



# EVENT OVERVIEW



The **27<sup>th</sup> American Life Sciences Project, Program and Portfolio Management Conference** is the premier gathering for life sciences executives, portfolio leaders, and decision-makers in pharma, biotech, medtech, and diagnostics. As the American life sciences industry continues to evolve into a global leader in innovation, strategic portfolio management has never been more critical. This conference provides a deep dive into the latest trends, challenges, and best practices for optimizing portfolio performance, enhancing decision-making, and leveraging AI and digital transformation for business success.

Through insightful keynotes, case studies, panel discussions, and interactive roundtables, attendees will gain actionable strategies to drive innovation, balance risk, and execute high-impact portfolio decisions in an increasingly complex and competitive market.



# WHAT TO EXPECT?



## Key Topics:

### 📌 **Balancing Innovation, Risk, and Execution in Life Sciences Portfolios**

Discover how to navigate funding constraints and regulatory complexity while optimizing portfolio decision-making to drive growth and impact.

### 📌 **From Overloaded to Optimized – Smarter Portfolio Prioritization**

Learn how to master resource allocation, trade-offs, and scenario planning to maximize ROI and keep your projects on track in a competitive market.

### 📌 **AI & Advanced Analytics – The Future of Project & Portfolio Management**

Uncover how predictive modeling, real-time dashboards, and automation are transforming forecasting, risk assessment, and execution speed.

### 📌 **Agility in PPM – Balancing Flexibility with Compliance**

Explore how to implement hybrid and agile methodologies while ensuring regulatory adherence in an evolving pharma and biotech landscape.

### 📌 **Scaling PPM from Strategy to Execution**

Overcome execution bottlenecks and cross-functional misalignment to ensure seamless project delivery and business success.

## Key Features:

📌 **Expert-Led Keynotes:** Hear from top industry leaders on how to connect global portfolio vision with regional action, and how Project Portfolio Management (PPM) is driving drug access and advancing industry growth.

📌 **Interactive Panel Discussions:** Engage with experts in discussions on aligning global objectives with local realities, fostering collaboration within the PMO for seamless project delivery, and overcoming talent gaps in PPM.

📌 **Practical Case Studies:** Learn from leading companies on transforming big ideas into clinical development successes, delivering complex manufacturing projects, and tackling regional challenges in multi-program execution.

📌 **Actionable Sessions:** Participate in sessions focused on future-proofing your project and program with scenario planning, making portfolio decisions work locally through prioritization and trade-offs, and measuring success with KPIs that drive results.

📌 **Roundtable Discussions –** Join peer-driven, topic-focused roundtables designed to facilitate deeper conversations, exchange of best practices, and collaborative problem-solving on key challenges in pharma and biotech project, program, and portfolio management.

## Who Should Attend?

This event is designed for senior professionals and decision-makers in the life sciences industry, including:

- 📌 **Portfolio & Program Leaders** – Responsible for overseeing multiple projects and ensuring strategic alignment.
- 📌 **R&D Leaders** – Managing innovation pipelines and investment decisions.
- 📌 **Business & Corporate Strategy Executives** – Driving long-term growth through effective portfolio prioritization.
- 📌 **Regulatory & Compliance Professionals** – Navigating complex regulations while maintaining project agility.
- 📌 **AI, Data Science & IT Leaders** – Leveraging digital tools for predictive analytics and decision support.
- 📌 **Innovation & Digital Transformation Leaders** – Exploring AI, automation, and cutting-edge tools for PPM success.

## Why Attend?

Join the 27<sup>th</sup> American Life Sciences Project, Program and Portfolio Management Conference to gain cutting-edge insights, strategies, and connections that will help you navigate the evolving landscape of life sciences portfolio management.

