

PRE-CONFERENCE **MASTERCLASS**



Decision Analysis & Portfolio Management Masterclass

This highly interactive masterclass focuses on **practical tools** and **real-world examples** for effective **decision analysis** and **portfolio management**.

October 13 - 14, 2025

Boston, MA

Same venue as main conference

Course Leader:



Dr. Richard Bayney

President & Founder of Project & Portfolio Value Creation

KEY TOPICS



DECISION FRAMING & QUALITY CYCLE



ASSET VALUATION & SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS



MODA FOR PORTFOLIO PRIORITIZATION



DECISION ANALYSIS & DECISION TREES



PORTFOLIO MGMT FROM DISCOVERY TO REGISTRATION



LINEAR PROGRAMMING IN OPTIMIZATION



RISK ANALYSIS & MANAGEMENT

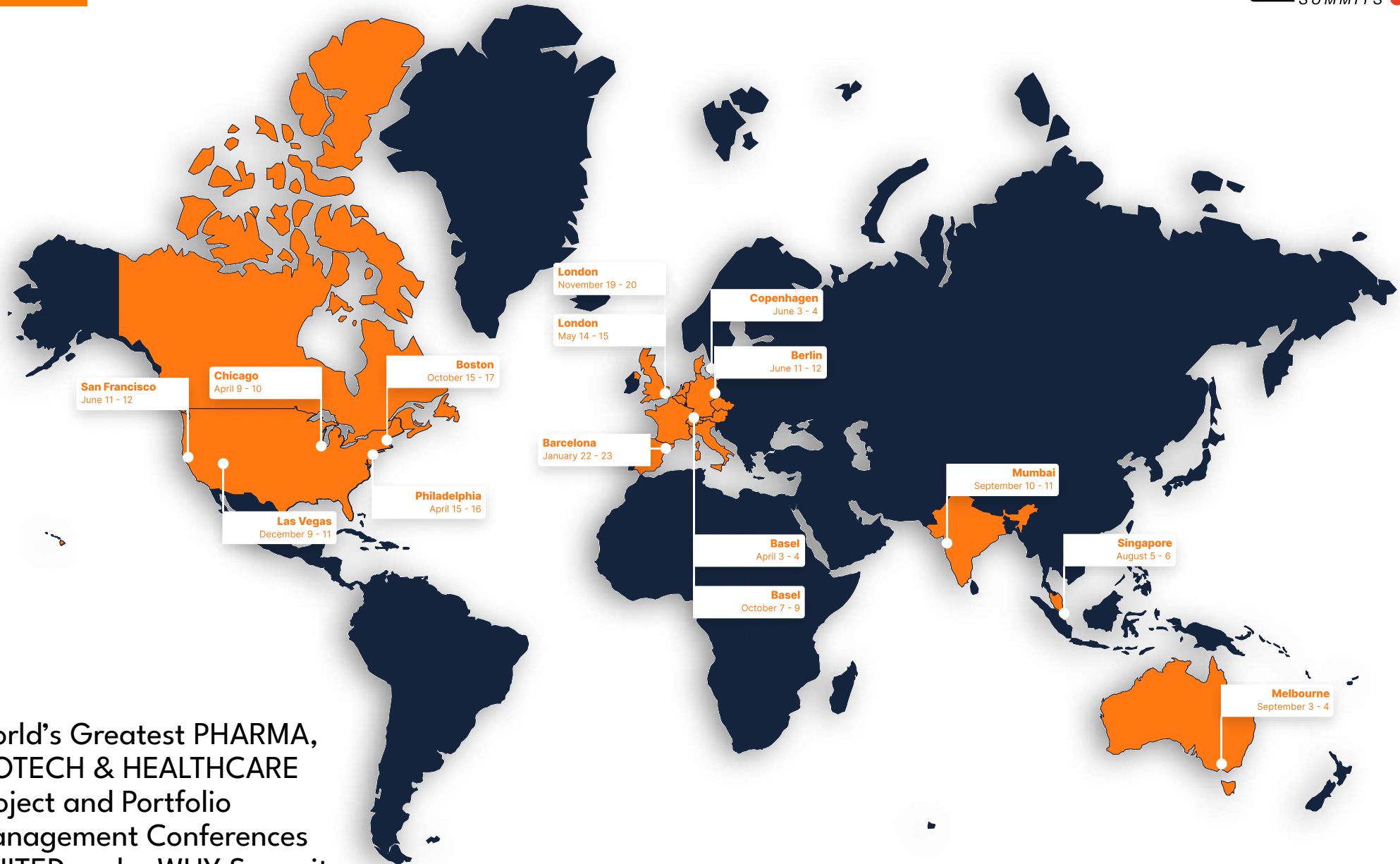


CREOPM™ FOR VALUE MAXIMIZATION



LINKING STRATEGY, PORTFOLIO & BUSINESS PLANS

PPM WORLD TOUR 2025



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

AI-Powered PPM Masterclass: From Custom GPTs to Practical Implementation

Transform your daily program management workflows from manual, time-consuming processes into automated, intelligent solutions. This hands-on masterclass bridges the gap between AI potential and practical PPM implementation in pharmaceutical environments.

 **October 14, 2025**

 **Boston, MA**

Same venue as main conference

KEY TAKEAWAYS



MASTER THE PROCESS OF CREATING CUSTOM GPTS FOR PHARMACEUTICAL PPM USE CASES



UNDERSTAND PROMPT ENGINEERING TECHNIQUES FOR CONSISTENT, PROFESSIONAL OUTPUTS



DEVELOP PRACTICAL SKILLS FOR ONGOING AI TOOL DEVELOPMENT AND REFINEMENT



BUILD AUTOMATED WORKFLOWS FOR MEETING SUMMARIES, DOCUMENTATION, AND STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS, AND DOCUMENT CREATION



CREATE A WORKING AI SOLUTION YOU CAN IMPLEMENT IN YOUR ORGANIZATION IMMEDIATELY

Course Leaders:

Chris Knight

Director, Program Management
Formation Bio



Jennifer Kang

Director, Program Management
Formation Bio



This isn't a theoretical overview of AI—it's a working session led by practicing program managers from Formation Bio, an AI-native pharmaceutical company. They use these tools daily and want to share proven approaches with the PPM community.

THE PHARMA PPM EVENT YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS!



STRUGGLING WITH RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS, COMPLEX PORTFOLIOS, OR AI ADOPTION?

This summit is your shortcut to **smarter decisions, optimized strategies,** and **real impact.**



LEARN FROM THE BEST

Get insider knowledge from **top pharma & biotech PPM leaders** who've cracked the code on **eciency, risk management, and innovation.**



FUTURE-PROOF YOUR PPM APPROACH

Master **AI-driven decision-making, scenario planning, and next-gen project execution** to stay ahead.



SOLVE REAL CHALLENGES - FAST

Engage in **interactive workshops, think tanks, and case studies** designed for **actionable takeaways** you can implement immediately.



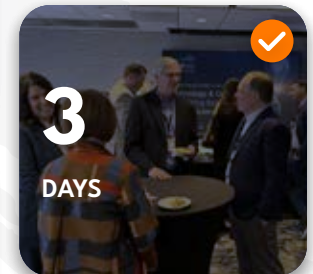
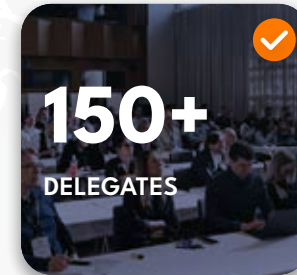
EXPAND YOUR NETWORK

Connect with **key decision-makers, industry pioneers, and peers** who are shaping the future of pharma PPM.



