

# MaRS IMPACT HEALTH

MAY 7 & 8, 2025

## Sponsors & Partners

### Community



### Program



### Reception



### Networking



### Media





# Program

WEDNESDAY

May 7

THURSDAY

May 8

## Registration, networking and expo

May 7, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

### About the Session

Get your badge and join attendees for pre-conference networking and coffee while visiting the MaRS Impact Health expo.


## Opening remarks: Vital signs

May 7, 10:00 AM - 10:10 AM

### About the Session

Checking the pulse of innovation in biotech and life sciences.

#### Speakers

 Grace Lee Reynolds  
CEO, MaRS Discovery District

 Louise Pichette  
Director, Health Sciences, MaRS Discovery District


## Scaffolding for scale: How biotech hubs can catalyze breakthrough therapies

May 7, 10:10 AM - 10:30 AM

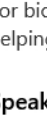
### About the Session

Carly Weeks (VP communications, St. Joseph Healthcare Hamilton; former *Globe and Mail* health reporter) joins Uli Stilz (Novo Nordisk BioInnovation Hub) and Steve Tregay (Mission BioCapital) to discuss what's needed to help early-stage biotech ventures scale their next-gen innovations.

#### Speakers

 Steve Tregay  
Managing General Partner, Mission BioCapital

 Uli Stilz  
Head of Bio Innovation Hub, Novo Nordisk

 Carly Weeks  
Vice-President of Communications, Public Affairs and Stakeholder Relations, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton


## Out of the lab: Expanding Canada's stake in cutting-edge biotech


May 7, 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM


### About the Session

From partnerships and policy to infrastructure and investment, Canada has all the ingredients it needs to become a global leader in biotech. The current market turmoil offers up a rare opportunity. But will we step up?

#### Speakers

 Jamie Stiff  
Managing Director, Genesys Capital Management

 Parimal Nathwani  
President and CEO, Toronto Innovation Acceleration Partners (TIAP)

 Molly Shoichet  
University Professor & PRIME Scientific Director, University of Toronto

 David O'Neill  
President, FACIT

 Brad Wouters  
Executive Vice President, Science and Research, University Health Network

## Model for change: Clearing the path from lab to market


May 7, 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM


### About the Session


For biotech startups, the process of commercialization can be long and complicated. Venture firms Amplitude and Versant share their winning formulas for helping companies navigate development hurdles to bring their treatments to patients.

#### Speakers

 Bharat Srinivasa  
Principal, Amplitude Ventures

 Joanne Hulme  
CSO, Radiant Biotherapeutics

 Brian Lichty  
CEO, Esphera Syrbio


 Ayesha Rashid  
Senior Life Science Journalist, Xtalks


 Rami Hannoush  
Venture Partner, Versant Ventures


## Startup pitch: Biotech ventures (Part 1)


May 7, 11:30 AM - 12:05 PM


#### Speakers

 Nikhil Thattai  
Partner, Lumina Ventures


 Jack Lee  
Senior Director, Capital Access, CIBC

 Marko Trivun  
Partner, Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP

 Sarah Farr  
Senior Associate, Genesys Capital

 Julie Douchin  
Business development and operations, TATUM Bioscience

 Christopher Li  
Co-founder and CEO, BioBox Analytics

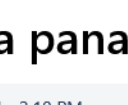
 Asem Bala  
Research and Development Lead, Taylored Biotherapeutics

 Nigel deGruyther  
CEO, Enear

## Lunch break, networking and expo showcase

May 7, 12:05 PM - 12:45 PM

#### Sponsors





## Startup pitch: Biotech ventures (Part 2)


May 7, 12:40 PM - 1:10 PM

#### Speakers

 Argentina Beltran  
Innovation Activation Manager, Johnson & Johnson Innovation - JLABS in Toronto

 Nikhil Thattai  
Partner, Lumina Ventures

 Marko Trivun  
Partner, Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP

 Sarah Farr  
Senior Associate, Genesys Capital

 William Ilston  
Founding Investor, Diamond Therapeutics

 Robin Quirk  
President, Apary Therapeutics

 Elisa Martinez  
Scientist, ProTigen

 Anmol Nagpal  
Chief Executive Officer, Nospharma


## Ozempic 2.0: Dr. Daniel Drucker on the expansive possibilities of GLP-1

May 7, 1:10 PM - 1:30 PM

### About the Session

Dr. Daniel Drucker and his team were instrumental in the discovery of glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1), which has enabled the development of blockbuster drugs like Ozempic. While these medications have been tremendously successful in treating metabolic conditions such as type 2 diabetes and obesity, research suggests there may be many other promising applications. "GLP-1 medicines continue to surprise us scientifically, with a range of new mechanisms enabling exciting new opportunities for therapeutic application in the clinic, including arthritis, metabolic liver disease, heart disease and kidney disease," says Drucker.

