


## SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 17, 2024

 = Keynote Speaker  = Speaker  = Panel Discussion


### MONDAY, MAY 20 • PRE-EVENT

Open to all Registered Attendees

Separately Ticketed Event

**2:00 PM – 8:00 PM**  UCLA Campus  
Ackerman Union Ballroom **Nucleate Final Pitch Showcase**  
8 PhD teams from area universities present their startups

### TUESDAY, MAY 21 • PRE-EVENT



**9:00 AM – 1:30 PM**  Roundtrip Bus Tour from  
UCLA-Pasadena-UCLA **Pasadena Ecosystem Tour**  
Xencor Caltech based public biotech  
Caltech Famous Higher Ed Campus - what “Big Bang Theory” TV  
show is loosely based on  
Protomer Technologies A wholly owned subsidiary of Eli Lilly  
101 South Marengo an example of re-purposed space for  
bioscience  
HMRI – Huntington Medical Research Institute – emerging leader  
in biotech and lifescience ecosystem  
Doheny Eye Institute – Leader in Human Eyesight

Open to LABEST VIPs Only

39 spots

Sponsored by JLL



**1:00 PM – 7:30 PM**  Skirball Cultural Center **First Look SoCal Innovation Showcase 2024**  
Alliance for SoCal Innovation  
24 startup teams pitch  
 **Keynote Address**  
Keith Strier, Vice President, Worldwide AI Initiatives, NVIDIA

Open to all Registered Attendees

Separately Ticketed Event

Continuous complimentary  
shuttle loop from UCLA to venue  
Sponsored by Yuyu Pharma




### WEDNESDAY, MAY 22 • VIP PRE-EVENT

Open to LABEST VIPs Only

**8:00 AM - Noon**  UCLA Campus **UCLA Lab Tours**  

- Advanced Robotic Micro Surgery (ARMS)
- BRAIN
- CNSI
- REED LAB | IMMUNOLOGICAL MECHANISMS
- UCLA Theranostics Center
- W. M. Keck Center for Neurophysics at UCLA

All UCLA Tours are Walking Tours

**9:30AM**  Roundtrip Bus Tour from  
UCLA-Torrance -UCLA **TLI’s Innovation Spotlight & BioLabsLA Tour**  
Please join The Lundquist Institute for a morning of 5 start-up  
pitches and a tour of the BioLabsLA incubator.  
The Lundquist Institute has more than 120 principal investigators  
and 400 researchers in total working on 600 research studies  
BioLabs LA at The Lundquist Institute now houses 30 start-up  
bioscience companies  
Bonus stop: King’s Hawaiian, a uniquely Aloha Experience by  
serving irresistible baked goods and Hawaiian foods.