EXCLUSIVE WORKSHOPS

Get **hands-on training** in portfolio strategy, governance, and AI for PPM with world-class experts.



UNIQUE NEW FORMATS



BESIDES OUR WELL-KNOWN AND BELOVED FORMATS (**KEYNOTES, CASE STUDIES AND PANEL-DISCUSSIONS**), WE ARE BRINGING NEW ONES TO YOU:



TOOLKIT WORKSHOPS

- ✓ **Focus and learn about** actionable tools and frameworks you can immediately apply
- ✓ **Gain relevant, industry-specific knowledge**, tailored to the unique challenges of pharma project management
- ✓ **Engage in real-time problem-solving and collaboration and enjoy a hands-on, engaging experience with peers and experts**



THINK-TANK DISCUSSIONS

- ✓ **Practical, solution-focused** discussions - no generic theory, only real-world applications
- ✓ **Engage with peers** facing similar challenges - **learn from their experiences**
- ✓ Walk away with **actionable strategies, toolkits, and best practices**



FIRESIDE CHATS

- ✓ **Unfiltered Insights:** get candid, behind-the-scenes perspectives from industry leaders
- ✓ **Interactive & Dynamic:** unlike traditional keynotes, fireside chats encourage real conversations, audience questions, and thoughtprovoking discussions
- ✓ **Deep & Focused Insights:** understand the challenges that the industry leaders face and overcome, learn about their strategies and approaches

KEY TOPICS REFLECTING THE CURRENT HOT TOPICS OF THE INDUSTRY:



STRATEGIC PORTFOLIO & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:

Driving Value in Pharma PPM, Smarter Planning for Pharma PPM, Building Internal Capabilities



RISK & GOVERNANCE IN PHARMA PROJECTS:

Preventing Costly Failures in Pharma Projects, Pro-active Mitigation & Contingency Planning, Implementing Effective Governance Forums in Pharma



PROJECT MANAGEMENT METHODOLOGIES & BEST PRACTICES:

Waterfall, Agile & Hybrid Approaches, Lean & Six Sigma for Pharma Project Excellence, Managing Complexity



DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING & AI INTEGRATION:

AI & Automation in Pharma PPM, AI & Advanced Analytics in PPM, Integrating Emerging Technologies in PPM



LEADERSHIP & COLLABORATION IN PPM:

Culture & Strategy, Cross-Functional Collaboration & Breaking Silos for Success, Leading High-Performing Teams

TESTIMONIALS



“ Wrapping up an extraordinary Day 3 at the 23rd American Pharma and Biotech PPM Conference! Our Founder and CEO, Sandeep Kumar, delivered an inspiring session on “Accelerating Time-to-Market in Pharma NPD: The Role of AI in Project Management.” His insights into leveraging AI for faster, more efficient pharma product development left the audience buzzing with excitement and possibilities! It’s been a phenomenal journey of learning, innovation, and connections. Here’s to continuing the momentum and driving change in the biotech and pharma industries!
★★★★★



Sandeep Kumar
Founder & CEO
Kytes

“ This conference was exceptional, featuring a diverse group of attendees, all of whom are experts in their fields. The event attracted a strong cross-section of the industry, encompassing both large and small companies. The networking opportunities were invaluable, allowing me to connect with a wide range of professionals and expand my network significantly. I wholeheartedly recommend this conference and plan to attend more events next year. It truly exceeded my expectations, with outstanding attendance and presentations throughout all three days. This conference has established itself as the premier event in the resource planning space, showcasing our commitment to excellence in the industry
★★★★★



Phil Wolf
SVP, On Demand Products
PDWare

“ This was my first time at the Why Summits, and it exceeded my expectations. We met many existing clients and had phenomenal interactions, appreciating the well-organized format that encouraged engagement. Key takeaways include the impressive quality of presenters, excellent networking opportunities with both new and existing clients, and valuable insights from a session on emotional intelligence by Kelvin Roddy, which highlighted the importance of connection and thoughtfulness in our engagements. I highly recommend this conference to colleagues as a well-structured event that fosters meaningful connections. We look forward to participating in more events like this in the future.
★★★★★



Rishi Dixit
Vice President, Strategic Solutions (Innovative Products and Partnerships)
Atlas

“ It seems like forever ago, yet it was only two weeks ago that I had the pleasure of presenting at Why Summits in Boston on the power of Planisware and our AI capabilities regarding risk management. The engagement was lively, and the content of the conference was spot on. Be on the lookout for other opportunities to join such events later this year and in 2025!
★★★★★



Aimee Rodrigues
Vice President- Life Sciences PPM Practices
Planisware

“ It was an honor to speak at the 23rd American Pharma and Biotech Conference in Boston, sharing how Intelligencia AI is transforming decision-making in pharma and biotech with data-driven solutions. Thank you to everyone who joined and contributed to the engaging discussions. If you’d like to learn more about our approach, feel free to reach out!
★★★★★



Marianna Esposito
Director, Business Development, Scientific Liaison Director
Intelligencia AI

“ It was a fantastic experience presenting at the Why Summits PPM conference in Boston. An excellent opportunity to connect with industry experts and exchange valuable insights on various aspects of Project and Portfolio Management in Healthcare R&D.
★★★★★



Mark Zhang
Senior Director, Head of Global Program Management Oncology
EMD Serono

“ I just returned from a few days with fellow Portfolio and Project management colleagues in Biotech/ life sciences as part of the Why Summits PPM conference at Boston. From being a speaker, to a panelist across a few topics and engaging with such an experienced group of professionals was a great learning experience overall
★★★★★



Anusha Sivaramakrishnan
Executive Director, Head - Enterprise Project Management and Governance
Arvinas

“ Had a great time participating on a panel discussing “Mastering Governance and Risk in Pharma & Biotech” at the Why Summits 23rd American Pharma and Biotech Project, Program, and Portfolio Management Conference in Boston alongside Brandie Jonas, Kristen Bequeath, and Uma Staehler.
★★★★★



Stephen Smith
Senior Program Director, Oncology
Concept Therapeutics

“ Had the opportunity to attend the Why Summits Pharma and Biotech Project, Program and Portfolio Management Conference in Boston. The keynote sessions and panels were incredibly informative. The event showcased numerous innovative technical products and tools that harness the power of AI, enhancing the efficiency of Project, Program, and Portfolio management.
★★★★★



Lavanya Ranganathan
Sr IT Program Manager
Bristol Myers Squibb

INDUSTRY PIONEERS ATTENDING FROM



GSK  *Lilly*  **MERCK**  **sanofi**  AstraZeneca

 Bristol Myers Squibb  **EMD SERONO**  **NOVARTIS** **abbvie**  **Boehringer Ingelheim** **Johnson & Johnson**

AMGEN  **VERTEX**  **Genmab**  **GILEAD**  **Takeda**  **novo nordisk**

 **BAYER** **teva**  **Biogen**  **Daiichi-Sankyo** **CSL**  **Otsuka**  **Adaptimmune**

 **Mylan**  **astellas**  **VIATRIS** **SANDOZ** **BIONTECH** **moderna**

IN THE CHAIR



DAY 1



Anita Burrell
Consulting LLC

Anita Burrell

Principal

**Anita Burrell
Consulting LLC**

DAY 2



**Courtland (Corky)
LaVallee**

Biopharmaceutical Program
Management Expert

DAY 3



INDIANA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Michael Myers

Associate Professor, Dept. of
Clinical Pharmacology

**Indiana University
School of Medicine**

OUR SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS



Dr. Richard M. Bayney
President & Founder
**Project & Portfolio Value
Creation**



Ghanshyam Ahuja
Managing Partner, Thinkuvate &
Group CEO
vSaaS Global



Emily Anderson
Client Engagement Partner – Global
Life Sciences Lead
Turnberry Solutions



