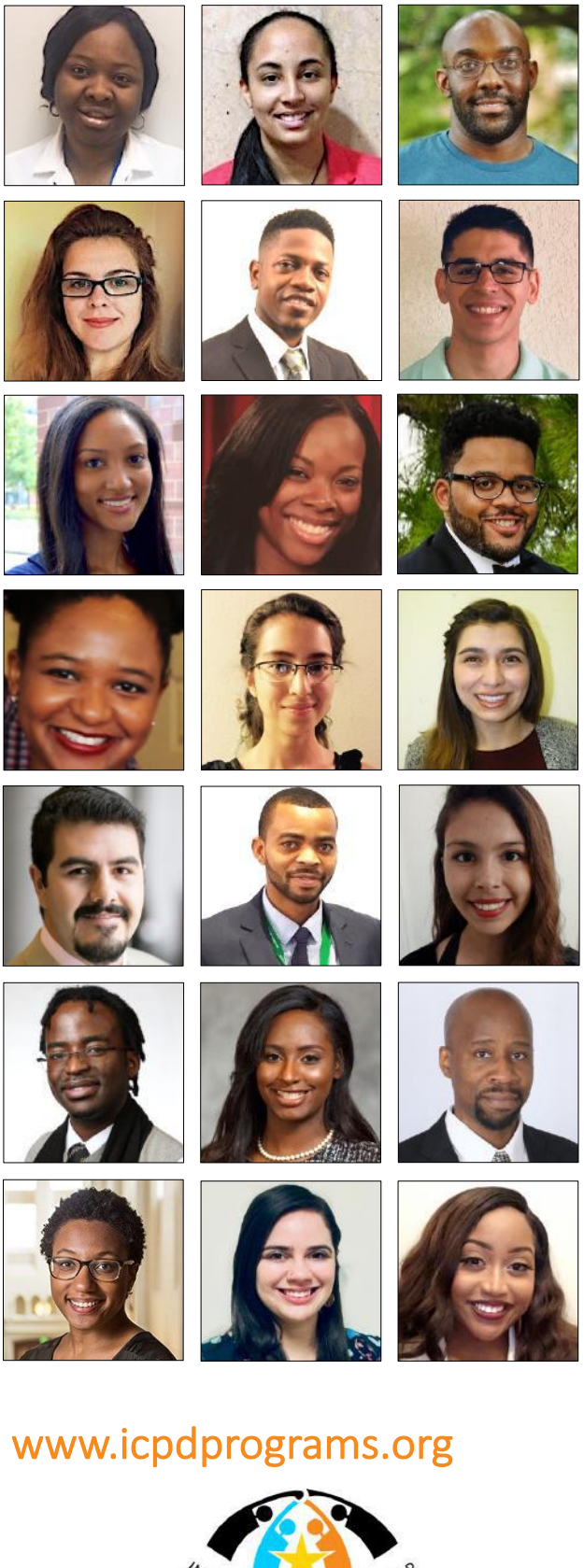


2019 SMDP Biotech

1-5 June

PHILADELPHIA

www.icpdprograms.org

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR Professional Development

2019 Scientist Mentoring & Diversity Program for biotechnology (SMDP Biotech)

www.icpdprograms.org

Training Session

June 1-6, 2019 in Philadelphia, PA

about the program **who attends:** the one-year career mentoring program pairs ethnically diverse post-baccalaureate students, graduate students and post-doctoral researchers with industry mentors who work at biotechnology and consumer healthcare companies.

With their mentors, SMDP Biotech Scholars attend a 5-day training session to learn about career opportunities in industry and receive career coaching. SMDP Scholars and Mentors also attend The BIO International Convention.

how to dress, what to bring: business attire with comfortable shoes. Scholars, bring 100 business cards and 10 copies of your resume. Mentors will need business cards too.

where to go:

Host Hotel

Mentors you will arrange your own accommodation
Scholars a shared room reservation has already been made for you at this location:

Philadelphia 201, 201 N. 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

"Celebration of Mentoring & Diversity" reception

(Saturday, June 1st at 6pm)
Scholars and **Mentors** you're already on the guest list

The Pyramid Club, 1735 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

SMDP training session day 1

the bus leaves the host hotel at 6:30am
Scholars you will be introduced to your **Mentors** at the training session

J&J Consumer, 199 Grandview Road, Skillman, NJ 08558 (South Bldg. SK1912)

SMDP training session day 2

the bus leaves the host hotel at 7am

Janssen R&D, 1400 Mckean Road, Springhouse, PA 19477 (Bldg. 31)

Informal dinner

Scholars and **Mentors** you're already on the guest list, we leave J&J Consumer at 5:15pm

Ladder 15, 1528 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102

Reading Terminal Market

The bus leaves from the SMDP training session at 11:30am

Corner of North 12th Street and Arch Street ($10 will be provided)

The BIO Intl Convention

registration information will be provided during the SMDP training session.

Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1101 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

SMDP IS SPONSORED BY

2019 SMDP Biotech Scholars

Olayinka Adebayo, MD, Morehouse School Medicine

Olayinka Adebayo graduated from the university teaching hospital Ilorin in Nigeria and worked as a physician; treating adult and pediatric patients for 3 years after a one-year internship program. She then joined Emory Hospital as a research assistant. There she created a database for Hodgkins Lymphoma and was able to identify reasons for relapse cases in treatment schedules. Currently Olayinka is a PhD Candidate in Biomedical sciences at Morehouse School of Medicine. She is keen to obtain and sharing knowledge of bioinformatics and high-throughput (HT) technologies and develop novel drugs therapies for treating multiple myeloma cancers.

Olayinka has served as a peer mentor and tutor. She has also received awards from the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) and the Summer Cancer Research Education Program (SCREP).

Janiel Ahkin Chin Tai, Purdue University

Janiel is the first person in her family to pursue a PhD. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Florida International University (FIU) where she participated in research programs and worked in an animal behavior and parasitology lab. After graduating FIU, she pursued a post baccalaureate degree at Purdue University in a bone biology lab. She is currently a second year PhD candidate in an interdisciplinary life sciences program called PULSe working in a developmental toxicology lab where she works with an herbicide named atrazine that has been commonly used to treat cornfields in the Midwest for decades. Her current project uses zebrafish as a model organism to provide insight to health affects during development, adulthood, and for future generations with atrazine exposure.

Janiel is especially interested in project management and regulatory affairs but is open to other pathways in industry. When she is not in the lab, Janiel enjoys biking, birding and hiking. She owns an energetic crested gecko named Jupiter.

Brandon R. Anjuwon-Foster, PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Brandon R. Anjuwon-Foster earned a PhD in Microbiology & Immunology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Brandon's dissertation research focused on the genetic regulation of flagella and toxin production in the bacterial pathogen Clostridium (Clostridioides) difficile. On this topic, he published three first-author papers in PLOS Genetics, Gut Microbes, and Journal of Bacteriology. Brandon secured independent research fellowships from the National Institute for Allergy & Infectious Diseases, UNC-CH, and GlaxoSmithKline to partially fund his research.

After graduating, Brandon accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Cancer Institute of the NIH. Brandon's research is on non-canonical mechanisms of cell division in the rod-shaped bacterium Bacillus subtilis and the spherical bacterium Staphylococcus aureus. Both projects incorporate genetic, biochemical, and microscopic approaches to advance mechanistic insight into bacterial cell division. His research could reveal new antimicrobial targets or vaccine components for drug resistant pathogens. In addition to his research, Brandon volunteers on committees and participates in STEM outreach events to increase the diversity, equity, and inclusion of historically marginalized populations. Brandon's career interests span scientist positions in pre-clinical research through manufacturing for infectious disease diagnostics and therapeutics. Brandon's long-term goal is to become a principal investigator in industry or government committed to pushing the barriers of science and experimental approaches, as well as mentoring historically marginalized populations in biomedical research.

Lilian Antunes, Washington University

Lilian Antunes is PhD candidate in the Human and Statistical Genetics program at Washington University in St. Louis. Her research is focused on big data analytics and genomics approaches to understand the genetics of pediatric musculoskeletal disorders. Previously, Lilian worked in the bioinformatics and analysis group for the 1000 Genomes Project Consortium at Human Genome Sequencing Center at Baylor College of Medicine. She graduated from the University of Houston-Downtown with a dual B.S. degree in Applied Statistics and Biotechnology. Lilian enjoys hiking with her dog, traveling to new places and visiting family in Brazil.

Edwin Arauz, MPH, University of Florida

Edwin is a PhD candidate in toxicology and pharmacology at the University of Florida. His current research studies the toxicological and toxicokinetics effects of inhaled carbon nanoparticles interaction with airborne organic chemicals in the rat model. He is also a biologist with public health training with experience in the analysis of complex biological, toxicological, and epidemiological data and their translation to public health and policy. He is highly motivated to establish his vision of a successful interdisciplinary career in basic and clinical research, toxicology, and pharmacology to harness early stage drug discovery to drive the translation of biomedical research towards new therapeutic strategies. His other career interest includes the protection of public health by controlling the safety and efficacy of pharmaceuticals.

Edwin has received numerous awards including the UF graduate school preeminence fellowship, the most prestigious graduate school award given to the most outstanding students at University of Florida. He received his Bachelor degree in Biology from CUNY-City College, and his Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from the University of Michigan. In his spare time, Edwin enjoys playing soccer, basketball, and he is also a fitness aficionado.