#### Speakers

 Daniel Drucker  
Endocrinologist, University of Toronto and Lunenburg Endocrinology Research Institute, Mount Sinai Hospital

 Manjula Selvarajah  
Journalist, producer and syndicated tech columnist, Solve for X


## How I built this: Zucara

May 7, 1:30 PM - 1:40 PM

### About the Session

Parimal Nathwani, president and CEO of TIAP, interviews Zucara's CEO Michael Midmer about how he navigated challenges to develop the first drug to prevent hypoglycemia in Type 1 diabetes.

#### Speakers

 Michael Midmer  
CEO, Zucara Therapeutic

 Parimal Nathwani  
President and CEO, Toronto Innovation Acceleration Partners (TIAP)

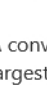
## AI isn't a panacea in drug discovery — yet

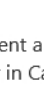
May 7, 1:40 PM - 2:10 PM

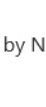
### About the Session

AI isn't a panacea in drug discovery — yet. But AI life science startups are striking lucrative deals with pharma companies and pivoting to develop their own drug programs. While the technology shows tremendous promise to expedite commercialization and reduce costs, there are still such challenges as data compliance, IP leakage, regulation and deal complexity to contend with. In this session, industry experts will dig into the issues and discuss where the sector is headed.

#### Speakers

 Alexander Mosa  
Chair and CSO, Bossal

 Janet Bannister  
Managing Partner, Staircase Ventures

 Anthony de Fazekas  
Partner, Mintz LLP

 Mobeen Lalani  
Manager, Technology and Venture Development, Toronto Innovation Acceleration Partners (TIAP)

#### Sponsors



## How I built this: Aspect Biosystems

May 7, 2:10 PM - 2:20 PM

### About the Session

Wendy Hurlburt, president and CEO of Life Sciences BC, interviews Tamer Mohamed, founder and CEO of Aspect Biosystems, about the complexities of developing the company's novel bioprinted tissue therapeutics.

#### Speakers

 Tamer Mohamed  
Founder and CEO, Aspect Biosystems

 Wendy Hurlburt  
President and CEO, Life Sciences British Columbia

## Made in Canada: Rebuilding our biomanufacturing sector

May 7, 2:20 PM - 2:50 PM

### About the Session


COVID illuminated why domestic pharmaceutical production is essential to ensure safe and secure access to critical medications for Canadians. Ongoing trade turmoil is reaffirming the need for health sovereignty. What will it take to expand our capacity?

#### Speakers

 Don Stewart  
CEO, Planform Corp

 Andrew MacIsaac  
CEO, Applied Pharmaceutical Innovation

 Maura Campbell  
President and CEO, OBO

 John Bell  
Senior Scientist, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute

## Coffee break, networking sessions and expo showcase

May 7, 2:50 PM - 3:15 PM

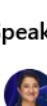
## A new era in sequencing


May 7, 3:15 PM - 3:30 PM

### About the Session

Ultima Genomics CEO Gilad Almog talks about how his company is driving revolutionary advancements in biology with the aim of improving human health.

#### Speakers

 Trevor Pugh  
Senior Scientist, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research and the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

 Gilad Almog  
Founder and CEO, Ultima Genomics

#### Sponsors



## Blood simple: How advanced technologies can improve access to cancer screening


May 7, 3:30 PM - 4:00 PM


### About the Session

Two ventures developing liquid biopsy diagnostic tools for cancer screening reflect on how these innovative technologies could help underserved communities.

#### Speakers

 Peter Jianrui Liu  
CEO, Oxford Cancer Analytics

 Trevor Pugh  
Senior Scientist, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research and the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

 Shalini Gupta  
Founder and CEO, Asima Health


## How I built this: Inversago


May 7, 4:00 PM - 4:15 PM

### About the Session

A conversation with François Ravenelle, former president and CEO, Inversago Pharma, which was acquired by Novo Nordisk for U.S.\$1.075 billion, one of the largest acquisitions of a privately held drug developer in Canada.

