

Women Driving Innovation

March 7, 2025 | 9:00am - 3:00pm | Pegasus Park - Dallas, TX

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Sharina Perry

Founder & CEO

Utopia Plastix

Sharina Perry is an entrepreneur with more than 25 years of experience establishing and running national businesses. Sharina is the founder and inventor of Utopia Plastix, a plant-based alternative to petroleum-based polymers. Sharina is also the originator and developer of The Utopia Model, a sustainable ecosystem business model. She is well regarded as an innovator, strategist, and unconventional thinker. She is often praised for her exceptional capacity to foster creative thinking, effective execution, and deliberate leadership.

Sharina serves on the Oklahoma Governors Minority Business Council as chair of the Business Engagement Committee. Sharina was also a key committee member for the

initiative leading to the passage of HB 2365; the first Supplier Diversity Program within the state of Oklahoma focused on aiding in the advancement of minority and underserved small business owners.

In 2023, she was appointed to the Oklahoma District Export Council by the US Secretary of Commerce. She serves as the Chair on the Advisory Board of the University of Oklahoma Price College of Business Multicultural Business Program. She also serves on the Executive Board for Hough Ear Institute. Sharina was instrumental in contributing her knowledge, insights, and expertise when the City of Oklahoma City convened community leaders and stakeholders when creating an economic resilience and recovery plan post COVID. She is a founding STEM committee member for the Oklahoma City Innovation District. She led the drafting of the resolution passed unanimously by the OKC Council to bring Public, Private and Educational Institutions together to address STEM & Workforce Development within the historically black community on the northeast side of Oklahoma City.

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OPENING REMARKS



Jill Baker, MEd

Chief Strategy Officer

BioNTX

With over 20 years of experience in HR, consulting, and operations, Jill has held key leadership roles, including serving as the Chief Operating Officer at Signature Biologics, a clinical-stage company focused on developing human cellular and biological products. In this role, she was responsible for the development and ongoing management of a cGMP facility, company-wide IT support, HR leadership and administration, operational projects, and executive team support.

Jill has also held leadership positions across multiple industries, including non-profit as Executive Director of PlaySmart, in education as Collaboration Coordinator for Economic Opportunity at the Skandalaris Center for Entrepreneurial Studies at Washington University in St. Louis, and in various corporate environments.

THROUGH THE LENS OF WOMEN HEALTH CHALLENGES



Lynne Meers

**Director of Business Development
CRB**

Lynne Meers enjoys initiating new relationships and growing the new and existing relationships to solve problems and achieve results. Lynne probes and listens with interest to bring the team members and resources that match the challenges of her clients. Today, she serves as Director of Business Development focused on the Midwest region covering 17 states for CRB where she cultivates relationships to help clients in the Life Sciences sector discover best-in-class solutions to meet their design and construction needs.

Prior to CRB, Lynne spent over 12 years as the Director of Business Development for a national commercial construction company where she focused primarily on Healthcare and Life Science. Her interest in Life Science motivated her to dive deeper into this market sector and join CRB in early 2022. In addition to her experience in the Life Sciences market, Lynne is well-versed in risk management from her experience as an insurance and surety bond broker.

Lynne is an active member of ISPE, Urban Land Institute, and several life science trade associations in multiple cities. Lynne, a native Houstonian, currently lives in Dallas and is a graduate of Texas A&M University.



Lisa Ferrand

**CEO & Founder
Warrior Caps**

When Lisa was diagnosed with breast cancer in her 30s she started researching "Dr. Google" looking for answers. Would she live? Would she die? Would she lose her hair? In the process she found cold cap therapy, an option to limit hair loss during chemo. It wasn't easy but Lisa completed 16 rounds of chemo with hair. Following active treatment and with a desire to help others, Lisa decided to fill a niche in the community and founded Warrior Caps LLC, a rental company for cold caps specializing in highly individualized and supportive care. Now in their 9th year, Lisa has "Warriors", women and men, young and older, from the East to West Coast with all types of cancers who have used Warrior Caps successfully. Lisa understands cold cap therapy is not for everyone, but she wants everyone to have a choice.

Lisa has an undergrad degree from Indiana University and an MBA from the University of Texas on-line program. She is an active volunteer in her community. Her greatest role is that of single-mom to her three children Maddie Mae (7), Maxwell (6) and Maeson (4) whom she adopted following her cancer journey.



Carole Spangler Vaughn, PhD, MBA

**CEO & Founder
Eisana Health**

Dr. Carole Spangler Vaughn (CEO) holds a Ph.D. in Biophysics (Johns Hopkins University) and an MBA (University of Washington).