Antonia Bass, University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine

Antonia Bass is from Wellington, Florida. Her research interest began in tenth grade during a visit to the Scripps Research Institute in Jupiter, Florida. She attended the University of Central Florida for her undergraduate studies. During her time there, she was accepted through faculty nomination into the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. The purpose of this program is to prepare undergraduate students who come from low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented backgrounds for the pursuit of doctoral studies. Through participation in the UCF McNair Scholar program, she conducted studied metal-conjugated chitosan nanoparticles for application as antimicrobial coatings in wound dressings. She also attended the Summer Undergraduate Internship program at the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) in 2014 and conducted research focused on virus-host interactions and understanding the host immune processes that lead to a host's susceptibility or resistance to infection. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biotechnology in 2015.

Antonia is currently a fourth-year graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania pursuing a PhD in Cell and Molecular Biology with a specificity in Microbiology, Virology, and Parasitology. Antonia is a recipient of the National Science Foundation Fellowship Award. She is carrying out her thesis research defining the molecular mechanisms underlying how the cytokine interferon promotes inflammatory immune responses to Legionella pneumophila, which causes the severe pneumonia Legionnaires' disease. Her long-term career goal is to attain a career in the biotechnology industry. She seeks advice on what steps to take in order to achieve that goal and how to transition from academia to industry. She enjoys traveling, is always looking for new restaurants to try out, and loves to sing karaoke.

Adrian Beckmann, University of Texas Health San Antonio

Adrian Beckmann is a 4th-year graduate student at the University of Texas Health San Antonio in the Integrated Biomedical Sciences PhD program. His primary research interests include Alzheimer's disease, neurodegeneration, and computational biology with a focus on understanding the cellular processes that are dysregulated in neurodegenerative disorders.

Adrian received his Bachelor of Science in the School of Engineering at Texas State University and shortly after began working as a chemist for DPT Pharmaceuticals. Adrian further developed his background in the industry by working as a laboratory technologist for the City of San Antonio. Together, Adrian has more than 3 years of experience working in the biomedical industry and 8 years of experience behind the laboratory bench.

Brittney Bender, Morehouse School of Medicine

Brittney Bender is a recent graduate of Morehouse School of Medicine where she received her Master of Science in Biomedical Technology. Before attaining her graduate education, Brittney served as an analytical chemist at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, where she discovered that technology drives her passion. Her goal is to use modern technologies and the latest research to solve biological and medical problems and bridge the gap of health disparities in Georgia, where she is native.

Brittney earned her Bachelor of Science degree at Albany State University in Georgia with a concentration in chemistry and a minor in mathematics. In her spare time Brittney enjoys outdoor activities, hanging out with her friends, reading for her book club and traveling anywhere that she has not been before. She also volunteers her time to educate students on the opportunities and possibilities within STEM.

Thomas Boddie, PhD, Howard University

Thomas Boddie, PhD, is a recent Howard University graduate. Thomas completed his undergraduate education at Hampton University, where he received his Bachelor of Science in Biology. Thomas completed his graduate education at Howard University, where he studied protozoan parasites such as Leishmania, which is the causative agent of Leishmaniasis, a neglected tropical disease that effects millions of people in developing regions worldwide. His dissertation research focused on elucidating the methods by which Leishmania parasites are able to escape immune destruction within macrophages during the parasite's course of infection. Thomas received his Doctor of Philosophy from Howard in May of 2019.

While at Howard, Thomas was also heavily engaged in teaching and mentorship. He was a longtime biology instructor in Howard's Health Careers Opportunity Program, which is a summer bridge program for pre-freshman STEM students from underrepresented groups. Thomas was also engaged in several programs where he mentored undergraduate and graduate students on how to navigate research and the pursuit of STEM degrees as a person of color. In the future, Thomas plans to pursue a career in the biotechnology industry or science policy, where he can fully utilize both his scientific and interpersonal skillsets.

Cameron Brown, Hampton University School of Pharmacy

Cameron Brown currently attends Hampton University School of Pharmacy. He has a solid background in community pharmacy management and clinical experience in long-term care. Upon graduation, he wishes to pursue a medical affairs or regulatory affairs career in the pharmaceutical industry.

During his pre-pharmacy courses, Cameron participated in study abroad programs in Costa Rica and South Africa. He's now a leader of these trips and has created a student led study abroad organization, *In Flight: Pharmacist without Borders*, through which he will journey with 34 other students over the next two years to the Philippines, UAE and Thailand, where they will strength their knowledge in the pharmaceutical industry, while embracing local culture. In his spare time Cameron enjoys following the stock market, reading books and volunteering in his local community.

Amber Bonds, SUNY Stony Brook University

Amber is a New York native. She attended the University of New Haven and earned bachelor's degrees in Forensic Science and Biochemistry. Continuing to pursue her interests in drug discovery and development, Amber is currently finishing up her dissertation work in the Molecular & Cellular Pharmacology program at Stony Brook University. Her research focuses on structurally and biochemically characterizing cholesterol metabolic enzymes in Mycobacterium tuberculosis and their post-translational regulation.

Upon earning her doctorate, Amber wants to pursue a career in biological target identification and antibiotic development. When she is not in the lab, Amber is involved in various mentorship, outreach, and professional development programs. Amber is a scholar of the W. Burghardt Turner fellowship for underrepresented minorities and a trainee of the Chemical Biology Training Program. As an advocate for diversity in science, Amber served on the executive board for the Stony Brook Graduate Women in Science & Engineering (GWISE) organization. Additionally, she has served as committee chair for her department's annual alternative (non-academic) career networking event. When she is not in the lab, Amber enjoys sports, traveling, and yoga.

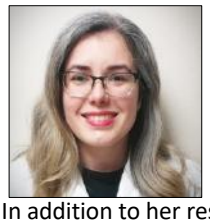
Heysol C. Bermudez Cabrera, PhD, Harvard School of Medicine

Heysol was born and raised in El Salvador. Her interests in scientific research led her family to make the hard decision to move to the U.S.A for a better education. She attended Hunter College (C.U.N.Y) to study Biology. In 2011, she was awarded a BP-ENDURE fellowship that enabled her to carry out research in Neuroscience for 2 years at Hunter and at other academic institutions during the summer. After completing her B.A, she pursued a PhD in Neuroscience at the National Institutes of Health and Brown University graduate partnership program. For her thesis, she studied the effect of GABA agonist and antagonist on neural activity in the parkinson rat model. She is currently a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School in the genetics department working on developing efficient and high-throughput CRISPR assays to study gene function. Heysol's long term research goal is to understand which genetic variants predispose individuals to develop motor disorders and how they drive symptoms' variability among patients. Her hope is that this knowledge will help create more precise, and efficacious treatment for the affected populations.

Elizabeth Calzada, PhD, John Hopkins University, School of Medicine

Elizabeth Calzada was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Texas in El Paso where she was trained as an undergraduate research assistant in a parasitology lab through the MARC program.

Elizabeth continued her education researching mitochondrial phospholipid metabolism in yeast for her graduate thesis and received her PhD from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Currently, she lives in Baltimore, MD and is an Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) fellow at the Food and Drug Administration in the Division of Nonprescription Drug Products at the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.



Elizabeth Castro Rivera, Universidad Central del Caribe

Elizabeth Castro Rivera is a PhD candidate in Cell and Molecular Biology from the Universidad Central del Caribe in Puerto Rico. From an early age her drive and motivation for knowledge has been the memory of her mother's struggle with Cancer. She enrolled at the University of Puerto Rico in Aguadilla and earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedicine. This led her to pursue Graduate studies focusing on the effect of a tobacco cembranoid in Non-Small Cell Lung carcinoma.

In addition to her research work, Elizabeth's leadership is highlighted by her participation in academic activities such as: the Molecular Biology Summer Academy, a one-week intensive academy for undergraduate students to learn about Molecular techniques; and as a senior at NeuroBoricuas, a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the general population about Neurosciences and its impact on society. Furthermore, she provides mentoring to undergraduate and graduate students from several institutions. In her free time, Elizabeth enjoys catching up on all things 'Geek' and spending quality time with her family. Her future goals are to contribute scientific knowledge that could improve quality of life and serve as inspiration to the next generation of scientist.

Dominique Gales, PhD, Tuskegee University

Dominique N. Gales, PhD, received her Bachelor of Science, Master of Science and Doctorate from Tuskegee University. Gaining her PhD has aided in strengthening her knowledge across the field of cancer research, and multidisciplinary assignments in a variety of scientific disciplines. Dominique has always been interested in bridging the gap between basic science and medicine by advancing the life sciences that address local and global challenges. Dominique is currently a post-doctoral fellow at MetaClipse Therapeutics. Her research interest are the major advances in understanding the complexity of drug response to cancer therapeutics. Furthermore, to design more effective therapeutic strategies to curtail cancer progression and reduce mortality. Her work has been accepted at many conferences that include international conferences, the American Association of Cancer Research Annual Meetings, and the Society for the Study of Reproduction Annual Meeting, where she received travel awards to attend. She has also presented her work at several small and large conferences. Dominique also has four peer reviewed publications, in which she is the first author of one.

Dominique has served as an IBS REU summer research mentor, she participates in "Science on Saturdays", and mentors many undergraduate/graduate students in STEM. Dominique was also afforded the opportunity to assist in designing programs to help reduce disparities in prostate cancer and educating and providing support systems to underserved populations in Macon County, AL. These experiences have fueled her passion and enthusiasm for cancer research. Dominique's short-term goals are to gain scientific, technical, and other professional skills that will establish and advance a successful, research scientist, which is essential for positions in the drug development. Dominique's long-term goals are to engage with the medical community and serve as a scientific resource to educate and advise on relevant scientific and clinical data. Moreover, to emphasize a fundamental understanding of novel approaches to therapies, most recent cancer-related advances, and drug development. Lastly, to understand the mechanism of therapy resistance between African Americans and their counterparts and design more effective therapeutic strategies to curtail cancer progression and reduce mortality. Mentoring is also a major part of her long-term career goals. Training and mentoring minority students in the biomedical sciences and increasing the participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics will foster positive self-perception, and self-worth to those students.