Saleha Amin
Senior Staff Program Manager
Insulet Corporation



Tania Bojanowski
I&I & DCVM Project Management
Development Head
Sanofi



Kathi Breen
Director, Pipeline Program
Management - Early Development
GSK



Christopher Buder
Vice President, Portfolio Strategy
Cardinal Health



Jacob Cancelliere
Vice President of Account Enablement
Rego Consulting



Amy Cartaya
Director, Global Program & Portfolio
Management
Alexion Pharmaceuticals



Monika Campbell
Director, IT Project & Portfolio Management
Karl Storz



Michael Cooperman
Global Head of Program Management
ZS Associates



Andrea Chen
Executive Director, Head of
Program Management
**Cour Pharmaceuticals
Development**



Stephen Cho
Founder and President
**SSC Strategic Advisors
LLC.**



Rishi Dixit
Vice President, Strategic Solutions
and Innovation
Atlas



Stuart Fort
Senior Director, PPM Operations &
Business Planning
Eli Lilly



Robert Happy
Managing Director, Life Sciences
OnePlan Solutions



Ranjani Hild
Head, Global Program
Management, Oncology
Novartis

OUR SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS



Ananya Jain

Research, Portfolio Management
Lead

Biogen



Brandie Jonas

Executive Director, Program and
Project Management

Geron Corporation



Yashvika Khurana

Product & Solutions Lead

Atlas



Lance Knight

Chief Value Stream Architect

Broadcom



Chris Knight

Director, Program Management

Formation Bio



Aadithya Krishnan

Vice President, Corporate
Development & Strategy

Nested Therapeutics



Ivan Kugener

Vice President, Head of Global Portfolio
Management, Valuation & Analytics

EMD Serono



Biren Mistry

Director of Business Process Execution

BMS



Carrie Nauyalis

Executive in Residence

Planview



Amy Noe

Principal Consultant

**Latham Biopharma Group, part
of SIA Partners**



James Pavlovich

Vice President Customer Experience and
Operations

Straumann Group



Kathryn Pellerin

Senior Project Manager

Biogen



Emma Price

Global Product Strategist

Broadcom



Ashoka Rajendra

CEO

Orchestra



Kristin Robbins

Vice President, Program & Portfolio
Management

Normunity



Kelvin Roddy

Senior Director, Global Program &
Portfolio Management

Alexion Pharmaceuticals



Aimee Rodrigues

Vice President, Life Sciences PPM
Practices

Planisware

OUR SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS



Stephanie Rosenblum
Program Director
Bicycle Therapeutics



Darshan Shah
Executive Director, Global Program Management
Incyte



Anusha Sivaramakrishnan
Experienced Project, Program and Portfolio Management Professional



Aditi Soni
Vice President - Head of Program and Alliance Management
Kelonia Therapeutics



Marianne Svenningsen
Senior Consultant
Emendo Consulting Group



Vinod Nair
Director, Strategy & Program Management, Innovation Lab
Novartis



Mckinna Teske
Senior Consultant - Business Transformation
Turnberry Solutions



Mark Zhang
Senior Director, Head of Global Program Management Oncology II
EMD Serono



Samir Vattompadam
Senior Vice President, Global Program Leadership
Kura Oncology



Deepak Veeraraghavan
Partner
Blue Matter



Tarun Walia
Senior Director & Head, Decision Science
Novo Nordisk



Chris Warner PhD, MBA, PMP
Associate Director of Global Commercial Project Management
Gilead Sciences



Erin Williams
Global Program Manager
EMD Serono



Jake Winkler
Associate Vice President
Emendo Consulting Group



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



Wei Sylvia Zheng
Executive Director, Strategy & Program Management
MediLink Therapeutics



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

CONFERENCE **AGENDA**

NIGHT BEFORE THE EVENT

5:30 PM MEET & GREET

WELCOME TO OUR EVENT! WE'RE THRILLED TO HAVE YOU WITH US AND TRULY APPRECIATE YOUR PRESENCE.

Kick off the experience with **early registration and a relaxed networking session!** As delegates start arriving, this is the perfect opportunity to connect, pick up your badge, catch up with familiar faces, and meet new industry peers. Whether it's **handshakes, conversations, or shared laughs**, we invite you to join us in setting the stage for an inspiring event. Cheers to new connections and meaningful discussions!



DAY 1

8:00 AM REGISTRATION OPEN & WELCOME COFFEE

BEYOND THE HORIZON: PORTFOLIO STRATEGY FOR THE NOW AND NEXT

8:30 AM

KEYNOTE: PORTFOLIO STRATEGY AND RISK DIVERSIFICATION IN BIOPHARMA

What's a good portfolio strategy and how do you know if it's actionable?

- Portfolio strategy – Avoiding accountability or minimizing ambiguity?
- Strategic plan or business plan – Which one should take precedence and why?
- Inherent risks – The enemy to loathe or the bedfellow to embrace?
- Risk profile – Avoiding your fate or creating your own destiny?

Dr. Richard M. Bayney, *President & Founder, Project & Portfolio Value Creation*

9:00 AM

KEYNOTE: STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT IN ACTION: MAXIMIZING PORTFOLIO VALUE WHERE IT MATTERS MOST

In today's fast-paced business environment, organizations must do more than simply execute projects—they must ensure every initiative aligns with strategic priorities and delivers measurable value. This session explores the critical link between strategic alignment and portfolio impact, providing a practical framework for evaluating, prioritizing, and managing initiatives that drive organizational success.

Key Takeaways:

- Understand the principles of strategic alignment and why they matter
- Learn how to evaluate portfolio impact beyond traditional metrics.
- Gain practical strategies for portfolio optimization and governance.

Aimee Rodrigues, *Vice President, Life Sciences PPM Practices, Planisware*

9:30 AM

PANEL DISCUSSION: PORTFOLIO OPTIMIZATION & STRATEGY

★ **Theme:** Balancing long-term value creation with short-term adaptability.

🔥 **Discussion Points:**

- How do you define and measure portfolio success?
- What strategies help balance innovation and commercial viability?
- How do organizations adjust portfolios in response to market shifts?
- What role do scenario planning and forecasting play in strategic alignment?

Ivan Kugener, *Vice President, Head of Global Portfolio Management, Valuation & Analytics, EMD Serono*

Stephanie Rosenblum, *Program Director, Bicycle Therapeutics*

Ranjani Hild, *Head, Global Program Management, Oncology, Novartis*

Biren Mistry, *Director, Strategic Program Management, BMS*

10:00 AM NETWORKING BREAK

SMART MOVES: POWERING PPM WITH DATA & FORESIGHT

10:30 AM

CASE STUDY: INFLECTION POINTS AS A FRAMEWORK FOR PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION

- A conventional stage transitional mindset for funding programs is not optimal for mitigating program risks early.
- Applying venture capital-style Inflection Point gating to R&D programs - A fresh, disciplined approach to prioritization that resonates with both scientific and Corporate Strategy. It promotes a truth-seeking and value-seeking mindset. Helps optimization of Resource allocation based on value inflection
- Case study showing impact on portfolio agility.

Ananya Jain, *Research, Portfolio Management Lead, Biogen*

11:00 AM

CASE STUDY: LEVERAGING AI-POWERED PROJECT PORTFOLIOS FOR SPEED: RESULTS FROM THE 2025 GLOBAL STATE OF STRATEGY EXECUTION BENCHMARK STUDY

Explore findings from the 2025 Global State of Strategy Execution Benchmark Study, highlighting how organizations are meeting strategic goals and where gaps remain. Examine key trends in governance, alignment, speed, and data access with special focus on the role of AI and portfolio management in driving execution success. Gain insights into what sets Strategy Leaders apart from Laggards and take away practical actions inspired by the data to improve speed and effectiveness across the enterprise.

