2019 Advisory Committee

Laurie Actman, Chief Marketing, Communications & Programs Officer, Penn Center for Innovation

Laurie Actman is responsible for the implementation and execution of PCI’s services and partnerships within the University and leads PCI’s branding, marketing and communications with internal and external stakeholders.

Daniel Bangser, Director North America, Investment Promotion, Trade Commissioner of Switzerland, Consulate General of Switzerland

Daniel Bangser is an experienced international trade and FDI professional with a successful track record facilitating and promoting international business and site location in both government and corporate settings. He has extensive experience creating and organizing conferences and speaking on panels. In addition, he earned a B.A. in Economics from Tufts University.

Alexandre Blanchot, Healthcare Trade Advisor, Export North America, Business France

As Healthcare Trade Advisor at Business France, Alexandre Blanchot works to help develop French start-ups in biotech, MedTech, pharma and e-health the United States and Canada. Previously, Alexandre worked at Sanofi Genzyme as a Product Manager and at AstraZeneca.
Ashok Chander, CEO, Cellanyx

As CEO of Cellanyx, Ashok is currently advancing a novel live cell biopsy-on-a-chip technology. As reported by *Boston Business Journal*, *Urology Today* and *The Wall Street Journal’s* Venture Wire, Cellanyx provides a first-in-class Living Cell Phenotypic cancer diagnostic platform.

Ashok developed Cellanyx’s core technology during a career in academic research spanning topics from multidrug resistance to matrix-biology. A Fellow of Startup Leadership Boston, Ashok combines his background in biophysics with expertise in business spanning project management, operations, team development, entrepreneurship and raising capital.

Rajeev Dadoo, Partner, SR One

Rajeev joined SR One in 2004 and is an alum of the Kauffman Fellows Program. Rajeev has previously worked in the Competitive Excellence group within GSK on company-wide strategic and operational projects. Rajeev has also worked at Genentech, where his role included technology and clinical development, and at Bio-Rad Laboratories in a product development role. In addition, he worked at Genome Therapeutics in business development and was a co-founder of Unimicro Technologies.

Monique Da Silva, VP, Head of Corporate Communications, Spark Therapeutics

Monique is a global communications leader with extensive experience in the biotechnology and healthcare industries. Currently, she leads Corporate Communications at Spark Therapeutics, a fully integrated gene therapy company dedicated to challenging the inevitability of genetic disease. Previously, Monique led the U.S. Public Affairs group for Biogen, where she was responsible for advocacy relations, employee communications and external communications to support Biogen’s $6.5 Billion U.S. business during a period of intense growth.

Monique serves as president, member and volunteer engagement center of excellence for the Healthcare Businesswomen’s Association – New England and serves on the board of directors of Mothers’ Milk Bank Northeast. She has a BA from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine and completed the General Management Program at Harvard Business School.
**Karen, DeLone**, Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, LSPA

Karen DeLone serves as the Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer for Life Sciences PA, overseeing member outreach, recruitment and programming throughout the year. Karen is LSPA’s go-to contact for membership-related inquiries, including on boarding, objective-based sponsorship packages and targeted outreach.

**Vincent Finn**, Trade Commissioner, Consulate General of Canada

Vincent Finn advises innovative Canadian tech companies on how to create, develop and expand their business in the United States. With over 25 years’ private sector experience in international trade, Vincent is an advocate for efficient and imaginative ways to reduce the burden of rising health care costs utilizing health IT, mobile communication devices and telemedicine.

Vincent has also held a variety of senior management positions in Europe and the United States in strategic sourcing, product development, sales and marketing for such companies as Marks & Spencer and Milliken & Company and Sprint. He has a Master of Science (MSc.) in Technology from Manchester University.

**Joan Lau**, Managing Partner, Militia Hill Ventures

Joan Lau is Managing Partner of Militia Hill Ventures, a business focused on building and growing high quality life sciences companies, and Chief Executive Officer of Talee Bio, a gene therapy company with a focus on cystic fibrosis. Prior to founding Militia Hill Ventures, Joan was an Executive in Residence at BioAdvance and President and CEO of Azelon Pharmaceuticals, a venture-backed clinical stage biopharmaceutical company focused on the treatment of endocrine-based diseases. Prior to leading Azelon, Joan was President and CEO of Locus Pharmaceuticals, a computational chemistry discovery company. Earlier in her career, Joan served in various leadership roles at Merck & Co, focused primarily in R&D drug development and business development. Dr. Lau also serves on various community and industry boards, including Talee Bio, BioMotiv, the Alliance of Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) and the Human Rights Campaign.

Dr. Lau earned an MBA from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, a PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and a BS in Bioengineering from the University of Pennsylvania.
Walter Olesiak, Partner, Remiges Ventures

Walter has over 24 years’ experience in business development, healthcare consulting and venture investment. Walter spent 8 years in venture investments with Mitsui Ventures, during which time he held positions as a board member or observer in 10 portfolio companies. Prior to Mitsui Walter spent 6 years with Cambridge Pharma Consultancy (an IMS Health company) advising on global pharmaceutical pricing, reimbursement and market access issues to leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. Prior to Cambridge, Walter spent 8 years in Tokyo in various roles with Genzyme Japan and SRL, Inc. Walter holds a AB in Biochemical Sciences from Harvard University and MBA from Cornell University.

Helen Stimson, President and CEO, Delaware BioScience

Helen Stimson is the President & CEO of Delaware BioScience Association (Delaware Bio). Prior to her new position at Delaware Bio, she was the Vice President and General Manager of the Chemistries and Supplies Division at Agilent Technologies. At Agilent Technologies, she was responsible for development, direction, strategy and P&L for the $500M division headquartered in DE. Helen holds a Bachelor’s degree in Chemistry from Lafayette College. She has completed many programs in on-going Executive Education at Kellogg, Columbia and Wharton Business Schools. She is a member of the Board of Directors at the Delaware Small Business Development Center (SBDC), a member of the Board of Directors for Tech Forum Delaware, a member of the Board of Directors for WHYY public television and radio, Chairs the external advisory council for the Biomedical Engineering department at UD and was formerly on the Board of Directors for Delaware BioScience Association, New Castle County Chamber of Commerce, Mid Atlantic Food and Wine Festival and on the External Advisory committee to the UD Lerner Business School.

Geeta Vemuri, Managing Partner, Agent Capital

Prior to Agent Capital, Dr. Vemuri was the Managing Partner of Baxter Ventures and the Managing Partner of Baxalta Ventures, where she led each corporate venture capital arm with more than $300M under management. Prior to Baxter, Dr. Vemuri was a Partner at Quaker Partners where she focused on biotech and healthcare investments. Dr. Vemuri has served on the board of a variety of companies,
including Cempra (until its IPO and Dr. Vemuri’s departure in 2011), Covagen (acq. by J&J), Gadeta (acq. by Gilead), Naurex (acq. by Allergan), Ocular Therapeutix, Protez Pharmaceuticals (acq. by Novartis), Syntimmune (acq. by Alexion), and True North Therapeutics (acq. by Bioverativ/Sanofi), among others. Dr. Vemuri received a PhD in biochemistry from Indian Institute of Sciences and an MBA from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.