



Updated: 6 June, 2025
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please download agenda on
conference website



June 11 - 12 | 2025



San Francisco | California

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel San Francisco Airport
835 Airport Boulevard, Burlingame, CA, 94010-9949, USA
P: +1 650-344-5500

25th American Pharma and Biotech Project, Program and Portfolio Management Conference

The most popular PPM conference for pharmaceutical managers worldwide

Platinum
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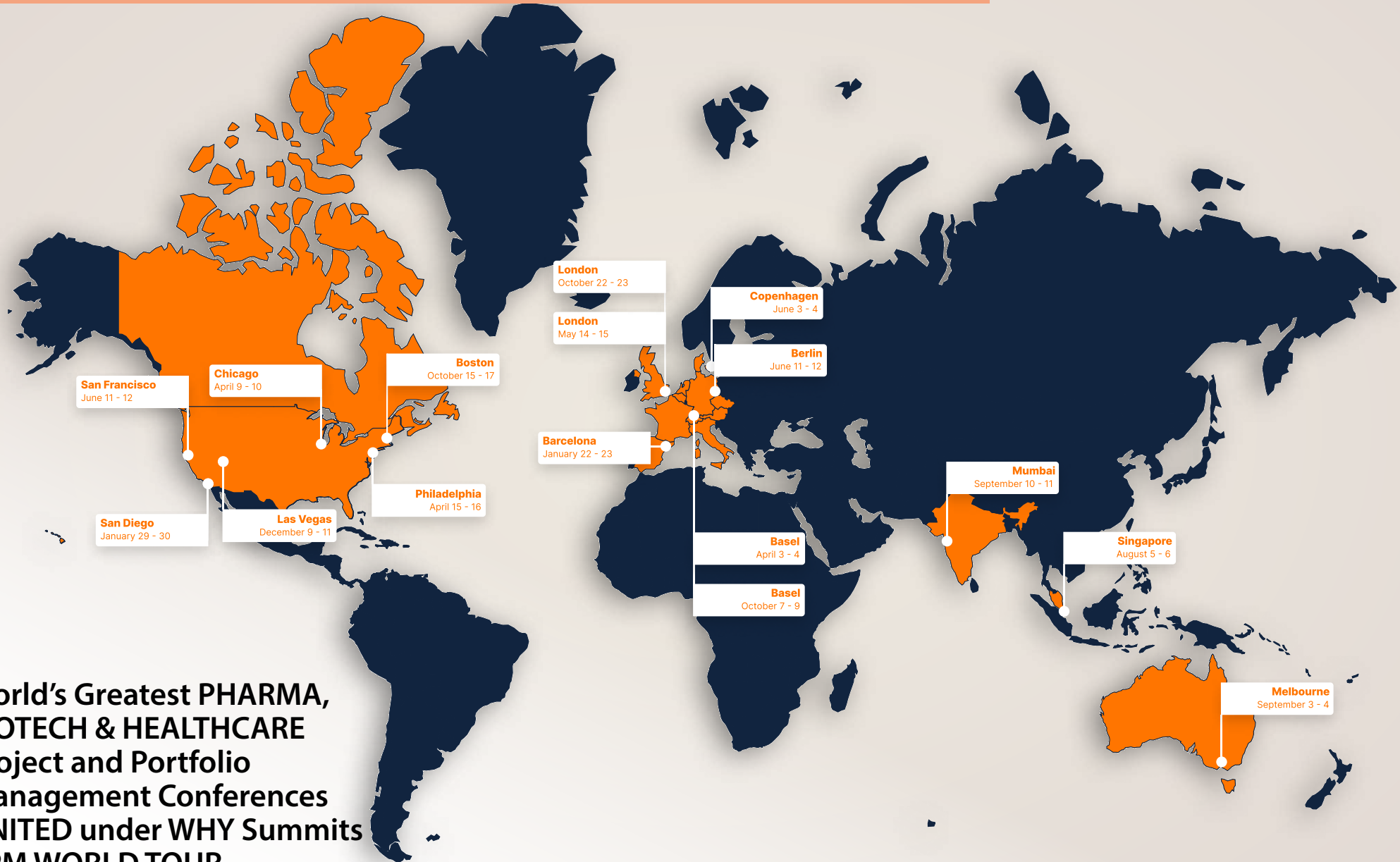
Gold
Partners



Silver plus
Partner



2025 PPM Summits Worldwide



World's Greatest PHARMA,
BIOTECH & HEALTHCARE
Project and Portfolio
Management Conferences
UNITED under WHY Summits
PPM WORLD TOUR

Our Speakers And Panelists:



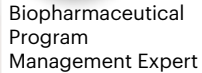
In the Chair
Day 1



Dave Penndorf
PPM Advisor
Groundswell Pharma Consulting LLC



In the Chair
Day 2



Courtland (Corky) LaVallee
Biopharmaceutical Program Management Expert



Sara Bender
SVP, Corporate Strategy & Transformation, Chief of Staff
iRhythm Technologies Inc.



