



Program Agenda

12:00 Registration and Networking

1:00-1:10 Welcoming Remarks, Capitol Ballroom

- John Oates, President and CEO, Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute

1:10-2:00 Texas' Research Institutions are the Future of Healthcare

Texas' research institutions are at the forefront of medical innovation, translating groundbreaking discoveries into new therapies and treatments that will save lives and drive economic growth in Texas. This panel will explore the critical role academic research plays in innovation and how today's policy environment influences the state's ability to advance discovery and remain a global leader in life sciences.

- Mansoor Khan, PhD, RPh, Dean, College of Pharmacy, Texas A&M University
- Jim Ray, PhD, Executive Director, Neuroscience, Therapeutics Discovery Division, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Melinda Villagran, PhD, Executive Director, Translational Health Research Center, Texas State University
- Adam J. Woods, PhD, Dean, School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, The University of Texas at Dallas
- *Moderator: Matt Crommett, Managing Director, LH Capital, Lyda Hill Philanthropies*

2:00-2:20 Speaker Spotlight: From Innovation to Implementation: Advancing Newborn Screening for Rare Diseases

- Kaprice Shullanberger, Parent Advocate, Believing for Bryleigh Foundation
- *Moderator: Lynsey Chediak, Associate Director, State Government Affairs, BioMarin*

2:20-3:10 Strengthening the Rare Disease Care Continuum

For patients living with rare diseases, the path from symptoms to diagnosis and appropriate treatment can be long and challenging. This panel will explore opportunities to accelerate that journey through earlier testing and diagnosis, greater awareness and education among healthcare providers, and improved access to treatment—all of which can save lives and shorten the path to care for patients and families.

- Melissa Bensouda, Patient Advocate, Kidney Health
- Cynthia Bigley, DrPH, MPH, Director of Public Policy, Otsuka Pharmaceutical Companies
- Jim McKay, Director, U.S. Medical Rare Disease, Biogen
- Judith Thompson, PharmD, MPH, CPHQ, Rare Disease Population Health Strategy Lead, UCB
- *Moderator: Pam Crowley Andrews, Founder, Firefly Fund Foundation*

3:10- 3:25 Refreshment break

3:25-3:45 Speaker Spotlight: Chronic Stress and Digestive Health in Military and First Responders

- Anish Patel, DO, Medical Director, Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Center, Brooke Army Medical Center

3:45-4:05 Speaker Spotlight: Advancing Innovation Through Clinical Trials in Texas

- Tom Luby, Chief Innovation Officer, Texas Medical Center

4:05- 4:55 Understanding 340B's Role in the Healthcare System

The rapid growth and expansion of the 340B Drug Pricing Program have become hotly debated public policy topics at the state and federal levels. This panel will provide an overview of how the program works, its intended role in addressing affordability for the nation's most vulnerable patient populations and explore evolving policy discussions and modernization efforts.

- Ashley Calabrese, Director, State Legislative Initiatives, Novartis
- Richard Meyers, Senior Director of U.S. Policy & Research, Bristol Myers Squibb
- Debra Patt, MD, PhD, MBA, Executive Vice President Policy & Strategy Managing Director, Texas Oncology
- *Moderator: John Oates, President and CEO, Texas Healthcare & Bioscience Institute*

4:55-5:00 Closing Remarks

- John Oates, President and CEO, Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute

5:00-6:15 Cocktail Reception

6:15-7:45 Luminary Awards Dinner

2026 Honorees:

The Honorable Tan Parker, Texas Senate

The Honorable Ann Johnson, Texas House of Representatives

Casey McPherson, Founder, AlphaRose Therapeutics, To Cure a Rose Foundation, Everlum Bio