

Updated: 2 May, 2025

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please download agenda on
conference website



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

The most popular PPM conference for pharmaceutical managers worldwide



June 11 - 12 | 2025



San Francisco | California

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel San Francisco Airport
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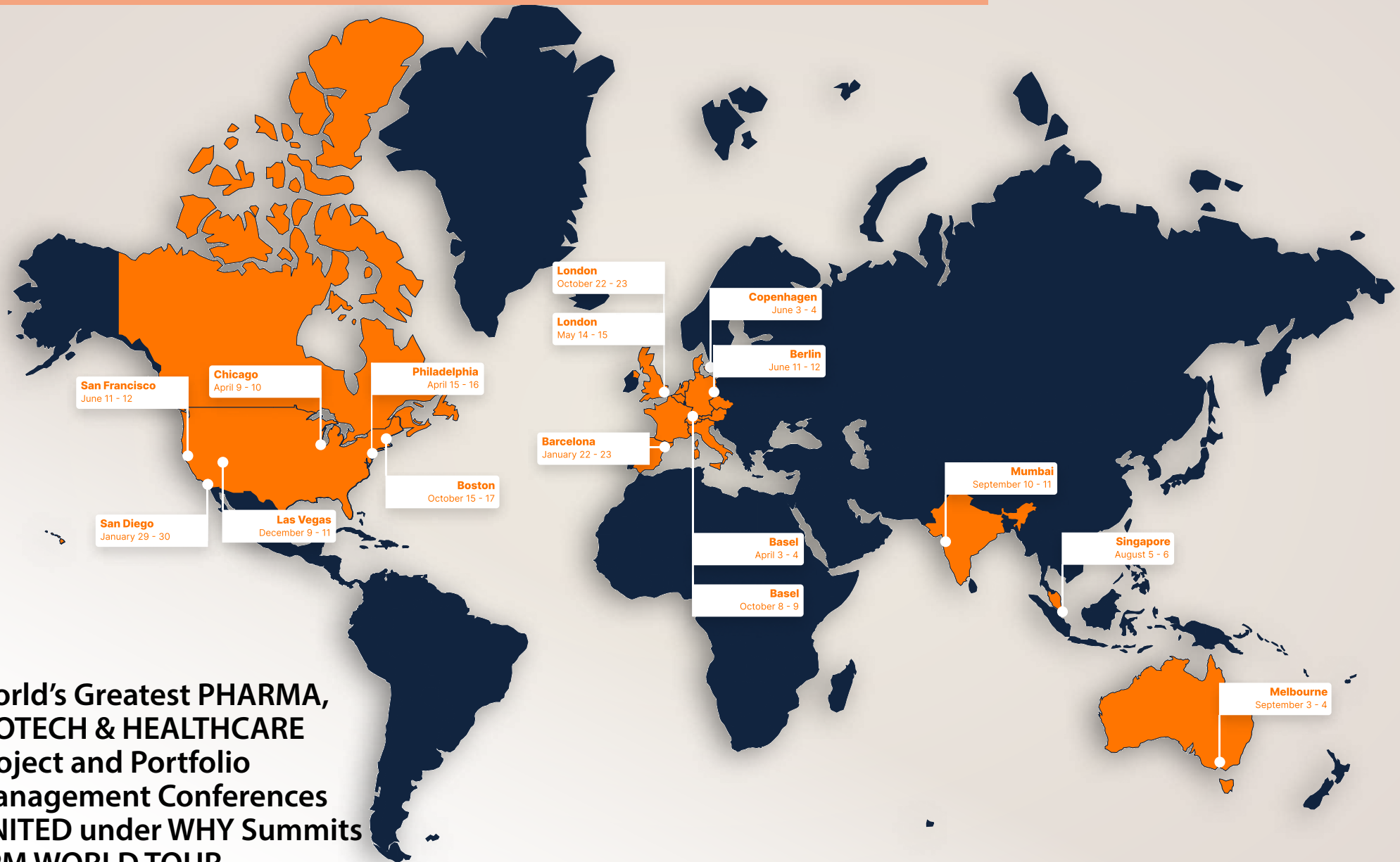
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2025 PPM Summits Worldwide



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

"ALWAYS BE CURIOUS"