#### Speakers

 François Ravenelle  
President, Tarock Capital

 Serena Mandla  
CSO and Co-founder, Noia Therapeutics

WEDNESDAY

May 7

THURSDAY

May 8

## Registration, networking and expo

May 8, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

### About the Session

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## Opening remarks: Vital signs

May 8, 10:00 AM - 10:15 AM

### About the Session

Discussing the latest trends in medical devices and digital health

#### Speakers

 Louise Pichette  
Director, Health Sciences, MaRS Discovery District


## Closing the loop between mind and machine: Brain computer interfaces and neuromodulation

May 8, 10:15 AM - 10:25 AM

### About the Session

CRANIA co-director Dr. Taufik Valiante shares his vision for next-generation devices that could cure neuropsychiatric conditions by modulating brain activity.

#### Speakers

 Taufik Valiante  
Neurosurgeon, Toronto Western Hospital, University Health Network

## It's personal: How community-driven data, novel biomarkers and neurotech innovation could transform dementia care

May 8, 10:25 AM - 10:55 AM

### About the Session


Harnessing real-world data could help provide personalized care for patients with dementia and accelerate adoption of neurotechnology. This cross-sector panel dives into the competitive advantage of partnering with community groups.


#### Speakers

 Christa Studzinski  
Director of Business Development and Partnerships, Ontario Brain Institute

 Eliav Shaked  
CEO, ReSpec

 Ariel Garten  
Co-founder, Muse

 Shawn Paron  
Chief Operating Officer, The Alzheimer Society of Ontario

 Mel Barsky  
Partner, CABH Ventures

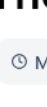
## Closing the gap: Reducing barriers to cancer screening in rural and remote areas


May 8, 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM


### About the Session

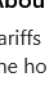
Canadians who live in rural and remote areas are more likely to die from cancer than people living in cities. This discussion addresses the unique geographic and social barriers these communities face and explores promising new strategies to boost cancer screening participation.

#### Speakers

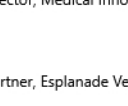
 Amreen Sayani  
Scientist, Women's College Hospital (WCH)

 Annenmarie Edwards  
Vice President, Cancer Strategy and Innovation, Canadian Cancer Society

 Renée Meyer  
ACT Lead Volunteer, Canadian Cancer Society

 Sue Paish  
CEO, DIGITAL

#### Sponsors




## [Announcement] MaRS & Canadian Cancer Society Innovation Challenge

May 8, 11:30 AM - 11:35 AM

### About the Session

This new innovation challenge aims to shape the future of cancer screening for rural and remote communities.

#### Speakers

 Grace Lee Reynolds  
CEO, MaRS Discovery District

 Andrea Seale  
Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Cancer Society

#### Sponsors



## Startup pitch: Digital health ventures

May 8, 11:35 AM - 12:30 PM

#### Speakers

 Burnett Seth  
Founder and CEO, Nymble Health

 Nardin Samuel  
Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer, Cove Neurosciences

 Tina Wilton  
Strategic Partnerships Manager, Velocity, University of Waterloo

 Georgia Powell  
CEO and Co-founder, NURA Medical

 Yvonne Bombard  
Co-founder and CEO, Genetics Adviser

 Meryeme Lahmani  
CEO, Qdini Labs

 Jackie Hanson  
Co-founder and CEO, Sprout Family

 Innocent Clement  
Founder and CEO, Ciba Health

 Laura Fetter  
Counsel, Emerging Technology & Venture Capital, Fasten

 Lyna Kaminsky  
Co-founder and CEO, EMAGIX

 Laura Samarze  
Investment Manager, MaRS Investment Accelerator Fund

## Lunch break, networking and expo showcase

May 8, 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM

#### Sponsors



## Better, faster, stronger: How AI can uncover efficiencies in healthcare

May 8, 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM

### About the Session

Join Emma Silverman, partner at TMV, a global early-stage venture firm, as she talks to four health entrepreneurs applying AI across healthcare. The panel will explore what it takes to implement AI safely and effectively — from automating clinical documentation to streamlining regulatory submissions. Learn how these leaders are developing AI solutions that prioritize patient outcomes while navigating the complex healthcare landscape.