Carrie Nauyalis, Executive in Residence, Planview

11:30 AM

PANEL DISCUSSION: DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING & SCENARIO PLANNING

★ **Theme:** How to make informed, data-driven portfolio decisions.

💡 **Discussion Points:**

- What are the biggest obstacles to data-driven decision-making in PPM?
- How can predictive analytics improve scenario planning?
- What are the best ways to integrate qualitative insights with quantitative data?
- What tools and methodologies are most effective for scenario modeling?

Moderator: Lance Knight, Chief Value Stream Architect, Broadcom

Amy Cartaya, Director, Global Program & Portfolio Management, Alexion Pharmaceuticals

Tarun Walia, Senior Director & Head, Decision Science, Novo Nordisk

Stephanie Rosenblum, Program Director, Bicycle Therapeutics

Stuart Fort, Senior Director, PPM Operations & Business Planning, Eli Lilly

Emma Price, Global Product Strategist, Broadcom

12:00 PM LUNCH BREAK

INNOVATE OR STAGNATE: EMBRACING THE NEXT ERA OF PPM

1:00 PM

FIRESIDE CHAT: THE FUTURE OF PHARMA PPM: WHAT'S NEXT FOR PORTFOLIO & PROJECT LEADERS?

- What will define success in pharma project management in the next five years?
- The biggest industry challenges leaders need to prepare for.
- Lessons from adapting to change in a rapidly evolving landscape.

Anusha Sivaramkrishnan, Experienced Project, Program and Portfolio Management Professional

Kelvin Roddy, Senior Director, Global Program & Portfolio Management, Alexion Pharmaceuticals

1:30 PM

CASE STUDY: 7 PILLARS OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

This presentation will discuss 7 basic concepts that are not really so basic in practice. The source data of this presentation comes from a 23-year history of delivering PDWare Resource Management engagements across industries, but with a special focus on Life Sciences. The derived concepts are a combination of ever-evolving methods and lessons learned.

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

2:00 PM

KEYNOTE: IS THIS A PROJECT?

The company strategy is set; annual department goals are set. The next step is to figure out how to deliver against those goals. When do we need the structure of a project? When do we need a project manager? Let's break down the criteria for needing the structure and focus of managing a project vs. managing people to achieve department goals.

James Pavlovich, Vice President Customer Experience and Operations, Straumann Group

2:30 PM

PANEL DISCUSSION: EMERGING TRENDS & TECHNOLOGIES IN PPM

★ **Theme:** The future of PPM in an evolving landscape.

💡 **Discussion Points:**

- What new technologies will have the biggest impact on PPM?
- How should pharma companies prepare for digital transformation?
- What skills will be most valuable for PPM leaders in the future?
- What are some early examples of disruptive trends already changing the field?

MODERATION: Michael Cooperman, Global Head of Program Management, ZS Associates

Stephen Cho, Founder and President, SSC Strategic Advisors LLC.

Aadithya Krishnan, Vice President, Corporate Development & Strategy, Nested Therapeutics

Aditi Soni, Vice President - Head of Program and Alliance Management, Kelonia Therapeutics

Aimee Rodrigues, Vice President, Life Sciences PPM Practices, Planisware

3:00 PM NETWORKING BREAK

3:30 PM AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Each delegate can choose to attend one 60 minute "Workshop" and then a 30 minute "Think Tank" discussion.

PPM TOOLKIT WORKSHOP SERIES: EVOLVING PPM TOOLS IN PHARMA:

This workshop series is designed to help pharma PPM managers understand where PPM tools are heading, what's new, and how these tools solve common challenges in their daily work.

1. SMART PORTFOLIO DECISION-MAKING: AI & ADVANCED ANALYTICS IN PPM

- **Best for:** PPM managers looking to leverage AI for faster, smarter decision-making in their portfolios.
- How AI improves portfolio prioritization, risk assessment, and scenario planning.
- Predictive analytics: Using data to make informed investment trade-offs.
- AI-powered real-time decision dashboards vs. static reporting.
- **Case Study:** AI-driven portfolio forecasting in pharma.

Lance Knight, Chief Value Stream Architect, **Broadcom**

2. AUTOMATING PPM: HOW NEW TOOLS IMPROVE EFFICIENCY & COLLABORATION

- **Best for:** Teams struggling with manual processes and poor cross-functional coordination.
- How automation is reducing time-consuming PPM tasks.
- Best practices for integrating PPM tools across R&D, clinical, regulatory, and commercial functions.
- Managing cross-functional dependencies and data transparency.
- **Case Study:** A pharma company's success in streamlining PPM operations with automation.

Tania Bojanowski, I&I & DCVM Project Management Development Head, **Sanofi**

3. STRATEGIC THINKING & DECISION-MAKING FOR PHARMA PMS

- **Best for:** Pharma project managers looking to develop a strategic mindset for managing complex projects.
- How strategic thinking differs from tactical execution in pharma project management.
- Frameworks for making data-driven decisions in uncertain environments.
- Balancing short-term project milestones with long-term corporate objectives.
- **Case Study:** How strategic decision-making improved project outcomes in a pharma R&D pipeline.

Anusha Sivaramkrishnan, Experienced Project, Program and Portfolio Management Professional

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT WORKSHOP?

Your Challenge / Interest

Choose the workshop that best fits your needs!

? NEED TO MAKE SMARTER, AI-DRIVEN PORTFOLIO DECISIONS?

Recommended Workshop

SMART PORTFOLIO DECISION-MAKING: AI & ADVANCED ANALYTICS IN PPM

? LOOKING FOR WAYS TO AUTOMATE TASKS AND IMPROVE TEAM COLLABORATION?

Recommended Workshop

AUTOMATING PPM: HOW NEW TOOLS IMPROVE EFFICIENCY & COLLABORATION

? NEED TO IMPROVE STRATEGIC DECISION-MAKING IN PHARMA PROJECTS?

Recommended Workshop

STRATEGIC THINKING & DECISION-MAKING FOR PHARMA PMS

4:30 PM

PPM TOOLKIT THINK TANK DISCUSSIONS (30 MIN) INTERACTIVE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

The “think tank” format provides an opportunity to discuss PPM tools, best practices and their implementation in smaller groups.

These interactive discussions are led by facilitators and shaped by the participants. They are an ideal platform for knowledge sharing and learning about the challenges and successes that others encounter while navigating the ever-changing landscape of PPM tools.

1. PROMPTING POWER: UNLOCKING AI POTENTIAL WITH SMART STRATEGIES

Discover how to harness the full potential of AI assistants with the SMART prompt format! Join us for an engaging round table discussion, complete with breakout sessions, where participants will collaborate to craft impactful prompts that drive results and innovation.

Erin Williams, *Global Program Manager, EMD Serono*

2. STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

This roundtable focuses on practical approaches to ensure a smooth and impactful rollout of PPM tools. Participants will exchange insights on stakeholder engagement, change management, and aligning tool adoption with organizational goals. Explore common pitfalls, success factors, and lessons learned from real implementation journeys.

Andrea Chen, *Executive Director, Head of Program Management, Cour Pharma*

3. BEYOND THE BASICS: MASTERING PPM TOOLS FOR SUCCESS

This roundtable invites participants to share hands-on experiences and best practices in optimizing PPM tools for real-world impact. Discuss how to go beyond standard functionality to enhance collaboration, visibility, and decision-making.

