

Faces of Industrial Research



2024 BOOKLET

13 February 2024

Forum Rolex, EPFL

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Research and
Development



FERRING

PHARMACEUTICALS



Contents

02 Program

04 Speakers

15 Booths

17 Organizers

17 Follow us

Panel Discussions

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Program

08:00	Registration and Welcome coffee / Booths visit
09:00	Opening word
09:05	Introduction of the Booths Nestlé Research OM Pharma SOPHiA GENETICS Gnubiotics CxO
09:20	<u>Olivier Philippe</u> – Director of Business Development & Corporate Relations at Biopôle Discover Biopôle, a vibrant life sciences ecosystem
Session 1: Drug Discovery	
09:30	<u>Tamara Seredenina</u> – Group Leader at AC Immune Validation of new drug targets for neurodegenerative disorders
09:45	<u>Henri Kornmann</u> – Senior Director at Ferring Pharmaceuticals “Necessity is the mother of invention”: creativity in a highly regulated biopharmaceutical environment
10:00	Coffee break / Booths visit
Session 2: Bioinformatics & Biostatistics	
10:40	<u>Alfredo Mari</u> – Bioinformatician in Bioinformatic Product Development at SOPHiA GENETICS The journey to my north star
10:55	<u>Nives Rombini</u> – Senior Scientist at Bristol Myers Squibb Closing the loop: reverse-translational application of real-world data in drug development



11:10	<u>Isidoros Papaioannou</u> – Senior Principal Biostatistician at Novartis Data-Driven Decision Making in Healthcare: My journey
11:25	Panel discussion with Q&A
12:20	Lunch / Booths visit
Session 3: Healthcare Solutions	
13:50	<u>Edouard Baulier</u> – Senior Preclinical Scientist at OM Pharma Preclinical research in a small size biopharma: a generalist's perspective
14:05	<u>Marc Heitz</u> – Scientist at Roche From medicinal chemistry to surfactants and drug delivery, the path of a lost chemist
14:20	<u>Jean-Baptiste Cavin</u> – Specialist in Neurogastroenterology at Nestlé Research Early transition from academia to industry: a leap of faith?
14:35	Coffee break / Booths visit
Session 4: Quality & Business Development	
15:15	<u>Sara Sansaloni Pastor</u> – Postdoctoral Fellow in Quality & Compliance at Johnson & Johnson Quality & Compliance as a Pillar in the Pharmaceutical Industry
15:30	<u>Alessia Baldo</u> – Business Development Manager at SEED Biosciences From B Cells to Business Deals: My Journey Between Mastering Science and Seeding Innovation
15:45	Panel discussion with Q&A
16:40	Closing remarks
16:50	Networking apéro
18:50	End





Olivier Philippe

Director of Business Development & Corporate Relations at Biopôle



Discover Biopôle, a vibrant life sciences ecosystem

Mr. Olivier Philippe is a seasoned professional boasting 25+ years of international experience in sales, marketing and business development within complex, high-tech, and scientific realms.

Olivier Philippe joined Biopôle in 2016 as Director of Business Development and Corporate Relations, in charge of implementing strategies to enable the emergence of Biopôle and its vibrant ecosystem as one of the leading life science campus in Europe.

Olivier holds a B.A Business Studies from Edinburgh Napier University and a M.A Business and Marketing Studies from the ICD Business School Paris.

Biopôle SA

Founded in 2004 by the canton of Vaud public authorities, Biopôle SA is a private, not-for-profit organisation, which owns, manages and promotes the life sciences campus. A total of approximately 2'500 talents are employed in more than 150 companies and research organisations hosted on campus in 2024.