Stephanie M. García, University of Colorado Denver

Stephanie M. García is a neuroscience PhD candidate at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. Stephanie obtained a B.S in biology from Loyola University Chicago and was drawn to her PhD program due to the vast amount of translational science research labs on the Anschutz Medical Campus. The underlying goal of her dissertation research is to develop cost-efficient treatments for Parkinson's disease that delay disease progression. Stephanie is investigating the therapeutic potential of various microbiota-targeted therapies and exploring the relationship between disturbances of the microbiota-gut-brain axis and disease progression.

Stephanie values collaborating with individuals with interdisciplinary backgrounds and is attracted to career paths where she can act as a liaison or regularly work with a team to advance therapeutic development. Stephanie enjoys exploring alternative methods to achieve a common goal and believes that researchers should have a patient's user experience in mind during the early therapy development phase. During her free time, Stephanie rock climbs and tends to her growing collection of houseplants.

Mario Gutierrez, University of Michigan

As a first generation Mexican American, raised by an early widowed mother, Mario found his ultimate passion and purpose is to improve the life of others. His passion for engineering and desire to become a Hispanic role model and professional engineer drove him to pursue a PhD in chemical engineering (ChE) at the University of Michigan. He holds a master's degree in Chemical Engineering also from the University of Michigan and a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from Michigan State University.

Mario is currently a PhD candidate whose research focuses on investigating cellular and vascular-targeted drug carrier dynamics in blood flow. He investigates how changes in red blood cell deformability alter blood flow margination and immune cell pathologically relevant in human blood flow. Mario has versatile experience in cell adhesion micro-vasculature-fluidic models/devices and has conducted research abroad at the Technion Israel Institute of Technology where he utilized a real-size model of human carotid artery bifurcation vessel to further his research work. The conceptual innovation and transformative nature of his research work can not only offer greater insight into the mechanisms by which rigid RBCs alter blood dynamics, but also has given him general research skills that can translate to multiple topics. Mario's unique background enables him to bring novel and unique ideas to the workplace. In his academic career thus far, Mario has published two first-author publications (with an additional two first-author manuscripts in preparation), presented his research at multiple conferences, has received various awards and distinctions including National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship amongst many others. Mario is a continuous learner who is curious and excited about various topics in biotechnology.

Edidiong (Eddy) Inyang, University of University of Texas at Arlington

Edidiong (Eddy) Inyang is a PhD candidate in the Department of Bioengineering at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA). He participated in the undergraduate NSF-funded Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program while pursuing his B.Sc. in Biology at the Fort Valley State University. He attended the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) and received his master's degree in Entomology. His participation with LSAMP made him a perfect candidate for the UTA LSAMP Bridge to the Doctorate (BD) program.

As a doctoral Candidate in Bioengineering at UTA, Eddy's thesis is focused on "Validation of an in vitro TBI model and cellular repairs of disrupted brain endothelium." Some of the goals are to elucidate the mechanisms that are responsible for traumatic brain injuries caused by explosive blasts or blunt force to the head and to restore the functionality of brain endothelium (BE) using Theragnostic approaches. He is a lifelong learner and always willing to impart unto others. The scientist mentoring and diversity program for Biotechnology (SMDP Biotech) will provide an excellent opportunity for him to discuss with the participants on the value of tissue engineering techniques to mimic the BE and also demonstrate his adaptable skills, which is the key to smoother transition from academia into industry.

Frances A. Lagarda, San Diego State University

Frances A Lagarda is a Master of Science in Bioengineering (Biomaterials) student at San Diego State University. She graduated from the University of California, San Diego with a bachelor's in bioengineering (biotechnology).

Frances is now a graduate researcher at SDSU's Cardiovascular Bioengineering Lab. She is the oldest of four children and grew up in the border town of Calexico, CA where her family still resides. When she's not in the lab, Frances likes to watercolor paint, listen to rock music, and eat pizza once a week.

Marysol Luna, Cornell University

Marysol Luna was born and raised in Nogales, Arizona- a town bordering Mexico. She earned her Bchelor of Science degree in biomedical engineering from the University of Arizona. Marysol is now a PhD candidate in mechanical and aerospace engineering at Cornell University. Her research investigates how an altered microbiome can directly or indirectly influence 1) the development and severity of post-traumatic osteoarthritis, and 2) increase the risk of osteoporotic fractures due to a decrease in bone strength and alterations to bone material properties.

With her research, she hopes to find a link between the microbiome and bone/joint health. Marysol hopes to work in orthopaedics or biomechanics and conduct research in industry after earning her degree. Marysol is an NSF GRFP Fellow, Sloan Fellow and a Bouchet Honor Society Scholar. She has enjoyed serving as a TA for her department, being involved with the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, and introducing children to robotics through an after-school program. In her spare time, Marysol enjoys traveling, exploring new cuisines, baking, watching new shows and hiking.

Pamela Lurie, Baylor College of Medicine

Pamela Lurie is a doctoral candidate, at Baylor College of Medicine, currently studying population genetics. She received her B.S. from California State University Fullerton and her M.S. from California State University of Los Angeles. Her research experience includes identifying properties of spider silk that contribute to silk endurance in harsh environments, exploring the role of MyoD in muscle development, and her current project involves using long read sequencing technology to generate a fine-map of the beta globin locus in Africans with sickle cell anemia.

Pamela's diverse research background has made her a well-rounded scientist able to approach problems with a unique perspective. Her passion is to be engaged in science and research on the clinical side to provide treatments to patients in need. Outside of science she actively looks for opportunities to volunteer in the community and regularly volunteers at the Houston food bank and H.O.P.E. women's shelter.

Nikeya L. Macioce (Tisdale), PhD, University of South Carolina

Nikeya Macioce received a B.S. degree in Biology from the College of Charleston, after which she was a research assistant at William Jennings Bryan Dorn Veterans Affairs Medical Center. While there, she researched post-traumatic stress disorder to identify regions of the brain affected by this behavioral condition. To further her educational and career advancement, she attended the University of South Carolina and studied cancer biology and gene therapy to enhance the tumor microenvironment response to chemotherapy. Recently, as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Cincinnati, Nikeya analyzed methods of developing optimal lung organoids and in vitro co-culturing systems to propagate and sustain Pneumocystis species to better elucidate its life cycle during pathogenesis.

Nikeya volunteers with the BIG Brother BIG Sister organization, and as a STEM instructor at William Taft Elementary School. She also enjoys traveling, running, hiking, watching Formula 1 racing, NHL hockey, and college football - especially when the Clemson Tigers beat the Alabama Crimson Tide.

Ngonidzashe Benson Madungwe, University of Texas Health Science Center

Ngonidzashe (Ngoni) is a PhD candidate in biomedical engineering at the University of Texas Health San Antonio where he studies new strategies for understanding, treating and reversing tissue damage that occurs during myocardial infarction (MI), a leading cause of death worldwide. His work focuses on the biochemical signals from the primary female sex hormone, estrogen that can help improve maturity and recovery of cardiomyocytes in 3D biomimetic hydrogels, and regenerate cardiac tissue following MI.

Ngoni received his undergraduate degree in chemical engineering from Tufts University, graduating with distinction and highest honors for his research thesis work. Following this, he joined Vertex Pharmaceuticals in Boston, where he was part of the formulation development team that worked on FDA approval of the company's cystic fibrosis medication, Orkambi®. Ngoni's career goal is to return to the pharmaceutical/biomedical industry where he can apply himself to the design and manufacture of new therapies and devices for patients.

Camille Martin, Northeastern University

Camille A. Martin is currently a PhD Candidate in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Northeastern University. Throughout her academic career she had the opportunity to contribute to a number of research projects beginning as early as her freshman year in college. The theme of her undergraduate research has been the development of either organic synthesis or biosynthetic methods for producing flavors, fragrances, agricultural chemicals and medicinal natural products. Her work has since shifted to studying structural and adaptive color in nature as a source of inspiration for designing the next generation of bio-derived materials that have applications to cosmetic product development.

In September 2017 she participated in the National Science Foundation Innovation- Corps Site Program at Northeastern where she worked on evaluating the commercialization potential of the technologies developed in the Biomaterials Design Group. It was during that academic semester that Seaspire was born! This early stage venture is based on a sea-inspired platform technology that can be applied to various consumer goods such as coatings, textiles, electronics and skincare products. Since then Camille has been engaged with the entrepreneurial ecosystem throughout the Greater Boston Area, partnering with the business and law schools at Northeastern as well as the student-led design studio, Scout and IDEA venture accelerator. Camille looks forward to applying her experiences to a role in business development or intellectual property law.

Obinna C. Mbachu PharmD, University of Illinois at Chicago

Obinna Mbachu is a PhD candidate at the University of Illinois at Chicago and a NIH Institutional Research Training Grant (T32) scholar. He is a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) and is currently completing his PhD in medicinal chemistry. His research involves the identification and in vitro and in vivo study of estrogen receptor beta (ERβ)-preferential small molecules known as phytoestrogens present in botanicals used in women's health. His goal is to understand how variations in phytoestrogen chemical structures favor ERβ interaction over the cell-proliferating activity of ERα isoform.

Obinna has internship experience working with biologics and has research interests in oncology drug discovery. He enjoys good science fiction movies, educational documentaries, and fishing.

