



FALL POLICY SUMMIT

and Luminary Awards Dinner

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2025

AT&T Hotel and Conference Center, Austin, Texas

TEXAS BIOTECH:

Driving Innovation, Putting Patients First

Presented by



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Wi-Fi Network: UT GUEST

WELCOME



FALL POLICY SUMMIT *and Luminary Awards Dinner*

The Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute (THBI) is the statewide voice for the life science and biotech industry, working to support the industry through effective legislation, a steady regulatory environment, and facilitating collaboration with state leaders to promote and enhance the industry. With a focus on using advocacy as a tool to create a more favorable business environment for life science, biotech and other partners, we work with government and industry leaders to bring focus to the value of and opportunities to grow the industry.

The Texas life sciences industry is committed to expanding the boundaries of science by discovering, developing, and delivering innovative, life-saving medications and medical devices to patients. The membership of THBI is dedicated to creating an environment where such discoveries flourish and thrive.

Our members not only have a voice at the Capitol through our respected legislative team, but they also benefit from extensive networking with state and industry leaders, research institutions, and other industry partners across Texas. THBI is the leading public policy voice in the state, influencing legislation that has led to economic investment and medical breakthroughs for almost 30 years.

Become a THBI member to be a part of the important policy initiatives our industry is working on. Visit www.thbi.com to stay informed about upcoming events and opportunities or contact us directly at info@thbi.com.

Join Texas' leading life science organization and become a THBI member today!

THBI members receive exclusive benefits, including:

- Connections across our broad network of public, private, and academic/research partners;
- Collaboration with Texas' life sciences community, working together to create a thriving ecosystem for companies to develop, grow and flourish;
- Invitations to our robust programming schedule and the opportunity to participate in THBI events as a speaker;
- Regular updates on the latest policy issues and industry news through weekly e-newsletters and monthly members-only President's Calls;
- Gain company visibility through THBI channels, including e-newsletters, member profiles, and social media channels;
- Access to BIO Business Solutions Purchasing Program, offering special rates on 18+ participating vendors.

To effectively advocate on behalf of the life science ecosystem, we need support from all companies, big and small. ***Your voice is critical to our success as an industry.***



**CONTACT THBI TO
JOIN OR LEARN MORE!**

(512) 708-8424
info@thbi.com
www.thbi.com

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and Programming

12:00-1:00 REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING

1:15-1:20 WELCOMING REMARKS

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

1:20-2:10 TEXAS UNIVERSITIES PIONEERING RESEARCH FOR PATIENTS

Learn how Texas universities are leading the way to a healthier future for patients by supporting researchers and driving commercialization of next generation medical breakthroughs.

- **Dillon Gee**, College of Science and Engineering, Texas State University
- **Anokhi Kholwadwala**, School of Engineering Medicine, Texas A&M University
- **Jennifer Litton**, MD, MHCM, Vice President for Clinical Research, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center
- **Eric Peterson**, MD, MPH, Vice Provost and Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Research and Vice President for Health System Research, UT Southwestern Medical Center
- **Moderator: Shreek Mandayam**, PhD, Vice President for Research, Texas State University

2:10-2:20 BREAK

2:20-2:30 PROPOSITION 14 SPOTLIGHT

The Alzheimer's Association will share how you can support Proposition 14 to authorize the creation of the Dementia Prevention Research Institute of Texas.

- **Claudia Knowlton-Chike**, Patient Advocate and Former Caregiver

2:30-3:20 FEDERAL POLICY CHANGES IMPACTING TEXAS BIOTECH

Learn about the unprecedented changes occurring at the federal level and how those could impact your business and the broader implications for patients and Texas' biotech industry.

- **John Guy**, Policy Director, Incubate Coalition
- **Bailey McCue**, Director, Federal Affairs, Biotechnology Innovation Organization
- **Gene Olinger**, PhD, Director, Galveston National Laboratory, The University of Texas Medical Branch
- **Moderator: Victoria Ford**, MPA, President & CEO, Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

3:20-3:35

BREAK

3:35-4:25

BIOTECH INNOVATIONS IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR PATIENTS

Learn how life science and biotech companies are driving a new era of patient care and the critical obstacles that prevent these innovations from effectively reaching and benefiting patients.