Tamara Seredenina

Group Leader at AC Immune



Validation of new drug targets for neurodegenerative disorders

Dr. Tamara Seredenina is Group Leader supervising TDP-43 biology and neuroinflammation programs at AC Immune, Swiss biotech company specialized in the development of innovative therapeutics and diagnostic tools for neurodegenerative disorders including amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and frontotemporal dementia. Tamara has more than 15 years of experience in validation of new drug targets for neurodegenerative disorders. Tamara joined AC Immune in 2016. In her previous position Tamara was a senior researcher at the University of Geneva investigating therapeutic potential of targeting NADPH oxidases in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Prior to this she was performing identification and validation of new therapeutic targets for Huntington's disease at the EPFL in Switzerland and for Alzheimer's disease at SienaBiotech in Italy. Tamara holds a PhD degree in molecular biology received in 2006.



Henri Kornmann

Senior Director at Ferring Pharmaceuticals



“Necessity is the mother of invention”: creativity in a highly regulated biopharmaceutical environment

Ferring contributes to providing innovative solutions to help people live better lives. It devotes significant research and development investment to new therapeutics, life cycle management and next generation healthcare solutions. Dr. Henri Kornmann joined Ferring in 2019 with the mission of building a team of experts dedicated to the development of innovative molecules derived from biotechnologies. This new team established themselves at Biopôle in Lausanne to leverage talent and expertise on the campus. Prior to joining Ferring Pharmaceuticals, Henri spent almost 20 years leading the development and manufacturing of biopharmaceuticals and medical devices, notably at Biogen, Medtronic, Merck and Nestlé Health Science. He is a graduate of the Swiss Institute of Technology Lausanne and holds a PhD in Bioprocess Science.

Alfredo Mari

Bioinformatician in Bioinformatic Product Development at SOPHiA GENETICS



The journey to my north star

Dr. Alfredo Mari earned his stripes with a PhD in Computational Plant Microbiology from the Max Planck Institute, following studies at Scuola Sant'Anna / University of Pisa. As a Post-doc at Basel University Hospital, he led the charge in creating bioinformatic pipelines for epidemiological tracking of SARS-CoV-2 from the beginning of the outbreak. Currently a pipeline developer at SOPHiA GENETICS, Alfredo focuses on variant calling for large exomes panels and RNA-fusion products, particularly in cancer detection. His journey is fueled by a curiosity to decode genetic mysteries and make a real impact in the world of genetics-based diagnostics.



Nives Rombini

Senior Scientist at Bristol Myers Squibb



Closing the loop: reverse-translational application of real-world data in drug development

"I am a senior scientist at Bristol-Myers Squibb with a strong background in immunology and extensive hands-on experience in data science. I began my career at Swisscom, where as a trainee I worked in several projects as a data analyst. After my trainee, I had the chance to join a team at Swisscom working on automatizing planning of financial data. Driven by a passion for healthcare, I transitioned to the pharmaceutical sector, leveraging my expertise in data analysis to advance research and development programs. With a Master's degree in Molecular Life Sciences, my unique blend of biology knowledge and data analytics skills enables me to address scientific questions in a targeted manner while keeping the research question at the forefront. In the current role, I am contributing to the integration and analysis of multi-modal real-world data in research programs, supporting evidence-based decision-making."

Isidoros Papaioannou

Senior Principal Biostatistician at Novartis



Data-Driven Decision Making in Healthcare: My journey

Dr. Isidoros Papaioannou is a mathematician who holds a master's degree in Statistics from the University of Manchester, and a PhD in Epidemiology from the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH). During his doctoral research, he focused on developing innovative Bayesian geostatistical models to estimate spatio-temporal changes in under-five mortality in sub-Saharan Africa, utilizing cross-sectional data. Following the completion of his PhD, Isidoros worked as a data science Consultant at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), where he leveraged his expertise in machine learning and advanced analytics to support data driven decision making in the disease area of neuroscience. Use cases included the applications of these techniques to Real-World Evidence and Personalised Healthcare for patients with Multiple Sclerosis. Currently, Isidoros holds the position of Senior Principal Biostatistician at Novartis, where he supports clinical development with the design, implementation and analysis of Phase III and Open-Label Extension studies.