Sponsored by  
The Lundquist Institute



Limited Space

Make sure you add Sessions to your  
schedule to secure a spot

 = Keynote Speaker    = Speaker    = Panel Discussion

Wednesday, May 22 Continued

<p><b>Noon</b></p>	<p> Campus and Westwood Restaurant</p>	<p> <b>Lunch on Your Own</b>  <a href="#">UCLA Ackerman Student Union Eateries</a>  <a href="#">Westwood Village Dining</a>   <a href="#">Staff Picks</a></p>
<p><b>1:30 PM</b></p>	<p> Luskin Conference Center Legacy AB, 2nd Floor, South Wing</p>	<p> <b>Drug Discovery in Academia: Some Success Stories</b>   <i>Open to LABEST VIPs Only</i></p> <p>Panelists:  <b>Mike Jung</b>, Professor, Walter and Shirley Wang Chair in Medicinal Drug Discovery &amp; Distinguished Professor in <a href="#">Chem &amp; Biochemistry</a>  <b>Stuart Conway</b>, Michael and Alice Jung Endowed Chair of <a href="#">Medicinal Chemistry and Drug Discovery</a>, UCLA</p>
<p><b>2:00 PM</b></p>	<p> Luskin Conference Center Legacy AB, 2nd Floor, South Wing</p>	<p> <b>Exciting Progress &amp; Innovative Advancements in Ophthalmology</b>   Moderated by <b>Abla Creasey</b>, Vice President of Therapeutics Development, <a href="#">CIRM</a></p> <p>Panelists:  <b>Dennis O. Clegg</b>, Wilcox Family Chair in Biomedicine, Co-Director, Center for Stem Cell Biology and Engineering, Professor, <a href="#">Department of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology, UCSB</a>  <b>Peter Francis</b>, Chief Scientific &amp; Chief Medical Officer, <a href="#">Ray Therapeutics</a>  <b>Kristin Macdonald</b>, Retinitis Pigmentosa Patient Advocate  <b>Douglas Tsao</b>, Managing Director, <a href="#">H.C. Wainwright &amp; Co LLC</a>  <b>Aya Barzelay Wollman</b>, Health Science Clinical Instructor Retina division, <a href="#">UCLA Stein Eye Institute</a></p>
<p><b>3:00 PM</b></p>		<p><b>Networking Break</b></p>
<p><b>3:15 PM</b></p>	<p> Legacy AB, 2nd Floor, South Wing</p>	<p> <b>New Payment Models for Ultra Rare Diseases</b></p> <p>Panelists:  <b>Paul Ayoub</b>, CEO, Rarity PBC  <b>Abla Creasey</b>, Vice President, Therapeutics Development, <a href="#">California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM)</a>  <b>Nasha Fitter</b>, Co-founder/CEO, FOXG1 Research Foundation and Co-founder/CBO, Citizen, Patient Advocate for Amara  <b>Michael Meyers</b>, Vice Chairman, Head of M&amp;A and Strategic Advisory Services, <a href="#">H.C. Wainwright &amp; Co., LLC</a></p>
<p><b>3:45 PM</b></p>	<p> Legacy AB, 2nd Floor, South Wing</p>	<p> <b>Pushing the Envelope to Reverse Fibrosis with Novel Technologies</b></p> <p>Panelists:  <b>Dino Di Carlo</b>, Armond and Elena Hairapetian Chair in <a href="#">Engineering and Medicine</a>, UCLA  <b>Brigitte Gomperts</b>, Associate Director of Translational Research, <a href="#">UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center</a>  <b>Thomas Rando</b>, Director <a href="#">UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center</a>  <b>Matthew James Thomas</b>, Head of Immunology &amp; Respiratory Diseases Research, <a href="#">Boehringer Ingelheim</a></p>
<p><b>4:30 PM – 6:30 PM</b></p>	<p> Centennial Terrace, 3rd Floor</p>	<p><b>VIP Reception</b></p>
<p><b>4:30 PM</b></p>		<p><b>Pearl Cohen Poster Award Announcement</b>  <b>Mark Cohen</b>, Partner, Chair of the Life Sciences Practice Group, <a href="#">Pearl Cohen Zedek Latzer Baratz, LLP</a></p>

For the most up-to-date schedule, download and view on the LABEST App



## THURSDAY, MAY 23 • LABEST 2024 MAIN EVENT

*Open to all Registered Attendees*

### LUSKIN CONFERENCE CENTER

7:30 AM  Main Entrance

#### **Registration Check-In & Breakfast**

8:45 AM  Centennial Ballroom

#### **Emcee: Judy Fortin**, Chief of Communications, [UCLA Health](#) and [DGSOM](#)

#### **Welcome to LABEST**

Mark Wisniewski, Senior Director, Bio Pharmaceuticals [UCLA Technology Development Group](#)

#### **Welcome from our Innovator Sponsors**

Ray Deshaies, Senior Vice President Global Research, [Amgen](#)

#### **Introduction to Keynote Speaker**

Amir Naiberg, AVC, CEO & President, [UCLA Technology Development Group](#)

#### **Keynote Speaker**

Robert Bradway, CEO, [Amgen](#)

#### **Welcome from our Innovator Sponsors**

Michele LeSueur, Vice President of Global Portfolio and Program Strategy, [Kite](#), a Gilead Company

#### **California Institute for Immunology and Immunotherapy at UCLA Research Park**

Moderated by **Lindsey Williams**,  
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Health  
Sciences Development, UCLA

Founders:

**Arie Beldegrun**, Chairman, [Bellco Capital](#)

**Eric Esrailian**, Chief of the Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Division of Digestive Diseases, [DGSOM](#)

**Gary Michelson**, Founder and Co-chair, [Michelson Philanthropies](#)

**Owen Witte**, UCLA Presidential Chair and [Developmental Immunology](#)

#### **Welcome from our Innovator Sponsors**

Jonathan Thomas, Interim President & CEO, [CIRM](#)

#### **Introduction to Keynote Speaker**

Moderated by **Arie Beldegrun**,  
Chairman, [Bellco Capital](#)