Alyssa M. McCoy, PhD, Meharry Medical College

Alyssa M. McCoy is a native of the Washington, DC area. She attended Emmanuel College in Boston, where she majored in biology and played collegiate-level basketball. During her matriculation at Emmanuel College she received numerous accolades for both academic and athletic performance. During her senior year, Alyssa completed an undergraduate thesis at the Joslin Diabetes Center and knew instantly she wanted to pursue a career in biomedical research.

Following the completion of her Bachelor of Science in Biology, she accepted a research assistant position at Brigham and Women's Hospital focusing on adult lung disease. Developing a passion for bench science and pulmonary disease, Alyssa entered the doctoral program at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN. While enrolled at Meharry, she received numerous awards, scholarships, and funding from the National Institutes of Health while completing her dissertation research on fetal lung development and disease as a visiting graduate student at the University of California, San Diego.

Alyssa is currently completing her postdoctoral fellowship at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, MD. Her research focuses on the effects of temperature on the respiratory epithelial response to influenza A infection. In addition to her work in the laboratory, Alyssa collaborates with organizations to run S.T.E.M camps and workshops for underserved youth in the community and is a self-taught seamstress that shares her custom designs on social media.

Salma Omer, Vanderbilt University

Salma is a doctoral candidate in the Neuroscience Program at Vanderbilt University. Since joining her current lab, she has been able to specialize in mouse models of pain, peripheral and central neuropathy, and the physiology of metabolic deficits. Her research has employed a multidisciplinary approach utilizing CRISPR gene editing technology, biochemical, molecular, and various imaging techniques to understand the underlying mechanism of neuropathies, metabolic deficiencies using mouse models, and various cell lines in vitro. Her ultimate goal is to enhance the quality of life of patients suffering from neuropathies, and metabolic deficits by increasing our understanding of pain management and treatments.

Salma is also very passionate about science outreach. Serving as the neuroscience student organization (NSO) outreach coordinator has allowed her to create outreach efforts at local schools in the Greater Nashville area with a large under-represented minority student population. In collaboration with middle school science teachers, she created sheep brain dissection lesson plans that included student participation. This is something extremely important to her since her awareness for science and research was uncovered at a similar age. In addition, serving as NSO president this academic year has allowed her to organize and initiate several more outreach efforts focusing on the enrichment of awareness of careers in biomedical research in under-represented minority student populations. During her free time, Salma really enjoys baking, practicing yoga and weight lifting, and travelling.

Kristy Ortega Johnson, George Washington University

Kristy Ortega Johnson graduated with a BS in Molecular and Microbial Biology with a Chemistry minor. She is currently a graduate student at George Washington University working towards a PhD in molecular medicine under the Institute for Biomedical Science program.

Sasha Padilla, University of Notre Dame

Sasha Padilla is a Biochemistry graduate student and National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellow at the University of Notre Dame. Her current research focuses on the delivery of small molecule probes and various nanoparticle systems to cancer cell lines for both diagnostic and therapeutic purposes.

In addition to working on several collaborative projects with other lab groups, Sasha is heavily involved in various leadership and outreach roles with a passion for mentoring. Her career goals are to enter an industry research position in the biotechnology field, which will enable her to utilize organized problem solving that result in a direct broader impact on society. Sasha is originally from Brooklyn. She received her B.S. from SUNY Oswego.

Talia M. Planas-Fontánez, Rutgers University

Talia M. Planas-Fontánez is a doctoral candidate currently training in the Joint Graduate Toxicology Program (JGPT) at Rutgers University. Her ongoing research is focused on examining the effects of a small molecule and an agonist of the metabotropic glutamate receptors, 2-chloro-5-hydroxyphenylglycine (CHPG), in a demyelinating animal model. The overall goal of this research is to characterize the effects of CHPG on glial cell signaling and neurotrophin responses in the experimental allergic encephalomyelitis (EAE) mouse model and potentially confirm specific targets to treat Multiple Sclerosis with safe and effective medications.

Before attending graduate school, Talia earned a degree in Chemistry from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus. During her undergraduate experience, she was a MARC (Minority Access to Research Careers) research fellow and participated in 2 summer undergraduate research programs at the University of Connecticut and Rutgers University. Talia is currently the Social Chair of the Rutgers Toxicology Student Association as well as the Vice President of the Seeding Labs Rutgers Chapter. Likewise, she is an active member of Rutgers' External Industry Partnership group. Talia is passionate about science education and community outreach and plans to enhance accessibility to higher education and be a role model to young scientists that are underrepresented in biomedical research.

Keyana Porter, West Virginia University

Keyana Porter is a PhD candidate, in the Pharmaceutical & Pharmacological Sciences Graduate Program at West Virginia University (WVU). She currently holds a B.S. in Chemistry from Morgan State University. While Keyana has always possessed a strong affinity towards science, her passion for research peaked after being selected as a MARC U-STAR (Maximizing Access to Research Careers Undergraduate Student Training in Academic Research) scholar. Throughout her matriculation, Keyana's academic interests were molded and over time she sought to further understand the pharmacological dynamics and effects of prescribed drugs on the human body and brain. Today her scholarly pursuits focus on hormonal therapy and the effects of natural and synthetic progestogens on the brain, addressing a current knowledge gap in the field. She plans to continue to contribute to impactful and meaningful research, whether she is conducting benchtop research or working in a non R&D sector, in industry.

Keyana is also heavily involved in health and science driven community outreach activities, as a member of both the Health Sciences Graduate Student Organization and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She has also committed her free time to assisting in recruitment efforts for WVU's Biomedical Sciences Program over the last 4 years. Outside of the laboratory, Keyana is playing in competitive soccer leagues, shopping at ULTA, or enjoying time with her rescue dog, Neptune.

Maria Teresa, PhD, Meharry Medical College

Maria Teresa is a postdoc at Meharry Medical College. She completed all her education in her home country Brazil and decided to diversify her scientific skills in USA, where she has been for almost 9 years. Her passion for Biology/Science started when as a child, she would catch small insects (including wasps) to observe their eating habits and behavior. Growing up, as a good observer, Teresa realized the world needs people to work on improving other people's life quality and as a biology scientist she could accomplish that.

Nowadays she works on tumor immunology, most specifically in developing T cell immunotherapies, and her work mottos are: success does not come without multiple tries/failures and there is always room for improvement. Patience is the key. As a good Brazilian Teresa enjoys a good Netflix binge but can also find fun in hikes, good conversation and dog walks.

Daniel Quevedo, University of Michigan

Daniel was born in Bogota, Colombia, moved to South Florida when he was seven years old, and grew up in the Ft. Lauderdale area. He received a B.S.E. in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Miami. He was then awarded a Fulbright Grant conduct research in Karlsruhe, Germany for the first year of his doctoral studies. He is currently a PhD candidate in Biomedical Engineering as a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow at the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor. His work is focused on designing and studying novel protein nanoparticles for applications in medicine and industry. During his off-time, Daniel enjoys board games, hand-tool woodworking, and ballroom dancing.

Maritza Quintero, Texas Biomedical Research Institute

Maritza Quintero is a native Texan and U. S. Air Force veteran. She attended the University of Texas at San Antonio as an undergraduate, majoring in both Chemistry and Biology. She joined an organic chemistry lab her freshman year, as a volunteer, and was quickly hired as a part time employee and earned a MARC*U STAR training fellowship. Upon completing her undergraduate degree, she had 4 years of lab experience and had coauthored two papers and a patent. Maritza earned a master's degree in Medicinal Chemistry from the University of Utah and is currently a PhD candidate in the Integrated Biomedical Sciences program at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, training in the Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry discipline. Using Ebola virus at Biosafety Level 4, Maritza identified two host proteins required for Ebola virus infection. To investigate the mechanisms by which these proteins mediate Ebola entry, she optimized the production, isolation and characterization of Ebola Virus-Like Particles (VLPs) which mimic the structure and function of replication competent Ebola virions, but are not infectious and hence do not require high containment facilities.

Maritza has over 10 years of experience at the bench, specializing in the molecular nature of cell surface interactions, virus entry and the development of drug delivery vesicles. She has coauthored 10 research papers and book chapters on the topics of liposomes, cells surface biochemistry, glycosaminoglycans and organic synthesis. She is also an active member of the local American Chemical Society (ACS) Chapter and initiated a collaboration with the city of San Antonio, spearheading the annual Kids in Chemistry demonstrations at the official City of San Antonio's Fourth of July celebration. She volunteers with various community events promoting diversity in science, including the ACS Project Seed program.

Tiffany Rolle, Baylor College of Medicine

Tiffany Rolle was born and raised in Maryland and is of Bahamian American descent. At an early age, Tiffany became interested in using science as a tool to analyze and solve matters related to criminal justice. As an undergraduate attending Virginia Commonwealth University, Tiffany followed her passion by majoring in forensic science with a concentration in biology. Participation in summer research programs, including the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Leadership alliance, introduced her to infectious disease research and analytical detection techniques. After graduating, Tiffany enrolled in a post-baccalaureate program at Case Western Reserve University where she spent a year studying the role of long non-coding RNAs in mRNA degradation. This experience ultimately contributed to her fundamental interest in genetics research.

Tiffany is currently a PhD candidate in the Molecular and Human Genetics program at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM). Her research focuses on understanding the mechanistic role of glycogen synthesis in cardiac function using a mouse model for glycogen storage disease. Tiffany's time in graduate school has facilitated the development of her mentoring and teaching skills by allowing her to train and tutor post-baccalaureate and graduate students in introductory and mammalian genetics. Additionally, having served as the president of the BCM Association for Graduate Student Diversity, Tiffany has helped foster community among underrepresented students in the sciences. Tiffany remains interested in using her problem solving, organizational and leadership skills to bring scientific projects to fruition and she ultimately intends to pursue a career in industry related to R&D or project management.