For over 25 years, she has worked for large and small entities, in the laboratory and in business development, including Bristol-Myers Squibb, University of Washington (Office of Technology Transfer), Dendreon Corporation, and Clario Medical Imaging. She owned and operated MediVet Hawaii, a veterinary regenerative medicine franchise. She was a Strategy Consultant/Interim CEO for Emtora Biosciences. She has also consulted several life science companies on strategy, partnering, fundraising, sales, and marketing. Currently, she is Founder/CEO of Eisana Health.

WOMEN LEADING BREAKTHROUGH IN SCIENCE & INNOVATION



Juliet Spencer, PhD

Professor of Biology and the
Interim Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences
Texas Woman's University

Juliet Spencer is a Professor of Biology and the Interim Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at Texas Woman's University (TWU), the largest predominantly female institution of higher education in the US. She received her B.S. in Biotechnology from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and completed her Ph.D. in Microbiology at the University of Virginia. She joined TWU as Chair of Biology in 2018, then became the Director of the School of Sciences in 2021. She completed her MBA at TWU in 2022 and helped launch a Women in STEM Leadership program supported by the Jane Nelson Institute for Women's Leadership to ensure that TWU students are well-equipped to enter the workforce with a toolbox that includes both scientific knowledge and leadership skills.



Crystal Cooper, PhD

Assistant Professor of Psychology
The University of Texas

Dr. Cooper is a cognitive neuroscientist who serves as the head of neuroimaging and behavior research at Cook Children's Neuroscience Research Center (Director: Christos Papadelis, Ph.D.). She received her doctoral degree in Experimental Psychology with an emphasis in Health Psychology and Neuroscience at UT Arlington. She completed her postdoctoral fellowship in Psychiatry at UT Southwestern Medical Center (Center for Depression Research and Clinical Care; Director: Madhukar Trivedi, M.D.) where she also began her faculty career and retains Adjunct Assistant Professor. Broadly, Dr. Cooper investigates biosignatures of disease and treatment prediction in psychopathological conditions using behavior and brain function.



Elizabeth Moody Davenport, PhD

Assistant Professor of Radiology
UT Southwestern

Dr. Davenport earned her B.S. in Biomedical Engineering from NC State and her Ph.D. from Virginia Tech-Wake Forest University. She completed postdoctoral training in clinical MEG at UT Southwestern, where she is now an Assistant Professor of Radiology and Biomedical Engineering and the Technical Director of the MEG Center of Excellence.

Her research focuses on functional neuroimaging, particularly MEG, with an emphasis on its role in diagnosing and predicting outcomes in head injury, dementia, and epilepsy.



Nancy Monson, PhD

Professor of Neurology & Immunology, **UT Southwestern**
CSO, GenrAb

Nancy Monson, Ph.D., is a pioneering neuroimmunologist specializing in immunogenetics and the impact of adaptive immunity on diseases of the central nervous system. She has been at UT Southwestern since 1996 and is currently a tenured Professor in Neurology with a dual appointment in Immunology. She is also the Chief Scientific Officer of GenrAb, Inc. pursuing the identification and development of neuroprotective antibodies in the treatment of neurodegenerative disease.

Her key strengths are facilitating research across multiple disciplines including immunology, genetics, physiology and neuroscience particularly in arenas that require active collaborations with clinicians. Outside of the lab, Nancy enjoys camping and horseback riding with her husband and family, scrapbooking with her friends, and spending time with God.

THE JOURNEY OF WOMEN EXECUTIVES IN BIOTECH & LIFE SCIENCES



Gina Ford, MBA

Executive Director

Women In Bio

Gina Ford is a highly experienced professional with 20 years of expertise in life sciences, biotech, and pharmaceutical industries. Throughout her career, she has held leadership roles in Corporate Strategy, Commercial, Portfolio Management, Business Development, and Patient Advocacy.

As the Executive Director of Women In Bio (WIB), Gina leads the organization's strategic growth and expansion efforts, driving initiatives to support and empower women in the life sciences. Under her leadership, WIB has launched new chapters, expanded programming, and secured significant funding to enhance opportunities for women at all career stages. She has been instrumental in fostering industry partnerships, increasing engagement across WIB's national and local networks, and developing innovative programs to support women in entrepreneurship, executive leadership, and STEM careers. Gina's ability to create sustainable revenue streams and drive impact has positioned WIB as a premier organization for advancing women in the biotech and pharmaceutical sectors.



Sulagna Bhattacharya, MBA

CEO & Co-Founder

Nanoscope Therapeutics

As Co-founder and CEO of Nanoscope Therapeutics, Sulagna Bhattacharya leads a talented and diverse team dedicated to the development of sight-restoring therapies for the millions of patients worldwide blinded by inherited retinal diseases for which no cure exists. Ms. Bhattacharya is a serial entrepreneur having co-founded several biotech and biomedical device/diagnostic companies.