#### **Keynote Speaker**

Christopher Viehbacher, President and CEO, [Biogen](#)

#### **Meet the Experts in Drug Development**

Moderated by **Arie Beldegrun**,  
Chairman, [Bellco Capital](#)

Panelists:

**James Bradner**, Executive Vice President R&D and CSO, [Amgen](#)

**Jane Grogan**, Executive Vice President and Head of Research, [Biogen](#)

**Priti Hegde**, Senior Vice President and Global Head of Research, [Kite](#), a Gilead Company

**Zachary Roberts**, Executive Vice President of R&D, [Allogene](#)

**Kanti Thirumoorthy**, CTO (T-cell Therapy), [AstraZeneca](#)

 = Keynote Speaker  = Speaker  = Panel Discussion

Thursday, May 23 Continued

**11:30AM**  Centennial Terrace,  
3rd Floor  
**12:10 PM**  
**12:50 PM**

 **Lunch on the Terrace**

3 lunch seatings, each lasting no more than 40 minutes

- Badges will be scanned for lunch seatings
- When the chimes ring, your lunch has ended
- Please be courteous to your fellow hungry attendees

**1:30 PM**  Centennial Ballroom AB


 **Made in LA: Case Studies in Bio Success**

Hear why several startups call the “City of Angels” their home  
Panelists:

**Mark Alles**, CEO, [TORL BioTherapeutics](#)  
**Martha Lawrence**, Co-Founder, [AccendoWave](#)  
**Sumant Ramachandra**, CEO, [ImmPACT Bio](#)  
**James Robinson**, CEO, [A2 Biotherapeutics](#)

Moderated by **Amir Naiberg**,  
AVC, CEO and President, [UCLA  
Technology Development Group](#)

**2:30 PM -  
5:30 PM**  Centennial Ballroom CD

 **LABEST Research Pavilion** A MUST SEE!

Featuring therapeutic and diagnostic innovations from over 35 presenters across the Los Angeles academic landscape.

**3:00 PM**  Centennial Ballroom AB

 **The Latest Trends in Venture Capital Investing**

A stellar panel of VCs provide valuable insight

Panelists:

**Mira Chaurushiya**, Managing Director, [Westlake Village Biopartners](#)  
**Sahil Chopra**, Principal, [Vertex Ventures HC](#)  
**Jakob Dupont**, Executive Partner, [Sofinnova Investment](#)  
**Stacy Feld**, Regional Head, West North America, [J&J Innovation](#)

Moderated by **Josh Green**,  
Chairman Emeritus, [National  
Venture Capital Association](#)

**4:00 PM**  Centennial Ballroom AB

 **Women’s Health: Innovative Research Models  
in Science and Medicine**

Moderated by **Janet Pregler**,  
Director and [Iris Cantor Endowed  
Chair in Women’s Health](#)

 **Introduction: The White House Initiative on Women’s Health & Outlook for NIH Support for  
Sex & Gender Research**

**Andrea Hevener**, Director of Basic Science Research, [Iris Cantor UCLA Women’s Health Center](#), Sidney Roberts & Clara Szego Endowed Professor of Molecular/Cellular Endocrinology

 **Chip Technology to Prevent Maternal Death**

**Yalda Afshar**, Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, [UCLA Maternal Fetal Medicine](#)

 **Stem Cell Approaches to Infertility, Ovarian Disease, Dysfunction, and Aging**

**Amander Clark**, Professor of Molecular Cell and Developmental Biology, Director, [UCLA Center for Reproductive Science, Health and Education \(CRSHE\)](#)

 **The Four Core Genotype Approach to Understand Estrogen/Testosterone and XX/XY  
Contributions to Sex Differences in Health and Disease**

**Karen Reue**, Professor of Human Genetics, Director, [UCLA NIH Scientific Center of Research Excellence on Sex Differences in Metabolic Syndrome](#)

 **Heart Disease in Women**

**Karol Watson**, John Mazziotta Chair in Medicine, Director, [UCLA-Barbara Streisand Women’s Heart Health Program](#)

Thursday, May 23 Continued

## 12:30 PM - 5:30 PM

12:20 PM - 1:30 PM  Illumination, 2nd Floor, South Wing

### LABEST Showcases

A deep dive into various topics

#### **The State of the Region: Biosciences in LA**

Moderated by **Rohit Shukla**, CEO, [Larta Institute](#)

In this follow-up panel discussion, both returning panelists from LABEST 23 and new guests will report on developments in their work and observations on the state of the biosciences in the region.