Stephanie Rosenblum, *Program Director, Bicycle Therapeutics*

4. BEYOND DASHBOARDS: HOW NEXT-GEN PPM TOOLS ENABLE DECISION INTELLIGENCE

Traditional reporting offers hindsight, not foresight. This session will explore how emerging technologies—such as Agentic AI and advanced analytics—can deliver real-time, actionable insights to drive better portfolio prioritization and resource allocation.

Ghanshyam Ahuja, *Managing Partner, Thinkuvate & Group CEO, vSaaS Global*

5. CUSTOMIZING PPM TOOLS FOR BIOTECH

This roundtable discussion explores:

- Why standard PPM tools often fall short in dynamic biotech environments?
- Strategies to tailor tools for evolving science, leaner teams, and accelerated timelines
- Balancing structure with flexibility to drive decisions

Participants will leave with strategies to adapt and scale program management tools for biotech realities—equipping them with actionable ideas they can apply immediately in their organizations.

Aditi Soni, *Vice President - Head of Program and Alliance Management, Kelonia Therapeutics*

6. NAVIGATING THE MEDICARE PRICE NEGOTIATION ERA: PREPARING FOR THE IMPACT OF THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT

As we enter the third round of Medicare price negotiations:

- How are you planning your LCM around the IRA price negotiations?
- How is it impacting how your company approaches indication sequencing and development timelines?
- Are you actively modeling the impact of the MFP on your long-term revenue forecasts?

We will explore these and other questions during this think-tank discussion session.

Stephen Cho, *Founder and President, SSC Strategic Advisors LLC.*

5:00 – 6:00 PM EVENING NETWORKING PROGRAM

WHY SUMMITS COCKTAIL PARTY

Unwind after a full day of sessions at Why Summits' exclusive cocktail party. Join fellow industry leaders for handcrafted drinks, light bites, and lively conversations in a relaxed atmosphere. It's the perfect opportunity to strengthen connections, spark new ideas, and carry the energy of Day 1 into an enjoyable evening setting.

6:00 PM END OF DAY 1

WHY ATTEND ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS?

- ✓ **Practical, solution-focused** discussions — no generic theory, only real-world applications.
- ✓ Engage with peers facing similar challenges — **learn from their experiences.**
- ✓ Walk away **with actionable strategies, toolkits, and best practices.**

8:00 AM REGISTRATION OPEN & WELCOME COFFEE

LEADERSHIP IN MOTION: CULTURE-DRIVEN COLLABORATION ACROSS FUNCTIONS

8:30 AM

KEYNOTE: LEADERSHIP & CULTURE: THE FUTURE OF PHARMA PROJECT LEADERSHIP

- The leadership mindset needed for successful PPM.
- Fostering collaboration, innovation, and accountability.
- Preparing the next generation of pharma PPM leaders.

Vinod Nair, Director, Strategy & Program Management, Innovation Lab, Novartis

9:00 AM

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

9:30 AM

KEYNOTE: DISCERNING THE PROPER ROLE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IN STRATEGIC DECISION MAKING

Decision Science (DS) seeks to help leaders make better, faster, and more effective decisions. In recent years, artificial intelligence (AI) has entered the mix, as leaders and project teams have sought ways to leverage AI tools to support their decision-making processes. However, decision makers often deploy AI tools inappropriately. This presentation does three key things:

1. Outlines a scientifically-driven framework that leaders can use to effectively guide strategic decision making in biopharma.
2. Explores the potential benefits and pitfalls of using AI tools to help facilitate decision making.
3. Provides some important guidelines to focus AI tools only on the aspects of decision making for which they are best suited, thereby delivering the best results.

Deepak Veeraraghavan, Partner, Blue Matter

10:00 AM

PANEL DISCUSSION: CROSS-FUNCTIONAL COLLABORATION

🌟 **Theme:** Breaking down silos for more effective PPM execution.

💡 Discussion Points:

- What are the biggest collaboration challenges between R&D, clinical, and commercial teams?
- How do you align stakeholders with different priorities?
- What structures or incentives improve cross-functional alignment?
- What role do digital collaboration tools play in bridging gaps?

Anusha Sivaramakrishnan, Experienced Project, Program and Portfolio Management Professional

Kathryn Pellerin, Senior Project Manager, Biogen

Kristin Robbins, Vice President, Program & Portfolio Management, Normunity

Samir Vattopadam, Senior Vice President, Global Program Leadership, Kura Oncology

Amy Noe, Principal Consultant, Latham Biopharma Group, part of SIA Partners

10:30 AM NETWORKING BREAK

RISK READY: SMARTER STRATEGIES FOR SAFER PHARMA PORTFOLIOS

11:00 AM

CASE STUDY: RISK MANAGEMENT & OPTIMIZATION

In biopharma, risk management is no longer just downside protection—it's value optimization under uncertainty. This session reframes Opportunity/Risk/Uncertainty through clear objectives, time horizons, and risk appetite, then operationalizes it across Project, Program, Pipeline, Portfolio, and Business levels—relevant to complex enterprises. This case study includes three key aspects:

1. Introduces a practical, wealth management inspired framework for value optimization
2. Shows how to leverage technologies and governance
3. Applies decision science to action

Ivan Kugener, Vice President, Head of Global Portfolio Management, Valuation & Analytics, EMD Serono

Mark Zhang, Senior Director, Head of Global Program Management Oncology II, EMD Serono

12:00 PM

KEYNOTE: THE AI ILLUSION: WHY PEOPLE, PROCESS, AND TOOLS COME FIRST

AI is powerful, but it's not the starting line. Too many organizations chase AI as a quick fix, only to discover it magnifies flaws in their operations. At the WHY Summit, we'll show how Atlas helped strengthen people, process, and tools first! Unlocking efficiency, scalability, and measurable portfolio impact.

Rishi Dixit, Vice President, Strategic Solutions and Innovation, Atlas

12:30 PM

PANEL DISCUSSION: RISK MANAGEMENT

🌟 **Theme:** Proactively managing risk across the pharma portfolio.

🔦 Discussion Points:

- What are the biggest emerging risks in pharma projects?
- How can AI and data analytics enhance risk mitigation strategies?
- What governance structures best support risk-based decision-making?
- How do you balance innovation with risk-taking in a regulated environment?

Moderator: Deepak Veeraraghavan, Partner, Blue Matter

Mark Zhang, Senior Director, Head of Global Program Management Oncology II, EMD Serono

Wei Sylvia Zheng, Executive Director, Strategy & Program Management, MediLink Therapeutics

Kelvin Roddy, Senior Director, Global Program & Portfolio Management, Alexion Pharmaceuticals

1:00 PM LUNCH BREAK

BEYOND THE BUZZ: WHERE AI MEETS REAL-WORLD PROJECT EXECUTION

2:00 PM

FIRESIDE CHAT: AI & AUTOMATION IN PHARMA PPM: GAME-CHANGER OR JUST ANOTHER TOOL?

- Where AI is actually making an impact vs. just hype.
- Can AI truly replace human judgment in decision-making?
- Ethical, operational, and strategic considerations for AI adoption.

Chris Knight, Director, Program Management, Formation Bio

Stephen Cho, Founder and President, SSC Strategic Advisors LLC.

2:30 PM

CASE STUDY: LEADING THE HUMAN SIDE OF AI: OCM STRATEGIES FOR PHARMA R&D

AI is rapidly transforming pharmaceutical R&D, but many initiatives fail—not due to poor technology, but due to lack of adoption. Traditional change management approaches fall short in AI settings, where uncertainty, trust gaps, and role ambiguity dominate. This session explores a pharma-specific organizational change management (OCM) framework tailored for AI initiatives, offering practical tools from strategy through implementation. Attendees will learn how to address AI's unique adoption challenges, build scientific trust, avoid common pitfalls, and bridge the gap between data science and R&D stakeholders—ensuring that AI delivers impact, not resistance.

