

Biotech Showcase Program Speakers Have Their Fingers on the Pulse of Biotech

Business Wire

Biotech Showcase investor and partnering conference returns to San Francisco for the sixth year. This established innovation showcase for life science investors will be held January 13–15, 2014 at Parc 55 Wyndham San Francisco - Union Square. The event draws executives representing top public and private biotech and life science companies and investors seeking new opportunities.

Biotech Showcase(TM) investor and partnering conference (Photo: Business Wire) Biotech Showcase, Streetwise Reports, and Sagient Research will present The Life Sciences Report Watchlist 2014 at the event again this year on Monday morning, including a welcome by Karen Roche, President of Streetwise Reports. The Watch List tracks major events in the industry from 2013 and makes predictions about trends for 2014. Mara Goldstein of Cantor Fitzgerald will moderate the session that includes panelists Michael G. King, Jr. of JMP Securities LLC; John McCamant of Medical Technology Stock Letter; Raghuram "Ram" Selvaraju of Aegis Capital; and George B. Zavoico of MLV & Co.

A closing reception and panel entitled "The Last Word" with The Life Sciences Report, RMI and BioPharm Insight will be held on Wednesday evening. This lively, and potentially irreverent, discussion will be moderated by Kimberly Ha of BioPharm Insight, and includes speakers Fabrice Ergos of RMI Partners; Anthony Sun of Aisling Capital; and Desh Govender of Cedar Lane. Streetwise Reports is proudly providing Lookout Ridge Wines to support their Wine for Wheelchairs program. Lookout Ridge is dedicated to making exceptional wines and changing lives, one wheelchair at a time.

This year's program features three lunch plenary topics with well-known industry thought leaders.

The Monday, January 13, lunch plenary, entitled "New models in biotechnology: Innovative structures, financing options and risk sharing opportunities," will be moderated by Rich Rieger of Campbell Alliance and features panelists Martin J. Birkhofer of inVentiv Health Clinical; Bruce Booth of Atlas Venture; Paul Hastings of OncoMed; Gregory C. Simon of Poliwogg Holdings, Inc.; and Alex Zisson of Thomas McNerney.

"The return of optimism in the IPO market is good news, but we should always have multiple paths to maximize any one option, and we should continue to embrace innovative financing and partnering models as viable and lucrative alternatives," said Hastings, who, besides his role as Chairman and CEO of OncoMed, is a well-known biotech industry advocate and chairman of the Biotechnology Industry Organization, emerging companies section.

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Tuesday's lunch plenary is moderated by Ellen B. Corenswet of Covington & Burling, who will lead the discussion on "The Changing Dynamic of the Drug Development Ecosystem." Panelists include Karen Bernstein of BioCentury; AntonGopka of RMI Partners; Dan Mendelson of Avalere Health; and Dennis Purcell of Aisling Capital.

"Understanding the patient is the key to understanding the market," said Gopka. "This is not new. What is new is the degree to which patients influence drug development areas based on need, based on accessibility, based on results. I think most biotech companies have realized that their connection to the patients can benefit their commercialization strategy. This panel should be an interesting discussion on who influences whom." The third lunch plenary will take place on Wednesday, and is entitled "How do you define value?" and will be moderated by Ben Bonifant of Triangle Insights Group. Panelists are Ron Cohen of Acorda Therapeutics, Inc.; Marc Dunoyer of AstraZeneca; Craig Gordon of Capital Research; Evan McCulloch of Franklin Templeton Investments; and James Sabry of Genentech.

Other program highlights include business workshops on topics ranging from Parkinson's disease, cancer checkpoints, molecular diagnostics, big data and FDA regulatory hurdles, and alternative financing.

Biotech Showcase is powered by partneringONE®, the industry's most advanced partnering system that enables delegates to efficiently identify and arrange meetings with potential investors and partners.

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