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April 1 - 2, 2026



Chicago, USA



MEDTECH SUMMIT CHICAGO 2026

3rd American MedTech Summit

Gold Sponsors:



PPM WORLD TOUR 2026



THE PPM SUMMIT CHICAGO 2026



WHY DID WE CREATE THE PPM MEDTECH SUMMIT CHICAGO 2026?

MedTech is evolving faster than ever but portfolio decisions are only getting tougher. With rapid innovation, tighter timelines, and rising regulatory pressure, it's no longer just about managing projects, it's about building **strategic, adaptable portfolios** that deliver value and stay compliant.

*That's why we created the **PPM Summit Chicago 2026**, a focused, two-day event to help you:*

The MedTech industry is evolving faster than ever, yet portfolio decisions are only getting harder. Innovation is surging across digital health, diagnostics, and therapeutics. At the same time, leaders face shrinking timelines, global regulatory fragmentation, constrained resources, and escalating risk.

- **Evolve governance to manage** complexity and change
- **Embed strategy into execution** with dynamic models
- **Accelerate decisions** through agile, data-driven practices
- **Balance risk and innovation** across global portfolios
- **Leverage AI & automation** responsibly and effectively
- **Build resilient portfolios** ready for disruption

Through **case studies, workshops, and executive roundtables**, you'll gain practical tools and frameworks that leading MedTech organizations use today to drive **portfolio maturity and enterprise growth**.

Conference Format

- Visionary Keynotes
- Best Practice Case Studies
- Expert Panel Discussions
- Interactive Workshops and Roundtables
- Networking For Lasting Business Friendship
- Fun and Icebreaking social events every evening

Who should attend?

Why Summits invites **PMOs and C-Level Executives, EVPs, SVPs, VPs, Directors, Heads, and Senior Executives** responsible for:

Roles Invited:

- Project / Program / Portfolio Management (PMO)
- R&D Strategy & Innovation
- Digital Transformation
- Risk & Compliance
- Regulatory Affairs
- Operations & Resource Management
- Enterprise Strategy
- Supply Chain Management

DEAR COLLEAGUE:



Portfolio leaders are no longer behind the scenes.

In 2026, they are the architects of innovation, the stewards of risk, and the strategic engine behind every MedTech breakthrough. As the MedTech ecosystem becomes faster, riskier, and more interconnected, managing projects is no longer enough. You must **go beyond execution and become the bridge between vision and reality**, balancing speed with compliance, innovation with risk, and strategy with capacity.

That's exactly why we built the **3rd American MedTech Summit** in Chicago. It's a **blueprint for decision-makers** navigating the next era of MedTech.

Here's what you can expect:

- Engage in expert-led **panels, case studies, and interactive roundtables**
- Explore **data-driven strategies** for real-time portfolio monitoring and prioritization
- Learn how to integrate **AI, automation, and digital feedback loops** into decision-making
- Understand how to build **resilient portfolios** that absorb disruption and adapt quickly
- Network with **executives, strategists, and portfolio leaders** from across the MedTech ecosystem

Whether you're rethinking governance, managing global capacity conflicts, or navigating regulatory fragmentation, you belong in the room.

Join us in Chicago to connect with peers and pioneers, challenge outdated models, and shape the future of how MedTech portfolios are built, governed, and delivered.

Let's turn complexity into clarity.

Let's build portfolios that lead markets, not just follow mandates.

See you in Chicago.

The Why Summits Team

Focus Areas:

- Project / Program / Portfolio Management (PMO)
- Agile & Lean Transformation in R&D
- Digital Transformation & AI in Portfolio Management
- Enterprise Risk, Resilience & Adaptability
- Cross-Business Synergy & Resource Optimization
- Digital Health & Ecosystem Collaboration
- Global Regulatory & Compliance Integration
- Strategic Portfolio Governance & Alignment
- Continuous Improvement & Capability Maturation
- Compliance, Regulation & Global Portfolio Coordination

Key Topics Covered

- Strategic Governance in Complex Ecosystems
- From Vision to Execution
- Data-Driven Decision-Making
- AI and Automation in PPM
- Portfolio Risk & Resilience
- Agile & Lean Portfolio Management
- Cross-Business & Global Coordination
- Continuous Portfolio Improvement

Why Attend?