WWW.WHYSUMMITS.COM

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



Matthew Azzara
Head, Global Portfolio Management, Oncology
EMD Serono



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



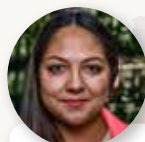
Elise Brownell
Founder
Zephyr Biotech



Ira Brown
Founder and CEO
Project Widgets



Jacob Cancelliere
VP of Account Enablement
Rego Consulting



Andrea Espitia
Director Project Management
Synthego Corporation



Maithili Dalvi
Associate Director, Global Commercial Project Management
Gilead Sciences



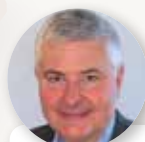
Fabio De Martino
Global Head Quality Strategy & Business Operations
Kite Pharma



Michael Faia
Head of R&D Portfolio Management
Harmony Biosciences



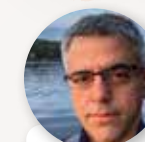
Harry Georgiades
Managing Director
IPM



Graham Howe
Vice President, Program Management Office
BD



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



Ioannis Kagiampakis
Portfolio Data Science Lead
Astra Zeneca

Our Speakers And Panelists:



 Formation Bio

Jennifer Kang

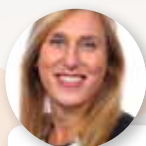
Director, Program Management
Formation Bio



 Formation Bio

Chris Knight

Director, Program Management
Formation Bio



Alaina Kupec

Executive Director, Portfolio Strategy & Analytics
Gilead Sciences



Alejandro Martorell Riera

Sr. Project Manager, Research Strategic Operations
Kite Pharma



Wes McCoubrie

Senior Vice President
Rego Consulting



Neeta Mhatre

Vice President, Asia Commercial Operations & China Strategy
Intuitive



Nina Orike

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



Estelle Paysinger-Hill

Director, Nonclinical Project Management
Sangamo Therapeutics



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



Tilo Senger

Head of R&D Global Program Management
EMD Serono



Stephen Smith

Senior Program Director, Oncology
Corcept Therapeutics



Marie Spark

PM Educational Consultant
PMI San Francisco



Joe Stalder

Vice President Program Management
Zentalis Pharmaceuticals



Christopher Vandepas

Senior Director Program Management
SAGA Diagnostics

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



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Creative and inspiring platform for fruitful discussion



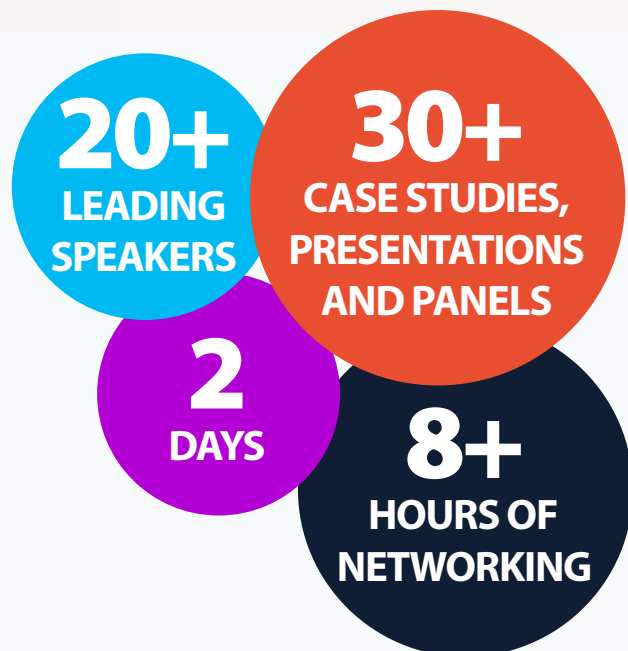
Workshops and Roundtables for a deeper dive into important topics in the Pharma industry now



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.

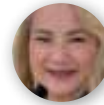


Emmanuel Happe

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,

Kristína Šestáková

Event Organizer

Agenda

Day1

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: 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, Associate Director, Global Commercial Project Management, **Gilead Sciences**

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

Matthew Azzara, Head, Global Portfolio Management, Oncology, **EMD Serono**

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

Fabio De Martino, Global Head Quality Strategy & Business Operations, **Kite Pharma**

10:00 NETWORKING BREAK



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!

