

2025 Building a Life Science Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

May 20, 2025 | 3:00pm - 6:00pm | Tyler, TX

3:00pm - 3:30pm	Registration & Networking (30 minutes)
3:30pm - 3:35pm	Welcome (5 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kathleen Otto-Rosenblum, CEO, BioNTX• Pierre Neuenschwander, PhD, FAHA, Professor of Cellular & Molecular Biology, Director of the PhD in Integrated Biomedical Sciences program, UT Health Science Center at Tyler
3:35pm - 3:40pm	Opening Remarks (5 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jarett Berry, MD, MS, FAHA, Professor & Chair of Medicine, UT Tyler School of Medicine
3:40pm - 4:10pm	Why Tyler? Unlocking Biotech Opportunities in the Heart of Texas (30 minutes) <p>Tyler offers a unique and promising environment for biotech innovation and business growth. In this session, you will learn why Tyler is the location for biotech opportunities, as industry experts share insights on the advantages of building a business in the area and how they have achieved success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scott Martinez, CEcD, President & CEO, Tyler Economic Development Council• Pierre Neuenschwander, PhD, FAHA, Professor of Cellular & Molecular Biology, Director of the PhD in Integrated Biomedical Sciences program, UT Health Science Center at Tyler• David Nichols, President & CEO, Huck Medical Technologies
4:10pm - 4:45pm	Overcoming Challenges in Biotech: Research, IP, & Entrepreneurship (35 minutes) <p>The commercialization of biotech innovations depends on effectively combining research, intellectual property (IP), and entrepreneurship. In this session, speakers will explore the challenges in the research process and the role of entrepreneurship in navigating biotech development and IP complexities to drive innovation and accelerate commercialization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lisa Bush, MS, CIP, Assistant VP for Research, Director of Office of Sponsored Programs, UT Tyler• Luis Fernandez, MD, KHS, KCOEG, FACS, FASAS, FCCP, FCCM, FICS, Professor of Surgery, Dept. of Surgery, Division of Trauma Surgery/Surgical Critical Care, UT Tyler• Charles Gordon, MD, Board Certified Neurological Surgeon, Precision Spine Care• Christopher Miller, JD, Principal, Harness IP• Patrick O'Neal, PhD, Former Chief Technology Officer, WaveGate Corporation
4:45pm - 4:55pm	Networking Break (10 minutes)
4:55pm - 5:15pm	Company Presentations (20 minutes) <p>Tyler-based biotech companies will share their journeys, providing an overview of their work and the successes they have achieved. Gain valuable insights into the growth and innovation within Tyler's biotech sector and discover how these companies have overcome challenges to reach their current level of success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• David Nichols, President & CEO, Huck Medical Technologies• Nagarjun Konduru, PhD, CEO, Pulmotherapeutics Inc.
5:15pm - 5:35pm	Tech Transfer & Licensing: Fueling Biotech Growth in Tyler (20 minutes) <p>In this session, industry experts will explore the critical role of technology transfer and licensing in Tyler's growing biotech sector. Attendees will gain insights into how these processes drive innovation, bridge research and commercialization, and create new business opportunities in Tyler's biotech landscape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brandon Reynolds, Director, East Texas Launchpad Team, UT Tyler
5:35pm - 5:55pm	Company Presentations (20 minutes) <p>Tyler-based biotech companies will share their journeys, providing an overview of their work and the successes they have achieved. Gain valuable insights into the growth and innovation within Tyler's biotech sector and discover how these companies have overcome challenges to reach their current level of success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Luis Fernandez, MD, KHS, KCOEG, FACS, FASAS, FCCP, FCCM, FICS, Professor of Surgery, Dept. of Surgery, Division of Trauma Surgery/Surgical Critical Care, UT Tyler• Micheal Norton, MD, Founder & CEO, Axxess Instruments
5:55pm - 6:00pm	Closing Remarks (5 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kathleen Otto-Rosenblum, CEO, BioNTX
6:00pm	Adjourn