



Thursday, September 24, 2026 | 7:30am - 7:00pm

7:30am - 8:30am	Women's Breakfast of Champions (1 hour) The Women Breakfast of Champions brings together leaders, and innovators to celebrate the strength and diversity of women in the industry. Our guest speaker will share her inspiring journey and offer valuable insights on how she achieved success in the life sciences and healthcare sectors. • Stephanie Collins, RN, BSN, BCPA, Co-Founder and Chief Patient Officer, Lunuova Therapeutics (moderator) • Tracy Warren, Senior Managing Director, Go Red for Women Venture Fund, American Heart Association	Crystal E
8:30am - 8:45am	Welcome & Opening Remarks (15 minutes) • Gina Ford, DPh, MBA, CEO, BioNTX • Michael Jacobson, President, Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce	Crystal E
8:45am - 9:25am	Patients First: Collaboration for Better Care (40 minutes) This session highlights the importance of incorporating the patient perspective into healthcare innovation. Panelists will discuss how collaboration across patient advocacy, healthcare, and industry can drive more patient-centered solutions and improve health outcomes. • Natalie Lundsteen, DPhil, EdM, Director, Alloy Foundation (moderator) • Stephanie Kallay, MS, Senior Director, Patient Advocacy, Crinetics Pharmaceuticals • Michele Oshman, Chief Patient Advocate & SVP for Alliance Development, Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) • Clorinda Walley, President, Good Days	Crystal E
9:25am - 9:40am	Innovation in Motion: The Future of Cold Chain (15 minutes) As advanced therapies become more complex, reliable cold chain logistics are more critical than ever. This session will explore the innovations, infrastructure, and partnerships that ensure temperature-sensitive biologics, cell and gene therapies, and other life-saving products are delivered safely, compliantly, and efficiently from manufacturer to patient. • Eric B. Moore, MBA, Chief Development Officer, BioNTX (moderator) • Steve Uebele, CEO, Frontier Scientific Solutions	Crystal E
9:40am - 10:20am	From Funding to Impact: CPRIT & the Future of Cancer Innovation (40 minutes) Learn how the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) is advancing cancer innovation through strategic investments in research and commercialization. CPRIT's CEO and companies will discuss how this support is accelerating breakthrough technologies, translating discoveries into care, and strengthening Texas' leadership in cancer research and life sciences. • Sherry Crowe, CEO, OncoConnect (moderator) • Andy Bader, PhD, MS, CEO, Nemea Therapeutics • Kristen Doyle, JD, CEO, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas • Ritish Patnaik, PhD, MS, CEO, Curve Biosciences	Crystal E



Thursday, September 24, 2026 | 7:30am - 7:00pm

10:20am - 11:10am	Rising Stars (50 minutes) Rising Stars are companies tackling the biggest challenges in healthcare and life sciences that exhibit recent groundbreaking advancements. Listen to the next generation of leaders in the industry who have demonstrated exceptional success in a highly competitive and rapidly evolving landscape. • Logan Atkins, CPWA, Financial Advisor, Financial Planning Specialist, The Davis/Yost Group at Morgan Stanley (moderator) • Rising Star 1: Altrazeal Life Sciences • Rising Star 2: AmyGo Solutions • Rising Star 3: InterAct Therapeutics • Rising Star 4: MbeleMed, Inc.	Crystal E
11:10am - 11:50am	ARPA-H in Action: From Funding to Real-World Health Solutions (40 minutes) This session brings together a representative from the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) and companies that have received ARPA-H funding to share how breakthrough ideas are moving from award to real-world application. The discussion will focus on how these teams are advancing innovations in diagnostics, therapeutics, and health systems, and what it takes to turn high-potential concepts into measurable impact. • Kimberley Steele, MD, PhD, Program Manager, Health Science Futures, ARPA-H (moderator) • Matthew Amato, PhD, Postdoctoral Researcher, The University of Texas at Dallas • Martha Fowler, PhD, CEO & Founder, Steer Bio, Inc. • Omid Veisesh, PhD, Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University	Crystal E
11:50am - 12:00pm	Inside Samsung's Transformational Investment in Taylor, Texas (10 minutes) Hear the story behind Samsung's transformational investment in Taylor, Texas, and the lessons it offers for communities competing for major economic development projects. This session will highlight what made Taylor competitive and the key factors that helped secure the deal, offering practical insights for attracting large-scale investment and long-term growth. • Dwayne Ariola, Former Mayor, City of Taylor	Crystal E
12:00pm - 12:05pm	Unlocking Arlington's Incentives for Life Sciences Growth (5 minutes) This session highlights how Arlington is positioning itself as a leading destination for manufacturing. The discussion will focus on how attendees can take advantage of these incentives for relocation, expansion, and new investment projects. • Christie Goodman Duke, Director of Targeted Attraction and State Affairs, Arlington EDC	Crystal E
12:05pm - 1:05pm	Lunch & Networking Break (1 hour)	Crystal E