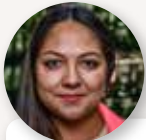
Elise Brownell
Founder
Zephyr Biotech



Ira Brown
Founder and CEO
Project Widgets



Matthew Palicki
Principal Solution Engineer
Rego Consulting



Andrea Espitia
Director Project Management
Synthego Corporation



Maithili Dalvi
Director, Strategic Planning & Operations, Global Commercial Oncology
Gilead Sciences



Fabio De Martino
Founder & Managing Partner
Biologyon



Michael Faia
Head of R&D Portfolio Management
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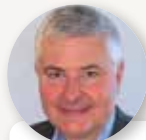
Keith Gapol
Functional Consultant
Rego Consulting



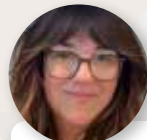
Harry Georgiades
Managing Director
IPM



Gilbert Hausmann
Director, Program Management
Alamar Biosciences



Graham Howe
Vice President, Program Management Office
BD



Lauren E Jackson
Senior Regulatory Affairs PMO
Dexcom



Parag Jog
Director, Portfolio Program Management & Chief of Staff, OED Clinical
AbbVie



Ioannis Kagiampakis
Portfolio Data Science Lead
Astra Zeneca



Jennifer Kang
Director, Program Management
Formation Bio

Our Speakers And Panelists:



Formation Bio

Chris Knight
Director, Program Management
Formation Bio



Alejandro Martorell Riera
Sr. Project Manager, Research
Strategic Operations
Kite Pharma



Elise Mascret
Enterprise Account Director
Planisware



Tyler McKenney
Senior Partner
Emendo



Nina Orike
Executive Director, Head
of Program and Portfolio
Management (PPM)
BioMarin



Estelle Paysinger-Hill
Director, Nonclinical Project
Management
Sangamo Therapeutics



**Portfolio & Program
Management Leader**

Madhavi Pokkuluri



Gary Ryan
Senior Director, R&D Portfolio
Strategy & Analytics
Gilead Sciences



Tanya Roberts
Senior Director of Operations &
PPM Services
IPM



Robert Secchi
Director of Operations
IPM



Wouter Schul
Executive Director, Head of R&D
Project Management Office
(PMO)
BioMarin



Stephen Smith
Senior Program Director,
Oncology
Corcept Therapeutics



Marie Spark
PM Educational Consultant
PMI San Francisco



Joe Stalder
Vice President Program
Management
Zentalis Pharmaceuticals



Maya Thomas
Executive Director, Program
Management & Governance
Stanford Health Care



Phil Wolf
Senior Vice President, Enterprise
& On Demand Products
PDWare



**Philip M. Zack, DVM,
PhD,**
Executive Life Sciences Advisor
OnePlan



Dave Zahora
Principal Consultant
Planisware

What to expect?



2 day-long conference filled with the TOP industry speakers



Workshops and Roundtables for a deeper dive into important topics in the Pharma & Biotech industry now



Sharing new ideas and building strong connections



Fun and icebreaking social events every evening with delegates, speakers and sponsors of the event



Interesting Keynotes, Case Studies and Panel Discussions



Creative and inspiring platform for fruitful discussion



The friendly and highly stimulating atmosphere in a smaller circle (around 150 attendees per conference)

Key Topics

- OPTIMIZING THE UTILIZATION OF AI TOOLS IN PPM
- LEADING THE FUTURE: STRATEGY, INNOVATION & TRANSFORMATION
- MASTERING CROSS-FUNCTIONAL TEAM STRATEGIES & COLLABORATION
- THE WINNING FORMULA: IDENTIFYING & IMPLEMENTING THE RIGHT TOOLS AND METHODS
- SMALL & BIG PHARMA: GROWTH, LEADERSHIP & BEST PRACTICES
- INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES IN PHARMA & BIOTECH PPM

... and more!



Reasons to attend



Friendly and highly stimulating atmosphere in a smaller circle (around 150 attendees per conference)



Fun icebreaking social events every evening with delegates, speakers and sponsors of the event



Creative and inspiring platform for fruitful discussion



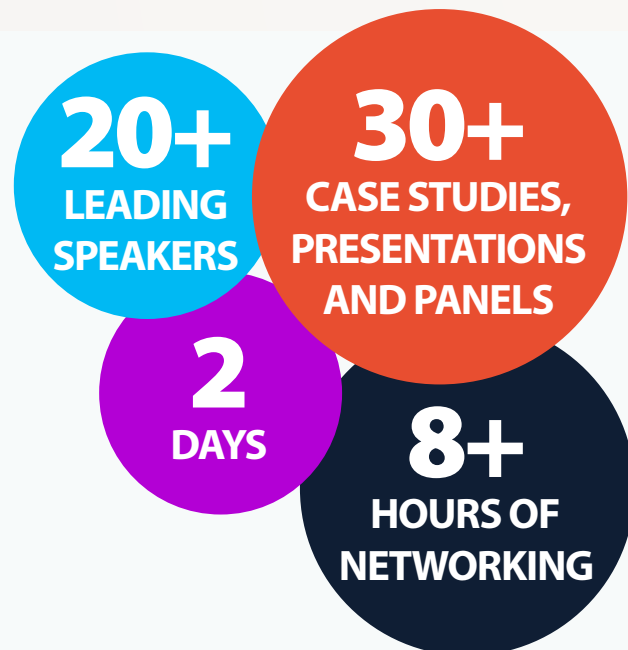
Workshops and Roundtables for a deeper dive into important topics in the Pharma industry now



Sharing new ideas and building strong connections



75% Big & SME Pharma and Biotech companies



Testimonials



"An event where everyone could participate in the conversation. Great mix of Panel discussion, round table and presentations that give the ability to network and meet everyone in the room."



