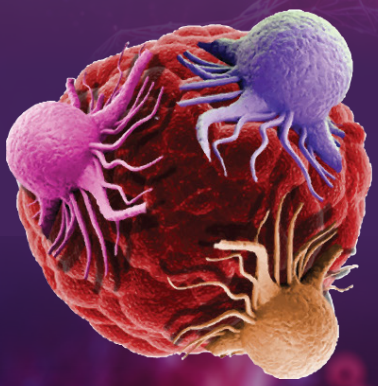
February 10-11, 2027 | San Francisco, CA

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FREE* TO ATTEND FOR DRUG DEVELOPERS



11th Annual

Tumor Models Summit SAN FRANCISCO

Balance Cost, Speed & Translatability Through Smarter Tumor Model Selection to Advance Discovery, Accelerate Development & Improve Clinical Success

Expert Speakers Include:



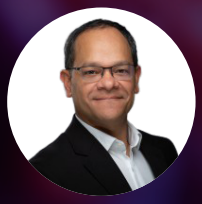
Pamela Contag
Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder
BioEclipse Therapeutics



Vanessa Braunstein
Senior Director, TuneLab AI Drug Discovery Platform Ecosystem Growth
Eli Lilly



Kate Rochlin
President & Chief Operating Officer
IN8Bio



Edgar Rodriguez
Chief Executive Officer
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Colin Flaveny
Senior Director
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Ana Krtolica
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Welcome

Expert Speakers

Agenda

Partner With Us

Register Your Place

Interrogate Model Selection Rationale, Scrutinize Novel Targets & De-Risk Clinical Translation

11th Annual Tumor Models Summit SAN FRANCISCO
February 10-11, 2027 | San Francisco, CA

How confident are you in the development decisions you're making today?

While tumor model innovation continues at pace, oncology teams are under increasing pressure to identify higher-quality targets, prioritize the right candidates and generate stronger evidence before committing valuable time and resources. At the same time, the rise of novel modalities, alongside growing interest in AI and human-relevant systems, is challenging long-held assumptions around target validation, model selection and translational strategy.

The **11th Tumor Models Summit San Francisco** returns as the West Coast's dedicated forum for the leaders responsible for discovery, computational biology, pharmacology, preclinical and translational research. This is the region's only meeting focused on a challenge raised repeatedly by forward-thinking drug developers: "*How do we select the right model to answer the right biological question and increase the likelihood of clinical success?*"

Across two days of *Evidence*-d case studies, peer benchmarking and discussion-driven networking, you will focus on:

- Building more predictive preclinical packages for exciting modalities including ADCs, T-cell engagers, cell therapies, molecular glues and protein degraders
- Applying AI, computational biology and multi-omics approaches to improve target validation, candidate prioritization and development decision-making
- Understanding patient heterogeneity, resistance biology and biomarker strategies to generate stronger translational evidence and improve clinical success
- Benchmarking how leading oncology organizations are integrating *in vitro*, *in vivo*, *ex vivo* and computational approaches to accelerate more confident development decisions

Join **140+ peers** from across pharma and biotech who are shaping how next-generation therapies are prioritized, differentiated and advanced towards the clinic. Discover how leading West Coast organizations are improving model selection, strengthening translational confidence and reducing development risk across today's most sought-after oncology modalities.

What Your 2027 Speakers Have to Say:

"A great opportunity to discuss biological advantages and limitations of different approaches and tumor models, and share insights, challenges and potential solutions with colleagues involved in nonclinical and translational research."

Ana Krtolica, Chief Development Officer, **Swiss Rockets**

"In this fast-paced scientific environment, sharing information at conferences is the most effective way to learn new models and hear the details of other scientists' experiences."

Pamela Contag, Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder, **BioEclipse Therapeutics**

Your Key Program Highlights:

astellas	AMGEN	swissrockets	C4 Therapeutics	SUTRO BIOPHARMA
Build confidence in human-relevant models with **Astellas**, exploring how organoids, tumor cell systems and tissue slices can generate clinically relevant insights while overcoming validation challenges	Advance next-generation T-cell engager programs more confidently with **Amgen**, learning a fit-for-purpose framework for model selection to improve efficacy, PK/PD, safety and mechanism of action assessments for solid tumors	Improve model selection confidence with **Swiss Rockets**, assessing how different in vitro, cell-based and in vivo systems answer distinct biological, PK/PD and translational questions throughout development	Accelerate degrader candidate progression with **C4 Therapeutics**, leveraging functional biology and translational insights to strengthen target validation, candidate quality and fit-for-purpose model selection	Bridge the gap between preclinical findings and clinical outcomes with **Sutro Biopharma**, integrating efficacy, PK and biomarker data to improve ADC development, patient selection and translational success

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What's New For 2027?

11th Annual Tumor Models Summit SAN FRANCISCO
February 10-11, 2027 | San Francisco, CA

The conversation has evolved; it's no longer about whether one model is better than another. The challenge today is understanding which model generates the evidence needed to confidently progress a candidate towards the clinic, and how leading organizations are combining complementary approaches to improve clinical translation.