Marquitta L. Smith, PhD, Meharry Medical College

Marquitta L. Smith, PhD earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Fayetteville State University (FSU). While attending FSU, she participated in the Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) program where she became interested in pursuing a career in biomedical research. After graduating from FSU, Marquitta worked as a Laboratory Technician at Talecris Biotherapeutics (currently Grifols), where she tested human plasma samples for communicable diseases. After a year, she decided to return to school to pursue a Doctorate in Biomedical Science from Meharry Medical College. Her dissertation research project examined changes in monoamine metabolism during the long-term treatment of Parkinson's disease with Levodopa.

After obtaining her doctorate, Marquitta worked as a Postdoctoral Research Assistant at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, in collaboration with the United States Army. Her research examined the effects of repetitive blast exposure on hippocampal synaptic integrity and neurodegeneration. Currently, Marquitta is a Postdoctoral Researcher at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), where she examines the effects of glymphatic system dysfunction on tau accumulation in neurodegenerative diseases. Leveraging her past experience, she is now pursuing a career in the biotechnology and/or biopharmaceutical industry. She is also completing her Master degree in Pharmaceutical Bioengineering at the University of Washington.

Oriana Teran, Cornell University

Oriana Teran was born and raised in Venezuela. When the political situation in her home country deteriorated, she and her family moved the United States where she enrolled in Coral Gables High School (Florida) and graduated in the top 1% of her class. Upon receiving her diploma she attended the Honors College at Miami Dade College for two years, after which she transferred to the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison) to complete her Bachelor of Science degree in biochemistry. At UW-Madison, Oriana worked as an undergraduate research assistant. Her research focused on two C-type lectins present in dendritic cells (DC): DC-SIGN and Langerin. Her overall research goal was to identify lectin-specific chemical inhibitors designed in the lab (e.g. glycomimetic compounds) and compare their binding specificities.

After graduation, Oriana accepted a two-year position as a biological scientist in the Robert J. Cousins Group in the Food Science and Human Nutrition Department at the University of Florida. Here, she not only managed the day to day operations of the lab, but also designed her own research project which centered on the characterization of bone marrow derived macrophages (BMDMs) from zinc transporter Zip14 (Scl39a14) knock-out mice. The goal was to assess BMDM zinc mobilization and utilization after activation with the LPS endotoxin.

In 2016, she was admitted to the Biochemistry PhD program at Cornell University, and is now funded by the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP). She is working on elucidating the biochemical functions of two conserved domains within the guanine nucleotide exchange factor (GEF), DOCK7 - a protein shown to be essential in the transformative properties of HeLa cells. As a graduate student, she is also actively engaged in many on-campus organizations that advocate for diversity and inclusion for minorities in STEM. She is an official ambassador of the Office of Inclusion and Student Engagement (OISE), where members work together to recruit minorities by creating a welcoming community for the least advantaged students who decide to attend Cornell. In addition to this, she is the Outreach Chair of the SACNAS (Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science) Cornell chapter, as well as a committee member in the GRASSHOPR (Graduate Student School Outreach Program) board.

2019 SMDP Biotech Mentors

Colleen Albright, Project Manager, Merck KGaA

Colleen Albright is a Leader in Merck KGaA's Global Talent Management Center of Excellence. In her role, Colleen focuses on Executive level talent strategies and positions for Millipore Sigma on a global basis. She is also responsible for global recruiting projects that include, diversity initiatives, early in career, technology and social media and talent branding.

Prior to joining Merck KGaA, Colleen held various positions for 22 years in Talent Acquisition. Most recently, she was a Manager of Sourcing at Johnson & Johnson where she was responsible for managing a team developing external talent strategies for R&D and Engineering across the enterprise. Colleen holds a BS in Management Science from Kean University.

Gary Borzillo, PhD, Scientific Director, Janssen Pharmaceuticals

Gary Borzillo, PhD, is a cancer cell biologist with extensive experience in anticancer drug discovery and development. He obtained his PhD at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) and completed post-doctoral training at St Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, focusing on mechanisms of B cell development and malignant transformation. His work in the pharmaceutical industry has been largely geared towards identifying molecular targets for high-throughput compound screening (OSI Pharmaceuticals INC), as well as drug development, clinical biomarkers and companion diagnostics (Pfizer INC, Janssen R&D).

Gary has contributed to externally-facing "Search and Evaluation/Innovation" initiatives, involving collaborations with academia, the biotechnology sector, and venture capital companies. His role at Janssen is within the Oncology Translational Research group, and focuses on the incorporation of scientific endpoints into clinical trials, to evaluate mechanism(s) of action of experimental therapeutics. The role also incorporates precision medicine strategies, aimed to select patients most likely to benefit from a new therapy. Gary has a long history of teaching and mentoring and is actively engaged in developing the next generation of scientific investigators.

John Boxberger, PhD, Medical Science Liaison, Radius Health, Inc.

John Boxberger received his undergraduate degree in Biomedical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute where he began to focus on biomechanics and the musculoskeletal system, a field where he still finds himself working today. John then went on to earn his PhD in Bioengineering from the University of Pennsylvania where he was part of the McKay Orthopaedic Research laboratories and researched the pathogenesis of intervertebral disc degeneration. Upon completion at Penn, John joined a startup biomaterials company, Doctors' Research Group, where he worked as a Senior Research Engineer helping to develop and commercialize in situ curing polyurethanes for use in orthopaedic surgical procedures. After about four years in the startup space, John joined the pharmaceutical world with Eli Lilly & Company as a Medical Science Liaison supporting their musculoskeletal products and pipeline. In this role, John worked closely with Key Opinion Leaders in the musculoskeletal space serving as a conduit for medical and scientific information.

Most recently, John joined Radius Health, Inc., continuing his career as a Medical Science Liaison. John was part of the initial build out of the Medical Affairs department at Radius where he supported (and continues to support) the pre-launch and post-launch development of abaloparatide for the treatment of osteoporosis. Radius has grown from approximately 100 employees at the time of John's hiring to above 400 employees currently and continues to advance additional development of abaloparatide as well as two pipeline molecules targeted at breast cancer. John works remotely for Radius out of his house in Newtown, CT and interacts with Thought Leaders throughout much of New England. While not working, he spends most of his time enjoying being with his wife and three kids and dreaming about his neglected hobbies which include sailing, fishing, skiing, and golf, among many others.

Christina Y. Chan, M.D., M.A.B.H.P., F.I.D.S.A., F.A.A.P., Executive Director, Scientific, Medical & Patient Perspective, Office of the Chief Patient Officer

Christina Chan, M.D., is board certified in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics with subspecialties in Adult and Pediatric Infectious Diseases. She received her medical degree from the University of Tennessee. She finished her Post-Doctoral Residency Program in Combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of Tennessee. Subsequently, Christina completed a Combined Adult and Pediatric Clinical Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Children's Hospital of Boston; and a Research Fellowship at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School. Her research focused on vaccine clinical trials particularly pneumococcal conjugate vaccines in immunocompromised patients (HIV-positive, oncology and transplant patients).

Christina joined Merck in 1996 and has served multiple leadership positions throughout the organization, ranging from vaccine clinical research, international vaccine policy to global medical affairs supporting various anti-infective, oncology, and vaccine products Christina has led the clinical development of multiple live viral vaccines, most notably with Zostavax® (Merck's shingles vaccine). Christina has supported the global launch of many vaccines and infectious disease pharmaceutical products. Currently, Chrisitina is responsible for leading and enabling the planning and execution of patient engagement activities for HIV Diseases. She

collaborates with key internal and external stakeholders to solicit and incorporate the voices of patients in Merck's HIV research, medical affairs, commercial, public policy and manufacturing plans.

Christina is a fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and a member to numerous professional societies including the American College of Hospital Physicians, European Association for the Study of the Liver and the American Society of Microbiology.

Fernando Cruz-Guilloty, PhD, In Vitro Diagnostics Lead, Amgen

Fernando is a Senior Scientist with 10+ years of experience in a broad range of biomedical research areas in both academic and industry settings, focusing primarily on the fields of immunology, biomarkers and in vitro diagnostics. An effective communicator, Fernando develops working interactions within cross-functional teams, providing executive management with key decision-making R&D perspectives. At Amgen, Fernando leads the development of companion diagnostic strategies to support a comprehensive portfolio of clinical development programs in oncology and inflammatory diseases. Previously, he worked at DxTerity on personalized medicine diagnostics and led R&D efforts at Immucor to transition innovative academic research into a next-generation platform for blood typing and point-of-care diagnostics. Fernando obtained a B.S. degree in Industrial Biotechnology from the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez and a PhD from Harvard Medical School, where his research focused on basic transcriptional and epigenetic studies of the immune system. During postdoctoral studies at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, he performed translational research on the interaction between innate and adaptive immunity in ocular disease. Fernando is also actively involved as a mentor with programs aimed at increasing diversity within STEM fields.

Eileen A. Elliott, Site Lead for Site Affairs and External Outreach, Pfizer

Eileen A. Elliott is Site Lead for Site Affairs and External Outreach at Pfizer Kendall Square. In this role Eileen leads the strategy for external outreach, internal/external communications, colleague engagement and site affairs related to the Pfizer Cambridge campus. She works closely with Therapeutic Areas and Partner Line leaders, Business Development, Communications, and Pfizer site colleagues to strengthen Pfizer's presence in the Cambridge healthcare ecosystem and augment its R&D portfolio.

