

# DRIVING INNOVATION, PATIENT CARE & ECONOMIC GROWTH

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## Texas Life Sciences Summit Agenda

### Tuesday, March 31

12:30-1:30 Registration, Networking and Expo

### **1:30 Program Begins**

1:30-1:45 Opening Remarks

### **1:45-2:30 Panel 1– Growing Stronger: Bio-Industrial in Texas**

Explore the current landscape of bio-industrial businesses in Texas, see highlights of regional resources, and learn about the innovative and legislative efforts taking place nationwide. Together, we will discuss actionable strategies to accelerate growth and strengthen Texas' position as a leader in bio-industrial innovation.

- Sarah Ackenhusen, PhD, ACS/AAAS Congressional Fellow, National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology
- Veronica Breckenridge, Founder and Managing Partner, First Bight Ventures
- David Kestenbaum, Co-founder and CFO, Cauldron Ferm
- Arad Nikdel, PhD, Vice President, Bioprocess Engineering, n!Biomachines
- Moderator: Verena Kallhoff, PhD, MBA, Senior Director, Global Life Sciences, Greater Houston Partnership

### **2:30-2:50 Speaker Spotlight– Trauma Research and Combat Casualty Care Collaborative**

- Presented by David Lakey, Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and Chief Medical Officer, The University of Texas System

2:50-3:05 Refreshment Break

### **3:05-3:50 Panel 2– Driving Innovation: Biotech Startups**

Founders and ecosystem leaders discuss what it takes to launch, fund, and scale biotech companies in today's competitive landscape. Learn about the resources, partnerships, and policies in Texas that helps early-stage startups succeed and strengthen Texas' life sciences ecosystem.

- Jason Bock, CEO and Co-Founder, CTMC
- Rima Chakrabarti, MD, Rice Biotech Launch Pad
- Nick Diamond, Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig
- Cindy WalkerPeach, Founding Director, NEXXUS
- Moderator: Casey McPherson, CEO, AlphaRose Therapeutics

### **3:50-4:10 Speaker Spotlight– Collaborative Texas-Wide Translational Engine: Networked R&D Cores, De-Risking Capital, & Workforce Training**

- Suzanne Tomlinson-Mathis, PhD, MBA, Director, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Executive Director, GCC Research Evaluation and Commercialization Hub, Institute of Biosciences and Technology, Texas A&M Health Science Center

### **4:10-4:50 Texas Economic Development Fireside Chat**

An inside look at the state's economic outlook, key initiatives, and opportunities driving innovation and investment across Texas from the state's top economic development leaders.

- Adriana Cruz, Executive Director, Texas Economic Development and Tourism, Office of the Texas Governor
- Aaron Demerson, Executive Director, Texas Economic Development Corporation
- Moderator: Eric Danielson, Managing Director, NexPoint

4:50-4:55 Closing Remarks

4:55-5:30 Reception

### **5:30-7:00 Industry Dinner**

*Keynote Speaker:* John Crowley, President and CEO, Biotechnology Innovation Organization

### **Wednesday, April 1**

8:00-9:00 *CEO Breakfast (closed meeting, by invitation only)*

8:15-9:00 Breakfast, Networking and Expo

### **9:00 Program Begins**

9:00-9:10 Welcome Remarks

**9:10-9:40 Biosecurity Fireside Chat**

- John Crowley, President and CEO, Biotechnology Innovation Organization
- Moderator: Bradley Westmoreland, Director, State Government Affairs, Genentech

**9:40-10:15 Texas Biosciences: Driving Innovation, Patient Care, and Economic Growth**

- Victoria Ford, President and CEO, Texas Healthcare & Bioscience Institute

10:15-10:25 Refreshment break

**10:25-11:10 Panel 3– Fueling Growth: Texas Manufacturing**

Hear first-hand from the companies expanding and investing in Texas and learn about competitive advantages that influenced their decisions - from business climate to workforce, infrastructure, and strategic partnerships.

- Geoffrey Gallo, Head of Corporate and State Government Affairs, AstraZeneca
- Tamara Ganka, Laboratory Supervisor, BillionToOne
- Bob Lenich, Process and Knowledge Management Business Director, Emerson Automation Solutions
- Diane Tennenhouse, Site Head-Lilly Houston, Eli Lilly and Company
- Steffen Walter, Chief Operating Officer, Immatix
- Moderator: Victoria Ford, President and CEO, Texas Healthcare & Bioscience Institute

**11:10-11:50 Texas Workforce Commission Keynote**

- Steve Pier, Executive Director, Texas Workforce Commission
- Moderator: Jesse Lewis, Director, State Government Affairs, Bristol Myers Squibb

11:50-1:00 Lunch

**1:00-1:40 Panel 4– Building Talent: Biotech Workforce**

Leaders from education and training will discuss the initiatives building the skilled workforce needed to support Texas' growing life sciences sector. Through innovative partnerships and scalable workforce models, these initiatives are preparing students and professionals for high-demand careers in biotechnology.

- Robyn Cardwell, PhD, Assistant Vice Chancellor / Vice President, Center for Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing, San Jacinto College
- Linnea Fletcher, PhD, Director, InnovATEBIO National Biotechnology Education Center
- Baley Reeves, Director, National Center for Therapeutics Manufacturing
- Melissa Steinmetz, Principal Industry Liaison- Healthcare and Life Science, Workforce Solutions, Gulf Coast Workforce Board
- Moderator: Sarah Ruddy, Chief Business Development Officer, Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area

**1:40-2:00 Speaker Spotlight– Enhancing Workforce Training with Private Solutions**

- Harry Benson, Global Director, CAI

**2:00-2:40 Panel 5– Accelerating Discovery: A DPRIT Preview**

Texas' world-class researchers are preparing to engage with the Dementia Prevention Research Institute of Texas. Panelists will discuss the latest research and how this investment will accelerate breakthroughs and strengthen Texas' position as a leading life science hub.

- Jochen Reiser, MD, PhD, President, The University of Texas Medical Branch
- Sudha Seshadri, MD, Director, Glenn Biggs Institute, UT Health San Antonio
- Farida Sohrabji, PhD, FAHA, Director, Women's Health in Neuroscience Program, Texas A&M University
- Jerzy Szablowski, PhD, Assistant Professor of Bioengineering, Rice Neuroengineering Initiative, Rice University
- Steffen Walter, Chief Operating Officer, Immatix
- Moderator: Shreek Mandayam, PhD, Vice President for Research, Texas State University

2:40-2:55 Refreshment break

**2:55-3:15 Speaker Spotlight– Partnering for Impact: Collaboration that Works**

- Dr. Robert Exley, President, Alvin College
- Dr. Stacy Ebert, Provost and Vice President of Workforce and Strategy, Alvin College

**3:15-4:00 Panel 6– Regional Leadership: Powering Texas Biotech**

Texas' leading life sciences regions come together to showcase how Texas has established itself as a leader in life science innovation. Regional leaders will discuss how their communities are driving the innovation economy and working together to sustain and accelerate this momentum across the state.

- Ashley Gossen, Chief Economic Development Officer, greater:SATX
- Zach Hightower, Vice President, Economic Development, Opportunity Austin
- Craig Rhodes, Senior Vice President, Economic Development, Greater Houston Partnership
- Mike Rosa, Senior Vice President, Economic Development, Dallas Regional Chamber
- Moderator: Thomas Graham, CEO, Crosswind Media & Public Relations

4:00-4:05 Closing Remarks

4:05-5:00 Closing Reception