Thursday, September 24, 2026 | 7:30am - 7:00pm

1:05pm - 1:45pm

What's Next for Texas Life Sciences in the 90th Legislature (40 minutes)

Crystal E

Policy and legislative leaders will convene to discuss priorities for the 90th Texas Legislature and the decisions that will shape the future of the state's life sciences ecosystem. The session will focus on how upcoming legislative action could influence innovation, investment, workforce development, and Texas' long-term leadership in healthcare and biotechnology.

- **Allison Griffin**, President, Griffin Strategies (moderator)
- **John Oates**, President & CEO, Texas Healthcare & Bioscience Institute

1:45pm - 2:45pm

Ask the Experts (1 hour)

This interactive session gives attendees the opportunity to engage directly with speakers from previous panels for deeper insight, clarification, and open Q&A on key topics discussed throughout the program. Attendees are also invited to visit the exhibit tables to connect with participating organizations and learn more about their work and solutions.

Session 1: From Funding to Impact: CPRIT & the Future of Cancer Innovation

Crystal G

- **Sherry Crowe**, CEO, OncoConnect
- **Andy Bader, PhD, MS**, CEO, Nemea Therapeutics
- **Kristen Doyle, JD**, CEO, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
- **Ritish Patnaik, PhD, MS**, CEO, Curve Biosciences

Session 2: ARPA-H in Action: From Funding to Real-World Health Solutions

Crystal H

- **Kimberley Steele, MD, PhD**, Program Manager, Health Science Futures, ARPA-H
- **Matthew Amato, PhD**, Postdoctoral Researcher, The University of Texas at Dallas
- **Martha Fowler, PhD**, CEO & Founder, Steer Bio, Inc.
- **Omid Veisheh, PhD**, Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Session 3: What's Next for Texas Life Sciences in the 90th Legislature

Crystal I

- **Allison Griffin**, President, Griffin Strategies
- **John Oates**, President & CEO, Texas Healthcare & Bioscience Institute
- **Baley Reeves, PhD**, Director, National Center for Therapeutics Manufacturing
- **Andrew Dickhaut**, Practice Director, Life Sciences, Catapult Solutions Group

2:45pm - 3:25pm

Optimizing Capital and Equity for Life Sciences Growth (40 minutes)

Crystal E

This session explores the key pathways for funding life sciences innovation, including investment, grant funding, and licensing opportunities. Panelists will discuss how companies can strategically approach each option, align funding sources with development stage, and build a diversified capital strategy to support long-term growth and commercialization.

- **Logan Atkins, CPWA**, Financial Advisor, Financial Planning Specialist, The Davis/Yost Group at Morgan Stanley (moderator)
- **Patrick Huddie, PhD**, Partner, Westbury Group LLC
- **Lito Rodriguez**, Grant Writer, Cedars-Sinai
- **Joe Loy**, President & CEO, Zetagen Therapeutics



