JESSICA ALEXANDER
Lundbeck Pharmaceuticals

KATHERINE ATKINSON
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HAI BLANKINSHIP
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LORNA BRIDDICK
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MOLLY HE, PHD
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Salk Institute for Biological Studies

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Law Offices of Gayani R. Weerasinghe

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The Great Basin Institute

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JESSICA ALEXANDER
Principal Scientist

Dr. Jessica Alexander is Principal Scientist and Biology Project Leader for MAGL inhibitor discovery projects at Lundbeck La Jolla Research Center. Under her leadership, the LLJRC team has discovered differentiated MAGL inhibitors that are at various stages of development in the quest to restore brain health. Alexander keeps the focus on patients, building a sense of community by organizing LLJRC teams to participate in walks and runs to raise money and awareness for brain diseases. Prior to joining Lundbeck, she was Principal Scientist at Abide Therapeutics, a biotech where she focused on identifying and advancing targets from the serine hydrolase family. Alexander is actively involved in the San Diego Chapter of Women in Bio and their mission of supporting women in the field of life sciences from classroom to boardroom, promoting careers, leadership and entrepreneurship. She served first as Communications Chair and currently is Co-Vice Chair of this dynamic chapter.

Lundbeck

KATHERINE ATKINSON
Senior Vice President, Commercial Sales, Service, and Support

A life science industry veteran, Katherine Atkinson is Truvian Sciences' Senior Vice President of Commercial Sales, Service and Support. Atkinson has more than 20 years of experience in the healthcare and life sciences industries. Prior to joining Truvian, Atkinson served as Epic Sciences' chief commercial officer, where she identified new strategic business opportunities and deepened existing strategic partnerships. Before Epic, Atkinson was Vice President of Business Development and Strategic partnerships at Edico Genome.

Previously, she held roles of increasing responsibility at Illumina, including as Commercial Director of Global Channel Partners and Director, Global Channel Partners, LATAM & Inside Sales, Demand Generation and Product Care Teams. Atkinson's previous experience also includes leadership roles at Fisher Scientific, Thermo Fisher and Beckman Coulter. She holds a B.A. in Broadcast Journalism and Public Speaking from the University of Houston.

truvian™

HAI BLANKINSHIP
Regional General Manager, Property Management

Hai Blankinship currently manages the daily operations of Longfellow Real Estate Partners' San Diego portfolio which consists of over 1 million square feet of life science space. Since joining Longfellow in 2019, her responsibilities include day-to-day operations of the properties across various sectors such as acquisition, leasing, construction, preparation of annual operating and capital budgets, financial reporting, and tenant relations. Blankinship has been an instrumental part of the San Diego market's portfolio expansion to over 1 million square feet, the oversight and operations to the West Coast operational growth, and formation of Longfellow's culture in new, emerging California markets. Blankinship has taken a focused interest in the highly specialized life sciences space, working closely with tenants to provide best in class property operations and management for small and big life science tech companies. She has her Real Property Administrator designation through BOMA and is also an active member of NAIOP, BIOCOM, and the California Life Sciences Association.

LONGFELLOW™

LORNA BRIDDICK
Managing Partner

Lorna Briddick is a managing partner of Brizzey LLC. She has 19 years of experience in leading clinical supply chain business process design, optimization, and training. She started her career as a consultant to Pfizer and led the optimization of their clinical supply chain. She held operational roles of increasing influence, where she served as the Schering Plough/Merck Global Clinical Supply Regional Lead to Latin America. Along with operational roles, Briddick led numerous initiatives to optimize clinical supply chain processes, implement new technology/tools, and train new teams. She left Merck as a director in 2013 and co-founded Brizzey LLC with two other partners, where she has served as a managing partner for 7 years helping more than 45 small to medium size companies with clinical supply chain strategies and operational support. She has also served Global Clinical Supply Group Planning Committee and is a regular presenter on current topics affecting the industry.

BRIZZEY

KATE BRODERICK
Senior Vice President R&D

Dr. Kate Broderick, INOVIO's Senior Vice President of Research and Development, works in INOVIO's research labs in San Diego, focusing on the development and enhanced delivery of a range of DNA medicines designed to prevent often deadly infectious diseases and cancers. She has authored and co-authored 60+ peer-reviewed articles. Her team regularly publishes and presents their findings in leading scientific publications and at conferences worldwide. She is a co-inventor on multiple patents related to DNA vaccine delivery and serves as a principal investigator on grants, awards, and contracts from leading government agencies and not-for-profit organizations. Dr. Broderick has helped the development of novel prototypes and designs of INOVIO's proprietary smart device CELLECTRA, which delivers the company's DNA medicines directly into cells in the body. In 2018, Dr. Broderick was named Business Woman of the Year by San Diego Business Journal. In 2021, she was named one of In Vivo's Rising Leaders.

INOVIO

AMY BUTLER
President, Biosciences Division

Amy K. Butler serves as the Division President of Biosciences at Thermo Fisher Scientific. Prior to her current role, she led the Cell Biology business, including efforts to support Cell and Gene Therapy customers. Butler has held multiple general management and functional leadership roles at Thermo Fisher, including overseeing Marketing & e-Business, Global Customer Care, and the Gene Expression Profiling business unit. She joined Invitrogen, then Life Technologies, and now part of Thermo Fisher, in 2004.

Prior to joining Invitrogen, Butler served as an engagement manager with McKinsey & Co. where she worked predominantly with large pharmaceutical companies on R&D, sales and marketing strategies. Prior to that, she was a developmental neuroscientist at the Salk Institute. She obtained her doctorate in neuroscience from the University of Pennsylvania. Additionally, she sits on the Alliance for Regenerative Medicine Board of Directors.