- Gain Tools for Real-Time Portfolio Visibility
- Drive Strategy into Execution
- Build Portfolio Resilience
- Network with Cross-Functional Experts
- Learn from Real-World Case Studies
- Stay Ahead of Regulatory Complexity
- Accelerate Decision Velocity

TESTIMONIALS



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 !!



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



Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in front of this specialized PPM audience within the broader context of PLM.



Raffaele Marranzini
CEO
Platflow



It was a real pleasure being part of this great event.



Blerim Shkodra
Sr Director Capital Procurement
& Category Leader
Lonza



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.



Dave Penndorf
PPM Advisor
Groundswell Pharma Consulting, LLC.



A big bravo to the Why Summit Team for organizing the great conference. Excellent speakers, fantastic attendee!



Bhaskar V. Sathaye
Lead Project Engineer
The Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies
of Johnson & Johnson



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.



Emmanuel Happe
Senior Leader | Global Director
Lonza



It was a very transparent discussion on Agile, waterfall and hybrid methodologies. I have fully enjoyed participating in this panel!



Mugunthan Maheswaran
Sr Project Manager, Technology,
Digital & Operational Excellence
Roche



We were proud to be Sponsors for the 31st European Life Sciences Project & Portfolio Management Conference in London. Two really energising days of learning and connection. Huge thanks to Why Summits for such a well-run event. The presentations, panels and workshops sparked great conversations around portfolio strategy, governance, risk and innovation across the sector. Most of all, it was fantastic to reconnect with familiar faces and meet new Life Sciences leaders who share the same passion for PPM.



Merryn Horneman
Life Sciences Delivery Partner
Mi-GSO-PCUBED



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!!



David Swift
Senior Procurement Leader
Lonza



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.



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



Very good and engaging discussion! Thanks Why Summits for being part of the panel



Christophe De Vleeschouwer
Director, Pipeline Project Management
GSK Vaccines

INDUSTRY PIONEERS ATTENDING FROM



GSK Pfizer Lilly MERCK Roche 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

OUR SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS



Jenifer Christensen

Vice President, Strategic Initiatives

AbbVie



Noel Sobelman

Partner

Accel Management Group



Tim Rumbaugh

Vice President, Program Management

Edwards Lifesciences



Gianluca Puliti

Associate Director, R&D Program Excellence

BD



Carlo Legge

E2E Portfolio Management Platform Lead

DePuy Synthes, Johnson & Johnson



Mitesh Sheth

NPI Manufacturing and Supplier Engineering Leader

Procept BioRobotics



Christian Hasselberg

Senior Delivery Leader

Elekta



Vikas Singh

Sr Manager Business Transformation

Boston Scientific

IN THE CHAIR



Sandeep Adasseri

Business PMO Leader - Oral Healthcare

Philips



Sandeep Dhar

Senior Director- Center Global Category Management Leader

Johnson & Johnson



Neeta Mhatre

Vice President, Asia Commercial Operations & China Strategy

Intuitive

OUR SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS



Katherine Olig
Vice President, Program Management
Boston Scientific



Sean Holmes
Director Program Management Office
Medtronic



Michael Seelig
Senior Consultant
Insulet



Pawan Kumar
Senior Program Manager, Integration and Strategic Outputs
Summit Therapeutics



Carrie Nauyalis
Executive in Residence
Planview



Aimee Rodrigues
VP of Life Sciences PPM
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Moussa Gherbi
Account Director
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Matt Hinchliffe
Account Director
Planisware



Matthew Palicki
Principal Solution Engineer
Rego Consulting



Jim Hartman
Director, Portfolio Management
LivaNova



Parashakthi Natarajan
Senior Program Manager
Abbott

CONFERENCE AGENDA

DAY 0

6:00pm  **Meet & Greet**

Get a head start on networking!