- 📌 **Elevate Your Portfolio Strategy** – Learn how to align portfolio management with corporate growth objectives, ensuring both operational excellence and long-term strategic success.
- 📌 **Optimize Portfolio Decision-Making** – Master data-driven approaches to balancing innovation, risk, and investment priorities for maximum portfolio impact.
- 📌 **Leverage AI & Advanced Analytics** – Discover how AI-driven forecasting, predictive modeling, and real-time dashboards enhance portfolio visibility, efficiency, and decision-making.
- 📌 **Streamline Resource Allocation** – Learn how to align R&D, regulatory, and commercial priorities while managing financial and operational constraints.
- 📌 **Drive Digital Transformation** – Explore cutting-edge tools and technologies that improve scenario planning, project tracking, and risk assessment.
- 📌 **Enhance Execution & Agility** – Implement hybrid and agile methodologies to improve execution while ensuring compliance in highly regulated environments.
- 📌 **Improve Stakeholder Collaboration** – Break down silos and align cross-functional teams to foster a culture of transparency, efficiency, and innovation.
- 📌 **Future-Proof Portfolio Management** – Stay ahead of emerging trends in AI, automation, and digital transformation to ensure sustained portfolio success.
- 📌 **Expand Your Network** – Connect with industry peers, thought leaders, and decision-makers driving innovation in PPM, R&D, and corporate strategy.

# TESTIMONIALS



**Abhishek Mittal**  
(MBA, PMP®, IRMCert®, GRCP®)  
Vice President and Head - Project  
Management Office (PMO)  
Neuland Laboratories Limited



Had the pleasure of participating in a panel discussion today at '2nd Strategic Project, Program and Portfolio Management conference for Pharmaceuticals' organised by Why Summits on the critical role of internal stakeholders in driving project success. Grateful to have exchanged insights with industry leaders on how to build these connections and unlock potential from within. We continuously strive to implement these best practices at Neuland Laboratories Limited.



**Christophe De Vleeschouwer**  
Director, Pipeline Project  
Management  
GSK Vaccines



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



**David Swift**  
Senior Procurement Leader  
Lonza



Great discussions and insights from some of the best in the business.



**Blerim Shkodra**  
Sr Director Capital Procurement &  
Category Leader  
Lonza



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



**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.



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



Another great Why Summits conference in the books!



# PPM WORLD TOUR 2026



# INDUSTRY PIONEERS ATTENDING FROM



GSK

Pfizer

Lilly

MERCK

sanofi

AstraZeneca

Bristol Myers Squibb

Roche

NOVARTIS

abbvie

Boehringer Ingelheim

Johnson & Johnson

AMGEN

VERTEX

Genmab

GILEAD

Takeda

novo nordisk

illumina

BAYER

teva

Biogen

Daiichi-Sankyo

CSL

Otsuka

Adaptimmune

Mylan

astellas

VIATRIS

SANDOZ

BIONTECH

moderna

# OUR SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS



**Ashoka Rajendra**  
CEO  
**Orchestra**



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



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



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



**Florin Ungureanu**  
Senior Account Executive  
**OnePlan**



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



**Jennifer Lee**  
EVP, Clinical Operations and Quality Assurance  
**Novita Pharmaceuticals**



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



**Jonathan Cote**  
Director of Portfolio Value Improvement  
**BD**



**Le Dao, PMP**  
Director, Global Program Management, Strategic Operations  
**Kite Pharma, a Gilead Company**



**Madhavi Pokkuluri**  
Senior Director, Transformation Programs & Process Excellence  
**Honeywell**



**Magnus Ytterstad**  
Product Owner  
**Captario**



**Martin Brum**  
Director, Program Management  
**Illumina**

# OUR SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS



Planisware

**Matt Hinchliffe**

Account Director  
**Planisware**



Planisware

**Moussa Gherbi**

Account Director  
**Planisware**



ACCEL

**Noel Sobelman**

Partner  
**Accel Management Group**



PDWARE

**Phil Wolf**

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



OnePlan

**Phil Zack**

Executive Life Sciences Advisor  
**OnePlan**



AMGEN

**Riyesh Menon**

Head of Program Management  
**Amgen**



OnePlan

**Robert Happy**

Managing Director, Life  
Sciences  
**OnePlan**



Insulet

**Saleha Amin**

Sr Staff Program Manager  
**Insulet**



Sangamo

**Sehresh Saleem**

Director Program Management  
**Sangamo Therapeutics**



Roche

**Tara Paulsen**

Global Research Portfolio Lead,  
Diagnostics  
**Roche**



NEUROCRINE  
BIOSCIENCES

**Tom Heaps-Nelson**

Associate Director, Program  
Management  
**Neurocrine Biosciences**



BiOMARIN

**Wouter Schul**

Executive Director, Head of R&D  
Project Management Office  
**Biomarin Pharmaceutical**