- **Chase Bearden**, Executive Director, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
- **Scott Holter**, Principal Medical Science Liaison, Genmab
- **Sharon Lamberton**, Deputy Vice President, State Policy and External Outreach, PhRMA
- **Megan Ryan**, Community Volunteer and Patient Advocacy Leader
- **Moderator: Jesse Lewis**, Director, State Government Affairs, Bristol Myers Squibb

4:25-4:30

CLOSING REMARKS

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

4:30-6:00

COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Grand Ballroom Foyer

6:00-7:30

LUMINARY AWARDS DINNER

Grand Ballroom

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Casey McPherson, CEO, AlphaRose Therapeutics and
Chairman of Board, To Cure a Rose Foundation

PRESENTATION OF THE 2025 LUMINARY AWARDS:

- Texas State Senator **Molly Cook**
- Texas State Representative **Todd Hunter**
- **Larry Schlesinger**, MD, Texas Biomedical Research Institute
- **In Memoriam: Ann Tanabe**, BioHouston
Accepted by Jeff Wade, Chairman of the Board, BioHouston

SPEAKERS, PANELISTS AND MODERATORS



CHASE BEARDEN

Executive Director

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

As Executive Director of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD), Chase is called on for research, policy analysis and recommendations to the Texas Legislature, state agencies and private sector companies on issues

surrounding Texans with disabilities. CTD works collaboratively with current organizational allies and industries while creating new alliances that make significant positive impacts on policy issues facing people with disabilities and their families. Chase has successfully advocated for positive change in government policy and practice in the expansion of the Texas Compassionate Use Program, the life sciences industries, healthcare, employment, voting, and promoting the full inclusion and participation of Texans with disabilities in community life. His service on past advisory groups and boards includes appointments to the Texas Medicaid Managed Care Advisory Council, the Rehabilitation Council of Texas, and the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners.



DILLON GEE

College of Science and Engineering

Texas State University

Dillon Gee is an honors undergraduate student majoring in Biology with a minor in Pre-Medical Studies, Biochemistry, and Engineering at Texas State University.

His research entails synthesizing biocompatible drug delivery systems, such as photothermal nanoparticles and PEG-based hydrogels, for the treatment of cancer with the support of the Texas State NSF PREM CIMA grant. Dillon has worked with oscillatory rheology characterization of viscoelastic PEG hydrogels and ultrasound guided immunogenic microbubbles for the treatment of cancer. He has achieved accolades such as the National Barry Goldwater Fellowship and the Texas State Undergraduate Research Fellowship. Dillon is a hospice volunteer and started his own nonprofit, "The Pawprint Project", which donates art created by students to assisted living facilities in San Marcos. After graduation, Dillon hopes to earn an MD/PhD and pursue a career in medicinal oncology, investigating novel chemotherapeutics to increase the diversity of treatment plans available for oncologists and patients.



JOHN GUY
Policy Director
Incubate Coalition

John Guy is the Policy Director for Incubate, the voice of life science VC investors in Washington, DC. He leads Incubate's policy agenda to strengthen the investment climate for early-stage biotech companies and ensure innovation reaches patients. John has extensive experience working with lawmakers, regulators, and industry leaders on tax, economic development, and regulatory policy. He brings particular expertise in investment and funding policies affecting pre-revenue biotechs, including tax reform and SBIR grants. John holds a B.S. from Florida State University and an M.A. in International Science and Technology Policy from George Washington University. His background bridges science, policy, and capital, giving him a unique perspective on today's fast-evolving policy environment for the life sciences.