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WOMEN OF INFLUENCE IN LIFE SCIENCES 2021

Congratulations, Andrea, Ruth, and Evelyne!

Each of you influences Life Science and Biotech with unique and incredible expertise.
Your integrity and grit are an asset to our team.

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2021 TOP TECH AWARDS NOMINEE

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL CEO OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2021 FINALIST

San Diego Business Journal

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JENNIFER CASE
Founder, President & CEO

Jennifer Case is CEO of New Leaf Biofuel, a local company that collects used cooking oil from 2,200 area restaurants and converts it to biodiesel, an eco-friendly alternative to diesel fuel. The fuel is delivered to customers throughout Southern California including truck stops. Biodiesel displaces diesel fuel, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80%-allowing us all to breathe easier. Case oversees all aspects of the company, including operations, client relationships, commercial drivers, lobbying, and more.

She has raised over $6 million for New Leaf through various grants to the California Energy Commission and Air Resources Board. Drawing on her experience in the legal field, Case coordinated with each of the city and County agencies to ensure compliance with all land use and environmental regulations. When she is not working on strategy with her management team, she is in Sacramento or Washington DC advocating for policy that will strengthen the renewable fuels industry and combat climate change.

New Leaf BIOFUEL

ATHENA COUNTOURIOTIS, M.D.
President & CEO

Dr. Athena Countouriotis became president and chief executive officer and was named to the Turning Point Therapeutics board of directors in September 2018. She has broad oncology biotech leadership experience, guiding multiple development programs to approval. Her experience includes large and small molecule therapeutics in hematologic and solid tumor indications, with multiple regulatory approvals in the U.S. and Europe.

She joined Turning Point Therapeutics in May 2018 as executive vice president and chief medical officer to advance the clinical development of repotrectinib. Dr. Countouriotis also serves on the board of directors of Iovance Biotherapeutics and Passage Bio. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, and an M.D. from Tufts University School of Medicine. She received her initial medical training in pediatrics at the University of California, Los Angeles, and additional training at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Program.

Turning Point Therapeutics

JAMI DEBRANGO-PALUMBO
Senior Vice President, Client Services and Operations

Jami DeBrango-Palumbo is the SVP of Lab Operations & Client Services at Foundation Medicine, Inc. She is a dynamic leader who served as the VP of Sequencing Operations. Prior to that she was Vice President, Roche Global Regulatory Complexity Management Program, a program focused on simplifying a complex network of global regulatory processes, which spanned more than 120 countries. She joined Genentech in 2005 with the Biogen-Idec acquisition, and has since served in roles of increasing responsibility, which span from HR, Facilities, Engineering, Supply Chain Operations and Safety, Health and Environment (SHE).

She has continued to take on senior leadership roles; her career journey includes roles such as Global Head of Project Management and Process Excellence, Pharma Technical Operations Biologics and President and Site Head for Roche Carolina Inc., a PT Small Molecules Site.

FOUNDATION MEDICINE

RACHEL FORD HUTMAN
CEO and Founder, Ford Hutman Media

Rachel Ford Hutman is a media relations specialist and global healthcare industry connector. In 2020, she founded Ford Hutman Media, a global communications firm that specializes in media relations, thought leadership and executive visibility to life science companies in the U.S. and Europe. The firm has worked with Medtronic, Illumina, Komodo Health, HLM Venture Funds, Blueprint Medicines, Section 32 and Pacific Biosciences to name a few. Starting her career as a reporter at The North County Times, she excels at working with the media to bring health stories to life while still making them accessible to stakeholders.

Named PRSA's PR Professional of the Year in 2011, Power Woman of San Diego 2020, and a Distinguished Woman of San Diego in 2021, she has built a reputation for her positive energy, creativity and humor. She received her MA in communications at SDSU and her BA in History from UMBC.

Ford Hutman Media

PAMELA GARDNER
President and CEO

In 2003, Pamela Gardner, founded Biotech Vendor Services, Inc. (BVS) to assist bio-pharma companies and research institutes to streamline their vendor management and supply chain through customized scientific, clinical and manufacturing, and supplier diversity events. BVS has held over 2,500 events and gained an impressive roster of over 1,000+ nationwide clients that include many of the top bio-pharma companies and suppliers.

She has created a business model which allows her to further integrate her "why" to empower women in science into her existing business. Having been in the science industry for 18 years she truly understands the issues that women are facing in science. Through her extensive network and loyal followers, she has been able to catapult thought leadership on a nationwide scale to people within the science industry. In 2019, she was awarded the esteemed Athena Pinnacle Award in recognition for her achievements in making a significant difference in the lives of women in STEM.

BVS

LISA HAILE
Partner

Dr. Lisa Haile has been a patent attorney for more than 30 years, representing eight Nobel Prize winners during her career. With a Ph.D. in Microbiology from Georgetown University Medical School and three-years of post-doctoral studies focused on the biology of cancer at the Sanford Burnham Medical Research Institute, Dr. Haile assists clients with protecting life-saving diagnostics and therapeutics. Her technical experience includes molecular biology, immunology, cell biology, regenerative medicine, diagnostics, and therapeutics.

Dr. Haile has served on the board of San Diego-based Biocom, the life sciences industry professional and advocacy organization, for 15 years and in the role of General Counsel of Biocom for the past 10 years; serves as Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board for San Diego-based DNA-SEQ Alliance; and is past- President of the San Diego Intellectual Property Law Association and of Athena, a women's advocacy organization that fast tracks women in STEM through leadership development.

