

5th Annual Careers & Connections



Cherise T. Bernard

Senior Manager, Strategy, Global Strategic Networks, Elsevier

Dr. Cherise Bernard joined Elsevier in November 2015 and is the Senior Manager of Strategy within the Global Strategic Networks group. In this role, she leads the management of complex strategy programs and provides analysis to inform business decisions. In her previous role at Elsevier as the Senior Manager of Global Academic Relations, Dr. Bernard was responsible for creating and driving key initiatives between Elsevier and U.S. universities/organizations. Working with university leadership, her priorities primarily focused on science and health topics, precision medicine, workforce development of early career researchers and research data management. Prior to joining Elsevier, Dr. Bernard has held positions at Mount Sinai Health System, within the Innovation Partners office and at The Rockefeller University. She holds a Ph.D. in Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology and a Mini-MBA certification focused on BioPharma Innovation, both from Rutgers University. She also holds a Bachelor's of Science in Chemistry from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia.



Ross L. Cagan

Senior Associate Dean for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences & Professor in Oncological Sciences, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Ross L. Cagan, PhD, is Professor of the Department of Developmental and Regenerative Biology and Director of the Center for Personalized Cancer Therapeutics. He is also Senior Editor of Disease Models and Mechanisms and co-founder of Medros Inc.

Dr. Cagan's laboratory focuses on the use of *Drosophila* to address disease mechanisms and therapeutics, primarily for cancer. Their work helped validate vandetanib as a therapeutic for Medullary Thyroid Carcinoma, combined *Drosophila* genetics and medicinal chemistry to develop a new generation of lead compounds that emphasize "balanced polypharmacology", and identified novel mechanisms that direct transformed cells into the first steps towards metastasis.

Combining these basic research approaches, Dr. Cagan has established the Center for Personalized Cancer Therapeutics, in which new tools including 'personalized *Drosophila* avatars' are developed and used to screen for personalized drug cocktails. Working with co-directors Marshall Posner and Eric Schadt, the CPCT is designed to treat patients with drug combinations that best address the tumor's complexities.

5th Annual Careers & Connections



Robert J. DeVita

Director of the Medicinal Chemistry Core of the Drug Discovery Institute (DDI) & Professor in Pharmacological Sciences, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Dr. DeVita is a Professor in the Department of Pharmacological Sciences and the Director of the Medicinal Chemistry Core of the Drug Discovery Institute (DDI). Prior to joining Mt Sinai, Dr. DeVita gained expertise managing multi-disciplinary teams that delivered on key program objectives for complex molecular targets. He has over 25 years working in biotech and the pharmaceutical industry, including at Merck Research Laboratories where he was a director of medicinal chemistry. His work has spanned the drug discovery paradigm from target ID to PII, including leadership of drug development teams. In collaboration with multi-disciplinary teams, he has identified multiple development candidates including two PII clinical compounds for CNS and CV targets. Dr. DeVita has drug discovery experience within a broad range of therapeutic areas including: CNS, pain/inflammation, diabetes, cardiovascular, hypertension, obesity, endocrinology, urology and oncology. He has developed, in collaboration with his teams, orally active, brain penetrant, peripheral and GI tract drug targeting strategies. He also has experience in the discovery and development of PET imaging agents and translational biomarkers for CNS targets.

Dr. DeVita has been an active member of the Medicinal Chemistry Division of the American Chemical Society serving on the Long Range Planning Committee and on the organizing committees for National and International Medicinal Chemistry Meetings. He has served as an Ad Hoc Reviewer for the National Institutes of Health Study Section for Synthetic and Biological Chemistry (Section B).



Marianne C. Fahs

Professor in Health Policy & Management, CUNY School of Public Health

Marianne (Mimi) C. Fahs, PhD, MPH is an internationally recognized health economist and health services researcher. Her scholarly interests center on cost effective strategies to improve health, economic productivity, and quality of life. She enjoys developing research to investigate the effectiveness of innovative approaches to improve health outcomes as well as analytic strategies to reinforce translating results into evidence for public health practice and policy. She was the founding Research Director of the Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging of Hunter College, where she led a team in multidisciplinary research examining neighborhood determinants of healthy aging; community-based interventions for prevention and control of diabetes and heart disease; and prevention of immigrant health disparities. Working with

5th Annual Careers & Connections

public policy and community-based leaders, she and her colleagues developed an evidence-based toolkit to help guide implementation of community-based chronic disease prevention and self-management programs. Prior to that she directed the Health Economics Division at Mount Sinai Medical Center in NYC, where she pioneered the first cost-effectiveness analysis of cancer prevention strategies among US older women. Her findings contributed to Congressional passage of the first Medicare preventive benefit. She is the author of over 100 peer-reviewed publications and has served on numerous local, state, and national advisory committees, including scientific review committees for the National Institutes of Health and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Professor Fahs teaches advanced research methods; policy analysis; and healthy urban aging: economic and policy issues, at the masters and doctoral levels.