Eileen's pharmaceutical career started in 1993 when she joined Alexion Pharmaceuticals in New Haven, CT where she researched biologic approaches for inhibiting components of the complement system as therapeutic intervention for inflammatory diseases. She co-lead the discovery biology team to identify Alexion's Soliris which is the first and only therapy approved for the treatment of patients with paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria.

Eileen joined Pfizer, in 1995, as a Research Scientist in Immunology. Over the course of her 20+ years at Pfizer, she has held a variety of positions all leveraging her scientific and managerial experience, including Lead for Strategic Operations for the Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disease therapeutic area, Lead for the Pfizer Technology Center of Excellence, Head of Groton External Research supporting the CVMED, Neuroscience, Pain, and Antibacterial therapeutic areas. In this role she was responsible for the development and implementation of external sourcing strategies for Pfizer's therapeutic areas, supporting synthetic chemistry, PDM, and high throughput screening. Eileen has played pivotal roles on both the business and drug discovery side of the pharmaceutical industry, leading the discovery and development of both small molecule and bio-therapeutic modulators for a range of therapeutic targets. She is a co-founder of Alexion's Solaris product and lead contributor to Pfizer's Xeljanz JAK3 modulator.

Eileen has more than 25 peer reviewed publications and has made numerous symposium and conference presentations. She received her Bachelor's degree in Biology from St. Bonaventure University, Buffalo NY, a PhD in Immunology from Albany Medical College, Union University, and completed a fellowship in Dr. Richard Favell's laboratory at Yale University as a Howard Hughes Fellow.

Doris Forestal, PhD, Head Global Labeling, Janssen Pharmaceuticals

Doris Forestal, PhD, is the Developmental & New Products Content Head in the Global Labeling Centre of Excellence/Global Regulatory Affairs department at Janssen, Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson. In this role, Doris has oversight of the new products' portfolio across Therapeutic Areas (TA) and for creation of associated labeling strategies. Doris is also responsible for prioritization and resourcing and is accountable for the development and growth of her direct reports. Prior to this role, Doris was the Global Labeling TA Head for Oncology. Her tenure at Janssen also included acting Global Labeling TA Head responsibilities for the Immunology, Infectious Diseases and Vaccines, as well as the Cardiovascular and Metabolism TAs at various times. Doris joined Johnson & Johnson in 2006. Before joining J&J, Doris was the Global Labeling TA Head for Oncology at sanofi-aventis.

Doris holds a PhD in Health Policy from the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, a Master of Science in Drug Regulatory Affairs from Long Island University, a Master of Science in Pharmacology and a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from the University of Montreal.

Tara Fourre, Research Manager, Microbiology, J&J Consumer Companies

Tara has been working in Research & Development since she started her career in 1999 with the LISTERINE® Brand. Her expertise focuses on development of efficacy methods to explore new technological modes of action and claims. She has played a pivotal role in supporting the successful launches of over 12 new global LISTERINE® products. Tara has managed the Johnson & Johnson Consumer, Inc. Microbiology team since 2016, where she continues to develop new talent focusing on methods for evaluating biofilms. While her team's primary objectives are on oral care and wound care initiatives, she continues expanding her outreach across J&J, and has contributed to delivering new methods for the Neutrogena Light Mask and biofilm research programs in Ethicon and DePuy Synthes.

Tara holds a B.S. degree from The College of New Jersey and an M.S. degree in Microbiology from Fairleigh Dickenson University. She has a daughter, age 10, and spends much of free time with her family, friends, and pets.

Tobias J. Futterer, PhD, Research Manager, J&J Consumer Companies

Tobias J. Futterer, PhD currently leads the Body Upstream Innovation Platform, which delivers innovative new concepts, ingredients and formulation approaches for J&J body care products. He holds a Diploma in Chemistry and earned his PhD in Physical Chemistry from the Technical University of Berlin for his studies of the self-assembly of surface-active, highly anisotropic polymers in bulk and at interfaces as well as their interactions with surfactants. He joined J&J in 2014 leading the Polymer & Surface Chemistry Platform following 10 years of experience in the home and personal care industry at Solvay (formerly Rhodia Novecare) in the US and Singapore. He held various positions within R&D and as Innovation Manager, successfully leading programs to design, develop and commercialize new technologies for consumer products. To date, Tobias is an inventor on 11 issued patents and a coauthor of 12 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters.

Kavitha Goyal, M.D., Senior Director, Janssen Immunology Medical Affairs

Kavitha Goyal is the Senior Director, Medical Science Liaisons (MSLs), Immunology reporting to Andrew Greenspan, VP Medical Affairs, Immunology and has been at Janssen for 12 years.

Kavitha attended medical school at West Virginia University, and trained in internal medicine at University of Pittsburgh. She cared for patients in various academic and community practice settings for 10 years, and areas of focus included working as a hospitalist, preventative health care and eating disorders. Her two daughters were born in the hospital where she was on staff and many co-workers came to visit!

Kavitha joined Janssen in 2007, and had increasing responsibilities in Global Medical Safety, Immunology. She moved to Medical Affairs in 2013 as a medical director in the Dermatology Therapeutic Area, and was responsible for the conduct and data dissemination of PSOLAR, a large international psoriasis registry. She later took on the role of REMICADE Compound Development Team Leader where she became immersed in the rapidly evolving landscape of biosimilars. For the past year, she has been leading a group of 35, and overseeing the strategy and activities of 3 teams of MSLs in rheumatology, gastroenterology and dermatology. She lives in Gladwyne with her husband and rising 11th and 9th graders. In her free time, she loves to read/listen to fiction, eat or cook yummy food, explore nature, attempt to garden, and watch period films. One day she hopes to go on an archaeological dig type of vacation, spend a few weeks in a Tuscan villa, and try writing a screenplay.

Eric Hall II, PhD, Director, Janssen Cardio Vascular Medical Affairs

Eric Hall II, PhD is a Director in the Real World Analytics and Alliances department of Janssen, pharmaceuticals companies of Johnson & Johnson. He serves as an Alliance Leader managing strategic partnerships with select external organizations. Eric seeks to leverage data and analytics capabilities to optimize J&J product-, payer-, and policy-related research and commercial applications across the pharmaceutical and device business sectors.

Previously, Eric led US medical access strategy for rare and neurodegenerative therapeutic areas at Biogen. He led the development of launch plans, including dossier development, payer advisory boards, and evidence generation for product value demonstration for US Payers. He began his career as a Medical Science Liaison and has had many diverse experiences working in specialty and rare markets working with HCPs and Payers focused on value-based initiatives and health outcomes research.

A native of Detroit, MI, Eric went on to earn his Bachelor of Science in Biology at Xavier University of Louisiana. He went on to attend graduate school at Penn State University College of Medicine, where he defended his dissertation research on Alzheimer's disease to earn his PhD in Neuroscience.

Cleat Jerden, Executive Director Business Performance, Amgen

Cleat Jerden is an Executive Director of Business Performance for Amgen's Process Development organization. In his 23 years at Amgen, he has held a variety of roles bridging business analysis and performance with science. He is one of the individuals responsible for implementing Process Development's capacity management framework and business process. Cleat graduated with a B.S. in Public Affairs from Indiana University.

Renu Juneja, PhD, Head of Scientific Evidence & Communications, Janssen

Renu Juneja is Head of the Scientific Evidence and Communications at Janssen Biotechnology Inc (JBI). Her team has the responsibility for publication plans, medical education, medical booth content, KOL engagements, MSL slide decks & training, cooperative studies and clinical trial operations in Oncology Medical affairs at JBI. Before joining Janssen, Renu was head of the Medical Communications group at MedImmune (the worldwide biologics research and development arm of AstraZeneca). Her group had the responsibility for both regulatory documents and development & execution of strategic publication plans. Her team supported all therapeutic areas including Immuno-oncology, respiratory, inflammation, CVMD, infectious diseases and vaccines.

Previously, she led the Strategic Scientific Communication (SSC) group at Novo Nordisk Inc. (NNI). She also had the opportunity to lead the Information & Education group at NNI and was responsible for the company's library and for Independent Medical Education (IMEs) programs. Renu started her career in Novo Nordisk as a medical writer. After finishing her PhD in Reproductive Biology & Biochemistry from the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER) in India, Renu joined The Population Council in NY as a Postdoctoral fellow. Two years later, she received an independent research grant from the Lalor Foundation and joined the department of Molecular Biology at the Princeton University. She has over 30 publications in peer-reviewed journals and has presented at various national and international conferences.

Renu has presented and conducted workshops at the annual meetings of various professional organizations e.g. ISMPP, TIPPA, CBI, and Q1 productions.

Simarna Kaur, PhD, Research Manager, J&J Consumer Companies

Simarna Kaur, PhD, has 10 years of Professional experience in Consumer Research & Development, focusing on skin health, and healthy baby development. She has co-authored 16 peer-reviewed publications and 6 book chapters. She is also a co-inventor on 13 granted US patents, and multiple pending patent applications. Simarna earned a PhD in Chemical Biology from Stevens Institute of Technology in NJ.

John Knighton, PhD, Head Large Molecule, Janssen Pharmaceuticals

With 27 years of biopharmaceutical experience, John Knighton has held a number of roles with increasing responsibilities within the biopharmaceutical field. Currently, John is the Vice President, API Large Molecule in Research & Development at Janssen Pharmaceuticals, which is part of the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies, leading a diverse and dedicated team of managers, scientists and engineers in biopharmaceutical drug substance process development, global technology transfer, and technical commercial product support. John started his career at SmithKline Beecham and GlaxoSmithKline working there for 14 years in various roles in biopharmaceutical research and development.