# CONFERENCE **AGENDA**

# NIGHT BEFORE THE EVENT

17 FEBRUARY 2026

## 18:00 PRE-EVENT MEET & GREET

Kick off the experience with some drinks while taking advantage of early bird registration and the chance to connect with fellow delegates. As everyone starts arriving, this is the perfect opportunity to network, catch up with familiar faces, and meet new ones. Raise a glass, spark conversations, exchange handshakes, share smiles, and embrace the camaraderie—whether reconnecting with old friends or forming new bonds in the industry, everyone is warmly welcomed here!



## DAY 1

18 FEBRUARY 2026

## 8:55 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARK

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

## 9:00

### THOUGHT LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: SCENARIO PLANNING IN PPM: NAVIGATING UNCERTAINTY WITH STRUCTURED FORESIGHT

- Learn how scenario planning tools help anticipate regulatory shifts, tech disruption, and pipeline volatility
- See real use cases where scenario planning informed portfolio decisions and de-risked investments
- Understand how to operationalize foresight across R&D and commercial planning

**Jennifer Lee**, EVP, Clinical Operations and Quality Assurance, **Novita Pharmaceuticals**

## 9:30

### PRESENTATION: BEYOND THE HYPE: DELIVERING BETTER PORTFOLIO OUTCOMES WITH AI

It's time to go beyond the AI hype and put this technology to work for you and your team. From scenario planning, to resource conflict resolution to portfolio prioritization, AI is the catalyst that helps you achieve more in an environment continuously growing in complexity. This session highlights real-life examples where AI features make a difference for project, program and portfolio managers.

**Moussa Gherbi**, Account Director, **Planisware**

**Matt Hinchliffe**, Account Director, **Planisware**

## 10:00

### PANEL DISCUSSION: COMPARING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO PORTFOLIO PRIORITIZATION, BENEFITS, AND TRADE-OFFS

- Exploring alternative portfolio prioritization strategies
- Balancing short-term wins with long-term strategic goals
- Building resilience and managing risks in portfolio management
- Optimizing decision-making in the face of uncertainty
- Fostering innovation to create adaptable and robust pipelines

**Riyesh Menon**, Head of Program Management, **Amgen**

**Tom Heaps-Nelson**, Associate Director, Program Management, **Neurocrine Biosciences**

**Matt Hinchliffe**, Account Director, **Planisware**

## 10:30 NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK

## 11:00

### PRESENTATION: LIFE SCIENCES STRATEGY TO EXECUTION: DRIVING OUTCOMES ALIGNED WITH STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

This presentation focuses on a practical framework for translating strategy into execution within the life sciences industry, with a focus on driving measurable outcomes aligned with scientific, regulatory, and/or commercial imperatives.

**Phil Zack**, Executive Life Sciences Advisor, **OnePlan**

11:30

## PRESENTATION: TRANSFORMING STRATEGY INTO EXECUTION: ONEPLAN FOR LIFE SCIENCES PORTFOLIO AND PROGRAM SUCCESS

Leveraging an AI enabled unified platform to optimize your portfolio of assets, indications, and development programs across functional teams. Enabling intuitive, easy-to-use execution that aligns strategy, programs, and daily priorities with decision making through insight-driven visualizations and dashboards.