Currently, Ms. Bhattacharya sits on the Board of Directors of the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) where she serves on the Health Section Governing Board, and the Emerging Companies Section Governing Board. She also serves on multiple committees including the Capital Formation Committee, and the Corporate Governance Committee.

She is also serving as an Entrepreneur-in-Residence at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

She has B. Tech degrees in Electrical, Electronics and Communications, as well as an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University.



Stephanie Collins

Founder & Chief Patient Advocacy Officer

Eido Bio

Stephanie is a visionary leader with over 30 years of experience in healthcare and life sciences, specializing in the commercialization of first-in-class therapies for specialty and rare diseases. As Chief Patient Advocacy Officer at Eido Bio, she brings her expertise in successfully launching 15 products, including groundbreaking advancements in women's health, to drive patient-centric strategies and ensure transformative therapies reach those who need them most.

With a unique background in nursing and patient advocacy, Stephanie's career has been defined by her unwavering commitment to improving patient outcomes. She has consistently championed disease awareness campaigns and worked tirelessly to ensure that patients with rare and chronic conditions are seen, heard, and provided access to innovative treatments. Her leadership was instrumental in spearheading 15 successful product launches, including the first diagnostic and treatment paradigm shift for a common chronic disease in over a century.

Stephanie's experience spans roles at leading companies such as Intermune, UCB, Vertex, BMS, Intercept, Insmad, and Provention Bio, where she has been pivotal in building and preparing markets for first-in-class therapies.



Rose Pedretti, PhD

Co-Founder

AmyGo Solutions

Rose Pedretti received her B.S. in Biochemistry from Nazareth University in 2020. She recently completed my Ph.D. in Molecular Biology at UT Southwestern Medical Center in the laboratory of Dr. Lorena Saelices.

Her thesis work focused on developing clinical tools to detect and treat systemic protein misfolding diseases such as transthyretin amyloidosis. She is currently a Postdoctoral Scholar in the Saelices laboratory, where she is continuing her research into novel blood-based biomarkers of transthyretin amyloidosis.

Dr. Pedretti is also a Co-Founder of AmyGo Solutions, a company dedicated to further developing and commercializing technologies created during my PhD with the ultimate goal of improving outcomes for patients suffering from systemic amyloidosis. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, weightlifting, running, baking, and playing with my two cats Luna and Pumpkin.



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WOMEN DRIVING INNOVATION: GET IT MOVING



Janice Davis, JD

Partner

Morgan Lewis

Janice Davis brings more than 30 years of corporate experience to her practice, striving to create practical solutions for her clients' contractual relationships and challenges. She advises on a variety of commercial transactions, including M&A, joint ventures, divestitures, software license agreements, corporate financing, private placements, alliance arrangements, reorganizations, recapitalizations, management and leveraged buy-outs, venture capital investments, and securities law compliance. In her M&A practice, Janice represents public and private companies, as well as private equity firms, in diverse cross-border and domestic transactions. Janice also has a particular interest in guiding clients through the formation and financing of early stage and emerging growth companies.



Chloe Bailey, MBA

Executive Project Manager, HRCM Operations

Conifer Health Solutions

Chloe Bailey has 15+ years of experience within the biotech and life sciences with an MBA from NYU Stern and a BSc in Economics from the London School of Economics.

She was one of the earliest employees at Signature Biologics, a tissue product company, and operationally led the company to over 40 employees and an eight figure revenue. She has been part of core leadership groups that launched products in the regenerative medical and nutritional supplement space. She currently works under the VP of Patient Access at Conifer Health running special projects including change management, outsourcing initiatives, and new business proposals.



Rosemary Gammon, PAHM

Principal Consultant

CMR Healthcare Consultants

Rosemary began her career in healthcare sales before transitioning into managed care contracting, revenue cycle management, and market access, specializing in coding, coverage, and reimbursement. With experience across multiple healthcare sectors, she has worked with both emerging and established technologies in numerous medical fields.

In 2008, Rosemary founded Sage Healthcare Consultants, where she serves as Principal Consultant. Expanding her impact, she co-founded CMR Healthcare Consultants in 2024 alongside two industry experts, broadening the scope of services available to clients. She is dedicated to guiding companies developing new medical technologies through the intricate processes of coding, coverage, and reimbursement. With a deep understanding

of the regulatory, financial, and operational challenges in healthcare, Rosemary leverages her experience to help clients achieve successful medical technology launches and secure market access.