Kelly Keen

Global Project & Portfolio Manager

Testimonials



Adeline Luciano

Head of Project Management
Operations
Sanofi



I recently had the privilege of attending the PPM Biopharma Why Summit, a 2-day conference in San Francisco focused on Project, Program, and Portfolio Management (PPM) within the Biopharma industry. It was the perfect opportunity to learn from and network with my peers, share challenges, and discuss fresh approaches. Well done WhySummit!!! Looking forward to more such opportunities!



Marie Spark

PM Educational Consultant
PMI San Francisco



I love being part of this conference every year. While I do not come from the #biopharma industry, we PMs speak the same language and have the same challenges. I learn so much and it's also a wonderful community! So great to see old friends and make new connections!



Dave Pendorf

PPM Advisor
Groundswell Pharma Consulting



Always a fun time MCing the Why Summits conferences! It's the intersection of a topic I'm so deeply passionate about (PPM), the industry I know so much about (life science in general, pharma in particular), and the people who - dare I say it - have become my friends.



Noel Decker

VP and Head, Science & Development
Project Management, Strategy and
Business Operations
Emergent BioSolutions



Reflecting on my participation in the 22nd American Pharma and Biotech Project, Program, and Portfolio Management Conference in San Francisco last week, I am inspired by the wealth of knowledge shared and the incredible community of experts and lifelong learners I had the pleasure of working with and connecting to.

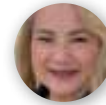


Emmanuel Happe

Senior Leader | Global Director



Thanks to Why Summits and the Great Speakers and Panels. Very inspiring. So many great things to do to provide a better Life for our patients



Lulu Yang

People, Growth & Transformation
Leader
Genentech



It was a pleasure co-presenting with Laura Grebene last week at the Why Summit on "Strategies to Address Common Failure Points on Projects and Programs". I loved to engaging dialogue during the workshop!



Zane Zaleska

Senior Project Manager



The Why Summit conference touched not only my mind, but also my heart. So many presenters emphasized the people skills and common sense in PPM which aligns with my personal values. At the core of every project are people and their wellbeing

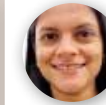


Dhawal Upadhyay

General Manager - Global Program
Management
Intas Pharmaceuticals
(Biopharma division)



It was an honor to be part of such a prestigious event and to contribute to discussions. Thanks Why Summits for the opportunity to engage with such a knowledgeable audience and networking with industry leaders !!



Maithili Dalvi

Associate Director, Project
Management
Gilead Sciences



It was exciting to speak on this panel at the 22nd American PPM conference! We work in multi-generational teams. Understanding each generation's foundational values and unique strengths are critical for project and organizational success. We focused our panel on the emerging wave of Gen Z in our workspace and how we can coach and develop them to be successful project managers.

#GenZ #ProjectManagement
#DiverseTeams



Peter C. Luke

Project Corporate Vice President - API
Expansion
Novo Nordisk



Thanks for the opportunity to share lessons learned at the conference. Also, very well planned and managed event with great speakers and highly relevant network. Big thanks to Radoslava Gregová and Tomas Rendek for their very professional support.

Industry Pioneers Attending From



Dear Colleague,



Succeeding in the restlessly developing world of pharma demands top-notch skills in all aspects of Project, Program & Portfolio Management, including prioritization, capacity management, resource allocation and risk mitigation. It also requires agility and flexibility to keep up with the innovations of the digital era. The aim of our 25th Pharma and Biotech Project, Program, and Portfolio Management Conference in San Francisco is to empower and equip you to successfully tackle the challenges of the dynamic industry landscape.

Our two-day agenda is packed with insightful sessions, engaging discussions, and unparalleled networking opportunities. Connect with industry leaders and peers at the cutting edge of science, business, and operations, as we explore advancements in Biopharma R&D, Business Analytics, and Strategic Decision-Making.

Here's what you can expect at the conference:

- Dive into vibrant, interactive discussions with leading experts and peers.
- Uncover cutting-edge solutions and strategies to address today's pharma challenges.
- Create meaningful connections with fellow executives and thought leaders.
- Access exclusive insights, tools, and best practices to enhance your decision-making.
- Advance your pharma R&D management skills and engage with key decision-makers.

Join us in San Francisco to uncover transformative tools, actionable insights, and innovative strategies. Elevate your decision-making, refine portfolio prioritization, and enhance your organization's resilience, value and capacity to adopt to the ever-changing landscape of the industry. Don't miss this chance to be at the forefront of pharma and biotech excellence!