We Heard Your Call for More Discussion – Introducing the New Tumor Models Format

The most valuable insights don't come from slides alone. They come from understanding why one team chose a different approach, how they overcame a challenge and what they would do differently next time.

In response to our community's feedback, we've redesigned the agenda to create more opportunities for benchmarking, discussion and shared learning. Each content block combines focused case studies with interactive peer discussions, helping you move beyond the data and understand the decisions behind it.

'Evidence': Learn what worked, what didn't and why

20-minute case studies from leading oncology teams sharing practical lessons on model selection, translational evidence and candidate progression

'Insights Exchange': Ask the questions that matter most to your team

Interactive Q&A discussion designed to benchmark, compare and explore the challenges and strategies shaping oncology development today

Fresh Insights, New Content

- **82%** New Speaker Faculty
- **48%** New Case Studies on Humanized & Next-Generation In Vivo Models
- **37%** New Case Studies on Applying Organoids, Chips, Patient Tissue Slices & More
- **15%** New Focus on Discovery Models for Discovery & Bioinformatics Teams
- **4+** New Case Studies on AI Applications in Preclinical Oncology
- **NEW** Investment-Focused Panel Discussion

Key Sessions: *Evidence*-Based, Not to Be Missed

- Applying AI across Small Molecule & Antibody Discovery to Improve Candidate Selection, Reduce Development Risk & Accelerate Early R&D
- Moving Faster with Smarter Model Strategies to Improve Clinical Predictability & Reduce Development Timelines
- Building Confidence in Human-Relevant Models: The NIH SOM Approach to Standardization, Healthy Tissue References & AI-Enabled Translational Science

New Networking & Updated Discussion Formats

- Model-Focused Speed Networking
- Modality Benchmarking Roundtables
- Insights Exchanges – Ask Your Speakers Q&A Panels
- Crown '*Best Poster Award Winner*' for 2027

13 New Companies for 2027 Including:

APEXimmune therapeutics · BicEclipse Therapeutics targeted biotherapy · EXELIXIS · iOncologi Advancing Next-Generation Immunotherapies · Lilly · Pfizer · SENTI BIO · Vir Biotechnology™

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Your Expert Speakers

Pharmaceutical Modeling Pioneers



Deepali Sawant
Scientific Associate Director
Amgen



Ernesto Diaz-Flores
Director - Cancer Biology Research & Therapeutics
Astellas



Jorge Benitez-Hernandez
Senior Principal Scientist
BMS



Jessica Orf
Director
Gilead

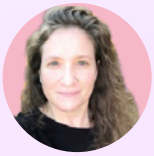


Vanessa Braunstein
Senior Director, TuneLab AI Drug Discovery Platform Ecosystem Growth
Eli Lilly



Colin Flaveny
Senior Director
Pfizer

Strategic Biotechnology Shakers



Barbara Sennino
Senior Vice President & Head of Early Development
3T Biosciences



Kan Lu
Senior Director of Biology
Apeximmune Therapeutics



Pamela Contag
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BioEclipse Therapeutics



Mathew Sowa
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C4 Therapeutics



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Chief Executive Officer
Phythera Therapeutics



Michael Winter
Vice President of Platform Biology & Translational Sciences
Ridge Biotechnologies



Nick Frankel
Director of Research
Senti Biosciences



Genevive Hernandez
Executive Director, Biomarker Research & Translational Science
Sutro Biopharma



Ana Krtolica
Chief Development Officer
Swiss Rockets



Poonam Yakkundi
Associate Director - Pharmacology Medical & Health
Synthetic Design Lab



Nathan Mathewson
Director, Immune Targeting
Vir Biotechnology

Government Research Leader & Life Science Investor



Srivatsan Kidambi
Scientific Director, NIH SOM Initiative
NIH/NIAID



Jay Batchu
Senior Associate & Entrepreneur in Residence
Xontogeny

Conference Day One
Wednesday, February 10

8.00 **Check-In, Badge Collection & Pre-Event Networking**



Jessica Orf
Director
Gilead

8.50 **Chair's Opening Remarks**

Strategically Selecting the Right Models for Rising Modalities to Improve Candidate Prioritization & Strengthen Translational Confidence



Deepali Sawant
Scientific Associate Director
Amgen
New In Vivo Data
TCE Expertise

9.00 **Evidence: Preclinical Models for Evaluating Next-Generation T Cell Engagers in Solid Tumors**

- Exploring the challenges of modeling solid tumor microenvironment complexity to enable predictive evaluation of T cell engagers
- Presenting a fit-for-purpose framework for selecting models to evaluate efficacy, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics, mechanism of action, and safety translation
- Highlighting how insights from strategically designed preclinical models can inform the development of next-generation T cell engager formats and clinical development strategies



Barbara Sennino
Senior Vice President & Head of Early Development
3T Biosciences
New Organoid Data

9.20 **Evidence: Applying Patient-Derived Organoid Models to Generate More Predictive Preclinical Evidence & Strengthen Confidence Before the Clinic**

- Leveraging patient-derived organoid systems to better capture tumor heterogeneity, treatment history and clinically relevant biology
- Comparing organoid and humanized model approaches to understand where each system contributes unique translational value
- Generating stronger preclinical evidence packages to improve confidence in candidate progression and clinical decision-making