DLA PIPER

WOMEN OF INFLUENCE IN LIFE SCIENCE 2021

Congratulations to Jami DeBrango-Palumbo! As a strong female leader in the Life Sciences and Biotech industry for over 20 years, and with her passion for personalized healthcare, she has successfully paved a path for other aspiring women leaders in our industry. As the current Senior Vice President of US Operations and Client Services at Foundation Medicine, Jami strives to create a welcoming and innovative environment to help shape the future of cancer genomics. Her proud advocacy of servant leadership, as well her passion for DE&I have inspired her teams to bring their whole selves to work to transform cancer care.

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SUSIE HARBORTH
Executive Vice President, Business Operations

Susie Harborth is Executive Vice President, Business Operations of Breakthrough Properties where she oversees the firm's global property operations platform. She has nearly 20 years of strategy and operations experience working with biotech and tech startups including as an entrepreneur and investor.

Most recently, Harborth was co-founder and chief operating officer of BioLabs, an innovation platform of coworking lab spaces and services for innovation users and partner and chief financial officer of Mission BioCapital, a life science venture capital firm. She has advised leading and emerging biotech ecosystems in the U.S., Europe and the Asia-Pacific regions and continues to mentor startups and founders. She holds a Masters, Biology from Harvard University, and a Bachelors, Business Administration from CSU, Long Beach.

Breakthrough PROPERTIES

DENISE HARTSELL
Director, Product Marketing-Respiratory Care

As Director of North America Respiratory Care Product Marketing at ResMed, Denise Hartsell is responsible for the performance, growth, and strategic direction of the respiratory care portfolio, which includes therapy devices, accessories, and masks for the treatment of respiratory compromised patients. In her previous role with ResMed, she served as the Clinical Manager of Ventilation and was responsible for the development of ventilation programs and workshops, as well as ventilation market development efforts. Prior to joining ResMed, Hartsell held roles as a Sleep Lab Clinical Coordinator and a Registered Respiratory Therapist. Positively impacting the lives of the patients she treated with sleep disordered-breathing and respiratory illnesses early in her career fueled her passion for influence patients' lives more broadly. ResMed has enabled her to do that through the introduction of new products and solutions that improve the quality of life for patients across North America.

ResMed

SIBYLLE HAUSER
Strategic Advisor - Life Science

Sibylle Hauser's international professional career spans over 25 years in global pharma including Boehringer Mannheim/Roche for 9 years, emerging biotech and global contract manufacturing at Vetter Pharma with a successful track record in corporate business development, licensing, fundraising, strategic planning and international marketing including a U.S. biopharmaceutical product launch. In 2003 she moved from Germany to San Diego and is well connected within the life science community today. As Strategic Advisor - Life Science at Richtr Financial Studio she supports innovative founders and companies in the life science space. In 2014 she joined the SOCAL Chapter of Women in Bio and started a local female founders' group in 2018. As national Chair of Women in Bio-Entrepreneur Center with 90+ associated female founders in the life sciences across the U.S. she supports the organization's mission to "move the needle" in funding for female (co-)founders in the life sciences.

RICHTR FINANCIAL STUDIO

MOLLY HE, PHD
CEO, Co-Founder and Board Member

Molly He, Ph.D. co-founded and serves as chief executive officer of Element Biosciences, a developer of a new and disruptive DNA sequencing platform. She has more than 20 years of experience in technology innovation and management in the biotechnology and healthcare industries. Before founding Element in 2017, she was a venture partner at Foresite Capital. She also held leadership roles at several genomics companies, including at Illumina where she was Senior Director of Scientific Research, responsible for Illumina's global protein reagent innovation and improvements, and for leading global scientific and technical teams. Prior to Illumina, she was the Head of Protein Sciences at Pacific Biosciences, where she was responsible for protein reagent development for their single-molecule real-time sequencing chemistry. She also spent several years as a scientist in the biopharmaceutical industry during her early career. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles in protein biophysics.

Element Biosciences

STACEY HERRICK
Director, Quality Assurance

Stacey Herrick is a seasoned quality professional with more than 17 years of scientific and quality experience in the pharmaceutical sector. Recognized for demonstrating an aptitude for leading quality teams, as well as for creating robust processes to aid with current regulations and site strategies, she has a history of contributing directly to company growth and expansion throughout her career. Professional focal points include quality control testing, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) knowledge, auditing, documentation writing and approving, training, and client relations. Delivering results in these areas of expertise requires the utilization of effective communication skills, business acumen, operations analysis, project management, and resource management to support efficiency and maximum returns. Herrick graduated with a bachelor of science in Pharmacological Chemistry from the University of California, San Diego.

Catalent

SARAH HIBBARD
Corporate Attorney | Life Sciences & Technology

Snell & Wilmer attorney and former in-house general counsel for a San Diego-based biotechnology company operating in the oncology space, Sarah Hibbard counsels life sciences and technology companies from formation through growth and exit, serving as a strategic advisor in the journey from research and development to commercial success. She draws on stealth start-up to multibillion-dollar company insights to serve clients, blending legal strategy, and planning with practical solutions. As a deal-maker, Hibbard represented companies on financings, licensing and tech transfers; collaborations; sponsored research and clinical research; and commercial transactions, as well as mergers and acquisitions. She has also been heavily involved in Women in Bio's Founder's Forum and Entrepreneur Center, which are dedicated to supporting founders from early start-up to later project stages of their life science companies with the goal of increasing access to capital and closing the gap on funding for women-founded companies.

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NATALIE HOSEA
San Diego and DMPK Site Head

Natalie A. Hosea, Ph.D., leads Takeda's San Diego research facility and the DMPK department as Site Head. Dr. Hosea received her Ph.D. in Biochemistry & Pharmacology from University of California, San Diego. Upon completing a fellowship at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN, in 1999, she joined Pfizer where she contributed and led efforts to discover and develop therapeutics. In 2015, she took a new position leading the DMPK function in Takeda San Diego and in 2017 extended her leadership to include a Boston-based DMPK team. In June 2020, Dr. Hosea was appointed as the site head of Takeda's research facility in San Diego, where she oversees the facilities, environmental health & safety and administration functions. Her passion to discover life changing therapies for patients motivates her to create & maintain scientifically talented, diverse, and highly engaged teams in an effort to drive innovation and accelerate delivery of medicines to patients.