We look forward to seeing you in San Francisco!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristína Šestáková". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kristína Šestáková

Event Organizer

Agenda

Day 1

OPTIMIZING THE UTILIZATION OF AI TOOLS IN PPM

8:30 **KEYNOTE:** AI-POWERED PPM: THE LANDSCAPE OF TOOLS & HOW TO DRIVE ADOPTION
AI is transforming the way Project, Program, and Portfolio managers operate—enhancing decision-making, optimizing communications, and streamlining workflows. This session will provide a structured overview of AI-powered tools at different maturity levels—from basic automation to advanced decision-support systems. We'll explore practical use cases, including setting up AI agents, leveraging tools for study data and documentation, and looking at the future of cutting-edge platforms designed for drug development. Beyond tools, we'll discuss strategies for AI adoption, addressing key challenges such as overcoming resistance to change, data governance, and selecting the right AI solutions for your organization.

Chris Knight, Director, Program Management, **Formation Bio**
Jennifer Kang, Director, Program Management, **Formation Bio**

9:00 **CASE STUDY:** DRIVING INNOVATION: PRACTICAL INSIGHTS FOR BALANCING SPEED, RISK, AND QUALITY

In the fast-paced and high-stakes world of life sciences, balancing innovation with the need for speed and risk management is a critical challenge. This presentation explores strategies for effectively navigating the complex landscape of life science technology development, where rapid advancement often meets technological challenges, market competition, and clinical trial concerns. We will examine best practices for accelerating time-to-market without compromising product quality or compliance, discuss approaches for managing risk in the face of uncertainty, and highlight the role of benchmarking against industry standards. By leveraging practical insights, participants will gain actionable knowledge on how to drive innovation while maintaining a disciplined focus on both risk mitigation and operational efficiency in life science projects.

Dave Zahora, Principal Consultant, **Planisware**
Elise Mascret, Enterprise Account Director, **Planisware**

9:30 **PANEL DISCUSSION:** SMARTER TOGETHER: BALANCING HUMAN EXPERTISE WITH AI IN PPM
Discover how the right fusion of human expertise and artificial intelligence has the potential to revolutionize project portfolio management (PPM). The key is just to do it right. This panel discussion will unveil strategies where AI amplifies human decision-making, accelerating efficiency and innovation in pharma projects. Join us to explore how this dynamic interplay is:

- reshaping the future of PPM
- unlocking new potential for accelerating drug development
- achieving transformative results

Maithili Dalvi, Director, Strategic Planning & Operations, Global Commercial Oncology, **Gilead Sciences**
Chris Knight, Director, Program Management, **Formation Bio**
Lauren E Jackson, Senior Regulatory Affairs PMO, **Dexcom**
Fabio De Martino, Founder & Managing Partner, **BioLygon**



17:30

NIGHT BEFORE THE EVENT - MEET & GREET

Welcome to our event! We are so honored and grateful to have you with us!

Come and join us for some drinks, where you will be able to do an early bird registration along with some firsthand networking! All the delegates will start arriving and we will all have a chance to get to know one another - the sooner the better. Drinks, conversations, handshakes, smiles, hugs, whether with your old or new friends from the industry - everyone is welcome!

10:00 NETWORKING BREAK

LEADING THE FUTURE: STRATEGY, INNOVATION & TRANSFORMATION

10:30 **CASE STUDY:** FROM PMO TO TRANSFORMATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE

This keynote introduces the journey of evolving a traditional PMO into a transformation management office, uncovering the driving forces behind this shift. It highlights the importance of rebranding, the impact on teams and the broader organization, and the strategic benefits of this new structure. The session also explores how this transition reshapes the role, distribution, and skills of project managers.

Sara Bender, SVP, Corporate Strategy & Transformation, Chief of Staff, **iRhythm Technologies Inc.**

11:00 **KEYNOTE:** OVERCOMING HUMAN NATURE TO IMPROVE PRIORITIZATION AND ACHIEVE STRATEGIC GOALS

Learn the critical role of prioritization in achieving organizational strategy and the detrimental consequences of neglecting it. Discover the often-overlooked forces of human nature that lead to prioritization struggles and failures. In this session, we will explore solutions that include advanced approaches and ways to overcome the human nature elements that make prioritization so challenging. By understanding these factors and implementing effective strategies, you can enhance your organization's ability to prioritize effectively and achieve its strategic goals.

Robert Secchi, Director of Operations, **IPM**
Tanya Roberts, Senior Director of Operations & PPM Services, **IPM**

11:30 **PANEL DISCUSSION:** CELL AND GENE THERAPY INDUSTRY AS A KEY OPPORTUNITY

Cell and gene therapy is revolutionizing the biotech industry, offering breakthrough treatments for previously untreatable conditions. As the sector continues to evolve, it presents immense opportunities for investors and stakeholders, despite facing challenges around commercial viability. This discussion will highlight the transformative potential of cell and gene therapies, exploring how companies can navigate the intricacies of this rapidly growing field to unlock new possibilities for patient care and business success and what the role of PPM managers is in this.