Edouard Baulier

Senior Preclinical Scientist at OM Pharma



Preclinical research in a small size biopharma: a generalist's perspective

Dr. Edouard Baulier studied pharmaceutical sciences in the University Paris XI in France from 2002 to 2009. He completed his pharmaceutical training with a pharmacy residency in the University Hospital of Poitiers for 5 years from 2009 to 2014, working in the central pharmacy and in the clinical biochemistry departments. He obtained a PhD in cell biology from the University of Poitiers in 2014 during which he studied the regulatory effects of mesenchymal stromal cells on ischemia-reoxygenation injuries induced by kidney transplantation. From 2015 to 2018 he was a postdoctoral fellow in the Farber's lab at the Stein Eye Institute in UCLA, focusing on the in vitro modeling of an orphan genetic retinal disease using patient's derived induced pluripotent stem cells. He then worked as a preclinical studies manager in a Geneva-based pharmaceutical development consulting company before joining OM Pharma in March 2021 as a preclinical scientist.



Marc Heitz

Scientist at Roche



From medicinal chemistry to surfactants and drug delivery, the path of a lost chemist

Dr. Marc Heitz attended studies in chemistry and pharmacology across multiple geographies and completed his PhD in chemistry and molecular science at the University of Bern (Switzerland) in January 2018. During his PhD he worked on the design, synthesis and evaluation of peptide dendrimer for the delivery and transfection of nucleic acids and anticancer drugs. Followed by a stay in the same group as Postdoctoral fellow to continue the above-mentioned project on dendrimers in addition to a collaboration with Lonza on the computer aided discovery of new antimicrobials.

Marc joined Roche in October 2019 as a Postdoctoral fellow in PTDE-P in which he investigated commercially available surfactants and rationally designed a wide selection to improve therapeutic protein formulations. Then, starting from April 2022, he pursued as a Scientist in the Ocular & Drug Delivery Chapter working on the port delivery platform (PDP) and the development of ocular in vitro models and formulations



Jean-Baptiste Cavin

Specialist in Neurogastroenterology at Nestlé Research



Early transition from academia to industry: a leap of faith?

Dr. Jean-Baptiste Cavin completed his PhD in gastroenterology and physiology in 2016 at Paris Diderot University, France during which he studied gastrointestinal and metabolic adaptation after bariatric surgery. He undertook 4 years of postdoctoral training at the University of Calgary, Canada where he designed novel imaging tools to characterize how enteric neurons respond to intestinal distension and luminal nutrients. In 2020, he transitioned to industry and currently works as a specialist neurogastroenterology at the Nestlé Institute of Health Science in Lausanne, Switzerland.



Sara Sansaloni

Pastor

Postdoctoral Fellow in Quality & Compliance at Johnson & Johnson



Quality & Compliance as a Pillar in the Pharmaceutical Industry

Dr. Sara Sansaloni Pastor joined Johnson and Johnson as an R&D Quality Fellow in August 2023. Over her academic and professional experience, Sara obtained her Bachelor degree in Biotechnology at the University of Valencia, gathering significant experience in basic research, regulations, and drug production. Following her vocation towards improving patient's health, she completed her formation with a Master in Biomedical Translational Research at the Vall d'Hebro Hospital.

This motivation and objective lead her to enroll in the Science PhD program of the University of Geneve, which allowed her to work in a research field with immediate impact to patients. She graduated from the University of Geneve in September 2022 with a Ph.D. in Science, during which she was a panelist and speaker in congress and research publications. In addition to this professional experience, Sara followed formation in different fields and soft skills, including clinical trials, project management, and health economics.

With this background, Sara decided to join Johnson & Johnson quality department, aiming to apply her research experience to evaluate new drugs and clinic studies, re-assuring our company compromise with drug safety and regulation.