Dan Felsenfeld

Director, Stem Cell Biology & Regenerative Medicine, CHDI Foundation

Dan Felsenfeld is a Science Director at the CHDI Foundation, a privately-funded, not-for-profit biomedical research organization devoted to Huntington's disease (HD). In this position, which he has held since 2015, he oversees the stem cell research program as well as efforts to develop novel cell-based therapies for HD.

Prior to CHDI, Dan spent 15 years as a faculty member at the Icahn School of Medicine where he worked on the regulation of signaling pathways critical for cell migration and nerve growth. He also built and directed the Integrated (high-throughput) Screening Core, where he collaborated with Mount Sinai investigators on the development and execution of small molecule and genomic screens. These projects covered a wide range of therapeutic and scientific areas, including the treatments for infectious diseases, type 2 diabetes and thyroid function in addition to work on the regulation of stem cell pluripotency and differentiation. Dan received his A.B. in biochemistry from Harvard College and Ph.D. in developmental neurobiology from Columbia University. His post-doctoral fellowship at Duke University was focused on the biophysical basis of nerve growth and cell migration.

5th Annual Careers & Connections



Brandy Houser

Site Head, Celdara Medical New York

Brandy is responsible for operations of the New York/New Jersey office, as well as sourcing and vetting new pipeline assets. Previously, Brandy was an investment Associate at Brandon Capital Partners, an Australian venture capital firm and the Alliance Manager for Partners Healthcare, the corporate entity that oversees operations for the Massachusetts General Hospital and the Brigham and Women's Hospital. During this time she managed technologies from both hospitals as well as programs for Pfizer's Center for Therapeutic Innovation. She also helped to create the business and operations plan for The Human Translational Immunology Center at the Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Brandy received her Ph.D. in immunology from Harvard University under the guidance of Dr. Jack Strominger for the discovery of specialized macrophage subsets at the human maternal-fetal interface. During her graduate career she was also a commercialization fellow at Harvard Medical School.



Erik Lium

Senior Vice President, Mount Sinai Innovation Partners (MSIP), Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Erik Lium, PhD is responsible for advancing Mount Sinai's research, instruction, and public service missions through strategic research partnerships with industry, the management, transfer and commercialization of Mount Sinai technologies, and fostering the development of start-up's to advance promising early-stage technologies. Erik joined Mount Sinai in March 2014.

Prior to this role, Erik served as the Assistant Vice Chancellor of Innovation, Technology & Alliances at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), and the UCSF Principal Investigator for the Bay area National Science Foundation I-Corps node. He held previous positions at UCSF as Assistant Vice Chancellor of Research, Director of Industry Contracts, and Director of Business Development for the Diabetes Center & Immune Tolerance Network. Erik served as President of LabVelocity Inc., an Information Services Company focused on accelerating R&D in the life sciences prior to its acquisition in 2004. He served as a post-doctoral research scientist at UCSF in the laboratory of J. Michael Bishop, MD, and earned a PhD with honors from the Integrated Program in Cellular, Molecular and Biophysical Studies at Columbia University in the laboratory of Dr. Saul J. Silverstein. Erik holds a BS in Biology from Gonzaga University.

5th Annual Careers & Connections



Ya-El Mandel-Portnoy

Founder & CEO, Cardea Sciences

Ya-El holds a Ph.D degree from the Clinical Research Ph.D program at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City, a Master's degree in Physiology and Biophysics from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology and a B.A. in Emergency Medical Services from Ben-Gurion University. Ya-El is an expert in Cardiac Physiology and Electrophysiology with research interest and vast experience in Heart Rate Variability, Heart Rate Volatility and other cardiac-related physiological phenomenon to risk stratify cardiac patients. Prior to her academic career, Ya-El served as special forces paramedic in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) for over 3 years.