Takeda

NEHA KRISHNAMOHAN
Chief Financial Officer & EVP, Corporate Development

Born in Singapore, Neha Krishnamohan moved to the U.S. to pursue an undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering and economics at Duke University. Drawn to the business side, she joined Goldman Sachs out of college. In her 13-year tenure, she established herself as a senior healthcare leader and executed over $100B in transactions across the biopharmaceutical, medical technology, and tools/diagnostics sectors. In June 2021, at the age of 34, she was appointed the first-ever CFO and EVP, Corporate Development at San Diego-based Kinnate Biopharma. A San Diego resident since 2016, she is involved with organizations such as the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, where she serves on the Leadership Council supporting their mission in San Diego. A mom to two boys under four, she is married to a U.S. Navy physician and enjoys spending her free time hiking and running in the beautiful San Diego-area environments.

KINNATE BIOPHARMA

MYPHUONG LE
Vice President of R&D and QA

As the Vice President of Research & Development as well as Quality Assurance at Microtek Innovations MyPhuong Le has co-established a research and development program (Small Business Innovative Research, NIH/NASA/DOD) focusing on micro/nanoscale devices and sensors for health monitoring and drug delivery. She provides scientific and strategic direction on product development including: miniaturized biosensors, environmental sensors (measurement of heavy metals in municipal water samples), health monitoring devices (continuous glucose monitoring), drug delivery devices, and life science research tools (implantable inhalation dosing device and respiratory monitoring for rodent models. She has developed a QMS System in order to support Microtek Innovations goal to integrate life sciences and engineering in order to develop products to improving human health. The Microtek Teams specialty is in developing microelectronic technologies that integrates engineering with chemistry and biology, such as the Nebulizing Catheter: self-expandable intratracheal lung delivery device focused on respiratory diseases affecting over 1 billion people worldwide.

MICROTEK

KRISTINA MANVELIAN
Senior Manager, Regulatory Affairs

Kristina Manvelian is a regulatory strategist at Acadia Pharmaceuticals and has been part of the San Diego pharmaceutical sector for the last decade. Manvelian began her career in project management and clinical operations at a contract research organization (CRO) where she was one of the original members of a new service line to support early development. She has worked with several excellent management teams in San Diego through several acquisitions. Her work has spanned pre-clinical through late-stage development, clinical development and operations, medical affairs, and regulatory affairs. She is particularly interested in CNS, immunology, and infectious disease drug development. Manvelian holds a Master's of Science in Regulatory Science. She is also passionate about her volunteer work with the local chapter of Women In Bio. She took a leadership position in 2018 to lead the chapter's programming.

ACADIA

MAGDA MARQUET
Co-Founder and Co-CEO

Magda Marquet is a pioneer of the life sciences industry in San Diego. She is the co-founder of AltheaDx, a commercial stage, precision medicine company with the world's leading pharmacogenomics test for anxiety and depression, and ALMA Life Sciences, LLC, an early stage investment firm creating and growing innovative healthcare companies. Dr. Marquet co-founded Althea Technologies and, as its co-CEO with full P&L responsibility, led the company to become a leader in the field and a highly profitable, commercial company.

She has been a key player in biotech for the last three decades as an award-winning serial entrepreneur, investor, mentor and community builder. Marquet landed in San Diego with her husband and partner, François Ferre in 1986 without knowing a single soul. At the time, San Diego had a handful of biotech companies and she literally knocked on doors to get her first job to then build an outstanding career in the field. She also played a key role in the not-for-profit sector having been chairman of Biocom California and the UCSD Moores Cancer Center.

ALMA Life Sciences

KATHY MCGEE
Chief Operating Officer

Kathy McGee brings more than 25 years of biopharmaceutical and life sciences experience to AVITA Medical, most recently serving as President of CnA Consulting Group, which focuses on providing specialized consulting services to the life sciences industry. Prior to CnA Consulting, McGee was the Vice President of West Coast Operations at Shire Pharmaceuticals Regenerative Medicine Division, formerly Advanced BioHealing, where she was a part of the leadership team responsible for manufacturing operations, strategic planning, capital expansion, and real estate. At Advanced BioHealing, McGee served as the Senior Vice President of Operations and General Manager, with responsibility for the company's manufacturing operations in La Jolla. She has also held senior Operations leadership roles at Smith and Nephew and Advanced Tissue Sciences. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Mathematics from University College Galway Ireland, and holds a Master's degree in Business and Management from Webster University.

avita medical

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JILL MCGRADY, PHD
Senior Ecologist and Western Director

Dr. Jill McGrady is a senior leader at Great Ecology and provides technical expertise and oversight for habitat restoration projects across the United States. She has over 15 years of experience in ecological restoration, where she specializes in Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration, strategic natural resource evaluations, wetland and stream mitigation, environmental permitting, and natural capital assessments. Dr. McGrady manages the San Diego technical staff and oversees several of the firm's restoration and mitigation projects, where she applies predictive modeling to determine natural resource service losses, evaluate restoration alternatives, identify mitigation requirements, and set monitoring objectives following environmental impacts from mining, refinery, oil spill, and other contamination events. She has managed several projects with an expert witness component and is familiar with the administrative and confidential aspects of litigation support. Dr. McGrady holds a Doctorate in Ecology and Evolution from Rutgers University.