Ana Krtolica
Chief Development Officer
Swiss Rockets
New Company

9.40 **Evidence: Selecting the Right Model to Answer the Right Question: Lessons Learned Across *In Vitro*, Cell-Based & *In Vivo* Studies**

- Comparing how different model systems contribute unique insights into target biology, mechanism of action and therapeutic response throughout drug development
- Evaluating which questions around efficacy, target engagement, biodistribution and PK/PD can be confidently addressed in preclinical models and which require additional evidence before translation to humans
- Building stronger translational strategies by understanding when to progress between *in vitro*, cell-based and in vivo models, and how to interpret conflicting datasets when making development decisions

10.00 **Insights Exchange: How are Leading Oncology Teams Actually Choosing Models in 2027?**

- What does "fit for purpose" look like?
- Who owns model selection?
- Discovery vs Translational priorities?
- When do you move from cell lines into more complex systems?
- Can one platform ever answer everything?



Moderated by:
Jessica Orf
Director
Gilead



Ana Krtolica
Chief Development Officer
Swiss Rockets



Barbara Sennino
Senior Vice President & Head of Early Development
3T Biosciences



Deepali Sawant
Scientific Associate Director
Amgen

New Networking Format

10.20 **Morning Break & Model-Focused Speed Networking Session**

Looking for honest answers about what works, what doesn't and which models are actually generating meaningful data? Meet the peers tackling the same modeling challenges as you. Ahead of the meeting, attendees will be matched through a short pre-event questionnaire with peers working across similar model systems. Through a series of structured networking exchanges, compare model selection strategies, share lessons learned and benchmark how others are addressing the biological, translational and operational challenges associated with each platform.

Conference Day One
Wednesday, February 10

Maximizing the Value of In Vivo Models Through Smarter Selection, Humanization Strategies & Complementary Development Approaches



Poonam Yakkundi
Associate Director - Pharmacology Medical & Health
Synthetic Design Lab
New In Vivo Data
ADC Expertise

11.20 **Evidence: Leveraging CDX models to Characterize ADCs, Understand PK/PD Relationships & Build a Foundation for Future Humanized Model Development**

- Using CDX mouse models to generate early efficacy, PK/PD and target engagement data to better understand molecule performance during preclinical development
- Evaluating the trade-offs between model complexity, resource constraints and translational insight when building a development strategy as an emerging biotech
- Building confidence in candidate progression today while identifying when and where future investment in humanized models will provide additional biological value

11.40 **Session Reserved for** genoway



Nick Frankel
Director of Research
Senti Biosciences
In Vivo Data
Cell Therapy Expertise

12.10 **Evidence: Building More Predictive Preclinical Models for Logic-Gated Cell Therapies to Improve Candidate Selection & Translational Confidence**

- Developing specialized preclinical models to evaluate OR/NOT logic-gated CAR constructs and better distinguish tumour from healthy tissues in complex biological environments
- Comparing in vitro, in vivo, and translational model systems to understand how engineered NK and T-cell modalities perform across solid and liquid tumours
- Using model-derived insights to improve candidate selection, donor selection strategies, and confidence before advancing programmes towards the clinic

12.30 **Insights Exchange: Are we Getting the Most Value from Our In Vivo Studies?**

- How do we determine which biological questions truly require in vivo studies versus alternative model systems?
- What can CDX, syngeneic and humanized models uniquely tell us about efficacy, mechanism, PK/PD and translational risk?
- How are teams combining in vivo and non-animal approaches to generate stronger evidence while managing cost, timelines and resource constraints?



Moderated by:
Deepali Sawant
Scientific Associate Director
Amgen



Poonam Yakkundi
Associate Director - Pharmacology Medical & Health
Synthetic Design Lab



Nick Frankel
Director of Research
Senti Biosciences

12.50 **Session Reserved for** studylog
Animal Study Workflow Software

1.00 **Lunch Break**

Conference Day One
Wednesday, February 10

1.00 **Invite Only Lunch Presented by** CERTIS ONCOLOGY INTELLIGENCE

Combining Human-Relevant Models with Traditional Approaches to Advance Translational Certainty



Colin Flaveny
Senior Director
Pfizer
NAMs & In Vivo Data
New Pharma

2.00 **Evidence: Moving Faster with Smarter Model Strategies to Improve Clinical Predictability & Reduce Development Timelines**

- Sharing practical lessons learned selecting between traditional in vivo models, mini-PDX systems, organoids and tumor-on-a-chip platforms across diverse modalities
- Understanding which biological and translational questions are best addressed through each model system and where complexity adds meaningful value
- Building more efficient development pathways by using fit-for-purpose models to prioritize candidates, support patient selection and strengthen confidence before clinical evaluation

2.20 **Session Reserved for** XLIDE



Kate Rochlin
President & Chief Operating Officer
IN8Bio
TCE Expertise
New Company

2.50 **Evidence: Building More Predictive Preclinical Packages for TCE Through Strategic Model Selection, Mechanistic Understanding & Translational Planning**

- Evaluating fit-for-purpose complex in vitro and in vivo models to characterize gamma-delta T-cell engager activity, immune activation and anti-tumor responses across oncology indications
- Using mechanistic approaches, including confocal imaging and translational model systems, to understand target engagement, safety, cytokine release risk and therapeutic efficacy
- Applying lessons learned across cell therapies, antibody therapeutics and induced autoimmune models to improve candidate prioritization, support regulatory interactions and enable expansion into new indications

3.10 **Insights Exchange: From Data Generation to Decision-Making - Which Preclinical Insights Actually Change Development Strategy?**

- Which datasets most often influence programme progression, indication selection and clinical planning?
- How do mechanistic understanding and translational biology complement efficacy data when evaluating candidates?
- What evidence ultimately changes minds in project teams and drives go/no-go decisions?