Join us for an informal **Meet & Greet** the evening before the conference officially begins. Pick up your badge and connect with fellow attendees, speakers, and partners in a relaxed setting.



DAY 1

8:00am  **Registration**

8:40am  **Chairman's Opening Address**

8:45am  **START WITH A WHY? ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

Meet Your Peers, Share Your Priorities, and Set Your Objectives

A short, structured icebreaker designed to help delegates connect early, promote networking, share challenges and priorities, and start the conference with more relevant conversations.

THE PPM IMPERATIVE IN MEDTECH PORTFOLIO STRATEGY

9:00am  **KEYNOTE**

Driving portfolio agility and strategic alignment in the digital medtech enterprise

Explore how leading MedTech firms are rethinking portfolio governance to keep pace with faster cycles, regulatory shifts, and digital transformation. This session will cover new organizational models, governance guardrails, decision forums, and portfolio investment prioritization through a PPM lens.

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

9:30am  **CASE STUDY**

From conflicting demands to clear direction: 10 tactical practices for medtech ppm

This session highlights ten practical, high-impact practices—backed by real-world experiences and results from industry leaders—that help MedTech teams boost their PPM performance across four pillars: strong execution fundamentals, data-driven feedback loops, clear strategic alignment, and readiness for decision-making. Attendees will gain a clear understanding of where they are today and the steps they can take next to advance their own PPM maturity.

Aimee Rodrigues, *VP of Life Sciences PPM, Planisware*

Matt Hinchliffe, *Account Director, Planisware*

10:00am  **PANEL DISCUSSION**

Embedding strategy into portfolio management

- How do organizations operationalize strategic priorities (e.g. digital health, home diagnostics) into scoring models?
- What role do decision forums (steering committees, investment boards) play in maintaining alignment?
- Where do trade-offs between technical novelty and market viability show up—and how are they resolved?

Moderator: Noel Sobelman, *Partner, Accel Management Group*

Panelists:

Tim Rumbaugh, *Vice President Program Management, Edwards Lifesciences*

Vikas Singh, *Sr Manager Business Transformation, Boston Scientific*

10:30am  **Networking break**

ACCELERATING DECISION VELOCITY IN MEDTECH PORTFOLIOS

11:00am  **KEYNOTE**

Strategic ppm as a catalyst for next-gen r&d operating models in medtech

This session presents strategic portfolio and project management can transform MedTech R&D pipelines, enabling faster decision-making, enhanced alignment with corporate strategy, and more agile, data-driven innovation.

Sean Holmes, *Director Program Management Office, Medtronic*

11:30am  **THOUGHT LEADERSHIP**

Capacity planning: the fastest path to improving time-to-market

Time-to-market challenges rarely stem from weak ideas. They result from invisible capacity constraints, misaligned priorities, and overcommitted teams that slow execution and delay product roadmap delivery.

- Aligning products, capacity, and priorities in a single view to increase project throughput (without burnout)

- Making portfolio dependencies and trade-offs visible to avoid late-stage surprises and missed launches
- Real-world portfolio examples and AI-driven optimization demonstrating measurable time-to-market improvements through resource optimization

Carrie Nauyalis, Executive in Residence, **Planview**

12:00pm PANEL DISCUSSION

Driving portfolio success with ppm solutions: from adoption to future ai-enabled decision automation

- What types of decisions can safely be automated in regulated environments?
- How can humans and algorithms co-pilot portfolio choices?
- What validation and audit requirements must be enforced when AI is used in PPM?

Moderator: Katherine Olig, Vice President, Program Management, **Boston Scientific**

Panelists:

Christian Hasselberg, Senior Delivery Leader, **Elekta**

Michael Seeling, Senior Consultant, **Insulet**

Moussa Gherbi, Account Director, **Planisware**

12:30pm Lunch Break

ENTERPRISE RISK, SYNERGY & CAPACITY

1:30pm KEYNOTE

Next-Gen PPM: Aligning Initiatives and Performance Across Portfolios

This session focuses on how strategic PPM can connect initiatives with organizational priorities to strengthen enterprise performance. Attendees will learn approaches for improving collaboration, balancing capacity and priorities, and supporting effective decision-making across complex portfolios.