GREATecology
ENVIRONMENT + DESIGN

TRACY A. MURPHY
President & Founder

Tracy Murphy has dedicated her career to advancing commercial life science real estate and the expansion of this sector to benefit and diversify San Diego's economy & workforce. As a co-founder of IQHQ and in her role as president, she is one of the architects behind the firm and the $1.6 billion Research and Development District (RaDD), which will transform San Diego's waterfront into an iconic life science district. Prior to IQHQ, Murphy served as EVP, Life Sciences at Kilroy Realty and was responsible for building and running the company's life science platform. She served on the Executive Committee and was SVP of BioMed, responsible for the West Coast, a portfolio she helped grow to 10 million square feet. Murphy began her career at BRE Commercial (now Cushman & Wakefield) as a life science specialized broker. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for IQHQ and Biocom.

IQHQ Giving progress a home

PADMA NAGAPPAN
Senior Public Relations Manager

Padma Nagappan is a San Diego life sciences communications leader with nearly two decades of experience, who specializes in shaping public opinion and motivating action on health and science issues. She serves as senior public relations manager for Civilian, a marketing communications agency focused on social change and writes for the California Health Care Foundation. At Civilian, Nagappan develops communications strategy, media outreach campaigns and creative content for clients involved in healthcare, as well as other public and private clients. Her work has appeared in U.S. News and World Report, Everyday Health and California Health Report, and she is an active member of the San Diego Science Writers Association. She previously served as San Diego State University's senior science and research communications strategist, where she succeeded in raising the institution's research profile. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Nagappan's communications efforts garnered SDSU national attention by highlighting its contact tracing and mobile testing programs.

Civilian

KARRI NOVAK
Vice President

Karri Novak is the Vice President of Project Development for the West Region at Suffolk, where she leads business acquisition, project oversight and client relationship management for significant construction projects in San Diego. As a 25-year construction veteran, she provides executive oversight of Suffolk's expansion into San Diego's life science sector by leveraging her experience on technical, institutional projects and leading teams with a depth of life science experience. Her innovative use of technology has played a critical role in delivering sophisticated facilities throughout her career, including Genentech Hall at UCSF, UCI McGaugh Hall Renovation, and Interdisciplinary Sciences at SDSU.

Novak's expertise builds on Suffolk's 38-year history of constructing Life Sciences projects for some of the most renowned institutions in the industry. Suffolk's experience building state-of-the-art laboratories and research spaces and working in sensitive environments is unparalleled, with specialized teams that have skillfully delivered projects under the most challenging conditions.

SAUNDRA PELLETIER
CEO, President, and Executive Director

As chief executive officer, president and executive director of Evofem Biosciences, Inc., Saundra Pelletier has been responsible for the company's rapid growth and evolution, including Evofem's transition to the public market in January 2018 and multiple equity financing rounds that have raised $491 million. Under her leadership, Evofem launched Phexxi, the first and only FDA-approved non-hormonal, on-demand contraceptive in September 2020. She has also advanced Evofem's investigational product candidate, EVO100, into a Phase 3 clinical trial for the prevention of both chlamydia and gonorrhea in women, for which there are no prescription products available. The company expects to report top-line data from the EVOGUARD trial in mid-2022. Pelletier is a force of energy that blends substance and excitement with straight talk and refreshing opinions.

EVOFEM BIOSCIENCES

ALLY PERLINA
Chief Science Officer

Ally Perlina is a visionary innovator who translates complex data into scalable products. As Chief Science Officer for CureMatch, Inc., a San Diego company delivering groundbreaking artificial intelligence (AI) technology for clinical decision support, Perlina leads the clinical, biological, data science and product development teams. With her leadership, CureMatch empowers oncologists to address the immense complexity behind cancer genomics so that they can select therapies that are uniquely matched to the molecular profile of the individual patient's tumor – supporting better outcomes.

Perlina's experience also includes leadership roles with Viome and Human Longevity; SBP Medical Discovery Institute, Quest Diagnostics; and Thomson Reuters where she worked with pharmaceutical companies. She researched clinical genomics of brain tumors at UCLA's Ph.D. program in Human Genetics, where she also earned her M.S. degree. She received her B.S. in Biochemistry and Cell Biology from UCSD. She is a published author and inventor on several patents.

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RUTH PETERSEN
Director of Marketing

As Director of Marketing at Biosero, Ruth Petersen is responsible for developing product and marketing strategies that position Biosero to achieve long-term growth while meeting annual revenue and profitability goals. She provides leadership and direction for the marketing team, developing and executing marketing plans that integrate campaigns, lead generation strategies, and a digital program to achieve revenue growth and brand awareness.

Petersen has more than 20 years of experience in bioengineering, drug discovery, and laboratory automation and instrumentation. Before joining Biosero, she held leadership roles at gene synthesis pioneer Codex DNA, Inc., lab automation firm Labcyte, Inc., and Agilent Technologies. She has also worked in applications development and support at Velocity11 and Aurora Discovery, Inc., and as an engineer at Vertex Pharmaceuticals and Aurora Biosciences Corp. Petersen earned her bachelor's degree in bioengineering from the University of California, San Diego.

BIOSERO

EVELYNE PLOQUIN
Solutions Architect

Evelyne Ploquin is a professional engineer who believes life sciences are about to fundamentally improve the quality of human life worldwide. With over 10 years of experience in Laboratory Automation, Ploquin joined Biosero as their Solutions Architect and utilizes her knowledge to recommend Automation Solutions spanning entire laboratories.

Prior to joining Biosero, Ploquin worked for Thermo Fisher Scientific's Lab Automation Business. Over her 10-year tenure, she held positions of increasing responsibilities. She started as a Software Developer, quickly becoming Lab Automation's Software Solutions Team Lead. As their Software R&D Manager, Ploquin managed all Software Development for Lab Automation from 2015 to 2019, then moved to a position reporting to the Business Leader to define Lab Automation Digital Transformation Strategy. Earlier in her career, Ploquin worked as a freelance R&D Software Consultant where she earned many return customers spanning various industries including telephony, oil and gas, airlines, defense and government.