MODERATOR: Stephen Smith, Senior Program Director, Oncology, **Corcept Therapeutics**
Estelle Paysinger-Hill, Director, Nonclinical Project Management, **Sangamo Therapeutics**
Wouter Schul, Executive Director, Head of R&D Project Management Office (PMO), **BioMarin**
Parag Jog, Director, Portfolio Program Management & Chief of Staff, **OED Clinical, AbbVie**
Alejandro Martorell Riera, Sr. Project Manager, Research Strategic Operations, **Kite Pharma**

Day 1

12:00 NETWORKING LUNCH

MASTERING CROSS-FUNCTIONAL TEAM STRATEGIES & COLLABORATION

13:00 **KEYNOTE:** DO'S AND DON'TS IN NAMED RESOURCE ALLOCATION

It's a polarizing topic: tracking the individuals assigned to the book of work. Some see this named resource allocation as essential for delivery and forecasting; others reject it as overly complex and rigid. In this keynote, we'll explore what makes or breaks named resource — and how you can decide what's right for your organization. Join in discussing:

- Practical strategies for making named resource tracking work in the real world
- Understand the most common pitfalls, and how to avoid them
- Hear first-hand use cases - what has worked in reality
- Audience participation - share your experiences and challenges

Dave Penndorf, *PPM Advisor*, **Groundswell Pharma Consulting, LLC**

13:30 **CASE STUDY:** TRANSFORMING STRATEGY INTO EXECUTION: ONEPLAN FOR LIFE SCIENCES PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT AND SUCCESS

In today's competitive and regulated Life Sciences environment, the capability to effectively execute portfolio strategy across R&D, CMC, Commercial and Supply Chain functions is critical to accelerating innovation and maximizing portfolio value. This session will showcase how OnePlan enables organizations to translate high-level strategies into measurable operational outcomes through an integrated and flexible framework of governance, teams, goals, key results, and optimized processes and plans. We'll demonstrate how strategic intent is cascaded into portfolio-aligned programs and projects, with clear visibility into plans, key milestones/ stage gates, resource demands, risks, and dependencies. Attendees will see how OnePlan provides real-time insights that empower teams to prioritize investments, adjust to change, and deliver value faster — all while maintaining regulatory and operational discipline.

Philip M. Zack, DVM, PhD, *Executive Life Sciences Advisor*, **OnePlan**

14:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION:** ACCOUNTABILITY IN CROSS-FUNCTIONAL TEAMS: A KEY DRIVER FOR PROGRESS

Fostering accountability within cross-functional teams can be vital in securing the achievement of the desired project outcomes. Industry leaders will share insights on establishing clear expectations, measuring performance, and creating a culture of ownership that drives collaboration and innovation. Learn about practical strategies to ensure team members remain committed and aligned, ultimately leading to faster progress and successful project delivery.

MODERATOR: Marie Spark, *PM Educational Consultant*, **PMI San Francisco**

Maithili Dalvi, *Director, Strategic Planning & Operations, Global Commercial Oncology*, **Gilead Sciences**

Michael Faia, *Head of R&D Portfolio Management*, **Harmony Biosciences**

Estelle Paysinger-Hill, *Director, Nonclinical Project Management*, **Sangamo Therapeutics**

Tyler McKenney, *Senior Partner*, **Emendo**

14:30 NETWORKING BREAK

15:00 **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS (60min):**

2 SETS OF 30min. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS (each delegate can choose to attend 2 discussions)

1. BUILDING EFFECTIVE CROSS-FUNCTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR ENHANCED PRODUCTIVITY

This roundtable will explore strategies for fostering collaboration among Project Management, Resource Management, Functional Management, Finance and other departments. Participants will discuss partnership frameworks, risk identification, and resource alignment to boost organizational productivity.

Gary Ryan, *Senior Director, R&D Portfolio Strategy & Analytics*, **Gilead Sciences**

2. BALANCING INNOVATION AND RISK IN PORTFOLIO DECISION-MAKING:

Join industry experts as they explore the delicate balance between fostering innovation and managing risk in portfolio decision-making.

Graham Howe, *Vice President, Program Management Office*, **BD**

3. BUILDING A PMO IN A GROWING BIOTECH COMPANY

Wouter Schul, *Executive Director, Head of R&D Project Management Office (PMO)*, **BioMarin**

4. FROM PMO TO TRANSFORMATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE

This roundtable discussion reflects on Sara Bender's keynote that discusses the journey of evolving a traditional PMO into a transformation management office. Engage in a collaborative dialogue on how this transition reshapes the role, distribution, and skills of project managers, and share insights on navigating these changes effectively.

Sara Bender, *SVP, Corporate Strategy & Transformation, Chief of Staff*, **iRhythm Technologies Inc**

5. EFFECTIVE PORTFOLIO OPTIMIZATION

This roundtable explores how effective portfolio optimization can be achieved through tactics such as in-depth analytics, consistent tracking and reporting of key performance indicators (KPIs), and assessing the impact of various factors, including risks and market conditions, on the portfolio.