Michael Seelig, Senior Consultant, **Insulet**

2:00pm RESERVED PRESENTATION

Top project portfolio management (ppm) trends for 2026

An overview of the key trends shaping Project Portfolio Management in 2026, including AI-driven insights, predictive analytics, and smarter resource optimization. This session will highlight how MedTech organizations are leveraging modern PPM tools and data-driven strategies to improve portfolio visibility, accelerate innovation, and align projects with business priorities.

Matthew Palicki, Principal Solution Engineer, **Rego Consulting**

2:30pm PANEL DISCUSSION

Optimizing resources and building resilient supply chains across medtech portfolios

- How to manage scarce talent (clinical, regulatory, software) across competing programs?
- What practices drive dynamic resource rebalancing (e.g. quarterly vs continuous)?
- How to build a “floating bench” culture without derailing accountability?

Moderator: Mitesh Sheth, NPI Manufacturing and Supplier Engineering Leader, **Procept BioRobotics**

Panelists:

Parashakthi Natarajan, Senior Program Manager, **Abbott**

Pawan Kumar, Senior Program Manager, Integration and Strategic Outputs, **Summit Therapeutics**

3:00pm Networking Break

3:30pm KEYNOTE

Overcoming cultural barriers to ppm success

This session explores how organizational culture can impact portfolio and project management success. Attendees will learn strategies to address resistance, foster collaboration, and embed a performance-driven mindset that aligns teams with strategic priorities.

Noel Sobelman, Partner, **Accel Management Group**

4:00pm KEYNOTE

Winning with change: how a change-first mindset secured and scaled a portfolio & project management solution across global r&d divisions

What if the success of your PPM program is decided before the program is even approved?

In this session, Boston Scientific shares how a change-first approach played a critical role in funding and enabling an enterprise-wide Portfolio & Project Management solution implementation across all its R&D divisions. Rather than treating change management as a post-approval activity, the team used it early to shape stakeholder expectations, surface impacts, and build confidence in the value of the PPM investment.

Katherine Olig, Vice President Program Management, **Boston Scientific**

4:30pm ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS

ROUNDTABLE A: Embedding strategy in portfolio management: people, process, and culture

Noel Sobelman, Partner, **Accel Management Group**

ROUNDTABLE B: Building global pmo capability for the next-gen medtech portfolios

Michael Seelig, Senior Consultant, **Insulet**

ROUNDTABLE C: Regulatory shock scenarios — prepare your portfolios for sudden rule changes

Mitesh Sheth, NPI Manufacturing and Supplier Engineering Leader, **Procept**

5:20pm Closing day 1

5:30pm Networking Cocktail Session

FROM VISION TO EXECUTION IN A COMPLEX ECOSYSTEM

8:50am 🗣️ Opening remarks from chairperson

9:00am 🎤 KEYNOTE

MANAGING COMPLEXITY: DRIVING CROSS-FUNCTIONAL EXECUTION IN GLOBAL ECOSYSTEMS

This session focuses on how organizations align cross-functional teams to execute effectively within complex, global ecosystems. It highlights practical approaches to navigating interdependencies, improving coordination, and ensuring strategic priorities translate into consistent execution. Attendees will gain insights into driving clarity, accountability, and speed across diverse functions and geographies.

Jenifer Christensen, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, **AbbVie**

9:30am 🎤 KEYNOTE

Enhancing Governance & Decision-Making

Strategies to enhance governance and strengthen decision-making in the medtech industry, focusing on leveraging data, technology, and leadership insights to drive effective outcomes and mitigate risks.

Christian Hasselberg, Senior Delivery Leader, **Elekta**

10:00am 🗣️ PANEL DISCUSSION

Global portfolio management in a fragmented regulatory landscape

- How do you manage portfolios that span multiple regulatory regimes?
- What governance mechanisms ensure consistency without stifling territorial flexibility?
- How to anticipate and absorb regulatory uncertainty in investment decisions?