John holds his BS degree in Microbiology from The Pennsylvania State University, an MBA from Villanova University, and a Doctorate in Business Administration from Temple University.

Jacqueline LePage, Director of Global Oral Care R&D, J&J Consumer

Jacqueline LePage is currently the Director of Global Oral Care R&D at Johnson & Johnson Consumer Products based out of Skillman, NJ. Jackie and her team are responsible for the formulation and new technology development for the Listerine brand globally as well as the maintenance of existing Oral Care products. Recently, Jackie's team launched Listerine Ready Tabs, a new on-the-go oral care product designed to neutralize bad breath odors and provide a clean mouth at times when consumers need it most. She is also focused on the scientific advancement of Listerine mouthwash formulations with the intent to prevent and treat oral disease such as gingivitis and dental caries in products that are appealing to consumers.

Jackie started her career at Pfizer, Inc (which was later acquired by J&J in 2006) as a formulation scientist after graduating from The College of New Jersey with a B.S. in Chemistry. She designed new Listerine and OTC drug dissolvable film compositions as well as novel mouthwash formulations. Jackie also spent some time in a process development role in a GMP Pilot Plant where she focused on the scale-up of emulsions, solid and liquid dose formats across the consumer business. After several launches and technical accomplishments, Jackie pursued several roles in Project Management building a broader business acumen by leading cross-functional teams, comprised of Marketing, Sales, Supply Chain and R&D, to deliver new products to the marketplace and in 2012 led a compliance initiative in J&J to improve Quality Systems across the Consumer sector. In 2013, Jackie returned to Research and Development and the Listerine Brand and has been taking on increasing levels of responsibility on this business.

In addition to her scientific and business interests, Jackie enjoys spending time with her husband and two daughters and has a passion for gardening and cooking.

Daniel Lin, PhD, Principal Scientist, Cardiometabolic Disorders, Amgen

Dan is a Principal Scientist at Amgen, where he is involved in preclinical drug discovery for cardiometabolic disorders. Dan has led number of projects during his ~17-years at Amgen that have spanned targets for Type 2 diabetes, non-alcoholic steatohepatitis, chronic kidney disease, pancreatic beta cell dysfunction, insulin resistance, obesity and nephrotic syndrome. Dan has experience with a variety of drug modalities included small molecule, siRNA and biologics. His work involves research understanding, optimization and testing of drug candidates in preclinical models of disease, strategic thinking in advancing assets to clinical development, and a passion for teamwork. Dan additionally supervises and mentors a talented group of Scientists and postdoctoral fellows. Prior to Amgen, Dan was a staff scientist at Tularik before its' acquisition by Amgen. There, Dan was involved in laying the foundation for the GPCR drug discovery platform and played a pivotal role in advancing projects in metabolic disorders. Dan earned his PhD in Biology from MIT, where he studied the mechanisms of chromosome segregation in prokaryotic cells. Dan earned his BA from UC Berkeley (honors) where was also won the Outstanding Undergraduate Research in Genetics award.

Luther T. Clark, MD, FACC, FACP, Deputy Chief Patient Officer, Global Director, Scientific, Medical and Patient Perspective Office of the Chief Patient Officer Merck & Co.

Luther T. Clark, M.D., FACC, FACP, is Deputy Chief Patient Officer and Global Director, Scientific Medical and Patient Perspective (SMPP) in the Office of the Chief Patient Officer (OCPO) at Merck. In this role, he is responsible for (1) gathering internal and external scientific and medical information to assist with decision-making at the highest levels; (2) collaborating across Merck to increase the voice of patients, directly and indirectly in decision-making; (3) collaborating with key internal and external stakeholders in development of a systematized approach for collecting and incorporating patient insights across the patient journey and product lifecycle; and (4) representing Merck externally, expanding bi-directional exchange with key patient and professional organizations.

Luther leads Merck's Patient Insights Team, is co-leader of the team that champions Health Care Equities (including promotion of health literacy and research diversity) and chairs the Patient Engagement, Health Literacy & Clinical Trials Diversity Investigator Initiated Studies Research Committee. Prior to joining Merck, Luther was Chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine at the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center (SUNY Downstate) and founding Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded Brooklyn Health Disparities Research Center.

Luther earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard College and his Medical degree from Harvard Medical School. He is a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology (FACC) and the American College of Physicians (FACP), and a past member of the Board of Directors of the Founders Affiliate of the American Heart Association. He is a nationally and internationally recognized leader in cardiovascular education, clinical investigation, cardiovascular disease prevention, and health equity. He has authored more than 100 publications and edited and was principal contributor to the textbook Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes (McGraw-Hill).

Luther has received numerous awards and honors, including the Harvard University Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Medicine. He is the current President of the Health Science Center at Brooklyn Foundation (HSCB Foundation), SUNY Downstate Medical Center.

Kirla Mauras, Sr. Manager Process Development, Amgen

Kirla Mauras joined Amgen in Attributes Sciences (AS) Process Development in 2005. While in AS, she led the transfer of Analytical Methods, supported Biological Product Deviations and new specification establishment. She also worked in the development and qualification of analytical methods, as well as supported process improvement projects. In 2014, Kirla moved to the Purification Sciences group where she supported the design of resin sampling characterization studies for stability testing and implemented the sampling procedure in Incoming QA. She also worked with Incoming QA, Supplier Quality Management, Manufacturing, and Supply Chain, in the qualification of new supplier for process raw material. Kirla returned to Attribute Sciences in 2016, where she leads a team of Attribute Sciences Team leaders for multiple Amgen molecules. In addition, she leads the method improvement process for Amgen in-process, release and stability methods. Kirla holds a Master of Science in Molecular Biology from the University of Puerto Rico- Rio Piedras Campus.

Tony Ndifor, PhD, Director, Preclinical Development and Safety, Janssen

Tony Ndifor is a Director in the Preclinical Development and Safety department at Janssen Research & Development based in San Diego, CA. In his current role, he provides preclinical safety [toxicology] expertise to global drug discovery and development teams.

Tony has over 17 years of biologics and small molecule drug development experience. Prior to joining Janssen R&D, he worked for Parke-Davis in Michigan and Amgen in California. He holds a MSc degree from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, and obtained his PhD at the University of Liverpool in England. Tony is passionate about mentoring and ensuring the next generation has the knowledge and resources to make informed career decisions.

He has served as a Mentor with the Scientist Mentoring & Diversity Program for 13 years and what keeps him coming back is the immense value gained by alumni of the program.

Ernie Pérez Almodóvar, PhD, Director of Manufacturing, Amgen

Ernie received his bachelor's degree in Industrial Biotechnology from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez in May 2007. During his undergraduate studies, he performed research at the University of Puerto Rico, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and Universidad de Santiago de Compostela. He earned a PhD from the Department of Chemical Engineering at University of Virginia in May 2012 along with the Louis T. Rader and L. William Ballard, Jr. awards. His thesis focused on protein adsorption and mass transfer kinetics of novel chromatographic resins. In 2013, he received the International Adsorption Society (IAS) Award for his contribution to the adsorption field.

He joined Amgen in 2012 as a member of the downstream process development team. In his role, he was supporting downstream commercial operations for mammalian and E.coli production facilities. In addition, his team was responsible for developing and implementing improvement projects and complete technology transfers at multiple commercial facilities. Ernie was accepted in 2017 to a future operations leaders program within Amgen. Currently, as a Director of Manufacturing, Ernie is leading the manufacturing organization responsible for over 70% of Amgen's filling operations.

Navin Rao, PhD, Scientific Director, Janssen Pharmaceuticals

Navin is a Scientific Director in Immunology Discovery at Janssen Research & Development. His current responsibilities include leading the Rheumatology Discovery group, strategic and leadership responsibilities as a member of the Rheumatology Disease Area Stronghold (DAS) and Immunology Discovery Leadership Team and licensing activities. The Rheumatology DAS is focused on finding meaningful solutions for patients with rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, psoriatic arthritis and other autoimmune diseases while closely working with Janssen colleagues in Oncology and Neurosciences on overlapping disease pathways. Navin has also led multiple scientific and drug discovery collaborations involving academic, industry and cross-pharma partners.

Navin began his undergraduate studies at the University of Puget Sound focused on evolutionary biology and classical history until chance led him to immunology. He did his doctoral training at Harvard University in the Division of Rheumatology, Immunology and Allergy, where he focused on signaling pathways in autoimmunity and oncology. He conducted postdoctoral studies at Brigham & Womens' Hospital and then Janssen La Jolla. He joined Janssen as a Scientist and worked on a variety of programs spanning multiple disease areas and ranging from target validation through clinical candidate progression to Phase 1b/2a. After 16 years with Janssen at the La Jolla, CA campus, Navin recently relocated to Janssen's Spring House, PA campus. When not at work, he enjoys spending time outdoors with his family where his favorite past times include trail running, bird watching, wood working and nature photography.

Karim Safer, Senior Director, Janssen Pharmaceuticals

Karim Safer provides leadership to a cross-functional strategic compound development team and leads the development and execution of multiple oncology compound strategies. Karim served as Project scientist Leader and Early Development in Janssen's Experimental Medicine Early Development (eMED) group for several years. In this role he was responsible for overseeing the delivery of an expanding ED portfolio and for building and maintaining strong relationships with all the functional areas that support ED. Karim spent over 7 years within Janssen overseeing different aspects of clinical drug development in oncology. In addition to his J&J experience, Karim worked for 5 years in clinical trial management at a CRO.

Karim was research fellow at the Center of Biomedical Inventions, at UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas and research scientist at the Department of Pathology and Medical Oncology, Vrije University Medical Center in Amsterdam.