#### Speakers

 Aaron Leibtag  
CEO, Pentavere

 Mahshid Yassaee  
Co-founder and CEO, Tali AI

 Youssef Helwa  
CEO, FluidAI Medical



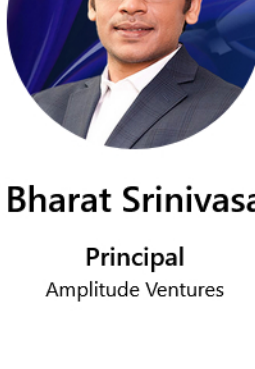
# Speakers



**Daniel Drucker**  
Endocrinologist  
University of Toronto and  
Lunenfeld Tanenbaum Research  
Institute, Mount Sinai Hospital



**Grace Lee Reynolds**  
CEO  
MaRS Discovery District



**Bharat Srinivasa**  
Principal  
Amplitude Ventures



**Joanne Hulme**  
CSO  
Radiant Biotherapeutics



**Puneet Seth**  
Founder and CEO  
Nymble Health



**Michael Midmer**  
CEO  
Zucara Therapeutic



**Peter Jianrui Liu**  
CEO  
Oxford Cancer Analytics



**Jamie Stiff**  
Managing Director  
Genesys Capital Management



**Nicole Look Hong**  
Surgical Oncologist  
Sunnybrook Health Sciences  
Centre



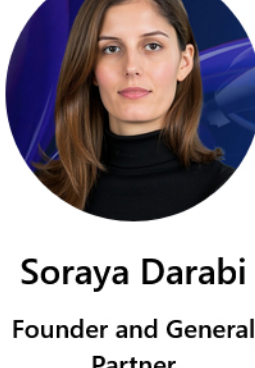
**Don Stewart**  
CEO  
PlantForm Corp



**Manjula Selvarajah**  
Journalist, producer and  
syndicated tech columnist  
Solve for X



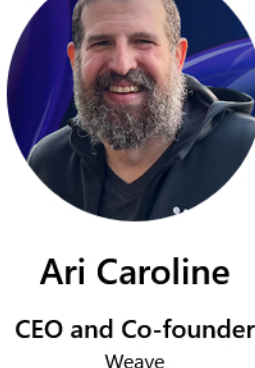
**Carla Spina**  
CEO and Co-Founder  
Noa Therapeutics



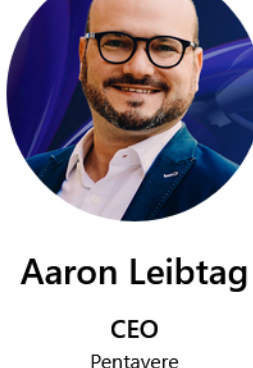
**Brian Lichty**  
CEO  
Esphera SynBio



**Catherine Bornbaum**  
Chief Business Officer  
RetiSpec



**Alexander Mosa**  
Chair and CSO  
Biossil



**Andrew MacIsaac**  
CEO  
Applied Pharmaceutical Innovation



**Soraya Darabi**  
Founder and General  
Partner  
TMV



**Trevor Pugh**  
Senior Scientist  
Ontario Institute for Cancer  
Research and the Princess  
Margaret Cancer Centre



**Ari Caroline**  
CEO and Co-founder  
Weave



**Aaron Leibtag**  
CEO  
Pentavere



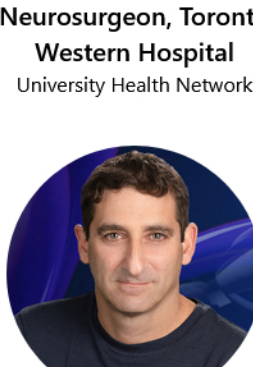
**Mahshid Yassaie**  
Co-founder and CEO  
Tali AI



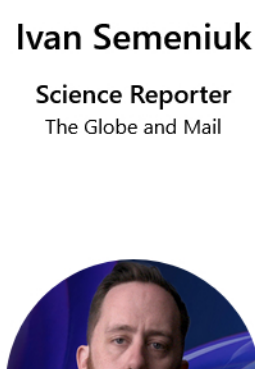
**Steve Tregay**  
Managing General Partner  
Mission BioCapital



**Ambreen Sayani**  
Scientist  
Women's College Hospital (WCH)



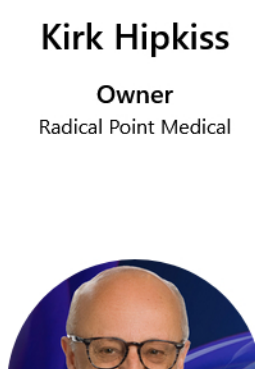
**Taufik Valiante**  
Neurosurgeon, Toronto  
Western Hospital  
University Health Network



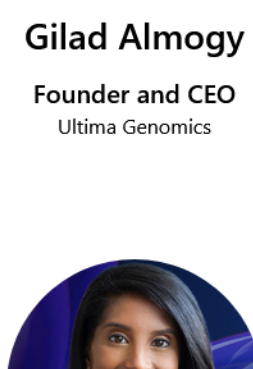
**Ivan Semeniuk**  
Science Reporter  
The Globe and Mail