Thursday, September 24, 2026 | 7:30am - 7:00pm

3:25pm – 4:05pm	Investing in Innovation: What Makes a Company Investable (40 minutes) This panel takes a deeper look at the investment thesis behind Texas-grown innovation—what investors are looking for, how they evaluate opportunity and risk, and what makes a company stand out in an increasingly competitive capital market. Investors will share how they assess Texas companies, where they see the strongest opportunities, and what founders can do to become more investable. • Jennifer Yandle, Executive Director, JP Morgan (moderator) • Marcus Nelson, MBA, Vice President of Strategy & New Ventures, Texas Medical Center • Sarah Stukalin, Vice President, Actium Group • Bryant Clark, Partner, Ascent Capital Partners • Amrie Grammer, PhD, Co-Founder, President & CSO, AMPEL BioSolutions	Crystal E
4:05pm - 4:45pm	From Strategy to Access: Achieving Commercial Success in Diagnostics, Devices & Tools (40 minutes) This session explores how medical device companies can plan for successful market access as part of their broader commercialization strategy. Panelists will discuss key considerations including reimbursement pathways, payer engagement, regulatory alignment, and early-stage planning that can improve adoption and reduce time to market. Attendees will gain practical insights into building a market access strategy that supports long-term commercial success. • Chris Hanna, MBA, CEO & Founder, Walnut Hill Medical (moderator) • Estevan Kiernan, CEO & Founder, REVO Oncology • Marine Schlotter, Senior Director of Commercial Strategy, Curve Biosciences • Metasebya Solomon, PhD, Co-Founder & CSO, D-10 Therapeutics	Crystal E
4:45pm - 5:00pm	Dennis K. Stone Legacy Award (15 minutes) Each year, BioNTX is proud to honor the memory and work of Dr. Stone by awarding an individual who has made a significant impact on the North Texas biotechnology industry. This prestigious award recognizes exceptional contributions to life science research, including efforts to raise awareness and funds. Join us as we announce this year's winner, celebrating their dedication and achievements that continue to drive progress and innovation in our community. • Eric Olson, PhD, Founding Chair of the Department of Molecular Biology, UT Southwestern Medical Center	Crystal E
5:00pm - 7:00pm	Cocktail Reception (2 hours) Celebrate the energy and innovation of our vibrant life sciences community during this dynamic networking session, where meaningful connections and new collaborations come to life over happy hour. • BIO BREAK • ISPE South Central Chapter / McCownGordon Construction • BioLabs Pegasus Park	Hallway Crystal G Crystal H



LIFE SCIENCE & HEALTHCARE INNOVATION SUMMIT

Friday, September 25, 2026 | 8:00am - 3:00pm

8:00am - 9:00am	Registration & Breakfast (1 hour)	Crystal E
8:00am - 9:00am	CEO Breakfast (1 hour) (invite only) The CEO Breakfast offers a high-level platform for engaging with prominent leaders in the life sciences and healthcare sectors. This exclusive, invite-only event provides an opportunity for in-depth discussions and networking with key innovators shaping the industry's future. • Dean Hart, MBA, Founder & President, CommEx Consulting, LLC (moderator) • Brett Giroir, MD, Chairman & Interim CEO, OncoNano Medicine	Crystal F
9:00am - 9:10am	Welcome & Opening Remarks (10 minutes) • Eric B. Moore, MBA, Chief Development Officer, BioNTX • Marty Wieder, Executive Director, Arlington EDC	Crystal E
9:10am - 9:50am	The New Frontier in Neurodegeneration: Discovery, Biomarkers, and Translation (40 minutes) This panel will explore how advances in neuro biobanks, biomarkers, disease models, and translational research are accelerating the development of new therapies for neurodegenerative diseases. Industry, academic, and nonprofit leaders will discuss the infrastructure, partnerships, and scientific innovations needed to move discoveries from the laboratory toward clinical testing. • Deborah Westphal, MBA, CEO, The Karen Toffler Charitable Trust (moderator) • Nikolaos Louros, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT Southwestern Medical Center • Melissa Petersen, PhD, Clinical Core Scientific Lead, UNT Health • Sudhir Sivakumaran, PhD, CSO, Lewy Body Dementia Association, Inc. • Olga Kahn, PhD, Director, Fluid Biomarkers - Diagnostics Accelerator, Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation	Crystal E
9:50am - 10:30am	FDA Today, Tomorrow, and Beyond (40 minutes) This session provides a forward-looking view of the FDA, exploring current priorities and emerging directions shaping regulatory pathways for life sciences innovation. Attendees will gain insight into today's key focus areas, as well as how the agency is evolving to support new technologies, accelerate development, and adapt to a rapidly changing healthcare landscape. • Laura O'Donnell, Chief Legal Officer & Corporate Secretary, Verily (moderator) • Sulagna Bhattacharya, MBA, CEO & Co-Founder, Nanoscope Therapeutics • Pamela Nelson, PhD, Founder, President & CEO, Bracane Company • Georgia Ravitz, JD, Partner, Orrick	Crystal E