Sarah Stukalin

Vice President

Actium Group

Sarah Stukalin is a Vice President on the investments team at Actium Group, where she focuses on identifying and supporting innovative companies in the life sciences and technology sectors.

She holds a background in Neuroscience and Computational Modeling from the University of Texas at Dallas and a foundation in Biology from Vanderbilt University.

Actium Group is a life-cycle investor dedicated to fostering the growth and success of groundbreaking companies.

CALL TO ACTION: EMPOWERING WOMEN IN LIFE SCIENCES

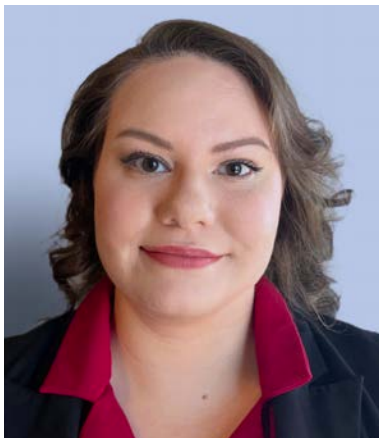


Gabby Everett, PhD

Director of Business Operations & Strategy, Site Head
BioLabs Pegasus Park

Gabby is the Director of Business Operations & Strategy and Site Head for BioLabs Pegasus Park, the premier network of shared lab and office facilities located in key innovation clusters. As Director, she is responsible for recruiting member companies, fostering relationships, and building the biotech community in North Texas.

Prior to BioLabs, Gabby was the Lead Scientist in the Biotech group at NCH Corporation. She holds 12 US patents and has another 8 patents pending. Gabby holds a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Texas A&M University where she was author on nearly 50 peer-reviewed research publications. She serves on the McFerrin Advisory Council and the Therapeutics Advisory Group at Texas A&M University, the External Advisory Board of the Biomedical Engineering Department at UT Arlington, and the Product Development Advisory Committee for CPRIT.



Nicole Anklam, MS

Vice President of Professional Development
Society of Women Engineers

Nicole Anklam is currently a Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) Project Engineer at PACCAR, where she is a Charge System Owner working on Zero Emissions Electric Vehicles. She conducts charging simulations analysis, defines charge system requirements, and collaborates with a multidisciplinary team to integrate them into vehicle designs.

Nicole has been an active member of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) since 2011. In leadership roles from the collegiate level to professional sections, she organized and led events at local colleges. Currently, Nicole serves as the Vice President of Professional Development with the SWE Dallas Professional Section. Nicole earned her Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the Rochester Institute of Technology in 2016 and

her Master of Science in Technical Management from the University of Detroit Mercy in 2021. She holds a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certification from the International Quality Federation. Nicole lives in Richland Hills and in her free time enjoys caring for her pet snakes and engaging in crafting activities.



Marlyn Brookins, PhD, MS

Director of Marketing and PR
Healthcare Businesswomen's Association

Marlyn Panchoo Brookins, PhD, is an advocate and the Founder and Chief Consultant of Insightful Intellect. With over 15 years in life sciences, education, and clinical research, she specializes in boosting diverse clinical trial enrollment through strategic community engagement. Originally from Grenada and now based in Fort Worth, Texas, she leverages her unique background to empower underrepresented communities and drive healthcare transformation.

Marlyn created "Embrace and Elevate," a community that helps professionals turn mental health challenges into growth opportunities, and she is the author of *More Than Just Sad: My Story of Depression and Resilience*. She also serves as Director of Marketing and PR

for the SW region of HBA, mentors middle school students through "Letters to a Pre-Scientist," and sits on community advisory boards. Her work demystifies complex research and makes clinical trials accessible, inclusive, and transformative, fueling her mission to improve patient engagement and retention.



Jovelyn Castellanos, MHA
 Director of Strategic Initiatives and Public Affairs
Health Wildcatters

Jovelyn Castellanos is a dynamic leader in healthcare and health innovation, committed to advancing accessible healthcare solutions that enhance community health through technology, innovation, advocacy, media, and strategic communications. As the Director of Strategic Initiatives & Public Affairs at Health Wildcatters, she leads key initiatives and strategic communications, including the Women in Science and Healthcare (WISH) Network which has grown to a community of over 300+ women since its inception in August 2022.

With dual Master's degrees in Molecular and Cellular Biology and Healthcare Leadership & Management, Jovelyn combines a scientific research-driven perspective with practical expertise to drive meaningful change. Beyond her profession, she is a dedicated mentor and active community leader. She supports young professionals and aspiring STEM leaders through UT Austin's STEM Muse Program, guiding the next generation in their career paths. She has inspired hundreds of students and professionals as a public speaker in STEM and healthcare innovation, sharing her journey as a first-generation college graduate and professional.



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