Nina Orike, *Executive Director, Head of Program and Portfolio Management (PPM)*, **BioMarin**

6. THE PROJECT MANAGER AS INFLUENCER: SOFT SKILLS THAT MOVE MOLECULES

In biotech and pharma, technical expertise is critical, but it's often the project manager's ability to influence without authority that determines project success. This roundtable will explore the soft skills that elevate PMs into trusted leaders: storytelling to drive alignment, coaching to empower teams, and conflict resolution to navigate complex dynamics.

Fabio De Martino, *Founder & Managing Partner*, **Biolyygon**

7. OBEYA FOR COLLABORATIVE PROJECT MANAGEMENT IN LIFE SCIENCES

This roundtable offers practical insights and tips on using Obeya (big room) for effective cross-functional collaboration and real-time problem solving in large-scale projects.

Madhavi Pokkuluri, *Portfolio & Program Management Leader*

Day 1

16:00 WORKSHOPS:

1. THE PSYCHIC ROLE OF THE PM/PMO IN PREPARING FOR DUE DILIGENCE: SYNCING EXPECTATIONS

This experiential session addresses the importance of aligning due diligence expectations between biopharmaceutical companies and investors (i.e., sell and buy side), and translating a sponsor's story within a virtual due diligence room. Dr. Brownell facilitates the workshop to make it as fun as it is informative, current and memorable. Attendees will also receive a report via email of the key points plus example due diligence checklists from actual investors.

Elise Brownell, *Founder, Zephyr Biotech*

2. CONVERTING ASSET STRATEGY INTO ACTIONABLE PLAN USING A CLINICAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

When an executive level governing body provides a high-level and often vague asset strategy, it is up to the Program Manager to help the project team translate that strategy into a clear and actionable Clinical Development Plan (CDP). This session will describe the utility of the CDP, the contents of a CDP, and a process the Program Manager can follow to create a CDP. The CDP then effectively becomes the documentation of aligned expectations between the project team and the governing body.

Joe Stalder, *VP Program Management, Zentalis Pharmaceuticals*

Stephen Smith, *Senior Program Director, Oncology, Corcept Therapeutics*

3. REWRITE YOUR CAREER STORY TO POWER YOUR DEVELOPMENT!

This interactive workshop focuses on showcasing your strengths and aligning your goals with organizational needs to position yourself for advancement. Learn how to identify your unique skills, address potential gaps, and create a future-focused strategy that resonates with your management. Walk away with a refreshed personal narrative and actionable steps to highlight your growth potential and secure your development.

Marie Spark, *PM Educational Consultant, PMI San Francisco*

Mohan Vemulapalli, *Job Search Program Lead, PMI San Francisco*

16:45 IT'S A WRAP

17:00 EVENING NETWORKING PROGRAM – IPM COCKTAIL PARTY

Wind down your day at IPM's exclusive cocktail reception. Enjoy craft cocktails, light bites, and meaningful conversations with fellow industry leaders. It's the perfect setting to make new connections, share ideas, and continue the momentum from Day 1 in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere

Day2



6:45 – 7:45 MORNING YOGA SESSION: **ALWAYS DO YOGA!**

This session is suitable for all levels — even if you've never tried yoga before. You'll enjoy mindful movement, deep breathing, and time to reconnect with yourself before a full day of learning and networking.

THE WINNING FORMULA: IDENTIFYING & IMPLEMENTING THE RIGHT TOOLS AND METHODS

8:30 KEYNOTE: ALIGNING PROJECTS TO CORPORATE STRATEGY
Aligning projects and programs with business goals ensures optimal resource use and drives strategic objectives. This session explores practical approaches to connect execution with corporate strategy effectively.

Gilbert Hausmann, Director, Program Management, **Alamar Biosciences**

9:00 CASE STUDY: THE CORE CAPABILITIES OF A STRATEGIC PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT (SPM) APPLICATION

SPM, at its foundation, is a framework of business capabilities, supporting processes, and enabling technology. To be considered a true SPM solution, enterprise tools must go beyond the traditional PPM functions. In this session, we will discuss and showcase a comprehensive list of those capabilities an industry leading SPM application, all while provide guidance for growth and maturation in the areas that are most important to your organization.

Matthew Palicki, Principal Solution Engineer, **Rego Consulting**
Keith Gapol, Functional Consultant, **Rego Consulting**

9:30 PANEL DISCUSSION: BLENDING TRADITIONAL AND AGILE METHODS IN LIFE SCIENCE PROJECTS

Join our panel of experts as they explore the art of merging traditional, like waterfall, and agile project management methods in the pharma sector. This discussion will reveal how integrating these methodologies can:

- optimize project execution
- address complex challenges
- accelerate timelines.

Learn from industry leaders about the best practices for achieving synergy between traditional and agile approaches.