Friday, September 25, 2026 | 8:00am - 3:00pm

10:30am - 11:10am	Protecting Innovation: Strengthening the Security & Resilience of the Life Sciences Ecosystem (40 minutes) As breakthroughs in biotechnology, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing continue to reshape the global economy, protecting these innovations has become a strategic imperative. From safeguarding intellectual property and securing critical infrastructure to strengthening supply chains and preparing for emerging threats, security is now an essential component of innovation. • Mitesh Shetty, Managing Director, Deloitte (moderator) • Nate Von Uhl, Chief Security Officer, The North Group • Andrew Carney, Program Manager, Resilient Systems, ARPA-H • Sean Simonini, Government Affairs, Strand Therapeutics	Crystal E
11:10am - 11:30am	Tech Transfer Showcase and Pitch Competition (20 minutes) The Tech Transfer Showcase brings academic innovations to the forefront, connecting researchers, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders to turn ideas into impact. This session offers a platform for institutions to engage with strategic partners, explore funding opportunities, and accelerate the path from lab to market while inspiring the next generation of leaders in science and technology. • Contestant 1: The University of North Texas • Contestant 2: Texas State University • Contestant 3: Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso	Crystal E
11:30am - 12:10pm	Investing in the Next Generation of Neurodegeneration Breakthroughs (40 minutes) External investment injects agile, market-driven capital that complements state funding, allowing institutions to rapidly scale high-risk, high-reward clinical trials, structural resources, and support the next generation of start-ups. By bridging the critical "valley of death" between initial laboratory discovery and commercial viability, these private partnerships accelerate the translation of Texas-led research into accessible, life-saving patient therapies. • Lydia McClure, PhD, CEO, Research Bridge Partners (moderator) • Heather Snyder, PhD, Vice President of Medical and Scientific Relations, Alzheimer's Association • Jonathan Behr, PhD, Director of Parkinson's Research Ventures, Parkinson's UK	Crystal E
12:10pm - 1:10pm	Lunch and Announcement of Tech Transfer Winner (1 hour) • Natalie Lundsteen, PhD, Director, Alloy Foundation	Crystal E



Friday, September 25, 2026 | 8:00am - 3:00pm

1:10pm - 2:10pm

Ask the Experts (1 hour)

This interactive session gives attendees the opportunity to engage directly with speakers from previous panels for deeper insight, clarification, and open Q&A on key topics discussed throughout the program. Attendees are also invited to visit the exhibit tables to connect with participating organizations and learn more about their work and solutions.

Session 1: The New Frontier in Neurodegeneration: Discovery, Biomarkers, and Translation

Crystal G

- **Deborah Westphal, MBA**, CEO, The Karen Toffler Charitable Trust
- **Nikolaos Louros, PhD**, Assistant Professor, UT Southwestern Medical Center
- **Melissa Petersen, PhD**, Clinical Core Scientific Lead, UNT Health
- **Sudhir Sivakumaran, PhD**, CSO, Lewy Body Dementia Association, Inc.

Session 2: FDA Today, Tomorrow, and Beyond

Crystal H

- **Georgia Ravitz, JD**, Partner, Orrick

Session 3: Investing in the Next Generation of Neurodegeneration Breakthroughs

Crystal I

- **Lydia McClure, PhD**, CEO, Research Bridge Partners
- **Heather Snyder, PhD**, Vice President of Medical and Scientific Relations, Alzheimer's Association
- **Jonathan Behr, PhD**, Director of Parkinson's Research Ventures, Parkinson's UK
- **Tom Luby, PhD**, Chief Innovation Officer, Texas Medical Center
- **Petteri Heljo, PhD**, Operating Partner, Actium Group

2:10pm - 2:50pm

The Future of Clinical Impact: Trials, Care, and Access for Patients (40 minutes)

Crystal E

This panel will examine emerging care models, clinical research opportunities, and pathways to patient access that are shaping the future of neurodegenerative disease care. Clinicians, patient advocates, and healthcare innovators will discuss how to improve outcomes by connecting research advances with real-world patient needs and care delivery.

- **Amy Rommel, PhD**, Scientific Program Director, Rainwater Charitable Foundation (moderator)
- **Kristophe Diaz, PhD**, CEO, CurePSP
- **Mimi Fenton, PhD**, CEO, Cedar Health Research
- **Claire Sexton, PhD, MBA**, National Executive Programs Lead, Brain Health, American Heart Association

2:50pm - 3:00pm

Closing Remarks (10 minutes)

Crystal E

- **Gina Ford, DPh, MBA**, CEO, BioNTX