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**

Day1

12:00

LUNCH BREAK – SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Don't miss this premier chance to sponsor the lunch break at our pharma conference. Elevate your company's visibility among industry leaders and decision-makers while offering attendees a relaxed, branded environment to network and unwind. Position your brand at the heart of this essential networking moment and make a lasting impact on all participants!

MASTERING CROSS-FUNCTIONAL TEAM STRATEGIES & COLLABORATION

13:00

CASE STUDY: CREATING WIN-WIN SETTINGS: GLOBAL INTEGRATION OF REGIONAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAMS

This case study provides insights into the strategic adjustment of the PM operating model to ensure that individuals can be assigned to development projects independent of their geography while delivering on local stakeholder needs. While this model provides a broader talent pool and fosters collaboration across global teams, it also ensures that local stakeholder needs are met through tailored approaches that respect regional nuances and priorities. This dual focus on global integration and local responsiveness highlights how innovative PM practices can drive efficiency, support diverse team dynamics, and align project outcomes with organizational goals.

Tilo Senger, Head of R&D Global Program Management, **EMD Serono**

13:30

CASE STUDY: 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, Associate Director, Global Commercial Project Management, **Gilead Sciences**

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

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

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

Tilo Senger, Head of R&D Global Program Management, **EMD Serono**

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.

Alaina Kupec, Executive Director, 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. STRATEGIC PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT: FIT-FOR-PURPOSE DECISION-MAKING SOLUTIONS

Decision-analysis and strategic Portfolio Management functions take different forms across the industry – and some companies don't currently have such a function at all. This roundtable will discuss how companies can leverage the decision-making power of program and portfolio valuation and prioritization regardless of the size of their portfolio.

Matthew Azzara, Head, Global Portfolio Management, Oncology, **EMD Serono**

Day1

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

Unwind and connect with fellow attendees at our exclusive IPM cocktail party—where great conversations meet fine drinks. Join us for an evening of networking, inspiration, and a relaxed atmosphere to wrap up the day.

Day2

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.
Neeta Mhatre, Vice President, China Strategy & Operations, **Intuitive**

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.
Jacob Cancelliere, VP of Account Enablement, **Rego Consulting**
Wes McCoubrie, Senior Vice President, **Rego Consulting**

9:30 PANEL DISCUSSION: BLENDING TRADITIONAL AND AGILE METHODS IN PHARMA 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**
Nina Orike, Executive Director, Head of Program and Portfolio Management (PPM), **BioMarin**

10:00 NETWORKING BREAK

SMALL & BIG PHARMA: GROWTH, LEADERSHIP & BEST PRACTICES

10:30 KEYNOTE: MANAGING CROSS-FUNCTIONAL TEAMS IN COMPLEX R&D ENVIRONMENTS
Tackling the challenges and strategies of managing cross-functional teams in turbulent R&D settings requires a complex approach. This presentation will dive into best practices and platforms for coordinating diverse expertise to drive project success through effective teamwork. Gain valuable insights on how to lead and manage teams that span multiple functions and geographies, ensuring alignment and efficiency in research and development.
Christopher Vandepas, Senior Director Program Management, **SAGA Diagnostics**

11:00 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**

11:30 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.
MODERATOR: **Fabio De Martino**, Global Head Quality Strategy & Business Operations, **Kite Pharma**
Alaina Kupec, Executive Director, 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**

12:00 LUNCH BREAK – SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY
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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**

13:30 RESERVED PRESENTATION

Day2

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 **KEYNOTE: DO'S AND DON'TS IN NAMED RESOURCE ALLOCATION**
Dave Penndorf, PPM Advisor, **Groundswell Pharma Consulting, LLC**

15:30 **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.

Alaina Kupec, Executive Director, 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**

16:00 **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. CRITICAL ASPECTS OF MANAGING AND EVALUATING COMPLEX COMBINATION DRUG PROJECTS

Combination projects – whether an internal or an external combo – can present particular challenges to both Project Management and Portfolio Management. In this roundtable, we will discuss these challenges, and share some ways to help manage them.

Matthew Azzara, Head, Global Portfolio Management, Oncology, **EMD Serono**

3. PPM TOOLS THAT GET YOU STARTED FOR GROWTH

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

4. 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**

16:30 CLOSING REMARKS. END OF THE CONFERENCE

2025 PPM Summits Worldwide

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- 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** 8 - 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
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