Emily Anderson, Client Engagement Partner – Global Life Sciences Lead, Turnberry Solutions

Mckinna Teske, Senior Consultant – Business Transformation, Turnberry Solutions

3:00 PM

PANEL DISCUSSION: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN PPM

🔦 **Theme:** The impact of AI on project and portfolio management.

🔦 Discussion Points:

- How is AI transforming risk forecasting and resource planning?
- What are the challenges in AI adoption for PPM?

- How can AI-driven automation improve decision-making speed and accuracy?
- What ethical and regulatory considerations should pharma companies keep in mind?

Moderation: Darshan Shah, Executive Director, Global Program Management, Incyte

Tania Bojanowski, I&I & DCVM Project Management Development Head, Sanofi

Mark Zhang, Senior Director, Head of Global Program Management Oncology II, EMD Serono

Saleha Amin, Senior Staff Program Manager, Insulet Corporation

Chris Knight, Director, Program Management, Formation Bio

Yashvika Khurana, Product & Solutions Lead, Atlas

3:30 PM NETWORKING BREAK

4:00 PM AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Each delegate can choose to attend one 60 minute “Workshop” and then a 30 minute “Think Tank” discussion.

WORKSHOPS: PM SKILLS TOOLKIT: ESSENTIAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT SKILLS FOR PHARMA MANAGERS

This workshop series is designed to help pharma project managers enhance their core competencies, ensuring they can navigate challenges, manage stakeholders, and drive projects to successful completion.

1. MASTERING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & CROSS-FUNCTIONAL COLLABORATION

🎯 **Best for:** PMs dealing with complex stakeholder environments across business units and external partners.

- Identifying key stakeholders and mapping their influence in projects.
- Best practices for communication and alignment between cross-functional teams.
- Managing conflicts and expectations in a highly regulated environment.

Case Study: Successful stakeholder engagement in a new compliance software.

Monika Campbell, Director, IT Project & Portfolio Management, Karl Storz

2. ADVANCED PORTFOLIO RISK ANALYSIS & RISK MANAGEMENT

🎯 **Best for:** portfolio managers tasked with quantifying risk and providing strategic alternatives to portfolio risk diversification

- The Long Range Growth Plan (LRP) – On what basis is it created?
- The base business of marketed products – What's the likelihood of attaining growth targets?
- The pipeline of projects – How risky is it and how can you change your risk profile?
- **Case Study:** Applying simulation to quantify the risk profile of the portfolio of products and pipeline projects.

Dr. Richard M. Bayney, President & Founder, Project & Portfolio Value Creation

3. BUILDING & LEADING HIGH-PERFORMING TEAMS IN PHARMA PROJECT MANAGEMENT

🎯 **Best for:** PMs or other roles who find themselves in a position to help promote and transform team dynamics to enhance ultimate team performance while promoting a healthy work environment

- Each team member has a unique role, perspective, and strengths - explore how a high functioning team promotes & enhances each person's contributions to see real results

- Explore scenarios and determine how each team member's individuality can either thrive or suffer to achieve a team goal
- Human Motivation, Emotional Intelligence and More... Open Discussion with many examples and games to bring back to your own teams!

Amy Cartaya, Director, Global Program & Portfolio Management, Alexion Pharmaceuticals

4. THE FUTURE OF PHARMA PROJECT MANAGEMENT: DIGITAL & AI-DRIVEN APPROACHES

- **Best for:** PMs leading high-performing, globally connected teams undergoing digital transformation.
- AI and digital tools are driving real-time collaboration and performance across global pharma project teams.
- Automation streamlines project tracking, reporting, and decision-making, accelerating teams velocity.
- Remote teams leverage digital platforms for seamless stakeholder engagement and cross-border execution.
- **Case Study:** Digital project management tools in pharma commercialization boosts team productivity and global coordination.

Chris Warner, PhD, MBA, PMP, Associate Director of Global Commercial Project Management, Gilead Sciences

5. LIFE SCIENCES STRATEGY TO EXECUTION: ALIGNING INTEGRATED PROGRAM PLANS WITH GOALS

- **Best for:** Program and Portfolio Management, R&D, Tech Ops, CMC, Clinical Development, Regulatory, and Commercial teams

This workshop outlines a focused approach for aligning strategic goals with integrated program plans in the life sciences industry. As organizations navigate complex product pipelines, regulatory pathways, and cross-functional dependencies, the ability to connect high-level objectives with coordinated execution becomes critical.

By leveraging integrated planning across R&D, CMC, Regulatory, and Commercial functions, life sciences companies can improve visibility, reduce risk, and accelerate time to market. This strategy-to-execution framework promotes alignment, accountability, and real-time adaptability, enabling teams to deliver on strategic imperatives while maintaining compliance and operational excellence.

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

Robert Happy, Managing Director, Life Sciences, OnePlan Solutions

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT WORKSHOP?

Your Challenge / Interest

Choose the workshop that best fits your needs!

? WANT TO ENHANCE YOUR STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS?

Recommended Workshop

MASTERING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & CROSS-FUNCTIONAL COLLABORATION

? STRUGGLING WITH RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS, TIMELINES, AND PROJECT RISKS?

Recommended Workshop

ADVANCED PORTFOLIO RISK ANALYSIS & RISK MANAGEMENT

? NEED TO IMPROVE TEAM LEADERSHIP AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT?

Recommended Workshop

LEADING HIGH-PERFORMING TEAMS IN PHARMA PROJECT MANAGEMENT

? WANT TO STAY AHEAD BY LEVERAGING DIGITAL TOOLS AND AI IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT?

Recommended Workshop

THE FUTURE OF PHARMA PROJECT MANAGEMENT: DIGITAL & AI-DRIVEN APPROACHES

? STRUGGLING TO ALIGN INTEGRATED PROGRAM PLANS WITH STRATEGIC GOALS?

Recommended Workshop

STRATEGY TO EXECUTION: ALIGNING INTEGRATED PROGRAM PLANS WITH GOALS

5:00 PM

PPM CHALLENGE THINK TANK DISCUSSIONS (30 MIN):

- Practical, solution-focused discussions—no generic theory, only real-world applications.
- Engage with peers facing similar challenges—learn from their experiences.
- Walk away with actionable strategies, toolkits, and best practices.

1. PPM CHALLENGE THINK TANK: BREAKING THE DECISION BOTTLENECK

Focus:

- Why decision-making delays happen in pharma projects.
- Governance models that accelerate approvals.
- Tools and frameworks for structured, faster decision-making.

🔦 Discussion Points:

- How to eliminate bottlenecks in governance forums.
- Effective escalation paths and decision-tracking tools.
- Case studies of pharma companies that improved decision speed.
- 🔑 **Key Outcome:** Participants leave with actionable strategies to streamline decision processes in their organizations.

Andrea Chen, Executive Director, Head of Program Management, **Cour Pharma**

2. PPM CHALLENGE THINK TANK: DELIVERING PORTFOLIO VALUE WITH VELOCITY: HOW LEADERS ACCELERATE IMPACT AND OPTIMIZE OUTCOMES

🎯 Focus:

- How to advance cross-functional decision-making through Integrated Business Process with the support of GenAI-enabled tools

🔦 Discussion Points:

- Where do decisions stall or lose clarity, and what is the quantifiable impact on cycle time, cost, and rework?
- How can authoritative data sources, a single source of truth, and integrity checks boost process reliability and eliminate jargon-driven misunderstandings?
- How do you define and measure decision quality—framing alternatives, criteria, assumptions, and risk?
- What are the highest-impact AI use cases to implement in the next 12–18 months?
- Which guardrails will protect your process and which constraints must be challenged to unlock speed and value?
- 🔑 **Key Outcome:** Actionable insights empowering teams to make decisions faster and deliver measurable business value.