BIOSERO

TANYA RUSSELL
Vice President, Clinical Operations
Head Oncology - Global Product Development

Tanya Russell, Ph.D., RPH, is currently Pfizer's Oncology Clinical Operations Head with accountability to deliver all oncology clinical trials at Pfizer. Prior to this, she was Head of Clinical Operations for Pfizer's Essential Health portfolio followed by Global Brands Clinical Development Head (Clinical and Clinical Operations) which included global expansion and post approval commitments, Biosimilars, anti-infectives, and the sterile injectables/device portfolio. Earlier work in Oncology included Development Operations with the post POC Oncology portfolio and Asset Team Leader responsible for strategic leadership of the signal transduction and cell cycle metabolism projects in Pfizer's early development Oncology Business Unit portfolio. Russell has more than 25 years of experience in pharma with most of that time spent leading groups in Clinical Pharmacology/Pharmacokinetics/Pharmacodynamics with an emphasis in oncology, neurosciences and asthma/allergy. She holds a Doctorate and M.S. in Pharmaceutics from The University of Michigan, a B.S. in Pharmacy from Ohio Northern University and is a registered pharmacist.

Pfizer

ANDREA SALAZAR
Chief Operating Officer

As Chief Operating Officer at Biosero, Andrea Salazar is responsible for developing and maintaining a seamless experience among its customers and numerous business partners. She helped grow the company from four employees in 2011 to 65 employees worldwide. Salazar is also responsible for designing Biosero's pricing and sales commission structures, which contributed to a double-digit increase in profitability. She has been instrumental in launching the Biosero "WHY" project, an annual initiative that provides monetary awards to charities selected by Biosero employees. Salazar is also the treasurer for the local chapter of Girls, Inc.

Before joining Biosero in 2011, Salazar served as a subcontracts manager for The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). Over ten years, she managed and negotiated contracts for various Mars Projects. Salazar earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from California State Polytechnic, Pomona.

BIOSERO

NOEL SAUER
Vice President, Research

Noel Sauer is currently VP, Research at Cibus, where she is responsible for leading the Research and Development team to enable the development of non-transgenic traits in commercially relevant crops through advancements in the field of precision plant breeding. In overseeing the company's technology development, she has been instrumental in developing the company's research strategy which has led to solutions to globally feed more people in an ever-changing environment. This is important because by the year 2050, the United Nations estimates that the human population will reach 9.7 billion. Add the negative effects of climate change on plant growth and we are on the cusp of a crisis of epic proportions.

Sauer was a Postdoctoral Fellow studying host-pathogen interactions at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School. She received a Ph.D. in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics from Harvard University and a Bachelor's degree with Honors in Biological Sciences from the University of Southern California.

CIBUS

CHRISTINA TOWERS, PHD
Assistant Professor

Dr. Christina Towers is an award-winning researcher at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies' renowned NCI-designated Cancer Center as an assistant professor. Towers examines how cancer cells recycle both their own nutrients and the power-generating structures called mitochondria in order to survive. By using a combination of gene-editing techniques, light-based genetic manipulation (optogenetics), three-dimensional miniature organs ("organoids"), and detailed imaging, she aims to identify the best ways to target the recycling pathways that tumors use to survive. Her research aims to lead to new targeted cancer therapies that can improve patient outcomes and survival. In partnership with Salk, BioMed Realty provided a one-million-dollar grant to support Dr. Towers' recruitment and research here in San Diego.

A few of her most recent professional awards and honors include: Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00), 2020-2025; The Cancer League of Colorado Pilot Award, 2020-2021; ACLS Leading Edge Fellow, 2020; American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2019-2021.

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LEAH VILLEGAS
Vice President

As the Vice President of Operations at Microtek Innovations Leah Villegas has established a research and development program (Small Business Innovative Research, NIH/NASA/DOD) focusing on micro/nanoscale devices and sensors for health monitoring and drug delivery. She provides scientific and strategic direction on product development including: miniaturized biosensors, environmental sensors (measurement of heavy metals in municipal water samples), health monitoring devices (continuous glucose monitoring), drug delivery devices, and life science research tools (implantable inhalation dosing device and respiratory monitoring for rodent models).

She is an active participant in investor forums to highlight the company's science/technology development and implementation of strategic industry/academic partnerships for in-licensing and out-licensing opportunities for product development pipeline, such as with Mayo Clinic, CU, and UCSD. She is a hands-on and active contributor to business development decisions regarding capital investments, optimization of operational activities, and expansion of operational capacity of microchip production.

MICROTEK

GAYANI WEERASINGHE
Intellectual Property & Business Law Attorney

Gayani R. Weerasinghe is a business law and intellectual property (IP) attorney with both law firm and in-house experience. She is the current Chair of the Women In Bio (WIB) Southern California Chapter with over 400 plus members, supporting a community of women involved with enabling and empowering each other through professional advancement.

Her practice currently supports biotech and biopharma clients to entrepreneurs, helping them with their transactional needs, including legal strategy, setting up a business or partnership, filing trademarks, IP licensing, IP due diligence, and offering part-time in-house counsel services to save on the legal budget. She has been recognized as a Super Lawyers Rising Stars. Weerasinghe is also the host of YouTube Channel, Inventive Mind, a channel for creatives, entrepreneurs, and startups.