SCOTT HOLTER
Principal Medical Science Liaison
Genmab

Dr. Scott Holter earned his Doctor of Pharmacy degree at The University of Texas at Austin and is currently a Principle Medical Science Liaison (MSL) at Genmab working in Medical Affairs. Prior to that, he spent 11 years at Celgene/BMS Medical Affairs where he worked as a Senior MSL in the Hematology group focused on non-Hodgkin lymphoma and CAR T trials. He played significant roles in the FDA approvals of pomalidomide in relapsed multiple myeloma, lenalidomide in relapsed mantle cell lymphoma and rituximab plus lenalidomide in relapsed follicular lymphoma. Other experience includes an MSL at Novartis on the team that gained FDA approval for nilotinib in relapsed CML and working at Texas Oncology as a Pharmacy Manager. During his career, Dr. Holter has been closely involved in the FDA approval of eleven different new treatments for cancer.



ANOKHI KHOLWADWALA

School of Engineering Medicine
Texas A&M University

Anokhi Kholwadwala is from Albuquerque, New Mexico. She obtained both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Astronautical Engineering from the University of Southern California. After graduating Summa Cum Laude, Kholwadwala moved to Washington, DC and worked as a Boeing systems engineer. During that time, she also gained experience as a scribe at an orthopedic urgent care and volunteered at a pediatric oncology center. Kholwadwala is currently enrolled in the Texas A&M School of Engineering Medicine, the only four-year program that results in a Medical Doctorate (MD) and a Master of Engineering (MEng). The EnMed Program appealed to Kholwadwala due to her desire to merge medicine and astronautical engineering. The campus's proximity to the TMC and Johnson Space Center, along with its unparalleled resources and commitment to physiciengineering, offers her numerous opportunities to contribute meaningfully at the intersection of these fields.



CLAUDIA KNOWLTON-CHIKE

Patient Advocate and Former Caregiver

Claudia Knowlton-Chike is a retired Global Supply Chain Executive with a 40-year career that includes leadership roles at tech companies like Google, Facebook, IBM, GE, and Motorola. While she built a legacy leading global supply chain teams, her passion extends far beyond the corporate world. For over 15 years, Claudia has been a dedicated volunteer and advocate for the Alzheimer's Association, an involvement that began with her father's diagnosis. Having personally witnessed the struggles of caregiving and living with the disease, she has channeled her experience into action. Claudia has led and participated in Walk to End Alzheimer's teams across the country, served as a team captain, and now uses her voice as an advocate through AIM (Alzheimer's Impact Movement). In addition to her advocacy work, Claudia is a loving wife, mother to four children, and proud grandmother of twelve. She also serves as a passionate volunteer for Covenant House.



SHARON LAMBERTON

**Deputy Vice President, State Policy and External Outreach
PhRMA**

Sharon Lamberton is a Deputy Vice President of State Policy and External Outreach at PhRMA, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association of America, a trade association of 30 biopharmaceutical companies based in Washington, DC. A nurse by training, Ms. Lamberton uses her clinical and policy background to analyze state and federal policy, conduct outreach to patient and provider groups, and provide testimony before state legislatures. Previously, she worked on Capitol Hill in the Senate, lobbied for a seniors' association, and worked on rural health care issues at GMU Center for Health Policy, Research and Ethics. Clinically, she worked at the National Institutes of Health in neurology, the ICU and the ER. Ms. Lamberton holds an undergraduate nursing degree from Texas Woman's University-Houston and earned a Master of Science at George Mason University. Ms. Lamberton currently serves as adjunct faculty for Georgetown where she teaches a graduate course in policy to nurses. She also serves on the Institute for Nursing Leadership's National Advisory Council to promote the role of nurse leadership at all levels in public policy.



JESSE LEWIS

**Director, State Government Affairs
Bristol Myers Squibb**

Jesse Lewis is Director of State Government Affairs for Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS), overseeing a five-state territory which includes Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Kansas. In this role, he develops key relationships with policymakers and stakeholders to promote legislative and regulatory policies that enables appropriate patient access to life-saving therapies. Jesse has over 25 years of experience in government affairs, both inside and outside of Texas state government. Before joining BMS in 2012, Jesse served as Executive Director of the Republican Party of Texas (RPT). In that role, he oversaw the business operations and political strategy for the RPT. Prior to that, Jesse served as the Director of External Relations for the Texas Workforce Commission, where he managed the Commission's government relations, communications, customer relations, media and conference planning activities, and labor market information programs. Jesse began his government affairs career serving as Chief of Staff in the Texas House of Representatives. Jesse lives in Dripping Springs, Texas with his wife Theresa and son Andy.