Moderated by:
Jessica Orf
Director
Gilead



Colin Flaveny
Senior Director
Pfizer



Kate Rochlin
President & Chief Operating Officer
IN8Bio

3.30 **Poster Competition & Refreshments Break**

Who will take home this year's Best Poster Award?

Explore some of the most exciting emerging research in tumor modeling, translational oncology and preclinical development as poster presenters compete for recognition from their peers.

In an era of AI-generated summaries and increasingly condensed scientific communication, this session provides a rare opportunity to engage with the researchers themselves, understand the context behind the data and explore the nuances often missed in a slide deck or abstract.

Conference Day One
Wednesday, February 10

Balancing Speed, Cost & Biological Relevance Across Discovery Models to Improve Early Decision-Making

New Theme for Discovery & Bioinformatics Teams

4.30 **Evidence: Leveraging Functional Biology & Early Translational Insights to Prioritize Degrader Programs, Select Fit-For-Purpose Models & Improve Candidate Quality**



Mathew Sowa
Vice President, Lead Discovery
C4 Therapeutics
Discovery Models
Degrader Expertise

- Applying disease biology, proteomics and functional characterization approaches to identify promising degrader targets and validate the most compelling therapeutic hypotheses
- Building translational understanding earlier through target engagement, dose-response, DMPK and safety assessments to improve candidate selection decisions
- Using biological and pharmacological insights to determine which indications to pursue and which *in vitro* and *in vivo* models are best suited to evaluate efficacy, mechanism of action and translational potential

4.50 **Evidence: Selecting Biologically Relevant Discovery Models to Improve Target Validation, Candidate Prioritization & Translational Confidence**



Christopher Szeto
Senior Director, Discovery Bioinformatics
Exelixis
Discovery Models
New Company

- Leveraging genomics, target expression and mechanism-of-action data to select fit-for-purpose in vitro models that better reflect the underlying biology
- Applying computational biology, AI and publicly available datasets to support target identification, biomarker discovery and more informed study design
- Building a stronger bridge between *in vitro*, CDX, PDX and downstream development models to improve confidence before progressing into more resource-intensive studies

5.10 **Insights Exchange: How Much Complexity Is Enough in Discovery?**

- Which discovery-stage models should and should not be expected to predict?
- What is the value of simpler versus more complex systems across different stages of development?
- How can we better develop practical strategies for balancing throughput, cost and translational relevance?



Moderated by: Deepali Sawant
Scientific Associate Director
Amgen



Mathew Sowa
Vice President, Lead Discovery
C4 Therapeutics



Christopher Szeto
Senior Director, Discovery Bioinformatics
Exelixis



Jessica Orf
Director
Gilead

5.30 **Chair's Closing Remarks**

> "This is an excellent forum to learn from and engage with other leaders in oncology drug development, creating opportunities for meaningful collaborations and relationships that drive scientific innovation and advance the field"
>
> Nathan Mathewson, Director, Immune Targeting, **Vir Biotechnology**

Conference Day Two
Thursday, February 11

8.00 **Check-In & Morning Coffee**



Jessica Orf
Director
Gilead

8.25 **Chair's Opening Remarks**

Leveraging New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) to Better Understand Biology & De-Risk Asset Development



Ernesto Diaz-Flores
Director - Cancer Biology Research & Therapeutics
Astellas
NAMs Data
New Pharma

8.30 **Evidence: Using Patient-Derived Organoids, Tumor Cell Systems & Tissue Slice Models to Generate More Predictive Preclinical Evidence**

- Evaluating how organoids, dissociated tumor cells and tissue slice platforms have been successfully applied to generate clinically relevant biological insights and support therapeutic evaluation
- Addressing barriers around tissue procurement, explant viability, validation requirements and demonstrating reproducibility across patient-derived model systems
- Identifying the evidence needed to increase confidence in alternative models, support evolving regulatory expectations and enable broader adoption in drug development workflows

8.50 **Session Reserved for** HUB ORGANOIDS is now part of MilliporeSigma



Srivatsan Kidambi
Scientific Director, NIH SOM Initiative
NIH/NIAID
NAMs Data
New Organization

9.20 **Evidence: Building Confidence in Human-Relevant Models: The NIH SOM Approach to Standardization, Healthy Tissue References & AI-Enabled Translational Science**

- Developing standardized, well-characterized organoid systems to provide reproducible biological baselines that can complement disease-specific and tumor models
- Exploring how AI, automation, and integrated data approaches can strengthen model development, characterization, and experimental reproducibility
- Establishing performance benchmarks, quantifying biological variability, and defining model limitations to support reliable interpretation and translational applications

9.40 **Insights Exchange: Have Human-Relevant Models Earned Their Place in Development Decision-Making?**

- Where do organoids outperform mice?
- What remains impossible?
- What validation is still needed?
- What would convince your organization to increase adoption?