Hosted by [Larta Institute](#) and [The Lundquist Institute](#)

Panelists:

**Lindsay Bourgeois**, Director of Business Operations & Strategy Director, [BioLabs LA](#) at the Lundquist Institute

**Stephen Cheung**, CEO, [LAEDC](#)

**Fran Fulton**, Economic Development Manager, [City of Torrance](#)

**Teresa Garcia**, Senior Project Manager, [City of Pasadena](#)

**Dan Gober**, Executive Director, [Biocom California](#)

**Kelly LoBianco**, Director, Department of Economic Opportunity, [County of Los Angeles](#)

**Howard Xu**, Director, Incubator Development and Planning, Professor of Microbiology, [LABiospace](#), California State University, Los Angeles

1:30 PM - 2:40 PM  Legacy AB, 2nd Floor, South Wing

### Biomufacturing

 **Welcome: Shyam Patel**, Senior Director of Business Development and Alliance Management, [CIRM](#)

#### **Showcase Keynote**

**Louis van de Wiel**, Vice President, Head of Global Supply Chain, [Kite](#), a Gilead Company

#### **UCLA Good Manufacturing Practices - Past and Future**

**Sujna Raval-Fernandes**, Director, Human Gene and Cell Therapy, [UCLA GMP Facility](#)

#### **Bridging Innovation: Constructing the Future of Bioscience Manufacturing**

**Marcella Ayala**, National Director of Life Sciences, [Swinerton](#)

2:40 PM - 3:30 PM  Legacy AB, 2nd Floor, South Wing

#### **Academic-Industry Collaborations that Advance Manufacturing Workforce Training and Technology Development**

Moderated by **Shyam Patel**, Senior Director of Business Development and Alliance Management, [CIRM](#)

Hosted by [CIRM](#) and [NIIMBL](#) Biomanufacturing Consortium

Panelists:

**Taby Ahsan**, Vice President, Cell and Gene Therapy Operations, [City of Hope](#)

**Chander Arora**, Biotech Program Director, Life Sciences Department, [Los Angeles Mission College](#)

**Dan St Peter**, Head of Manufacturing, [ImmPACT Bio](#)

**Dhruv Sareen**, Executive Director, [Cedars-Sinai Biomanufacturing Center](#)

Thursday, May 23 Continued

## Hot Topic: Metabolism

Current gaps in knowledge and technology, and emerging solutions.

1:30 PM  Enlightenment Room, 2nd Floor, South Wing

### Immunometabolism as a drug target

Moderated by **Elizabeth Tarling**, Associate Professor-in-Residence, Medicine, [UCLA](#)

2:30 PM  Laureate Room, 1st Floor, South

### Weight loss treatments and their complications

Moderated by **Orian Shirihai**, Professor of Medicine (Endocrinology) and [Molecular and Medical Pharmacology](#), UCLA

Speakers:

**Brian T. Bloomquist**, Vice President, Diabetes and Obesity External Innovation, [Eli Lilly](#)

**Alborz Mahdavi**, VP [Eli Lilly](#) and CEO, Protomer Technologies

**Guy Rosenthal**, Vice President, Head of Corporate and Business Development, [Laekna](#)

**Tari Suprpto**, Director, Search & Evaluation (Western USA and Canada), [Novo Nordisk](#)

**Douglas Tsao**, Managing Director, [H.C. Wainwright](#)

3:50 PM  Enlightenment Room, 2nd Floor, South Wing

### Healthy aging and neurodegenerative diseases

Moderated by Professor **Jon Wanagat**, Professor of [Geriatrics](#), UCLA

Speaker:

**Christina Weng**, Chief Medical Officer, [Pelage](#)

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM  Optimist, 2nd Floor, North Wing

## Hot Topic : Neuroscience

### Basic Neuroscience with Clinical Translation Potential

- **Rhonda Voskuhl**, Professor, [UCLA Dept. of Neurology](#); Director, UCLA Multiple Sclerosis Program; Faculty Neurologist, UCLA Comprehensive Menopause Care Program; Jack H. Skirball Chair
- **Lindsay M. De Biase**, Assistant Professor, [Department of Physiology](#); David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
- **Jason Hinman**, Associate Professor & Vice Chair of Research, UCLA Department of Neurology; Stroke Program Director, [WLA VA Medical Center](#)

## Learning Lounge hosted by [King and Spalding](#)

Check LABEST app for speaker announcements.