Biren Mistry, Director of Business Process Execution, **BMS**

3. PPM CHALLENGE THINK TANK: CROSS-FUNCTIONAL COLLABORATION IN PHARMA PPM

🎯 Focus:

- Breaking silos between R&D, clinical, regulatory, and commercial teams.
- Managing cross-functional dependencies in pharma projects.
- Improving communication flows to align teams effectively.

🔦 Discussion Points:

- Common challenges in collaboration across departments.
- Success stories of cross-functional alignment in pharma.
- Best practices for setting up collaborative governance structures.
- 🔑 **Key Outcome:** Attendees will gain practical strategies to improve collaboration and information sharing.

Kristin Robbins, Vice President, Program & Portfolio Management, **Normunity**

4. PPM CHALLENGE THINK TANK: RESOURCE & CAPACITY PLANNING IN COMPLEX PORTFOLIOS

🎯 Focus:

- How to avoid team overload and burnout while keeping projects on track.
- Tools for capacity planning and resource optimization.
- Aligning portfolio execution with real-world constraints.

🔦 Discussion Points:

- How do you ensure the right people are working on the right projects?
- Capacity planning tools that help forecast resource gaps.
- Balancing flexibility vs. structured resource allocation.
- 🔑 **Key Outcome:** Participants will take away resource management frameworks that prevent overloading and inefficiency.

Brandie Jonas, Executive Director, Program and Project Management, **Geron Corporation**

5. PPM CHALLENGE THINK TANK: PROACTIVE RISK MANAGEMENT IN PHARMA PROJECTS

🎯 Focus:

- Identifying risks early to prevent project failures.
- Risk-mitigation strategies tailored for pharma projects.
- How AI & analytics can improve risk forecasting.

🔦 Discussion Points:

- What risk assessment tools are most effective in pharma?
- Best practices for scenario planning and contingency strategies.
- Real-world examples of successful risk mitigation in pharma portfolios.
- 🔑 **Key Outcome:** Attendees will leave with ready-to-use risk management strategies for their projects.

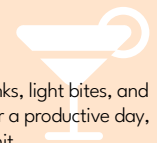
Ivan Kugener, Vice President, Head of Global Portfolio Management, Valuation & Analytics, **EMD Serono**

Mark Zhang, Senior Director, Head of Global Program Management Oncology II, **EMD Serono**

5:30 – 6:30 PM EVENING NETWORKING PROGRAM

WHY SUMMITS COCKTAIL PARTY

Close out Day 2 in style at Why Summits' exclusive cocktail reception. Enjoy handcrafted drinks, light bites, and relaxed conversations with peers and fellow industry leaders. It's a great way to unwind after a productive day, reflect on key takeaways, and build meaningful connections before the final day of the summit.



8:00 AM REGISTRATION OPEN & WELCOME COFFEE

FROM BOTTLENECKS TO BREAKTHROUGHS: SMARTER RESOURCE ALLOCATION IN PPM

8:30 AM

KEYNOTE: HOW FAST DOES YOUR ORGANIZATION GROW DRUG HUNTERS?

If unfamiliar with the term Drug Hunter – this isn't about finding external innovation, it's about being recognized as a top-notch Drug Discovery and/or Development professional. Today, everything is moving faster and PM professionals are being asked to deploy new technologies, take on new modalities, manage new types of partnerships and it doesn't end there.

How are you MAKING or TAKING time with yourself AND your team to help them improve their game? What are some identified best practices to help speed up learning this business? This stuff is usually not considered urgent, but it is really important – thus placing this kind of activity into the Stephen Covey quadrant deemed to be one of the key habits of how Highly Effective People divide their attentions!

Michael Myers, Associate Professor, Dept. of Clinical Pharmacology, Indiana University School of Medicine

9:00 AM

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, Vice President of Account Enablement, Rego Consulting

9:30 AM

PANEL DISCUSSION: RESOURCE MANAGEMENT & OPTIMIZATION

🎯 **Theme:** Allocating resources effectively across complex pharma portfolios.

💡 Discussion Points:

- What are the biggest challenges in resource allocation?
- How do organizations balance strategic projects with limited resources?
- What tools and frameworks help forecast and optimize resource demand?
- How can AI-driven resource planning improve productivity and reduce bottlenecks?

Christopher Buder, Vice President, Portfolio Strategy, Cardinal Health

Stuart Fort, Senior Director, PPM Operations & Business Planning, Eli Lilly

Jake Winkler, Associate Vice President, Emendo Consulting Group

10:00 AM NETWORKING BREAK

POWERING PPM: BUILDING SKILLS, CULTURE & CAPACITY FOR THE FUTURE

10:30 AM

KEYNOTE: HOW TO BE A COO OF YOUR PROJECT: THERE'S A REASON THE WORD "MANAGEMENT" OCCURS IN "PROJECT MANAGEMENT"

At GSK, we expect Project/Program Managers to act as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of their drug development program. For those who've never been a COO or have no education in business management, how do we do this? What is "managing" when PMs have no hierarchical authority? How do we "manage" when the team is comprised of knowledge workers? Peter Drucker has some advice...

Kathi Breen, Director, Pipeline Program Management - Early Development, GSK

11:00 AM

CASE STUDY: LESSONS FROM THE TRANSFORMATION OF TECH PRODUCT MANAGEMENT FOR BIOPHARMA PMS

There's widespread speculation about how AI will transform biopharma PPM, but the tech industry has already made this shift. A decade ago, technology product management required many supporting roles, such as scrum masters coordinating sprints, QA engineers manually testing releases, and user researchers synthesizing interviews. These roles have largely disappeared over the last few years as better software organized work and AI automated synthesis and analysis. Biopharma program managers now face the same transformation: shifting from spending 80% of their time reading reports, writing updates, and reconciling budgets to orchestrating AI agents that do this work while they focus on driving strategic decisions and managing stakeholders.

Ashoka Rajendra, CEO, Orchestra

11:30 AM

PANEL DISCUSSION: BUILDING INTERNAL CAPABILITIES

🎯 **Theme:** Developing the right skills and structures to support effective PPM.

💡 Discussion Points:

- What core competencies should pharma project managers develop?
- How do you build a culture of continuous learning and innovation?
- What role do mentorship and leadership development play in capability building?
- How can organizations future-proof their PPM teams for evolving challenges?

Moderation: **Darshan Shah**, Executive Director, Global Program Management, Incyte

Christopher Buder, Vice President, Portfolio Strategy, Cardinal Health

Tarun Walia, Senior Director & Head, Decision Science, Novo Nordisk

Brandie Jonas, Executive Director, Program and Project Management, Geron Corporation

Ranjani Hild, Head, Global Program Management, Oncology, Novartis

12:00 PM LUNCH BREAK

1:00 PM AFTERNOON BREAK OUT SESSIONS

PM METHODOLOGIES TOOLKIT WORKSHOPS: MASTERING PROJECT MANAGEMENT METHODOLOGIES IN PHARMA (60 MIN)

This workshop series will explore five key project management methodologies, providing pharma project managers with practical insights, real-world applications, and tools to choose the right approach for their projects.