Moderator: Tim Rumbaugh, Vice President Program Management, **Edwards Lifesciences**

Panelists:

Carlo Legge, E2E Portfolio Management Platform Lead, **Johnson & Johnson**

Vikas Singh, Sr Manager Business Transformation, **Boston Scientific**

10:30am ☕ Networking break

RESOURCE OPTIMIZATION & PORTFOLIO BALANCE

11:00am 🎤 KEYNOTE

Turning early-stage innovation into portfolio value: governance, metrics, and strategic prioritization

How MedTech organizations can turn early-stage ideas into portfolio value through effective governance, clear metrics, and strategic prioritization. The session highlights practical ways to evaluate and guide innovations while aligning them with business goals and patient impact.

Jim Hartman, Director, Portfolio Management, **LivaNova**

11:30am 🗣️ INSIGHT TALK

Long-range portfolio planning in medtech: aligning strategy, capacity, and innovation

Learn how MedTech leaders translate long-term strategic goals into actionable portfolio decisions. Discover frameworks for aligning resources, prioritizing initiatives, and driving sustainable innovation across complex, multi-year portfolios. Real-world examples highlight best practices for maximizing portfolio value and growth.

Carlo Legge, E2E Portfolio Management Platform Lead, **Johnson & Johnson**

12:00pm 🗣️ PANEL DISCUSSION

Managing cross-functional dependencies and capacity conflicts

- How to negotiate resource contention between regulatory, design, clinical, R&D, supply chain and manufacturing functions
- What escalation paths exist when functional managers resist PPM prioritization
- How to embed flexibility (float, shared pools) in resource models

Moderator: Christian Hasselberg, Senior Delivery Leader, **Elekta**

Panelists:

Gianluca Puliti, Associate Director, R&D Program Excellence, **BD**

Vikas Singh, Sr Manager Business Transformation, **Boston Scientific**

Parashakthi Natarajan, Senior Program Manager, **Abbott**

12:40pm 🍴 Lunch Break

PORTFOLIO RISK & OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT

1:40pm 🎤 KEYNOTE

Progress management: building the tomorrow team for risk-ready portfolios

This session introduces Progress Management, a unified approach that blends Project, Process, Change, and Digital Transformation to close the gap between intention and results. It clarifies the distinct roles of "Today Teams" delivering current value and "Tomorrow Teams" building future-ready capability. Participants will explore the 10-phase Progress Model to strengthen adaptability, predictability, and long-term portfolio resilience.

Tim Rumbaugh, Vice President Program Management, **Edwards Lifesciences**

2:20pm 🗣️ INSIGHT DISCUSSION

Balancing risk and aggressive innovation

- When does risk tolerance need to change over portfolio phases?
- How to manage divergent stakeholder risk appetites (R&D vs QA vs finance)
- Strategies to hedge high-risk bets with safer programs

Speakers:

Noel Sobelman, Partner, **Accel Management Group**

Sean Holmes, Director Program Management Office, **Medtronic**

CONFERENCE AGENDA

DAY 2

3:00pm ☕ **Networking Break**

3:30pm ⚙️ **WORKSHOP**

Strategic resource management: aligning capacity to what matters most

Learn how MedTech organizations are prioritizing the right initiatives by aligning resource capacity with strategic business goals. This session will explore practical approaches to balancing demand, optimizing talent allocation, and improving visibility across portfolios. Discover how effective resource management enables teams to focus on high-value projects that drive innovation and business impact.

Matthew Palicki, *Principal Solution Engineer, Rego Consulting*

4:30pm 🗣️ **ROUNDTABLE INTERACTIVE SESSION**

Prioritizing medtech portfolios under constraints: What to Do Next

5:00pm 🙌 **Conference closing remarks**

OUR VALUED PARTNERS, PAST AND PRESENT



CONTACT US



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Make sure your brand is part of the conversation.

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