Alessia Baldo

Business Development Manager at SEED Biosciences



From B Cells to Business Deals: My Journey Between Mastering Science and Seeding Innovation

Dr. Alessia Baldo earned her Master's Degree in Medical Biotechnology at the University of San Raffaele Milano, after a research period in Yale School of Medicine. There she studied the fascinating crosstalks influencing B cell tolerance, analysing B cells one by one. Subsequently, she obtained a PhD at the University of Lausanne investigating early mechanisms of skin inflammation and unravelling the role of the recently discovered cytokine IL-26. Immersed in academia, Alessia realised that innovation and discoveries shouldn't stay confined to a lab bench. So she joined Biopole SA to help entrepreneurs find new strategic connections to transform their ideas into real applications. In Biopole she crossed paths with SEED Biosciences, a startup pioneering single cell seeding technology. As Business Development Manager, she leverages her scientific background and marketing expertise to foster new scientific collaborations, contributing to the company's expansion and growth.

Booths



Nestlé Research

Together at Nestlé Research, we shape the future through scientific breakthroughs and innovation. We don't just grow ideas, we make them a reality. We empower visionaries and creators to reach new heights! Our passion, our curiosity, and our continuous entrepreneurial mindset are our ground motivators.

Discover how Nestlé Research performs science at the highest level to accelerate the translation of discoveries into breakthrough innovations, helping address consumer trends and global challenges. Our researchers and scientists globally work relentlessly using state-of-the-art technologies to explore and unveil scientific findings that help to develop innovative products and services to provide nutrition and health for people and pets, across all their life stages, in a way that is good for our planet.

OM Pharma



OM Pharma is a global Geneva-based biopharmaceutical company. It is a leader in the prevention of recurrent respiratory and urinary tract infections, also active in the treatment of vascular diseases.

OM Pharma operates worldwide via an established, international network of partners and continue to invest in R&D for the development of microbial-derived immunotherapeutic products that address acute and chronic immunological disorders resulting from infections and inflammation.



CxO



CxO proudly stands as a consortium of seasoned biotech experts who have keenly identified an untapped opportunity to assist biotech firms in leveraging their resources more efficiently, thereby accelerating project timelines and optimizing financial allocations.

Through a strategic clustering approach, we aim to streamline operations, allowing you and your colleagues to concentrate on creating substantial value for shareholders. At CxO, our dedicated team is committed to supporting you in achieving your objectives and ensuring your success in the dynamic biotech landscape.





SOPHiA GENETICS

SOPHiA GENETICS is the creator of a global data-sharing network – we work with customers from over 750 institutions in over 72 countries. Our network advances data-driven medicine to improve health outcomes and economics worldwide.

We offer a cloud-based Software-as-a-Service platform — the SOPHiA DDM™ platform — that enables healthcare institutions to get quick, robust insights from their data. We apply our technology to diseases such as cancer and inherited disorders, where combining genomic and phenotypic information is vital to support discoveries, treatment decisions, and drug development efforts.

Our people are diverse. We come from more than 28 countries. For us, democratizing data-driven medicine is essential to ensure equal access to healthcare for patients worldwide. We believe that when the right information is in the right hands, at the right time, and with the right level of confidence, better health solutions can be delivered and make life-changing differences, improving people's health across the globe.

Gnubiotics Sciences

Pioneering breakthroughs in cancer immunotherapy, delivering glycopeptides to engage multi-targeted T-cells and overcoming traditional immunotherapy limitations. Gnubiotics Sciences, a Swiss based R&D biotech company founded in 2016, is a pioneer in the rapidly emerging field of glyco-immunology studying O-glycan structures and their effects on the adaptive immune system and the microbiome. Gnubiotics has developed a mixture of glycopeptide conjugates, demonstrating activation of the adaptive immune system for the treatment of epithelial tumors such as MSS colorectal cancer (CRC), melanoma, triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) and non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).



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