GRW

SAMANTHA WYNNS
Biologist and Science Educator

Samantha Wynns is a biologist and science educator at Great Basin Institute. When Wynns asked herself, "what do you want your life's legacy to be?" she recognized that she could be doing more to serve her community and her planet. In her mid-30's she returned to college to become a conservation biologist, and now proudly works for the Great Basin Institute and National Park Service at Cabrillo National Monument where she does both science and communicates that science to others. In 2019, Wynns was granted a prestigious award from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). As an IF/THEN Ambassador and conservation biologist, it is her mission to preserve and protect nature, educate and inspire others, and make STEM more accessible to all. From restoration projects to innovative education programs, to a free STEM summer camp for girls in underserved communities, Wynns hopes her legacy is one that leaves the world a better place for all.

Great Basin Institute

RSM

Life sciences industry outlook

What's on the horizon for clinical trials?

■ By ADAM LOHR, JUSTIN CULBERTSON, STEVE KEMLER, DAVID STUART, RSM US LLP

The following is an excerpt from the summer issue of The Real Economy: Industry Outlook for life sciences. For more insights, read the complete report.

Emerging from the crucible and leading the pack

Eighteen months after the start of the pandemic, clinical trial starts have rebounded and now exceed historic levels, according to data analyzed from Scientist.com's Trial Insights database.

The data suggests an overall recovery across the majority of indications, but much like what we have seen in the broader economic recovery, some pockets of the therapeutic landscape are outperforming their peers. Oncology, for example, had maintained its long-term pace of new trial starts, with the total number increasing by 8% from 2019 to 2020. We expect another strong year in 2021 as the life sciences industry continues to shift focus to oncology and immunotherapies. This is compared to indications with lower mortality risk, such as infections, which saw a 17% decrease in total trial starts from 2019 to 2020.

New trial starts are a bellwether for industry focus in the long term, and late-stage trials provide insight into what will happen in the near term.

According to the National Institutes of Health's ClinicalTrials.gov database, COVID-19 trials made up 13% of industry-funded phase 3 trials in 2020. That number dropped to 8% for the first five months of 2021. Between September 2020 and June 2021, the indications with the greatest proportion of trials moving into phases 3 and 4 are oncology, pathological conditions, cardiovascular diseases, and infections, according to Trial Insights data.

Medical devices trials set historic pace

During 2020, industry-funded medical devices trial starts decreased 7% year over year, and fell below historical trends. However, 2021 looks to be the sector's strongest year ever in terms of new trial starts, with a 114% year-over-year increase for the period January through May.

We acknowledge that the increase in the first five months of 2021 likely includes trials that were delayed because of the pandemic, but the breakout pace as well as the apparent public market interest in medical devices and supplies companies indicate a positive outlook for the sector. Additionally, we've noted several portions of the medical devices space, specifically surgical devices, are surging with new investor interest. These capital market indicators, as well as recent Supreme Court decisions to uphold the Affordable Care Act, indicate that growth in medical devices is far from transitory.

Decentralization – A lasting impact?

One of the greatest challenges the pandemic presented for the life sciences industry was the ability to conduct clinical trials, which were frequently forced to switch from an on-site to highly remote model. Fortunately, the industry had already been exploring decentralized trial models and was able to quickly adapt to the remote environment and absorb a surge of COVID-19-focused new trial starts. As businesses and individuals return to the physical economy, the life sciences industry plans to retain many of the decentralized activities it has adopted over the last 18 months. The long-term economic and public health impacts of this shift remain unclear, but recent investments and deal activity suggest this shift in business models will not be temporary.

In February 2021, ICON plc announced plans for the $12 billion acquisition of PRA Health Sciences, a merger predicated on synergies between the organizations, including PRA's robust, decentralized trial platform. According to management meeting highlights published by Mizuho Securities LLC, ICON expects 80% to 90% of its future trials will require some form of remote monitoring.

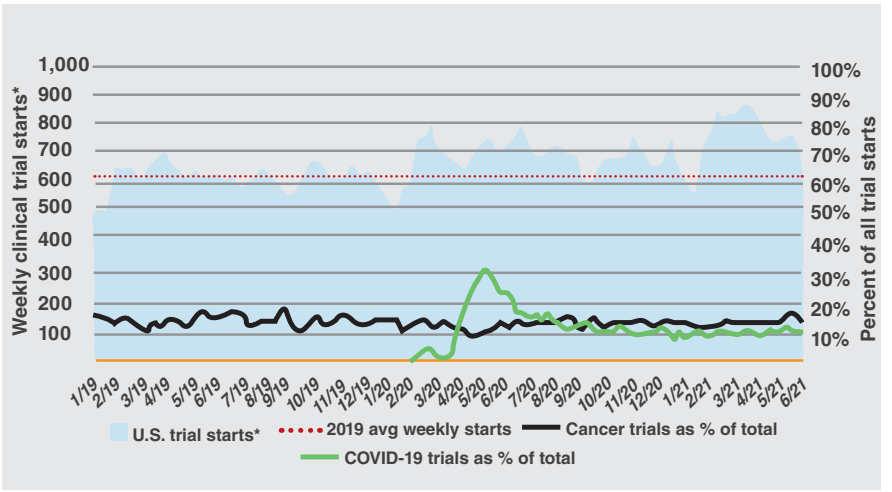
This sentiment toward investing heavily in decentralized trial models is consistent across the industry. In March 2021, Syneos Health announced its partnership with Science 37, a decentralized trial platform provider, and in April 2021, Syneos Health announced a separate partnership with Medable, another decentralized trial platform provider and direct competitor to Science 37. In its Q1 2021 earnings call, IQVIA stated that it is expanding therapeutic areas in decentralized trials and had recruited almost 170,000 patients using its decentralized trial solution. In its fiscal year 2020 earnings call, PPD took a more measured stance, stating that remote monitoring will be utilized more frequently than prior to the pandemic but wasn't expected to fully replace on-site monitoring.

