansom, at Oxford University, UK, on molecular dynamics of alpha-helical transmembrane proteins. She has subsequently trained as a postdoctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore with Professor Thomas Woolf, and until recently, at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, working with Professor Marta Filizola. Some of her expertise includes structural chemistry and molecular modeling of GPCRs. Jennifer joined Merck in 2014, and continues to apply her expertise in these fields to exciting new challenges in drug discovery.
Mark Kaplan
Strategic Lead, Pfizer

Mark Kaplan is a Biomarker Strategic Lead in Pfizer’s Oncology Research Unit. He obtained his Ph.D. in biophysics at the University of California, San Francisco, and subsequently was a Leukemia Society Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Wisconsin. Mark transitioned to industry and has worked in a number of companies, including Deltagen, Exelixis, Celera Genomics, and Roche. He has a broad background in drug discovery, with expertise in small molecules, antibodies, and RNAi for drug development, as applied to both target validation and to specific therapeutic areas including oncology, inflammation, and cardiovascular disease. More recently, Mark moved into translational research. In his current role at Pfizer, he works with the preclinical project teams on developing hypotheses for exploratory biomarkers that can predict which cancer patients would be most likely to respond to Pfizer’s novel therapeutics, and he works with the clinical teams on implementing these biomarkers in clinical trials. Mark has spoken at a number of institutions to graduate students and postdocs about careers in industry, and he serves as an industry mentor at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School.

Shahriar Khan
Director, New York City Economic Development Corporation
Esther Latres

**Associate Director, Translational Development, JDRF**

Esther Latres, Ph.D., is Associate Director of Translational Development at JDRF. In this role, she leads the strategic development of beta cell replacement therapies and the translation of scientific discoveries into novel therapies for improving glucose and overall metabolic control, which will contribute to better treatments and cure for type 1 diabetes.

Prior to joining JDRF in 2015, Dr. Latres was a research fellow at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, where she led discovery and scientific assessment of drug targets in the muscular disease and metabolism group. She also directed studies to validate and select multiple candidate drugs for translation into drug development and clinical programs.

Dr. Latres received a Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology at the University of Barcelona, after studying genetic abnormalities in tumors that grow in the soft tissues of the body at Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. She pursued her post-doctoral training at Bristol-Myers Squibb Institute and New York University Medical Center, where she identified mammalian ubiquitin-ligase enzymes that regulate cell cycle progression and applied gene targeting techniques to study their function in vivo.

Stefanie Mazlish

**Co-Founder and CEO, The Solution Lab**

Stefanie is Co-founder and CEO of The Solution Lab, a nonprofit start-up which develops creative solutions for healthcare, pharmaceutical, and biotech companies facing strategic and operational challenges. The Solution Lab forms interdisciplinary teams of students and recent graduates with advanced degrees (PhD/MD/JD/MPH/MBA) to volunteer on management consulting projects in order to gain practical training as well as educational and networking opportunities. The Solution Lab also provides programming for educational workshops and initiatives, with a focus on creative thinking and entrepreneurship.

Stefanie has professional background in hospital operations management, payer side healthcare, allied health higher education, and management consulting for life sciences and healthcare clients. Stefanie earned an MBA from NYU Stern School of Business with specialization in Strategy and Finance, and a BA from The University of Chicago.
Nicole McKnight

Director, Operations, BioLabs New York

Nicole is Director of Operations for Cambridge BioLabs’s latest expansion project, BioLabs New York. She is dedicated to promoting the success of biotech start-ups in New York and was an original member of NYC Tech Connect’s Advisory Panel. Nicole is co-founder of Keystone for Incubating Innovation in Life sciences Network (KiiLN), a non-profit organization that provides acceleration programming for very early-stage biotech startups and entrepreneurial scientists. Dr. McKnight is a molecular and cell biologist whose 12 years of scientific research has made her well-versed in disease areas such as cancer and neurodegeneration. She has trained at the University of Chicago (AB, honors), Harvard Medical School/Beth Israel Deaconess, University College London and most recently at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, where she was co-chair of the Postdoc Executive Committee. Nicole obtained her PhD from UCL/Cancer Research UK and prior to that, worked at Millennium Pharmaceuticals and Ore Pharmaceuticals (fka Gene Logic) in Cambridge, MA. She also holds a certificate in business fundamentals from Harvard Business School/HBX. She is excited to be contributing to the exciting growth of the New York biotech scene.

Prashanthi Menon

Medical Associate, Healthcare Consultancy Group

Dr. Prashanthi Menon is a Medical Associate at the Healthcare Consultancy group (HCG). She obtained her PhD from University of Rochester School of Medicine and pursued her postdoctoral training at Harvard Medical School and a research fellowship at New York University School of Medicine. Her research focuses were in immunology, vascular pathologies and cardiovascular diseases. Dr. Menon is passionate about science education and women in science. As a Medical Associate at HCG, she has experience in medical communications, developing branded and unbranded medical communication platforms in several therapeutic areas. She defines and executes US and global strategic communication tactics for pre-launch and marketed drugs and devices at various stages of the lifecycle.
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<th>Maria Luisa Pineda</th>
<th>CEO &amp; Co-Founder, Envisagenics, Inc.</th>
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<th>Dandan Xu</th>
<th>Chief Scientific Officer, SolveBio</th>
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Dandan Xu, PhD, is the chief scientific officer at SolveBio, a contextual knowledge hub focused on enabling pharma, biotech, and diagnostic organizations to effectively connect and use external and internal genomic information. At SolveBio, Dandan is responsible for quality control, integrity, long term strategy, and external communication regarding the scientific and bioinformatic parts of SolveBio’s mission. She has presented SolveBio’s work at international genetics conferences, FDA workshops, and other public forums. She is the principal investigator for SolveBio’s NIH Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) for the development of a visualization and analysis interface for genetic variants.

Dandan is a statistical geneticist and molecular biologist by training. She is an expert in variant annotation and curation, clinical genomics databases, and user interface & experience design in bioinformatics. She currently serves on the extramural variation expert council for the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) and the education advisory board for Weill Cornell’s Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC).

Prior to SolveBio, Dandan received her PhD from Weill Cornell’s Immunology & Microbial Pathogenesis graduate program. Her doctorate work was performed in Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center’s cancer biology & genetics department and clinical genetics service; her research was focused on the functional role of common genetic variants associated with complex diseases such as prostate cancer.
Yana Zorina

Co-Founder, Keystone for Incubating Innovation in Life Sciences Network (KiiLN)
Scientist I, Cell and Molecular Technologies, Acorda Therapeutics

Yana Zorina received her B.A. from Barnard College at Columbia University, and was awarded her Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. After completing a postdoctoral fellowship in neuropharmacology in Dr. Ravi Iyengar’s laboratory at Mount Sinai, Yana has joined the Research and Development team at Acorda Therapeutics as a Scientist I in the Cell and Molecular Technologies group. Acorda Therapeutics is a biotech company whose mission is to develop therapies to restore neurological function and improve the lives of people with spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis and other disorders of the central nervous system. In her current position, Yana is primarily focused on mechanism of action studies and assay development efforts for a novel therapeutic currently in clinical trials for multiple sclerosis. Yana still maintains close ties to the Mount Sinai postdoctoral community, whereby she seeks to promote opportunities for career development and greater collaboration, to enable the success of her postdoctoral colleagues in New York City. Yana is also a Co-Founder of Keystone for Incubating Innovation in Life Sciences Network (KiiLN), which seeks to provide acceleration programming to support early stage start-ups and promote their success in New York City and beyond. Yana is particularly passionate about bridging the gap between industry and academia in the life sciences.