Deepak Sharma, PhD, World Wide Director, J&J Consumer Companies

Deepak joined Johnson and Johnson Consumer in 2006 from Gillette, as part of Johnson and Johnson acquisition of oral care brand & technologies from Gillette/P&G. Deepak holds a BS, MS and PhD degree in Biophysical Chemistry. His PhD work was focused on studying (un)folding and structural organization mechanisms of globular and fibrous proteins using various spectroscopic techniques. Prior to joining industry, Deepak was Research Assistant Professor with Boston College, where he focused on developing understanding of protein aggregation pathways that are implicated in various neurodegenerative diseases.

In 2004 he left academic research and joined Gillette Advanced Technology center, where he supported various initiatives for oral and skin care need states. In J&J, Deepak started with supporting oral care platform technologies group, and led the development and commercialization of first medical device for Listerine Franchise. Deepak played key role during successful remediation of warning letter related to medical devices by leading the Risk Management work stream and closely working with FDA and ASTM organization. He has led complex disruptive innovation alliance project for Oral care need state and has been instrumental in developing upstream innovation program for Compromised Skin need state. Deepak has continuously demonstrated sound technical and strategic leadership as well as persistence to deliver on challenging projects or resolving uncomfortable situations on projects or with stakeholders (FDA, KOLs and IRBs).

Since 2016, he has been leading the Global Enabling Systems group responsible for development and commercialization of medical devices for J&J Consumer. Deepak is acknowledged for his technical and strategic leadership as well as persistence to deliver on challenging projects or addressing difficult situations. He enjoys leading diverse technical teams and steering them with end to end execution strategies, smart risks taking and fast decision making. Beyond his scientific contributions and business commitments, Deepak is passionate about global consumer needs and community outreach, mentoring and continuous learning.

Cathryn A. Shaw-Reid, PhD Executive Director Plant Manager, Amgen

Cathryn Shaw-Reid, PhD, is an Executive Director, Plant Manager at Amgen where she currently leads a cross-functional team in the manufacturing of Amgen's biologics commercial products. She has built a variety of clinical and commercial teams at Amgen, including product team leadership in Process Development and Global Operations product strategy. She transitioned to Puerto Rico in 2010 to seize the exciting opportunity to serve as the first Plant Manager for Amgen's start-up solid dosage form facility where she led the team in validation and licensure of Sensipar®/Mimpara® drug product and tablet production. She also led the Strategic Planning and Operations Risk Management organization, and she ran a corporate initiative team in transforming governance systems to support executive decision-making.

Prior to joining Amgen, Cathryn led a biochemistry team at Merck Research Labs in West Point, Pennsylvania in the discovery of novel HIV small molecule inhibitors. She holds a B.A. (liberal arts) and B.S. (chemical engineering) from Columbia University in New York and a PhD in biochemical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). She completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School in the field of enzymology.

Wanda Shoer, Director, Global Medical Safety, Office of the Chief Medical Officer, Johnson & Johnson

As a member of the Global Medical Safety Leadership Team, Wanda has responsibility for driving alignment and accountability for the development and execution of Global Medical Safety strategy that centers on patient focus, medical safety excellence, operational excellence and regulatory compliance.

Wanda joined Johnson & Johnson in 2012 as a Director in the Talent Management organization. Wanda held several roles in Talent Development and led numerous multi-annual initiatives in collaboration with HR, IT, and Procurement. Prior to joining GMS, Wanda was the Director, Talent Development Program Strategy and Deployment. In this role, she had responsibility for all Learning business administration for the Center for Leadership & Learning. This included business operations necessary to the deployment of J&J's enterprise leadership curriculum globally, management of third-party vendor relationships and internal partnerships, financial budgets and forecasts, and ongoing marketing and communications efforts. In addition, Wanda had program (PMO) and staffing responsibilities for learning deployment, planning and implementation.

Wanda has an undergraduate degree from Wheaton College and an MBA from Simmons University. She lives in Chester, NJ with her husband and two children.

Jo Anne Sicat, Director Global Aggregate Reporting and Risk Management, Office of the Chief Medical Officer, Johnson & Johnson

Jo Anne Sicat has been at Johnson & Johnson Consumer Inc. since 2016 and she is currently the Director of Global Aggregate Reporting and Risk Management. In this role, Jo Anne is responsible for the oversight of Pharmacovigilance Aggregate Reports and Risk Management organization. She oversees the compliance, quality, procedures, regulations, timeliness, and consistency of aggregate reports for Johnson & Johnson Consumer products. Jo Anne has over 15 years of industry experience in pharmacovigilance for both post-marketing and clinical activities. She holds a Master of Science Degree in Nursing and is a Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. Jo Anne currently lives in New Jersey with her husband and two boys. She enjoys traveling with her family domestically and internationally.

Ira Solomon, M.D., Compound Development Team Leader, Janssen

Ira D. Solomon, M.D., obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Brooklyn College with a focus in Pre-med coursework. He received his medical degree from New York University in 1995, and completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City. He subsequently went on to complete a General Medicine Fellowship at New York / Presbyterian Medical Center, while obtaining a Master's Degree in Public Health from Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University in New York City. He has also completed coursework at Oxford University, UK, in the area of Evidence Based Medicine. He is board Certified in Internal Medicine and maintains an active license to practice medicine in New York State.

Ira has over 15 years of experience working as a physician in the pharmaceutical industry at various companies. He began his career within Janssen within the Global Medical Safety Organization as a Benefit Risk Physician in New Jersey in 2005. He was responsible for the pharmacovigilance oversight for products within the internal medicine and infectious disease therapeutic area. Since then he has held additional positions within the safety organization of increasing responsibility, in various therapeutic areas, culminating with a role as the Therapeutic Area Safety Head, for Cardiovascular and Metabolism from June 2011 through 2014, with safety oversight for key products including the initial submissions and approvals of Invokana® and Rivaroxaban®. In 2014 he transitioned

to a role as the Compound Development Team Leader / Portfolio Leader, within the Established Product Group at Janssen, within the Global Medical Organization, with oversight for the Central Nervous System Established Products therapeutic area products including Concerta®, Topamax®, and Ris Consta® and continues in that role today.

Jennie Stevenson, PhD, Executive Director Process Development, Amgen

Jennie Stevenson is currently an Executive Director leading the Final Product Technologies Design & Development group at Amgen Inc. In this role she is responsible for all new and major lifecycle management of final product development. Jennie has held positions of increasing responsibility throughout her career at Amgen Inc, including leading the Pivotal Drug Product Technologies group and Process Engineering group. Jennie has partnered closely with development teams and the clinical and commercial drug product sites throughout her twelve years at Amgen. Prior to joining Amgen, Jennie worked for over two years in a medical device company, working on implantable insulin pumps.

Jennie received her Bachelor degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles and her PhD in Biomedical Sciences from the University of California, San Diego.

Richard Smith, PhD, Director, Preclinical, Amgen

Originally from the United Kingdom, Richard obtained his BA in Natural Sciences from the University of Cambridge and his PhD in Virology from the University of Glasgow. He then moved to California to pursue postdoctoral research at Stanford University. Richard's research focused on target discovery in tumor angiogenesis. Richard transitioned to industry in 2005 when he joined Avidia Inc., a start-up focused on the development on a novel protein scaffold, the Avimer, as a member of the assay development team. In late 2006 Avidia was acquired by Amgen. Since then Richard has held several positions, including leading the Protein Technologies group in South San Francisco, focused on developing and delivering recombinant protein reagents to support Amgen's early pipeline. He currently is a Director, Preclinical with the Pharmacokinetics and Drug Metabolism group, applying his experience in protein engineering to understanding the behavior of large molecule therapeutics in vivo.

Reginald Valdez, PhD, Principal Pathologist, Amgen

Reginald Valdez is a board-certified veterinary pathologist, and Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP), with over seventeen years of professional experience in the biopharmaceutical industry. In his current position at Amgen, Reginald serves on drug development teams as a Project Team Representative (PTR) for the Department of Comparative Biology and Safety Sciences (CBSS). In previous roles at the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research and at Pfizer Global Research and Development, Reginald provided strategic scientific leadership and pathology-related research and development support to program teams involved in drug discovery and development functions across multiple therapeutic areas worldwide.

Reginald, a native of the state of Colorado, received his undergraduate training in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology at the University of Colorado Boulder, and earned a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.) degree from Colorado State University. He also earned a Master degree in parasitology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a PhD in immunology from Washington State University. He currently serves on the Editorial Board of Toxicologic Pathology, the official journal of the Society of Toxicologic Pathology, the British Society of Toxicological Pathologists and the European Society of Toxicologic Pathology.

Behin Yektashenas, PharmD, Director, Janssen Medical Affairs

Behin Yektashenas, PharmD, is a Director within US Medical Affairs at Janssen Pharmaceuticals. She leads the cardiovascular Integrated Evidence Team (IET) where she has successfully built and managed the first, large, cross functional team responsible for optimizing the clinical development & commercialization support of the drug XARELTO in the US. Prior to this role, Behin served as a scientific publication & communications expert leading strategic global scientific analyses & publication plans, life-cycle management & launch readiness execution across a variety of therapeutic areas, culminating in 17 years pharmaceutical industry experience. Behin earned both her Bachelor of Science and Doctorate of Pharmaceutical Science degrees from Rutgers University and subsequently completed a post-doctoral fellowship in US Medical Affairs – Infectious Disease through Rutgers University and Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. Behin lives in New Jersey with her husband John where she enjoys cooking, being outdoors and travelling.

Notes