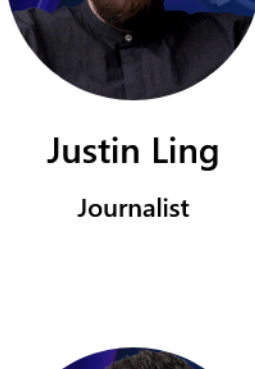
**Christa Studzinski**  
Director of Business  
Development and  
Partnerships  
Ontario Brain Institute



**Kirk Hipkiss**  
Owner  
Radical Point Medical



**Gilad Almog**  
Founder and CEO  
Ultima Genomics



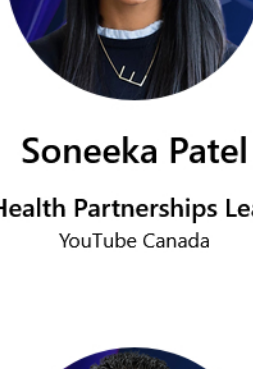
**Justin Ling**  
Journalist



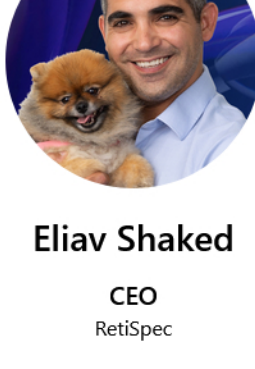
**Christopher Mueller**  
President and CEO  
mDETECT



**Uli Stilz**  
Head of Bio Innovation  
Hub  
Novo Nordisk



**Soneeka Patel**  
Health Partnerships Lead  
YouTube Canada



**Eliav Shaked**  
CEO  
RetiSpec



**Ayesha Rashid**  
Senior Life Science  
Journalist  
Xtalks



**Annemarie Edwards**  
Vice President, Cancer  
Strategy and Innovation  
Canadian Cancer Society



**Parimal Nathwani**  
President and CEO  
Toronto Innovation Acceleration  
Partners (TIAP)



**François Ravenelle**  
President  
Tarock Capital



**Suman Rao**  
Principal  
Lumira Ventures



**Argentina Beltran**  
Innovation Activation  
Manager  
Johnson & Johnson Innovation –  
JLABS in Toronto



**Renée Meyer**  
ACT Lead Volunteer  
Canadian Cancer Society



**Maura Campbell**  
President and CEO  
OBIO



**Tamer Mohamed**  
Founder and CEO  
Aspect Biosystems



**Nikhil Thatte**  
Partner  
Lumira Ventures



**Andrea Seale**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Canadian Cancer Society



**Sue Paish**  
CEO  
DIGITAL



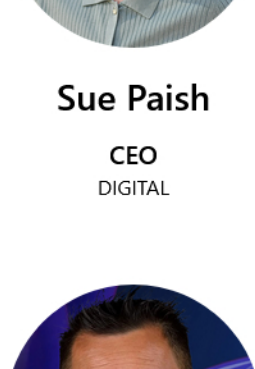
**Elliot Fung**  
Executive Director  
Medical Innovation Xchange



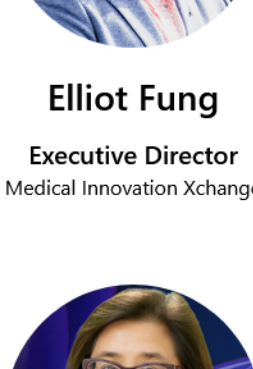
**John Bell**  
Senior Scientist  
Ottawa Hospital Research Institute



**Jack Lee**  
Senior Director, Capital  
Access  
OBIO



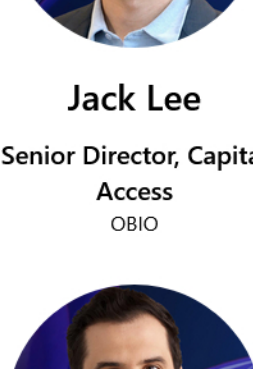
**Garry Lee**  
President  
Megalab Group



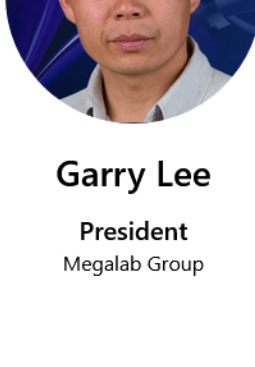
**Eileen De Villa**  
Former Medical Officer of  
Health  
City of Toronto, Toronto Public  
Health