Andrea Espitia, Director Project Management, **Synthego Corporation**
Jennifer Kang, Director, Program Management, **Formation Bio**
Graham Howe, Vice President, Program Management Office, **BD**
Lauren E Jackson, Senior Regulatory Affairs PMO, **Dexcom**
Maya Thomas, Executive Director, Program Management & Governance, **Stanford Health Care**

10:00 NETWORKING BREAK

SMALL & BIG PHARMA: GROWTH, LEADERSHIP, TOOLS & BEST PRACTICES

10:30 KEYNOTE: BETTER PMO DECISION-MAKING THROUGH DASHBOARDING

We have observed that organizations spend significant effort with PowerBI, Snowflake, and other BI tools building informational views & reports from their transactional data to support leadership. This is certainly a good approach for certain analysis, but a good portion of what the PMO needs for decision-making can be addressed in real-time, using a well thought out dashboarding strategy

Phil Wolf, Senior Vice President, Enterprise & On Demand Products, **PDWare**

11:00 PANEL DISCUSSION: LEADERSHIP IN PHARMA: BIG TITANS AND AGILE INNOVATORS

In this dynamic panel, industry leaders from both large pharma and emerging biotech discuss their unique leadership approaches. Hear how each navigates challenges, fosters innovation, and drives growth in an ever-evolving landscape. Discover which leadership style thrives in today's pharma world.

Gary Ryan, Senior Director, R&D Portfolio Strategy & Analytics, **Gilead Sciences**
Michael Faia, Head of R&D Portfolio Management, **Harmony Biosciences**
Parag Jog, Director, Portfolio Program Management & Chief of Staff, OED Clinical, **AbbVie**
Graham Howe, Vice President, Program Management Office, **BD**
Harry Georgiades, Managing Director, **IPM**

11:30 CASE STUDY: THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF WIDGETS

At Project Widgets, we specialize in creating Microsoft Project and Smartsheet solutions that tackle your organization's unique business challenges. We've built our reputation crafting custom widgets tailored to our client's requirements, ensuring you get the most out of your project management toolkit. This presentation will spotlight several of our solutions created for our clients in the life sciences industry as we know that with often complex and lengthy product development lifecycles, effective project and resource management is critical.

Ira Brown, Founder and CEO, **Project Widgets**

12:00 NETWORKING LUNCH

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES IN PHARMA & BIOTECH PPM

13:00 CASE STUDY: NOT ONLY DATA MANAGEMENT BUT PRECALCULATED KNOWLEDGE & AI-DRIVEN DISSEMINATION: TRANSFORMING DATA MANAGEMENT IN BIG ORGANIZATIONS

In large organizations like AstraZeneca, data management is evolving beyond mere collection and storage into a holistic framework where insights are precomputed and readily available. This case study highlights how building knowledge engineering teams, together with data preparation teams, around robust metadata strategies enable structured knowledge creation that can be seamlessly disseminated through intuitive user interfaces and AI-powered chatbots, transforming R&D. By fostering real-time, cross-functional collaboration, this approach empowers teams to make timely, evidence-based decisions that fuel innovation and operational efficiency.

Ioannis Kagiampakis, Portfolio Data Science Lead, **Astra Zeneca**

Day2

13:30 PROJECT SCHEDULING: INTEGRATING LIVE DATA FOR SMARTER MANAGEMENT
In this session, we'll explore a practical methodology for embedding real-time performance data from existing IT systems directly into your project schedules. By automating data flows and reducing manual input, this approach enhances visibility, streamlines planning, and eliminates the need for redundant reporting. Learn how project managers can uncover roadblocks faster, improve team alignment, and boost overall scheduling efficiency—without disrupting current workflows. Walk away with a strategy to bring clarity and control back to project planning.

Tyler McKenney, Senior Partner, **Emendo**

14:00 PANEL DISCUSSION: CHOOSING THE RIGHT PPM APPROACH IN BIOTECH PROJECTS
In this session, experts will discuss key considerations for selecting the most effective PPM approach in biotech. Panelists will explore how to adapt PPM methodologies to fit various project scales, phases, and regulatory requirements unique to biotech. Attendees will gain insights into balancing flexibility with compliance, managing resources across cross-functional teams, and leveraging data for better decision-making in complex biotech environments.

MODERATOR: Joe Stalder, Vice President Program Management, **Zentalis Pharmaceuticals**

Andrea Espitia, Director Project Management, **Synthego Corporation**

Elise Brownell, Founder, **Zephyr Biotech**

Stephen Smith, Senior Program Director, Oncology, **Corcept Therapeutics**

Parag Jog, Director, Portfolio Program Management & Chief of Staff, OED Clinical, **AbbVie**

Jennifer Kang, Director, Program Management, **Formation Bio**

14:30 NETWORKING BREAK

15:00 AFTERNOON ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS ROUND 1 (30min):

1. STRATEGIC DECISION-MAKING IN PROJECT PRIORITIZATION:

Why do we prioritize certain projects over others? What factors drive our decision-making process? Join an in-depth discussion on project prioritization. Understand factors like therapeutic potential, market demand, risk profiles, and alignment with capabilities. Learn how strategic priorities influence project selection and optimized resource allocation.