JENNIFER LITTON, MD, MHCM

Vice President for Clinical Research
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Jennifer Keating Litton, MD, MHCM, is Vice President of Clinical Research and a Professor in the Department of Breast Medical Oncology at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. She holds an additional faculty position in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at The University of Texas Health Sciences Center in Houston. She attended Duke University with degrees in English and History, The University of Massachusetts Medical School, and earned a Master's degree in Health Care Management from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

After completing an Internal Medicine Residency at Baylor College of Medicine, she served as Chief Medical Resident. She completed her fellowship in Medical Oncology at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center before joining the faculty in the Department of Breast Medical Oncology. She served as a member of the National Cancer Center Network National Guidelines Panel for Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Syndromes, the Breast Immuno-Oncology Task Force of the National Cancer Institute Breast Cancer Steering Committee, Co-Chair of the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) Breast Cancer Subcommittee and Co-Chair of the NeoSTEEP project. She has authored multiple abstracts, peer-reviewed journal articles, and book chapters. Dr. Litton has served on the boards of the St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities, the Children's Fund, Suites of Hope and is an alum of the Texas Lyceum. She lives in Houston with her husband Todd and their three children.



2025 End of Session Report

Learn about THBI's efforts during the 89th Legislative Session with our 2025 End of Session Report.



SHREEK MANDAYAM, PHD

Vice President for Research
Texas State University

Dr. Shreek Mandayam is the Vice President for Research at Texas State University. Dr. Mandayam leads the Division of Research (which includes the Offices of Research Operations, Sponsored Programs, Research Development, and Innovation and Commercialization) university-level research centers, the Science, Technology, and Advanced Research (STAR) Park, and serves as the university's liaison to the Texas State University System's Office of Governmental Relations.

Dr. Mandayam holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree from Bangalore University in India and an M.S. and PhD in Electrical Engineering from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. Dr. Mandayam is a tenured Professor of Electrical Engineering and an active scholar whose research expertise is in the area of advanced visualization and virtual reality. His research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, NASA, U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Energy, Elekta Corporation, Medtronic, and others. Dr. Mandayam has authored over 90 publications in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings and has advised 30 master's and doctoral students.

THBI and the life science industry made significant progress on many industry goals, and this report details the legislative actions impacting the life science and biotech industry and its stakeholders, patients, and partners across the state.



Scan to view

or visit www.thbi.com/public-policy.



BAILEY MCCUE

Director, Federal Government Affairs
Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)

As Director of Federal Government Affairs at Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO), Bailey advocates for preserving American leadership in global innovation within the biotechnology industry, particularly in the areas of appropriations and tax policy. Before joining BIO in 2025, Bailey worked in the U.S. Senate for nearly five years. In her most recent position, Bailey led the health policy portfolio in a U.S. Senator's office, including supporting the work of her boss on the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS).



GENE OLINGER, PHD

Director, Galveston National Laboratory
The University of Texas Medical Branch

Dr. Gene Olinger, PhD, is a professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and the Director of the Galveston National Laboratory (GNL) at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, Texas. An accomplished immunologist and virologist, Dr. Olinger specializes in therapeutic and diagnostic development, infectious disease research, and biosecurity. His research primarily targets the development of innovative vaccines, antibody therapies, repurposing of approved drugs and synergistic combinations as a therapeutic aimed at combating emerging viral pathogens. More recently, his work has focused on microbiome and synthetic biology research. With significant experience in managing high-containment laboratories, Dr. Olinger is dedicated to enhancing global preparedness and response to infectious disease threats through cutting-edge translational science.

Throughout his career, Dr. Olinger has held prominent roles in academia and government, leading multidisciplinary teams and facilitating impactful scientific collaborations. Dr. Olinger is committed to advancing public health and global health security utilizing interdisciplinary collaboration. As Director of the GNL, Dr. Olinger continues to foster international collaborations and drive research initiatives that address urgent infectious disease challenges including the prevention, treatment, and long-term clinical consequences of acute infections.