**Ananth Ravi**  
Managing Director  
Stryker



**Marko Trivun**  
Partner  
Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP



**Youssef Helwa**  
CEO  
FluidAI Medical



**Ariel Garten**  
Co-Founder  
Muse



**Megh Gupta**  
Managing Partner  
Wittington Ventures



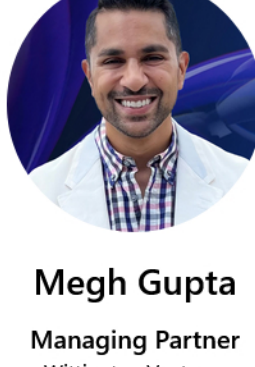
**Sarah Farr**  
Senior Associate  
Genesys Capital



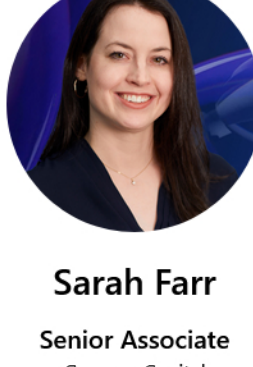
**Mayisha Sultana**  
Senior Manager, Health  
Partnerships  
MaRS Discovery District



**Zen Koh**  
Founder and CEO  
NovaKonex



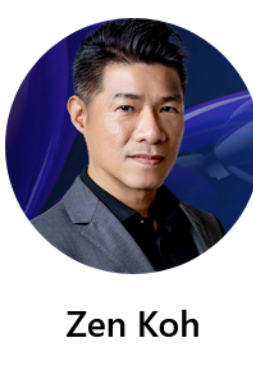
**Daniel Gelman**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Aufero Medical



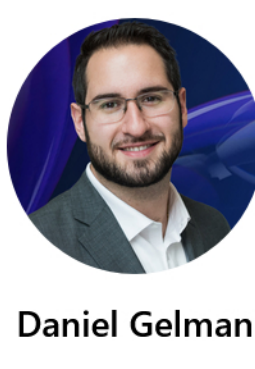
**Wendy Hurlburt**  
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Life Sciences British Columbia



**Julie Douchin**  
Business Development and  
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TATUM Bioscience



**Christopher Li**  
Co-founder and CEO  
BioBox Analytics



**Asem Bala**  
Research and Development  
Lead  
Tailored Biotherapeutics



**Anas Aljabo**  
Co-Founder and EVP  
Sterilabs



**Nardin Samuel**  
Co-Founder and Chief  
Executive Officer  
Cove Neurosciences



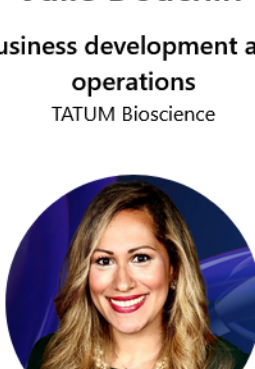
**Misghana Kassa**  
Senior Associate, Health  
Sciences  
MaRS Discovery District



**Louise Pichette**  
Director, Health Sciences  
MaRS Discovery District



**Tina Wilton**  
Strategic Partnerships  
Manager  
Velocly, University of Waterloo



**Moazam Khan**  
Director, Velocly  
University of Waterloo



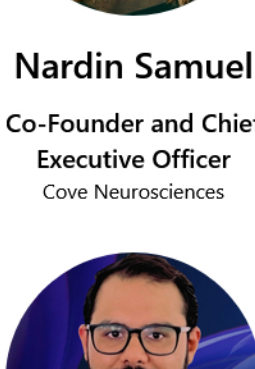
**Gillian Einstein**  
Precision language for  
precision treatment in  
women's health  
University of Toronto, Department  
of Psychology



