

2024 Agenda

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. **Conference Registration**

6:00 – 9:00 p.m. **Welcome Reception and Dinner**

Thursday, October 10, 2024

7:30 – 9:00 a.m. **Registration and Networking Breakfast**

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Partnering Hall**

9:00 – 9:10 a.m. **Welcome Remarks**

9:10 – 9:50 a.m. **Venture Capital Financing Trends**

This panel will discuss recent trends in venture financings, including corporate venture capital and partnering, valuations and round sizes, tranching and milestones, and platform vs. assets.

Moderator:

[Jennifer Fang](#), Partner, *Wilson Sonsini*

Speakers:

[Jessica Alston](#), Partner, *F-Prime Capital*

[Jenna Aronson](#), Principal, *Two Bear Capital*

[Raymond Camahort](#), Partner, *Novo Holdings*

[Olga Danilchanka](#), Partner, *MRL Ventures Fund*

9:50 – 10:30 a.m. **Navigating Antitrust Issues and FTC Scrutiny in Life Sciences**


This panel will explore the various ways antitrust issues can arise in Life Sciences and Biotech and discuss best practices for engagement with the antitrust agencies.

Moderator:

[Brendan Coffman](#), Partner, *Wilson Sonsini*

Speakers:

[Jessica Anthony](#), Executive Director & Associate General Council, *Sandoz, Inc.*



[Maureen Ohlhausen](#), Partner, *Wilson Sonsini*
[Michelle Yost Hale](#), Partner, *Wilson Sonsini*

10:30 – 10:50 a.m. Break

10:50 – 11:30 a.m. Leveraging AI in Therapeutics: Revolutionizing Drug Discovery and Development

Artificial intelligence (AI) is being increasingly leveraged in the therapeutics space to revolutionize drug discovery. Sophisticated machine learning (ML) models are being trained to yield AI platforms that can be used for therapeutics purposes. Please join this panel of experts as we discuss various important topics relevant to companies using AI for drug discovery.

Moderator:
[Ali Alemozafar](#), Partner, *Wilson Sonsini*

Speakers:
[Ian Chiang](#), Partner, *Flare Capital*
[Simren Delaney](#), Vice President, Intellectual Property & Legal Operations, *Metagenomi, Inc.*
[Alex Key](#), Partner, *Wilson Sonsini*
Joanna Wang, General Counsel, *Insilico Medicine*

**11:30 a.m. –
12:10 p.m.**

Patent Issues for Biotech Entrepreneurs

Intellectual Property (IP) has been at the forefront for the courts and policy makers in recent years and this focus on IP is expected to continue. We have assembled a panel with representatives from the USPTO, Large Pharma, and the Academic arena to discuss wide ranging topics that impacts IP and global strategy. These topics include but are not limited to the emergence of AI, changing standards in view of recent case law, IP considerations for company acquisition and how to maintain a robust patent and innovative ecosystem in view of a changing landscape.

Moderator:
[Lou Lieto](#), Partner, *Wilson Sonsini*

Speakers:
[Don Huddler](#), Assistant General Counsel, *GSK*
[Arti Rai](#), Elvin R. Latty Professor of Law and Faculty Director, The Center for Innovation Policy, *Duke Law*
[Daniel Sullivan](#), Director of Technology Center 1600 at the United States Patent & Trademark Office, *USPTO*

12:10 – 1:10 p.m. Networking Lunch

1:10 – 1:50 p.m. Life Sciences Capital Markets & IPO Trends

This panel will discuss the recent market dynamics for life sciences IPOs and how management can take control of their initial public offering.

Moderator:
[Karen Deschaine](#), Partner, *Wilson Sonsini*



Speakers:

[Lara Meisner](#), Chief Legal Officer at *Bicara Therapeutics, Inc.*

[Craig Randall](#), Assistant General counsel at *RA Capital* and Counsel at *RA Ventures*

1:50 – 2:30 p.m.

M&A: Trends and Strategies for Navigating the Current Market

Gain insights from panelists with a broad range of diverse experience as they share their perspectives on the M&A market for biotech companies, including how the current economic and investment landscapes are impacting the structure, terms, timelines, and likelihood of M&A transactions.

Moderator:

[Jason Breen](#), Partner, *Wilson Sonsini*

Speakers:

[Keith Gottesdiener](#), President and Chief Executive Officer, *Prime Medicine*

[Maren Winnick](#), Senior Managing Director and Partner, *Evercore*

2:30 – 3:10 p.m.

FDA Panel

Join this panel to hear from former FDA Deputy Commissioner, Deb Autor, and former FDA CDER regulatory counsel, Dan Orr, who will discuss recent FDA regulatory developments impacting the industry and regulatory strategies for engaging with FDA. Topics will include the impact of the Loper Bright case, overruling the Chevron doctrine, on FDA regulation and potential risks to the biotech/pharmaceutical industry, strategies for startups to obtain early feedback from FDA and to expedite their approval process, as well as common mistakes and challenges faced by startups when engaging with FDA.

Moderator:

[Eva Yin](#), Partner, *Wilson Sonsini*

Speakers:

[Deb Autor](#), Chief Executive Officer, *Healthcare Innovation Catalysts*

[Sue Lim](#), Principal, *Insight Biologics LLC*

[Daniel Orr](#), Senior Counsel, *Wilson Sonsini*

3:10 – 3:30 p.m.

Break

3:30 – 4:10 p.m.

Fireside Chat: An Interview with Chris Gibson, Co-founder and CEO, Recursion Pharmaceuticals

[Chris Gibson](#), co-founder and chief executive officer of Recursion Pharmaceuticals, developed the technology and approach that seeded Recursion as part of his MD/PhD work in the lab of co-founder Dr. Dean Li while at the University of Utah. After completing his Utah Ph.D. in Bioengineering in 2013, Chris left medical school to build Recursion into the rapidly growing company it is today.

Join us for this featured interview session moderated by [Farah Gerdes](#), Partner, *Wilson Sonsini*.

4:10 – 4:50 p.m.

Big Pharma Panel: Forging Successful Collaborations in Biotech

Partnering with pharma is a critical piece of a biotech's development and fund-raising strategy. Join us for a panel of seasoned pharma and biotech executives to hear their perspectives on deal-making prospects and strategies for the coming years.



Moderator:
[Farah Gerdes](#), Partner, *Wilson Sonsini*

Speakers:
[Brian Bronk](#), Experienced Business Development Leader, *Sanofi*
[Mark Dennish](#), Principal, *Junipa LLC*
[Scott DeWire](#), Executive Director, Head of Business Development & Licensing, USA, *Boehringer Ingelheim*
[Jeff Walsh](#), CEO, *Nvelop Therapeutics*

4:50 – 5:30 p.m. Mapping Biological Ground State to Unlock New Drugs for Common Disorders

A focus on the intersection of biological mapping, baseline biological states, and the development of novel drugs for common disorders.

Moderator:
[Ian Edvalson](#), Partner, *Wilson Sonsini*

Speakers:
[Ed Boyden](#), Founder, *Cognito Therapeutics*
[Brent Vaughan](#), Founder, *Stealth TechBio*

5:30 – 5:35 p.m. Closing Remarks

5:35 – 7:00 p.m. Venture Capital Uncorked: Wine Tasting Closing Reception

Please note that the schedule and panel topics are subject to change.