ERIC PETERSON, MD, MPH

Vice Provost and Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Research, Vice President for Health System Research
UT Southwestern Medical Center

Eric D. Peterson, MD, MPH, is a Professor of Internal Medicine at UT Southwestern Medical Center and a member of its Cardiology Division. He serves as Vice Provost and Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Research and as Vice President for Health System Research and holds the UTSW Adelyn and Edmund M. Hoffman Distinguished Chair in Medical Science.

After earning his undergraduate degree in neurobiology at Northwestern University, graduating cum laude, Dr. Peterson attained his medical degree at the University of Pittsburgh. He completed his residency training at Brigham and Women's Hospital and then received advanced training through a fellowship in general internal medicine at Harvard University and a fellowship in cardiology at the Duke University Medical Center. He also holds a Master's in Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health. With more than 1,400 peer-reviewed publications, Dr. Peterson ranks among the top 1% of published researchers in clinical medicine and has been named one of the most highly cited researchers in the world by Thomson Reuters. Dr. Peterson currently serves as the Chair of the American Heart Association (AHA) Center for Health Technology and Innovation. He has received the AHA Meritorious Achievement Award, the AHA Distinguished Achievement in Research Award, and the AHA Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award in Cardiovascular Outcomes Research.



MEGAN RYAN

Community Volunteer and Patient Advocacy Leader

Megan Ryan is a 1998 graduate of Texas A&M University where she earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Analysis and Business Honors. For almost 25 years, Megan has lived with Common Variable Immune Deficiency, one of more than 550 identified primary immunodeficiency diseases. Through her work with the Immune Deficiency Foundation (IDF), she helps educate patients and health care providers about primary immunodeficiency diseases and serves as a peer-support coach and support group leader. She is involved in state and federal advocacy efforts to support her patient community.

Megan is a contributing writer to IG Living magazine, a bimonthly publication dedicated to the community of persons on IgG therapy and their care team. She is a sustaining member of the Junior League of Houston where she previously served as the Financial Vice President. In addition, she serves as the Board Chair of Undies for Everyone, Chair of the Junior League of Houston Foundation, and Treasurer of the JA Grifols Lucas Foundation. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of The Children's Assessment Center and Casa de Esperanza de Los Ninos. She is a member of the Infusion Access Foundation Stakeholder Council and serves on the Texas A&M University Mays Business School Dean's Advisory Board.



HOLIDAY PARTY

Come celebrate the end of another successful year at THBI's Annual Holiday Party!

Join us for a casual evening with Moonshine's famous comfort foods and festive cocktails at a special gathering for THBI members, patient advocates, legislators and their staff, and friends of the organization. Attendance is complimentary.

THURSDAY

DECEMBER

11

5 - 7 P.M.

Moonshine Grill
303 Red River St., Austin, TX 78701

Learn more about our upcoming events at www.thbi.com/events.

To sponsor, register or for more information, email info@thbi.com.



SUPPORT PROPOSITION 14 IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ALZHEIMER'S

SCAN TO
LEARN
MORE



www.thbi.com/prop14

**Your “YES” vote on November 4
is critical. Help spread the word
to ensure Texas leads the way to
end Alzheimer’s.**

This year, the Texas Legislature established the Texas Dementia Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (DPRIT) to accelerate innovation in dementia research. Now voter approval is needed to allocate \$3 billion from state general revenue to provide funding over the next 10 years, and we need your help to ensure that Proposition 14 passes in the November election.

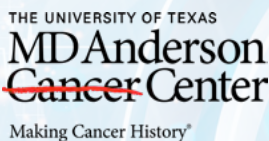
DPRIT aims to create and expedite innovation in research on dementia and related disorders; enhance the potential for a medical or scientific breakthrough in research on dementia by attracting, creating, and expanding research capabilities; and award grants with a focus on promoting research on the causes and treatments of dementia, as well as strategies for the prevention of dementia.



**Election Day is November 4. Early voting begins
October 20. For more information about the
November election, visit VoteTexas.gov.**

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life science industry.



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