

Pre-Conference Workshops

Tuesday (morning), February 24, 2026, 9:00am-12:30pm

Workshop #1: CMC of Complex and Conjugated RNA Therapeutics

Workshop Moderator:

Thomas Rupp, Managing Director, Axolabs Berlin GmbH, Germany

Workshop #2: Manufacturing and Characterization of Long and/or Complex Peptides

Workshop Moderator:

Bruce Morimoto, Ph.D., Independent Consultant and TIDES Advisor, USA

Main Conference

Tuesday (afternoon), February 24-26, 2026

The Science Behind the GLP-1 Medicines: A Historic View and Future Outlook

Lotte Bjerre Knudsen, Ph.D., Chief Scientific Advisor & Head of GLP-1 CoE, Novo Nordisk A/S, Denmark

Emerging Technologies in the Scale Up of Oligonucleotide Therapeutics

Scott May, Ph.D., VP of Chemistry, Synthetic Molecule Design & Development, Eli Lilly & Company, USA

Development of New Molecular Technologies for siRNA Therapeutics

Takeshi Wada, Ph.D., Professor of Organic Chemistry, Tokyo University of Science, Japan

Main Conference Session Speakers

Oligonucleotide Speakers

Phase-Appropriate CMC Considerations for Next-generation Oligonucleotides

Pablo Lores Lareo, Ph.D., CMC Director, Sylentis, Spain

Thiomorpholino Oligonucleotides (TMOs) Useful for Exon Skipping, RNase H and siRNA Applications

Marvin Caruthers, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor, Biochemistry, University of Colorado, USA

Expanding RNA Editing Applications to CNS Disorders Through AIMER Chemistry Design

Chikdu Shivalila, Ph.D., Senior Director of Platform Biology, Wave Life Sciences

Advancing RNA Therapeutics: Preclinical Progress of the Antibody Oligonucleotide Conjugate (AOC) Platform

Hanhua Huang, Ph.D., Vice President, Biology, Avidity Biosciences, USA

LC-HRMS Bioanalytical Strategies for Characterizing and Quantifying Antibody–Oligonucleotide Conjugate (AOC) Therapeutics

Xin Zhang, Ph.D., Principal Scientist, Denali Therapeutics, USA

The Analytical Method Development Challenges of a Peptide PMO Conjugate, VP-001 for the Treatment of Retinitis Pigmentosa RP-11

Mark Anastasas, Group Lead Chemistry-QC, PYC Therapeutics, Australia

Optimizing Oligo Protein Conjugates with Chemistry-Driven Solutions for Enhanced Properties and Scale-Up

Naresh Jain, Ph.D., CEO, NJ Bio, USA

Mivelsiran, The First Investigational RNAi Therapeutic in Development for Alzheimer's Disease, Bench to Bedside

Jayaprakash Nair, Ph.D., VP, Research, Chemistry and Delivery Science, Alnylam, USA *(Invited)*

Oligonucleotide Drugs and the Molecular Mechanisms for Neurodegenerative Diseases

Takanori Yokota, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, Neurology and Neurological Science, Tokyo Medical and Dental University *(Invited)*

In Vivo Programming of Monocytes for Rapid B Cell Depletion: A Novel Strategy for B-Cell Lymphoma and Multiple Myeloma

Melissa Deck, Director of Platform, Liberate Bio *(Invited)*

RNAi Therapeutics in Japan: Needs and Solutions-An Alnylam Perspective

Yutaka Okada, President and Representative Director, Alnylam Japan KK, Japan *(Invited)*

Lessons Learned Building an Oligo CMC Program for a Small Company: Doing More with Less

Pablo Lores Lareo, Ph.D., CMC Director, Sylentis, Spain

Understanding UF/DF Capabilities for Enhancing ASO Processing to Make a Liquid or Lyo API

Robert Gronke, Ph.D., Senior Principal Scientist, Biogen, USA

Precise Engineering and Structural Elucidation of Aptamer-Drug Conjugates (ApDC) for Implantable Triple-Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC) Therapy

Jung Hwan Lee, Ph.D., CEO, Interoligo Corporation, Korea

Development and Manufacture of Oligonucleotides via Enzymatic Ligation

Scott May, Ph.D., VP of Chemistry, Synthetic Molecule Design & Development, Eli Lilly & Company, USA

Arne Berthelmann, Ph.D., Senior Director Oligonucleotide R&D, Bachem AG, Switzerland

Insights into siRNA Duplex Stability from UV-Vis Concentration and Melting Temperature Analyses

Molly Blevins, Ph.D., Principal Scientist, Genentech, USA

Analytical Strategies for Oligonucleotides

Leo Joyce, Ph.D., Director, Analytical Development, Arrowhead Pharmaceuticals *(Invited)*