1:00 PM  Laureate Room, 1st Floor, South

### Applying for Government Incentives and Grants for Startups

2:15 PM  Optimist, 2nd Floor, North Wing

### How to Connect with Funders and Capital Investment

4:15 PM  Optimist, 2nd Floor, North Wing

### What Every Start-Up Needs to Know about Patent Protection and FDA Approval

## Sponsor Exhibit Booths



Pre-Function Area,  
1st Floor

A2 BIOTHERAPEUTICS  
AMGEN  
BIOCOM  
BIOLABS  
BREAKTHROUGH PROPERTIES  
CHARLES RIVER LABS  
CIRM  
CVENT  
ImmPACT BIO  
JOHNSON & JOHNSON INNOVATION

KITE, A GILEAD COMPANY  
LARTA  
NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT  
PEARL COHEN  
SYNGENE INTERNATIONAL  
SWINERTON  
THE WATERMARK  
UCLA TECHNOLOGY  
DEVELOPMENT GROUP  
UNIVERSITY LAB PARTNERS (ULP)



## LABEST Research Pavilion

2:30 PM  
to  
5:30 PM

Centennial  
Ballroom CD,  
1st Floor

Interventional Cardiovascular Anesthesiology  
Interventional Cardiovascular Imaging  
Interventional Pulmonology  
Interventional Heart Failure & Transplantation  
Interventional Neuroradiology  
Interventional Radiology  
Interventional Gastroenterology  
Interventional Congenital Adult Heart Disease  
Interventional Oncology  
Interventional Vascular Surgery  
Interventional Cardiac Surgery  
Interventional Neurocardiology  
Interventional Radiation Oncology  
AI Driven Advanced Imaging for Patients with Solid Organ Tumors  
Broad Stem Cell Research Center at UCLA  
Cal State Los Angeles  
Cedars Sinai/Precision Biomarker Lab  
Food is Medicine, Precision Nutrition, Individual Metabolic Phenotype & Dietary Quality  
Innate-Adaptive Immunoregulation in Liver Transplant Ischemia/Reperfusion Injury  
Multiscale Innovations in Male Reproductive and Sexual Medicine  
Novel Diagnostics for Infectious Disease Testing  
PEERS for Careers: A Program within UCLA College to Career (C2C) & UCLA Center for Autism Research and Treatment (CART)  
Principles of Chromatin Biology and Investigating the Causes of Cardiovascular Disease  
Role of HLA and its Coreceptors in Endothelial Cell Activation and Leukocyte Recruitment in Antibody-mediated Transplant Rejection  
SMART (Single Cell, Multiplex, AI-driving, Real-Time) Diagnostic Platform for the Next Generation Diagnostic Service for Cancer and Various Diseases  
Software That Enables Precision Recommendation of Treatment Choices for Patients, Based on Their Clinical Characteristics and Preferences for Outcomes  
Studies on the Pathogenesis of Kidney Stones Using Multidisciplinary Techniques and in Collaboration with Experts in Fields Ranging from Microbiology to Geology  
Surgi-Zipper: A Bio-Absorbable Suture Reinforcement Designed for Dynamic Organs  
Systems Epigenomics of Persistent Bloodstream Infections for MRSA, Candida and Covid-19  
Systems Immunology to Assess Host Immunity to Viral Pathogens  
Therapy Response Prediction through Nuclear Histo-morphometric Image Analysis  
UCLA Center for Autism Research and Treatment (CART) & PEERS for Careers: A Program within UCLA College to Career  
UCLA Theranostics Center  
USC Stevens Center/MESH  
Utilization of MRI, Machine Learning and High-Resolution Ultrasound to Optimize Cancer Diagnosis and Change the Way Men are Diagnosed With Prostate Cancer  
VA Greater Los Angeles Nephrology Research: Kidney Disease and Dialysis/Transplantation Outcomes

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

### INNOVATOR SPONSOR



### UCLA GOLD SPONSOR



PEARL COHEN



### BRUIN BLUE SPONSOR



### TRANSPORTATION SPONSOR



### REGIONAL AND EXHIBITOR SPONSORS



### EDUCATIONAL PARTNER



### COMMUNITY PARTNER



## LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR INNOVATOR SPONSORS

Click on logos below



For the most up-to-date schedule, download and view on the LABEST App