Michael Faia, Head of R&D Portfolio Management, **Harmony Biosciences**

2. OPTIMIZING INTERACTIONS BETWEEN PMS WITHIN YOUR COMPANY:

In many biotech and pharma companies there are PMs in different departments, even if there is a central PMO (e.g. Technical Operations/CMC often have their own PM group). This roundtable discusses the importance and challenges of communication and cooperation between these PMs.

Wouter Schul, Executive Director, Head of R&D Project Management Office (PMO), **BioMarin**

3. OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE ALIGNMENT BETWEEN SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

Corporate objectives are typically focused on short term (less than 5 years) objectives and performance, while portfolio strategy by nature has a focus on mid to longer term (5+ to 15 years) objectives. This discussion explores how to take both short term and longer-term objectives into account during portfolio optimization, while balancing stakeholders with sometimes competing objectives.

Gary Ryan, Senior Director, R&D Portfolio Strategy & Analytics, **Gilead Sciences**

4. FROM DATA TO DECISIONS:

REAL-TIME PROJECT TRACKING AND ANALYTICS: Dive into the world of real-time project tracking and analytics tools that offer deep insights into project health and performance. Learn how to leverage dashboards, KPIs, and predictive analytics to make data-driven decisions and avoid project pitfalls.

Ioannis Kagiampakis, Portfolio Data Science Lead, **Astra Zeneca**

15:30 AFTERNOON ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS ROUND 2 (30MIN):

1. STRATEGIES FOR OPTIMIZING GOVERNANCE AND DECISION MAKING FOR LIFE SCIENCES PROGRAMS

The significant financial investment required for drug development necessitates careful decision-making to balance innovation with financial viability. This discussion explores how implementing a robust decision-making framework and governance structures ensures decisions are made based on robust data analysis, risk assessment, and a focus on patient safety.

Nina Orike, Executive Director, Head of Program and Portfolio Management (PPM), **BioMarin**

2. PPM TOOLS THAT GET YOU STARTED FOR GROWTH

This roundtable explores practical strategies for selecting and scaling PPM tools that support growth without over-engineering.

Jennifer Kang, Director, Program Management, **Formation Bio**

3. MEASURING SUCCESS IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT: FOCUSING ON METRICS THAT MATTER

This discussion will focus on essential metrics for tracking and evaluating project success in pharma, such as timeline adherence, budget management, and stakeholder satisfaction

Joe Stalder, Vice President Program Management, **Zentalis Pharmaceuticals**

Madhavi Pokkuluri, Portfolio & Program Management Leader

4. DRIVING REGULATORY READINESS AS A STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE: LESSONS IN GLOBAL EXECUTION FROM THE PROJECT FRONT LINES

As regulatory expectations grow more complex and globalized, forward-thinking organizations are shifting from reactive compliance to strategic regulatory readiness. This roundtable brings together senior leaders to explore how project and program management can serve as the engine for regulatory excellence - delivering speed, quality, and trust at scale.

Lauren E Jackson, Senior Regulatory Affairs PMO, **Dexcom** (Contributing Author: *Fundamentals of Medical Device Regulations*)

16:00 CLOSING REMARKS. END OF THE CONFERENCE

2025 PPM Summits Worldwide

- 1** 22 - 23 January, BARCELONA
28th European Pharma and Biotech Project, Program and Portfolio Management Conference
- 2** 29 - 30 January, SAN DIEGO
American Strategic Portfolio Management in Life Sciences – West Coast
- 3** 3 - 4 April, BASEL
29th European Biopharma Project Program and Portfolio Management Conference
- 4** 9 - 10 April, CHICAGO
2nd American Medical Device Project & Portfolio Management Conference
- 5** 15 - 16 April, PHILADELPHIA
24th American Pharma and Biotech Project, Program and Portfolio Management Conference
- 6** 14 - 15 May, LONDON
European Strategic Portfolio Management in Life Sciences
- 7** 3 - 4 June, COPENHAGEN
Biopharma PPM in Clinical Research and Development Summit Edition
- 8** 11 - 12 June, BERLIN
2nd European MedTech Summit 2025 - Medical Device Project & Portfolio Management Conference
- 9** 11 - 12 June, SAN FRANCISCO
25th American Pharma and Biotech Project, Program and Portfolio Management Conference
- 10** 5 - 6 August, SINGAPORE
Asian Pharma and Biotech Project, Program and Portfolio Management Conference
- 11** 3 - 4 September, MELBOURNE
Pharma and Biotech Project, Program and Portfolio Management Conference
- 12** 10 - 11 September, MUMBAI
3rd Strategic Project, Program and Portfolio Management Conference for Pharmaceuticals
- 13** 7 - 9 October, BASEL
30th European Pharma and Biotech Project, Program and Portfolio Management Conference
- 14** 15 - 17 October, BOSTON
26th American Pharma and Biotech Project, Program and Portfolio Management Conference
- 15** 22 - 23 October, LONDON
31st European Pharma and Biotech Project, Program and Portfolio Management Conference
- 16** 9 - 11 December, LAS VEGAS
2nd Annual American Projects & Portfolio Leadership Summit

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Contact us

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