Anthony P. Napolitano

Assistant Director, Business Development , Mount Sinai Innovation Partners

Dr. Anthony (Tony) Napolitano has spent 20 years dedicated to improving human health while working in various facets of healthcare. He is a digital health business development professional experienced in venture capital investing, mergers & acquisitions, intellectual property, and scientific research. Tony leads the digital health technology monetization efforts for Mount Sinai Innovation Partners. Previously, he was Vice President at Plymouth Capital Management & Advisors, where he sourced and evaluated early stage and growth capital private equity investments. Before Plymouth, Tony managed intellectual property for Stryker Sports Medicine. He helped establish Stryker's Orthobiologics business by leading the IP due diligence and integration during the \$316mm acquisition of Orthovita, Inc. He also spent two years at biologics startup Forticell Bioscience. Tony holds an M.S. and B.S. from Columbia University and a Ph.D. from Brown University in Biomedical Engineering.

5th Annual Careers & Connections



Charles L. Shapiro

Co-Director of Dubin Breast Center, Director of Translational Breast Cancer & Director of Cancer Survivorship, Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

I am a Professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, Director of Translational Breast Cancer Research for the Mount Sinai Health System, and Director of Cancer Survivorship for the Mount Sinai Health System. I am nationally known as clinical trialist emphasizing the testing of novel therapeutics in early phase trials. Also, I am nationally recognized for my work in survivorship, particularly how breast cancer treatments impact bone. I served as the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Chairman of the Survivorship Committee 2014-15. I have 154 peer-reviewed publications and over 155 invited presentations, book chapters, and abstracts. In June 2017 I was elected to be a Fellow of the American Society of Clinical Oncology.



William Soliman

Executive Chair, Accreditation Council for Medical Affairs

An experienced executive with over 15 years of experience in pharma, Dr. Soliman has held key positions where he was instrumental in launching a variety of innovative platforms expanding the role of medical affairs across the industry. He is often invited to speak at important pharma industry conferences focusing on medical affairs, patient navigation and its relationship to field based medical teams, and the ever-changing role of the medical science liaison (MSL). Currently, Dr. Soliman is US & Global Medical Director with Retrophin Pharmaceuticals. Additionally, he is the current Executive Chair of the Accreditation Council for Medical Affairs (ACMA).

Prior to that he held a variety of leadership roles within medical affairs at Eisai, Gilead, Abbott Laboratories, Boehringer Ingelheim and Merck. He has also held several academic appointments at Seton Hall University's School of Health & Medical Sciences, New Jersey City University, Kean University's College of Natural & Applied Sciences, and Touro College of Physical Therapy & Pharmacy teaching a variety of courses including clinical therapeutics, pharmacology, pathophysiology and epidemiology.

Dr. Soliman earned his Ph.D., MPhil from Columbia University, his B.A. from New York University an M.A. from St. Peter's University and completed post-doctoral work at Harvard University.

5th Annual Careers & Connections



William van der Touw

Senior Scientist, Celgene

William is Senior Scientist of Translational Medicine at Celularity where he is responsible for designing and monitoring scientific studies related to clinical stage cell-based immunotherapies. William served as a post-doctoral fellow in the lab of Dr. Shu-Hsia Chen at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai where he generated antibodies to reprogram myeloid-derived suppressor cell and tumor-associated macrophage populations for cancer immunotherapy. From 2007-2013, William completed his PhD training also at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in the labs of Dr. Jonathan Bromberg and Dr. Peter Heeger studying natural killer cells and regulatory T cells in the context of graft-versus-host disease and transplantation tolerance. He previously worked 2 years as a research associate validating antibody-based immunotherapies for autoimmune and cancer indications with Organon Biosciences/Schering-Plough.

William received his BA from Harvard University in 2005 with a degree in biochemistry.



Lisa Wisniewski

Managing Director, RM Global

Lisa is a drug development executive and thought leader whose scientific, regulatory, operational and business experience uniquely positions her to assess, develop and optimize pharmaceutical strategy. She has over 20 years of global experience driving the development and execution of pharmaceutical strategy, developing and leading teams and transformations that have delivered significant results in multiple therapeutic areas including oncology, anti-infectives, vaccines and pulmonary hypertension. Lisa's experience includes small molecules, proteins, monoclonal antibodies and devices in all research and development phases. Lisa received her BS from University of Illinois and her MS and PhD from North Carolina State University, where she graduated Xi Sigma Pi and Sigma Xi, respectively. Following her PhD, she completed a post-doc at Washington University in St Louis.