The widespread adoption of decentralized trials is clear; however, the economic and efficiency trade-offs need to be more thoroughly vetted. Fully virtual trials have a completely different cost structure, according to PPD in a Q1 2021 earnings call. While number of sites and travel to those sites are reduced, there is an increase in point-to-point solutions to serve patients in their homes as well as a much more decentralized supply chain. Though any increased costs may be offset by future savings, more promising is the potential to increase the efficiency and success rates of clinical trials, thus reducing the development timeline and overall cost of new drugs.

As a result of increased FDA regulation and complexity in clinical trials, we noted that the average years to completion for industry-funded phase 3 studies has been steadily trending upward. We specifically excluded COVID-19 trials given unique regulatory conditions that are unlikely to persist across all indications on a go-forward basis. We believe this trend highlights the opportunity and importance of driving efficiencies in the clinical trials, especially as new therapies become more targeted on smaller populations, and more middle market companies develop and launch drugs on their own.

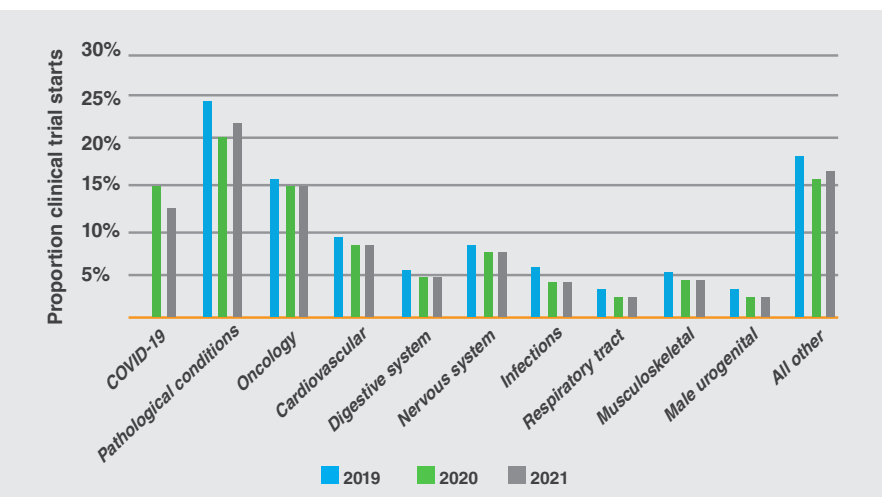
For more life sciences insights or if you have questions about the topics discussed in this article, please visit rsmus.com. ■

U.S. clinical trial starts per week



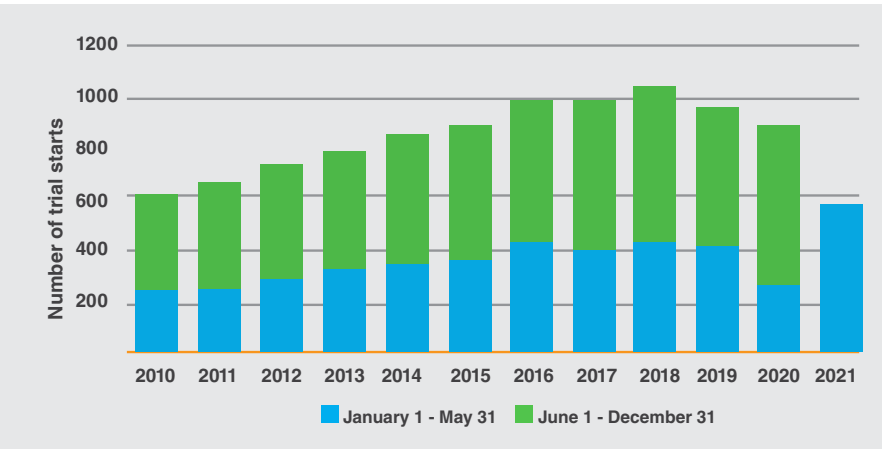
Source: Trial Insights, RSM US LLP *4-week moving avg.

Distribution of U.S. clinical trial starts by indication



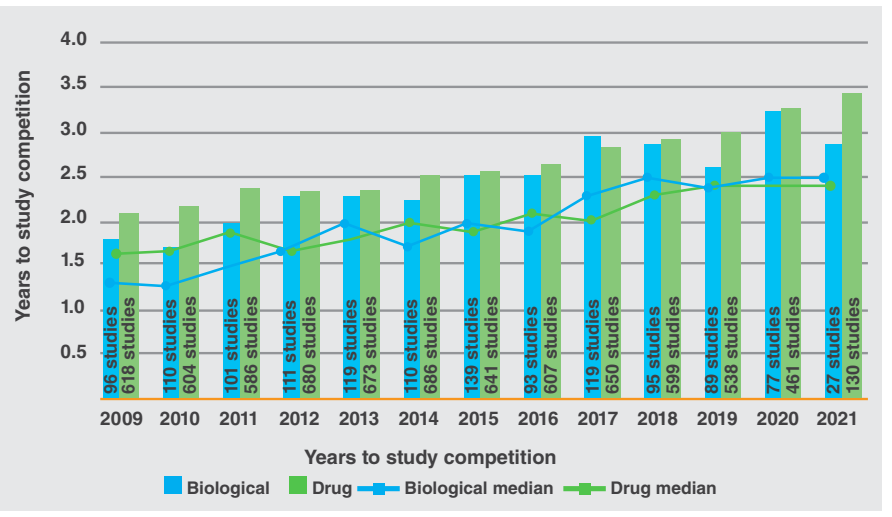
Source: Trial Insights, RSM US LLP

Industry-funded device trial starts



Source: National Institutes of Health

Average years to industry-funded study competition*



Source: National Institutes of Health *Phase 3 studies only; excludes COVID-19