1. AGILE & SCRUM IN PHARMA: DRIVING INNOVATION & ADAPTABILITY

- **Best for:** PMs working on fast-moving, iterative projects like digital transformation, AI adoption, or data-driven initiatives.
- Understanding Agile principles and how they apply to pharma project management.
- Using Scrum frameworks for sprint-based project execution.
- How Agile accelerates decision-making while maintaining compliance.
- **Case Study:** Implementing agile in a pharma digital transformation project.

Vinod Nair, Director, Strategy & Program Management, Innovation Lab, Novartis

2. MASTERING PI PLANNING WITH THE SAFE® FRAMEWORK

Program Increment (PI) Planning is a high-energy, cadence-driven event that brings together the entire Agile Release Train (ART) to align teams, stakeholders, and leadership around a shared mission and vision. It's where strategy meets execution!

- **Best for:** PMs/RTEs to who want to learn about backlog refinement, capacity planning, dependency mapping
- Dive deep into backlog refinement and capacity planning
- Map out dependencies and identify risks early
- Boost predictability with sprint metrics that drive realistic timelines
- Achieve cross-functional alignment on business goals and strategic objectives
- **Case Study:** Explore how a cross-functional MedTech organization successfully executed PI Planning to drive innovation, improve delivery timelines, and align diverse teams under one strategic vision.

Saleha Amin, Senior Staff Program Manager, Insulet Corporation

3. LEAN & SIX SIGMA FOR PHARMA PROJECT EXCELLENCE

- **Best for:** PMs looking to reduce inefficiencies, optimize resources, and improve quality in pharma operations.
- Understanding Lean principles and Six Sigma's DMAIC framework.
- Identifying and eliminating bottlenecks in pharma project workflows.
- How Six Sigma improves quality control and regulatory compliance.
- **Case Study:** Applying Lean & Six Sigma to streamline pharmaceutical manufacturing.

Marianne Svenningsen, Senior Consultant, Emendo Consulting Group

4. CRITICAL CHAIN & PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT: MANAGING COMPLEXITY IN PROJECTS

- **Best for:** PMs handling large-scale, high-risk projects with multiple dependencies, such as global software implementations.
- What is Critical Chain Project Management (CCPM) and how does it differ from traditional methods?
- Identifying and managing project bottlenecks and constraints.

- Integrating portfolio management for better resource distribution and strategic alignment.
- **Case Study:** A company's approach to managing a global product portfolio using Critical Chain methodology.

Monika Campbell, Director, IT Project & Portfolio Management, Karl Storz

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT WORKSHOP?

Your Challenge / Interest

Choose the workshop that best fits your needs!

? MANAGING FAST-MOVING, ITERATIVE PROJECTS (E.G., DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, AI INTEGRATION)?

Recommended Workshop:

AGILE & SCRUM IN PHARMA: DRIVING INNOVATION & ADAPTABILITY

? BALANCING FLEXIBILITY AND STRUCTURE WHILE MANAGING MULTIPLE PROJECT STREAMS?

Recommended Workshop:

HYBRID PROJECT MANAGEMENT: COMBINING AGILE & WATERFALL FOR PHARMA SUCCESS

? NEED TO OPTIMIZE RESOURCES AND ELIMINATE INEFFICIENCIES IN DEVELOPMENT OR MANUFACTURING?

Recommended Workshop:

LEAN & SIX SIGMA FOR PHARMA PROJECT EXCELLENCE

? MANAGING LARGE-SCALE, COMPLEX PROJECTS WITH INTERDEPENDENT TEAMS AND MULTIPLE STAKEHOLDERS?

Recommended Workshop:

CRITICAL CHAIN & PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT: MANAGING COMPLEXITY IN PROJECTS

2:00 PM

WORKSHOP SERIES: OPTIMIZING GOVERNANCE & DECISION-MAKING

1. WORKSHOP: IMPLEMENTING EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE FORUMS IN PHARMA

🎯 **Objective:** Learn how to design and implement governance forums that streamline decision-making, improve cross-functional collaboration, and accelerate project execution in pharma.

🔑 **Key Topics:**

- Why governance forums matter in pharma project management.
- Building an effective governance structure (decision-making authority, escalation paths).
- Best practices for implementation (meeting structure, data dashboards, KPIs).
- Overcoming challenges (resistance, flexibility, continuous improvement).

🎯 **Key Takeaways:**

- Ready-to-use governance templates.
- Strategies for faster decision-making & alignment.
- Tools for tracking governance effectiveness. How to Choose the Right Workshop?

Andrea Chen, Executive Director, Head of Program Management, **Cour Pharma**

2. WORKSHOP: CREATIVITY AND CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING

Creativity and creative problem solving consists of tools and habits that help you and your team become more creative. During this session, you will learn simple tricks and methods to encourage a more creative work environment. Learn how to better structure effective team meetings, workshops, and all-inclusive ideation sessions. These approaches will help you look at solving problems in a new creative way. You may even learn about some great work habits to boost your career!

Jacob Cancelliere, Vice President of Account Enablement, **Rego Consulting**

3:00 PM NETWORKING BREAK

3:30 PM

FINAL SESSION: PPM CHALLENGE THINK TANK – TURNING INSIGHTS INTO ACTION

Join this highly interactive closing session designed to transform conference insights into practical outcomes. In small, facilitated groups, participants will reflect on key learnings, share real-world challenges, and collaborate on actionable strategies to drive improvement in PPM practices. The session culminates with group highlights and a collective summary of emerging themes, ensuring every participant leaves with clear next steps, fresh perspectives, and valuable new connections.

Moderator: Michael Myers, Associate Professor, Dept. of Clinical Pharmacology, **Indiana University School of Medicine**

4:30 PM 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** 3 – 4 April, BASEL
29th European Biopharma Project Program and Portfolio Management Conference
- 3** 9 – 10 April, CHICAGO
2nd American Medical Device Project & Portfolio Management Conference
- 4** 15 – 16 April, PHILADELPHIA
24th American Pharma and Biotech Project, Program and Portfolio Management Conference
- 5** 14 – 15 May, LONDON
European Strategic Portfolio Management in Life Sciences
- 6** 3 – 4 June, COPENHAGEN
Biopharma PPM in Clinical Research and Development Summit Edition
- 7** 11 – 12 June, BERLIN
2nd European MedTech Summit 2025 – Medical Device Project & Portfolio Management Conference
- 8** 11 – 12 June, SAN FRANCISCO
25th American Pharma and Biotech Project, Program and Portfolio Management Conference
- 9** 5 – 6 August, SINGAPORE
Asian Pharma and Biotech Project, Program and Portfolio Management Conference
- 10** 3 – 4 September, MELBOURNE
Pharma and Biotech Project, Program and Portfolio Management Conference
- 11** 10 – 11 September, MUMBAI
3rd Strategic Project, Program and Portfolio Management Conference for Pharmaceuticals
- 12** 7 – 9 October, BASEL
30th European Pharma and Biotech Project, Program and Portfolio Management Conference
- 13** 15 – 17 October, BOSTON
26th American Pharma and Biotech Project, Program and Portfolio Management Conference
- 14** 19 – 20 November, LONDON
31st European Pharma and Biotech Project, Program and Portfolio Management Conference
- 15** 9 – 11 December, LAS VEGAS
2nd Annual American Projects & Portfolio Leadership Summit

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CONTACT US



GENERAL INQUIRIES:



Liza Zhaivoronok

Vice President, PPM World Tour
liza.zhaivoronok@whysummits.com

SPEAKING:



Kristina Sestaková

Conference Producer
kristina.sestakova@whysummits.com

ATTENDING AND SPONSORING:



Srihari Kamban

Sponsorship Director
shk@whysummits.com



Lubos Kusy

Director of PPM & PV Projects
lubos@whysummits.com

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