Moderated by:
Deepali Sawant
Scientific Associate Director
Amgen



Ernesto Diaz-Flores
Director - Cancer Biology Research & Therapeutics
Astellas



Srivatsan Kidambi
Scientific Director, NIH SOM Initiative
NIH/NIAID

10.00 **Modality Benchmarking Roundtables & Morning Break**

New Networking Format

Structured around therapeutic modality and development focus, these informal roundtable discussions provide an opportunity to compare model selection strategies, share lessons learned and discuss the biological and translational questions shaping today's oncology pipelines. Exchange practical insights, challenge assumptions and learn how your peers are improving development decisions across the industry's most important modalities.

Conference Day Two
Thursday, February 11

Applying AI/ML, & Computational Biology to Improve Model Selection, Biomarker Discovery & Translational Decision-Making



Igor Nasonkin
Chief Executive Officer
Phythera Therapeutics
New AI Expertise

10.45 Evidence: Leveraging AI to Deconvolute Complex Therapies into Defined Small-Molecule Combinations to Improve Preclinical Evaluation & Strengthen Partnering Confidence

- Applying AI-driven approaches to transform complex botanical therapies into defined small-molecule cocktails, creating clearer hypotheses and more manageable development strategies
- Improving tumor model selection, PK/PD assessment and safety evaluation by identifying the specific molecules responsible for efficacy rather than evaluating poorly defined mixtures
- Generating more translatable and commercially viable preclinical packages that align with partner, investor and regulatory expectations while accelerating development decisions



Vanessa Braunstein
Senior Director, TuneLab AI Drug Discovery Platform Ecosystem Growth
Eli Lilly
New Pharma
AI Discovery Data

11.05 Evidence: Applying AI across Small Molecule & Antibody Discovery to Improve Candidate Selection, Reduce Development Risk & Accelerate Early R&D

- Leveraging AI-enabled drug discovery approaches to improve target selection, molecule design and candidate prioritization across small molecule and antibody programs
- Discussing challenges with what data to feed into the models and how diverse it is, how do you interpret and trust the outcomes from the models?
- Generating stronger decision-making frameworks that reduce development risk and accelerate progression of the most promising oncology assets



Edgar Rodriguez
Chief Executive Officer
iOncologi
Next-Gen IO Expertise
New Company

11.25 Evidence: Combining AI-Driven Tumor Selection, Translational Biology & GBM Models to Improve Clinical Predictability

- Using patient-derived datasets and AI-enabled analyses to better understand GBM heterogeneity and identify patient populations most likely to benefit from RNA immunotherapies
- Integrating established GBM tumor models with machine learning approaches to validate biological hypotheses and support therapeutic development
- Building more predictive development strategies by using clinical and preclinical data iteratively to inform future candidate selection and translational decision-making

11.45 Insights Exchange: Which Tumor Modeling Challenges Can AI Solve Today & Where Is Human Expertise Still Irreplaceable?

- Where is AI delivering meaningful value across model selection, biomarker discovery and translation?
- What are real-world applications against the industry's current expectations and hype?
- How can we define the balance between computational prediction and biological expertise in decision-making?



Vanessa Braunstein
Senior Director, TuneLab AI Drug Discovery Platform Ecosystem Growth
Eli Lilly



Igor Nasonkin
Chief Executive Officer
Phythera Therapeutics



Edgar Rodriguez
Chief Executive Officer
iOncologi

12.05 Lunch Break

Conference Day Two
Thursday, February 11

Recreating Human Biology Through Better Modeling of the Microenvironment, Immune System & Disease Complexity

1.05 **Evidence: Applying Lessons from Autoimmune T-Cell Engager Development to Improve Model Selection, Earlier Safety Assessment & Translational Confidence**



John Wang
Chief Scientific Officer
Kali Therapeutics
TCE in Autoimmune Expertise
New Company

- Sharing lessons learned from selecting primary human cell systems and NHP models to evaluate immune modulation, B-cell depletion and cytokine release in autoimmune disease
- Exploring how model selection decisions differ when prioritizing immune-system resetting and safety over tumor-cell killing and efficacy
- Generating insights that can help improve translational confidence, safety evaluation and development decision-making across broader immune-mediated therapeutic areas

1.25 **Evidence: Translating Solid Tumor T-Cell Engager Biology into Clinical Development Strategies Through Smarter Preclinical Evaluation**



Nathan Mathewson
Director, Immune Targeting
Vir Biotechnology
Spheroids & In Vivo Data
TCE Expertise

- Comparing co-culture assays, spheroid models and in vivo systems to determine which approaches generate the most actionable insights into T-cell engager activity before progressing into more resource-intensive studies
- Evaluating how differences in tumor immune composition influence therapeutic response, using immune-inflamed and immune-cold models to better understand efficacy, cytokine release and therapeutic index for masked T-cell engager approaches
- Exploring how model selection influences the ability to characterize cytokine release, off-tumor toxicity and therapeutic index when developing next-generation masked T-cell engagers