**Molly Shoichet**  
University Professor &  
PRIME Scientific Director  
University of Toronto



**David O'Neill**  
President  
FACIT



**Shawn Paron**  
Chief Operating Officer  
The Alzheimer Society of Ontario



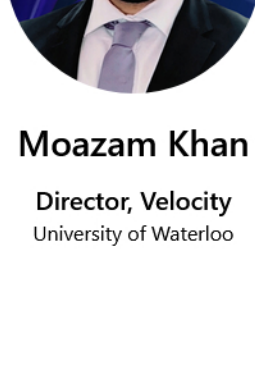
**Dylan Horvath**  
CEO  
Cortex Design



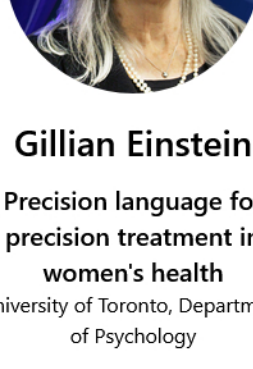
**Morteza Ahmadi**  
CEO  
Qidni Labs



**Shalini Gupta**  
Founder and CEO  
Asima Health



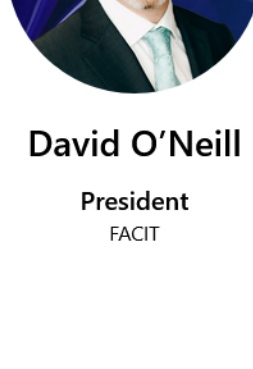
**Georgia Powell**  
CEO and Co-founder  
NURA Medical



**Janet Bannister**  
Managing Partner  
Staircase Ventures



**Lynn Doughane**  
COO  
Juno Technologies



**Ben Kolisnyk**  
CEO  
Bough Biosciences



**Nigel deGruyther**  
CEO  
Enesar



**Julie Audet**  
Professor  
boutIQ solutions



**Andrew Cordssen-David**  
CEO  
HeadFirst



**Annie Theriault**  
Managing Partner  
Cross-Border Impact Ventures



**Yvonne Bombard**  
Co-founder and CEO  
Genetics Adviser



**Nitzan Letko Khait**  
Co-founder  
Chase Biotherapeutics



**Mike Badeau**  
President and COO  
YYZ Pharmatech



**Claude LeDuc**  
Co-founder, President and  
CEO  
RNA Technologies & Therapeutics  
(RNA T&T)



**Nicolas Jimenez**  
CEO and Founder  
Kinesix XR Therapeutics



**Saumik Biswas**  
CEO and Co-founder  
Tenomix



**Nicholas Calvert**  
CEO  
Yellowbird Diagnostics



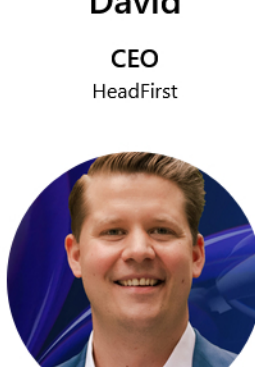
**Meryeme Lahmami**  
Principal  
Pender Ventures



**Manmeet Maggu**  
CEO  
Trexo Robotics



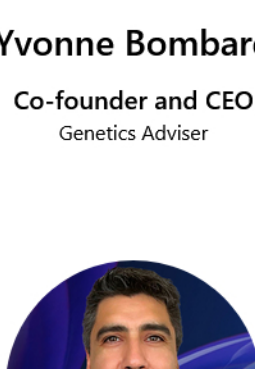
**Jackie Hanson**  
Co-founder and CEO  
Sprout Family



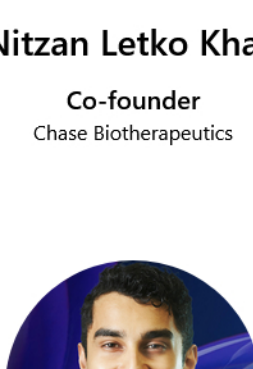
**Innocent Clement**  
Founder and CEO  
Ciba Health



**William Hilson**  
Founding Investor  
Diamond Therapeutics



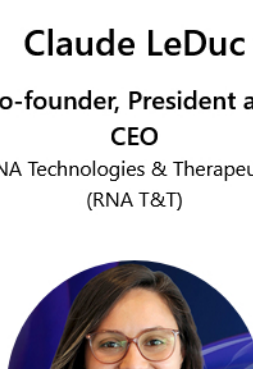
**Anthony de  
Fazekas**  
Partner  
Mintz LLP



**Laura Fetter**  
Counsel, Emerging  
Technology & Venture  
Capital  
Fasken



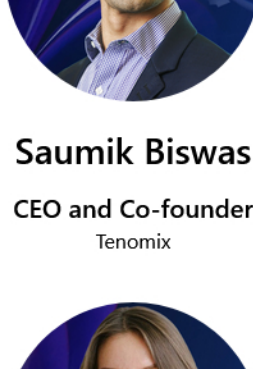
**Minna Woo**  
Director  
Banting and Best Diabetes Centre,  
University of Toronto