Oligo CMC Case Study

Yogesh Sanghvi, Ph.D., President, Rasayan, Inc., USA *(Invited)*

Process Analytical Technology for Oligonucleotide Manufacturing

Matthew Quinn, Manager, Analytical Development, Novo Nordisk, USA *(Invited)*

Retatrutide: Update on Phase 3 Data, CMC Implementation Progress and Anticipated 2026 Submission

Michael E. Kopach, Ph.D., Associate Vice President, Synthetic Molecule Design and Development, Eli Lilly and Company, USA *(Invited)*

Designing a Safe, Sustainable, and Efficient Drug Manufacturing Processes for Oligonucleotide Based Products

Ashish Garg, Ph.D., Director, Drug Product Development, Bioproduct Research and Development, Eli Lilly and Company, USA *(Invited)*

Peptide Speaker

Synthesis Solutions Enabling Rapid Supply of Complex Cyclic Peptides

Manabu Wadamoto, Ph.D., Chief Scientist, Discovery Chemistry Department, Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Japan

A Strategic Vision for Therapeutic Development: The PeptiDream Story

Christian Cunningham, Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer, PeptiDream, Japan *(Invited)*

Strategies for Manufacturing of Long and Complex Peptides: Technical Considerations and Case Studies

Robert Hagopian, Global Director, Biotech Partnerships, PolyPeptide Group, USA
El Djouhar Rekai, Ph.D., Head of Business Unit Peptide Process Development & Manufacturing, PolyPeptide Group, Belgium

Analytical Strategies for Peptides

Alaric Desmarchelier, Ph.D., Business Development Manager – Peptides, Almac Sciences, UK

Innovations in Peptide Downstream Processing and Purification

Marc Jacob, Ph.D., Head of Strategic Development, Chromatography Products, YMC America, USA

A Bioproduction Platform to Generate Functionalized Disulfide-constrained Peptide Analogues

Sunhee Hwang, Ph.D., Scientist 4, Genentech, USA

Harnessing Venom for Drug Discovery: Developing a High-Performance Venom Library Platform with a Machine Learning-Enabled Rapid Hit-to-Lead Workflow

Yingnan Zhang, Ph.D., Senior Principal Scientific Manager, Genentech, USA

Advancing Mid-sized Drug Discovery through Scalable Unnatural Amino Acid Technologies

Manabu Wadamoto, Ph.D., Chief Scientist, Discovery Chemistry Department, Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Japan

A Next Generation Peptide Discovery Engine

Kerry Blanchard, M.D. Ph.D., CEO, Chairman and Founder, Perpetual Medicines, China
Ved Srivastava, Ph.D., CTO, Perpetual Medicines, USA

Protagonist's Latest Clinical and Preclinical Developments

Ashok Bhandari, Ph.D., EVP, Chief Discovery Officer, Protagonist Therapeutics, USA *(Invited)*

Accelerating Development of Peptide Therapeutics

Shinya Oki, Principal, PeptiStar, Japan *(Invited)*

Regulatory CMC Challenges and Strategies for Programs under Accelerated Review

David Lin, Ph.D., President and Principal Consultant, TS Pharma Experts LLC *(Invited)*

Selection of Constrained Peptides as Functional Modulators of CB2R and Characterisation of Functional Effects in IBD Models

David O'Connell, Professor, University College Dublin, Ireland *(Invited)*

Switching off Transcription Factors Using Intracellular Library-derived Peptides

Jody Mason, Ph.D., Professor of Biochemistry, University of Bath, United Kingdom *(Invited)*

[mRNA, LNPs & Targeted Delivery](#)

Chemical Synthesis of mRNAs Based on Efficient Capping Reaction

Hiroshi Abe, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Pharmacy, Nagoya University, Japan

Surface Avidity Optimization Drives Potent CAR-T Generation with Targeted LNPs

Hiroshi Yamada, Ph.D., Head of Drug Delivery Research and Development, Nitto Denko Corp., Japan

FORCE Platform Enables TfR1-mediated Delivery of Therapeutics for Rare Neuromuscular Diseases

Stefano Zanutti, Ph.D., Head of Neuromuscular Research, Dyne Therapeutics, USA

CureVac's LNP Platforms for Prophylactic and Therapeutic mRNA Delivery

Vusala Ibrahimova, Ph.D., Research Scientist, CureVac SE, Germany *(Invited)*

mRNA CMC and Analytical Strategies

Simon Klenk, Ph.D., Director Strategy & Projects, BioNTech SE, Germany *(Invited)*

[\[Register by September 19 to save \\$600\]](#)