1.45 **Evidence: Leveraging Humanized Transgenic Models to Better Understand PD-1 Resistance, Evaluate Macrophage Engagers & Advance Next-Generation Immunotherapies**



Kan Lu
Senior Director of Biology
Apeximmune Therapeutics
In Vivo Data
New Company

- Developing and applying transgenic models engineered with human immune checkpoint targets to investigate mechanisms of resistance to anti-PD-1/PD-L1 therapies
- Characterizing macrophage engager activity, immune modulation pathways and mechanism of action to identify new opportunities for improving patient response
- Building stronger translational evidence through biomarker discovery, target validation and combination strategy development to support future clinical success

2.05 **Insights Exchange: How Close Are We to Recreating a Human Tumor & Human Microenvironment & What Biological Gaps Still Limit Translation?**

- What are the remaining barriers hindering our ability to fully model patient biology outside the clinic?
- Benchmarking progress in recreating tumor heterogeneity, microenvironment and immune complexity
- Which innovations are most likely to improve clinical predictability over the next two-three years?



Moderated by: Jessica Orf
Director
Gilead



John Wang
Chief Scientific Officer
Kali Therapeutics



Nathan Mathewson
Director, Immune Targeting
Vir Biotechnology



Kan Lu
Senior Director of Biology
Apeximmune Therapeutics



Michael Winter
Vice President of Platform Biology & Translational Sciences
Ridge Biotechnologies
New Company

2.35 **Afternoon Break & Poster Award Winner Ceremony**

Join us as we announce this year's **Best Poster Award**, recognizing the standout research advancing tumor modeling, translational oncology and preclinical development. Take the opportunity to network, exchange final insights and connect with fellow attendees before the summit concludes.

Conference Day Two
Thursday, February 11

Understanding Regulatory & Investor Expectations for Emerging Model Platforms to Build Stronger Preclinical Packages & Secure Program Progression

3.05 The 'Dragons' Exchange: What Actually Constitutes a Strong Preclinical Package in 2027 & How Are Expectations Changing Across Investors, Pharma Partners & Strategic Acquirers?

- How are investors, pharma partners and acquirers evaluating preclinical evidence today?
- How are changing expectations influencing model selection and program progression?
- What are the data packages that best support funding, partnering and development decisions?
- How are changing expectations around translational data, model selection, freedom-to-operate and competitive positioning influencing program progression and deal-making?
- What scientific, strategic and intellectual property considerations most effectively support funding, partnering, licensing and acquisition decisions?



Moderated by:
Deepali Sawant
Scientific Associate Director
Amgen



Ana Krtolica
Chief Development Officer
Swiss Rockets



Jay Batchu
Senior Associate & Entrepreneur in Residence
Xontogeny
New Company

New Investment-Focused Discussion

Strengthening Clinical Translation Through Better Mechanistic Understanding, Biomarker Strategies & Translational Evidence



Genevive Hernandez
Executive Director, Biomarker Research & Translational Science
Sutro Biopharma
In Vivo Data
ADC Expertise

3.40 Evidence: Bridging Preclinical Efficacy, Biomarker & Clinical Response Data to Improve ADC Development & Patient Selection

- Combining efficacy, PK and biomarker findings from preclinical cancer models to build a stronger understanding of therapeutic response and mechanism of action
- Leveraging translational research approaches to connect preclinical insights with emerging clinical biomarker and response data across ADC programs
- Improving patient stratification and development decision-making by identifying biomarkers that support candidate differentiation, clinical translation and future therapeutic success



Jorge Benitez-Hernandez
Senior Principal Scientist
BMS
New NAMs Data

4.00 Evidence: Building Predictive Development Strategies Through Patient-Centric Discovery, Functional Screening & Translational Model Selection

- Applying patient-centric discovery approaches and 3D Organoid PRISM-based functional screening platforms to identify and validate disease-relevant targets for novel therapeutic hypotheses
- Leveraging multi-omics molecular profiling and translational research approaches to deconvolute gene expression, mutation profiles and drug sensitivity across patient-derived systems
- Integrating these insights to select fit-for-purpose programs, validate mechanisms of action and generate stronger evidence packages that support downstream clinical decision-making



Pamela Contag
Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder
BioEclipse Therapeutics
Next-Gen IO Expertise
New Company

4.20 Evidence: Comparison of Preclinical Models & Clinical Trial Studies to Better Understand Immune Activation & the MOA of Combined Immune Cells & Oncolytic Virus as a Therapy for Ovarian Cancer

- Comparing immune-competent and immune-compromised systems to determine how preclinical models can best capture immune responses to novel oncolytic virus therapies
- Investigating mechanisms of action, including NK-like T-cell activation, immune repair pathways and interactions with checkpoint inhibitors to guide development decisions
- Building stronger translational strategies through biomarker identification, combination therapy evaluation and evidence generation in difficult-to-treat patient populations

Conference Day Two
Thursday, February 11

4.40 **Insights Exchange: Why Do Promising Models Still Fail in the Clinic?**

- What are the most common sources of translational failure across oncology despite advances in modeling?
- Which critical evidence gaps are often missed during preclinical evaluation?
- What innovations are most likely to improve clinical predictability and reduce late-stage attrition over the next five years?