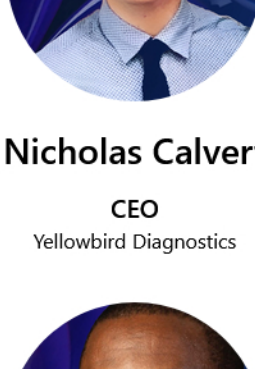
**Zahra Islam**  
Co-founder  
Migranium



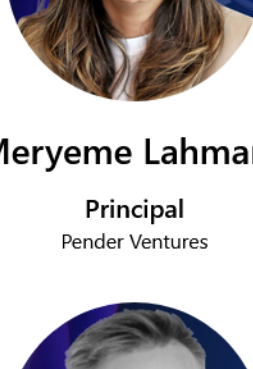
**Ella Seitz**  
Managing Partner  
Esplanade Ventures



**Marc Shenouda**  
CEO  
Neuropeutics



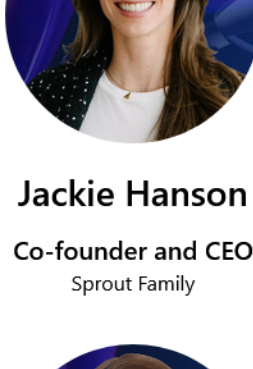
**David Singh**  
Director, Business  
Development  
Kellelo Health



**Paul Weber**  
CEO  
JVP Labs



**Mel Barsky**  
Partner  
CABHI Ventures



**Rami Hannoush**  
Venture Partner  
Versant Ventures



**Orion Buske**  
Co-founder and CEO  
PhenoTips



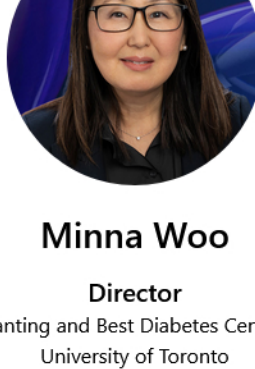
**Leisa Hirtz**  
CEO  
Women's Global Health  
Innovations (DBA Bree Cup)



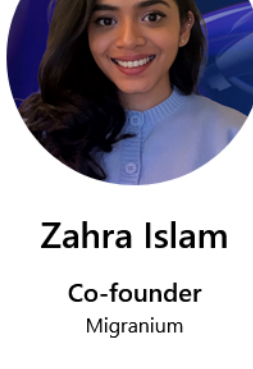
**Brad Wouters**  
Executive Vice President,  
Science and Research  
University Health Network



**Serena Mandla**  
CSO and Co-founder  
Noa Therapeutics



**Robin Quirk**  
President  
Aply Therapeutics



**Jayesh Singh**  
CEO  
Able Innovations



**Katherine Ward**  
Digital Video Journalist  
Global News



**Carly Weeks**  
Vice-President of  
Communications, Public  
Affairs and Stakeholder  
Relations  
St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton



**Elisa Martinez**  
Scientist  
ProTigen



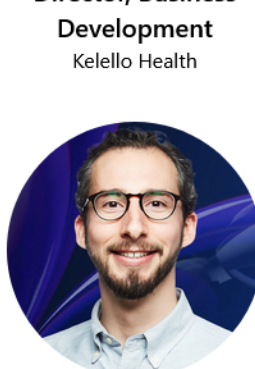
**Emma Silverman**  
Partner  
TMV



**Mobeen Lalani**  
Manager, Technology and  
Venture Development  
Toronto Innovation Acceleration  
Partners (TIAP)



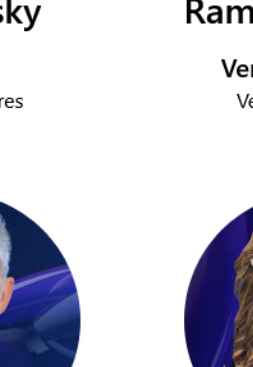
**Lyna Kamintsky**  
Co-founder and CEO  
EMAGIX



**Laura Samarze**  
Investment Manager  
MaRS Investment Accelerator Fund



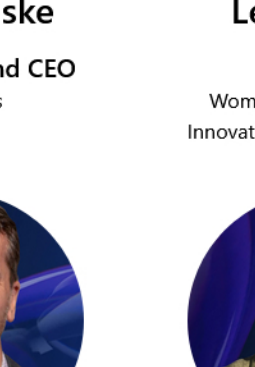
**Armen Manoukian**  
NeuroTherX Canada



**Stacey Kline**  
Founding Partner  
February Capital



**Anmol Nagpal**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Nospharma



**Teresa Yan**  
Analyst  
iGan Partners