Moderated by:
Jessica Orf
Director
Gilead



Pamela Contag
Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder
BioEclipse Therapeutics



Genevive Hernandez
Executive Director, Biomarker Research & Translational Science
Sutro Biopharma



Jorge Benitez-Hernandez
Senior Principal Scientist
BMS



Jessica Orf
Director
Gilead

5.00 **Chair's Closing Remarks & End of Summit**

> A good chance to communicate with other people in the field and share our work to others and hopefully get some meaning feedback and also learn from others

John Wang, Chief Scientific Officer, **Kali Therapeutics**

> Wonderful host and insightful speakers with informative presentations. I enjoyed the summit and look forward to the next one!

Senior Scientist, **AbbVie**

2027 Partners

LIDE – Expertise Partner

LIDE is an award-winning oncology contract research organization with 12 years of delivering drug evaluation services to 200+ clients worldwide. We offer traditional preclinical CRO services like pharmacology, PK, and biomarker studies with 70+ CDX models and 2000 patient-derived xenograft (PDX) models. Our library covers 50+ cancer types and 200+ models harbor special naturally-occurred drug-resistant and/or genetic alterations. Ask us about our proprietary tools for in-vivo drug validation in 7-10 days.

www.lidebiotech.com

HUB Organoids – Expertise Partner

HUB Organoids is a pioneering biotechnology company specializing in the application of Organoid Technology to drug discovery, personalized medicine, and disease modeling. Founded in 2013 following the discovery of adult stem cells, HUB´s drug development platform uses advanced 3D organoid models derived from patient tissues, enabling more accurate and predictive research for preclinical testing and therapeutic development. HUB´s innovative platform accelerates the discovery of effective treatments by closely mimicking human biology and is available on a fee for service basis to scientists working in drug discovery and development in the therapeutic areas of oncology, inflammation/IBD, infectious diseases, and for toxicology investigation. HUB is now part of the Life Science Business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, which operates as MilliporeSigma in the US and Canada.

www.huborganoids.nl

genOway - Expertise Partner

genOway is a biotechnology company offering preclinical models and solutions, especially genetically-modified mouse, rat and cell line models, to biopharmaceutical companies, CROs and academic institutions worldwide. Its goal is to provide ultimate predictability in preclinical research to help its clients select the best therapeutics to accelerate drug development from bench to bedside.

www.genoway.com

Certis Oncology – Hosting Partner

Certis Oncology Solutions is a life science technology company committed to realizing the promise of precision oncology. Our product is “Oncology Intelligence™”— highly predictive therapeutic response data derived from advanced biological models of cancer. Our proprietary platform informs individual treatment decisions and accelerates the development of new cancer therapies. We partner with therapeutics developers to help close the problematic translation gap between preclinical studies and clinical trials. Through more clinically relevant, well-characterized and annotated models, advanced imaging technology and thoughtfully designed studies, Certis brings greater certainty to go/no-go development decisions.

www.certisoncology.com

2027 Partners

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Studylog is the leading animal study management platform that helps research teams run more studies with less effort. Automating study setup and scheduling, real-time task management, data capture, randomization, and reporting is how Studylog streamlines the entire in vivo study lifecycle. By reducing manual work and improving visibility across teams, it acts like an extra set of hands—so you can focus on the science, not the process. Over half of the top 20 pharmaceutical companies appreciate the power, the flexibility, and our hands-on implementation and support experts. Studylog makes animal study conduct & management easier than you ever imagined.

www.studylog.com

Biocytogen - Exhibition Partner

Biocytogen is a global biotech company advancing antibody drug development through innovative technologies. Leveraging gene-editing expertise, it pioneered drug target knock-in humanized models and offers 3,000+ models via BioMice™, along with *in vivo*, *ex vivo*, and *in vitro* pharmacology and custom gene-editing services.

Biocytogen drives fully human monoclonal antibody discovery and offers 400,000+ antibody sequences targeting 1,000 proteins through its RenBiologics™ sub-brand for global partnerships.

www.biocytogen.com

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ChemPartner is a global contract research organization with over 20 years of expertise, supporting drug discovery and development from concept to IND readiness. Our multidisciplinary teams deliver integrated services in discovery chemistry, target validation, pharmacology, DMPK, toxicology, and developability screening. Our state-of-the art facilities also offer biologics discovery, antibody engineering, CMC development and manufacturing.

We collaborate with biotech, pharma, and academic partners worldwide, providing scientific insights to solve complex challenges, validate strategies, and scale seamlessly from clinic to market. With locations in China, Europe, and the US, we're your alliance for translating science into patient impact.

www.chempartner.com

Get Involved



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Partner With Us

11th Annual Tumor Models Summit SAN FRANCISCO
February 10-11, 2027 | San Francisco, CA

Your Dedicated Route to the West Coast Oncology Decision-Makers Shaping Oncology Model Selection & Translational Strategy

As oncology teams face increasing pressure to generate stronger translational evidence, justify preclinical investment and progress only the most promising assets into the clinic, the importance of selecting the right external partners has never been greater. Novel targets and modalities, tighter funding environments and growing interest in human-relevant models are forcing drug developers to re-evaluate what constitutes a truly predictive preclinical package.

The **11th Tumor Models Summit San Francisco** is the West Coast's only dedicated forum bringing together the leaders responsible for model selection, translational strategy and development decision-making.

This is not a trade show; it's a curated community of scientific and strategic decisionmakers seeking partners that can help them improve clinical translation, build stronger preclinical packages and reduce development risk.

They are seeking:

Partners that can improve candidate prioritization and target validation through predictive model platforms, functional screening technologies and translational biology expertise

Solutions that strengthen confidence in development decisions across efficacy, safety, mechanism-of-action, resistance modeling and patient selection

Technologies that deepen understanding of tumor biology and clinical translatability, including biomarkers, patient-derived systems, sequencing and multi-omics approaches

AI, computational biology and predictive analytics capabilities that improve target identification, patient stratification and translational decision-making

Specialist model providers across *in vivo*, *in vitro*, complex *in vitro* and *ex vivo* platforms that help teams select the right model for the right biological question and generate more clinically relevant evidence

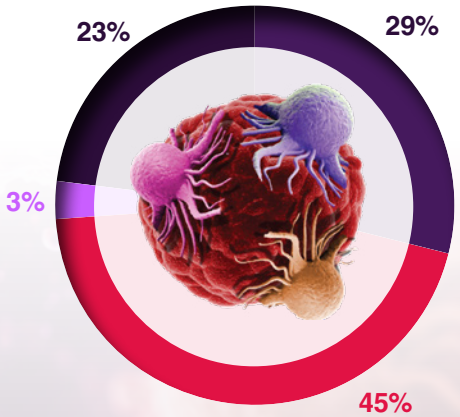
For organizations looking to build relationships with the people influencing how oncology assets are prioritized, differentiated and advanced, there is no more focused West Coast forum.

Seniority of Attendees



- Chief = 10%
- President/VP = 14%
- Director/Head = 26%
- Manager/Lead = 27%
- Principal Scientist/ Scientist = 18%
- Other = 5%

Type of Companies Attending



- West Coast Pharma
- West Coast Biotech
- Research Institute
- Solution Providers

*Statistics Taken from 10th Tumor Models Summit San Francisco

Get Involved



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Ready to Register?

3 Easy Ways to Book

www.tumor-models-san-fran.com/register/

Tel: +1 617 455 4188

Email: info@hansonwade.com

Build Your Network Among the West Coast's Leading Oncology Decision-Makers: Meet **140+** discovery, preclinical and translational leaders from **Pfizer**, **Astellas**, **3T Biosciences**, **BioEclipse** and **Eli Lilly** shaping the future of oncology R&D

Benchmark the Models Driving Tomorrow's Breakthroughs: Explore how leading teams are integrating in vitro, in vivo, ex vivo and computational approaches to answer increasingly complex biological questions and strengthen clinical translation

Uncover Industry Peers' Guides to Generating Stronger Evidence: Discover how **Amgen**, **Astellas**, **Exelixis**, **Gilead**, **Sutro Biopharma** and more are improving target validation, biomarker strategies and translational confidence across next-generation oncology programs

Drug Developer Pricing**

FREE*

Registration is FREE* if you work for a drug developer organization.

*Please note that credit card details will be taken upon registration, and a nominal fee of $0.50 charged.

** A drug developer must only work for a biotech or pharma company with a publicly available pipeline and must not be associated with any role or organization that offers services or solutions for a fee to any other company. As a strategic investment focused meeting, the goal is to foster investment opportunities in tumor modeling between drug developing decision-makers and solution providers. Therefore, all bookings under the drug developer category are subject to organizer approval.

**Senior Academics are eligible for a limited number of complimentary passes provided they present a data-driven poster at the conference.

Free access is only granted once approval of eligibility is confirmed. Hanson Wade retain the right to reject or cancel your registration if eligibility criteria are not met, and paid registration will then be required to access the event.

Hanson Wade Conferences Ltd. reserves the right to charge free access guests a non-refundable charge of $100 if they do not attend the entire event if they fail to give 7 working days' notice of non-attendance.

Solution & Service Provider Pricing***	Register by Friday, December 18 & Save up to $500	On the Door Price
Full Conference	$3,599	$4,099

***Solution and Service Providers refer to all employees from a CRO, Model Provider, Software, R&D, Diagnostic, Imaging, Academic/Research, or Pre-Clinical Service Provider organization who partner with, and provide services to, drug developer and/or research organizations with a publicly available drug pipeline.

Team Discounts****

- **10% discount – 2 Attendees**
- **15% discount – 3 Attendees**
- **20% discount – 4+ Attendees**

****Please note that group discounts are only valid on paid tickets when two or more delegates from one company book and pay at the same time. Group discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount - only one discount may be applied to the current pricing rate.

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Venue

Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport

1333 Old Bayshore Hwy, Burlingame, CA 94010, United States

www.hyatt.com/hyatt-regency/en-US/sfobu-hyatt-regency-san-francisco-airport

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