Florin Ungureana, Senior Account Executive, OnePlan

**Florin Ungureanu**, Senior Account Executive, OnePlan

12:00 NETWORKING LUNCH

13:00

## PANEL DISCUSSION: STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT IN MOTION: TRANSLATING LONG-TERM VISION INTO DAILY ACTION

- How organizations define and communicate long-term goals
- Managing short-term pressures that may conflict with strategic objectives
- Tools and frameworks for embedding long-term goals into daily operations
- KPIs and metrics to track progress toward long-term goals
- Strategies for overcoming resistance to change and sustaining momentum
- Anticipated trends and disruptions that could impact long-term planning

**Riyesh Menon**, Head of Program Management, Amgen

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

**Madhavi Pokkuluri**, Senior Director, Transformation Programs & Process Excellence, Honeywell

**Sehresh Saleem**, Director Program Management, Sangamo Therapeutics

13:30

## PRESENTATION: AI FOR PORTFOLIO STRATEGY: FROM VISION TO REALITY

Pharmaceutical companies are exploring AI for portfolio decisions, but most approaches risk hallucination and lack the grounding needed for billion-dollar strategic choices. This session demonstrates a breakthrough approach: using 10,000 Monte Carlo simulation outcomes as scenarios for AI analysis. By combining structured models, comprehensive input data, and simulated scenarios, we've created AI-driven portfolio analysis that delivers full transparency, zero hallucinations, and completely traceable insights - transforming what used to take analysts weeks into seconds while maintaining mathematical rigor.

- Why AI needs a foundation: The three elements required for trustworthy AI in portfolio decisions (structured models, comprehensive data, thousands of scenarios)

- Real portfolio analysis in action: Live demonstration of AI analyzing a \$7B+ portfolio - identifying value concentration, quantifying competitive timing impacts, and optimizing composition using efficient frontier analysis
- From interesting to trustworthy: How simulation-grounded AI eliminates hallucination and makes outputs reliable for strategic decisions
- Speed meets rigor: Accelerating portfolio strategy questions from weeks to seconds while maintaining full transparency and traceability

**Magnus Ytterstad**, Product Owner, Captario

14:00

## FIRESIDE CHAT: THE PMO AS AN OPERATING SYSTEM: WHAT COMES AFTER TOOLS AND TEMPLATES?

- Reframe PMOs as enterprise "operating systems" that enable strategic agility
- Explore hidden enablers like culture, incentives, and communication flows
- Hear real examples of PMO transformation in complex pharma/biotech organizations

**Wouter Schul**, Executive Director, Head of R&D Project Management Office, Biomarin Pharmaceutical

14:30

## CASE STUDY: OPERATIONALIZING PORTFOLIO STRATEGY WITH REAL-TIME EXECUTION INTELLIGENCE

- Discover how digital dashboards give real-time visibility into execution risks and capacity
- Learn how execution intelligence improves prioritization and accelerates decision cycles
- Hear how project data is transformed into strategic insight for leaders

**Jonathan Cote**, Director of Portfolio Value Improvement, BD

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

15:00 NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK

15:30

## ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

Roundtable Discussions provide an interactive, informal setting where participants can engage in open discussions, raise their own challenges, and benchmark strategies with their peers. Each roundtable will be facilitated by a discussion leader who ensures the conversation stays focused and that everyone has the opportunity to contribute.

### TABLE 1: CAPACITY IS THE CONSTRAINT: HOW ORGANIZATIONS ARE ALIGNING STRATEGY, FUNDING, AND WORKFORCE CAPACITY

- Connecting strategic priorities and project execution within realistic resource capacity constraints
- Coordinating resource capacity and work dependencies across multiple teams to deliver a single product to market

# CONFERENCE AGENDA

**DAY 1**  
18 FEBRUARY 2026

- Benchmarking how organizations balance speed, risk, and capacity in complex product development environments

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

## **TABLE 2: INFLUENCING, INITIATING, AND EXECUTING ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE MANAGEMENT**

- Identifying and addressing sources of organizational pain points
- Strategies for prioritizing projects and learning how to say “no” or “not now” to proposed initiatives
- Differentiating between project management and change management, and integrating them to achieve successful organizational change

**Le Dao, PMP**, *Director, Global Program Management, Strategic Operations*, **Kite Pharma, a Gilead Company**

## **TABLE 3: FROM INSIGHTS TO ACTION: OPERATIONALIZING AI IN PROJECT AND PORTFOLIO DECISIONS**

- Hands-on walkthrough of how AI can support project-level reprioritization and forecasting
- Explore predictive modeling, scenario generation, and dynamic risk scoring
- Practice interpreting AI outputs and translating them into portfolio decisions
- Learn how to manage human-AI interaction: setting thresholds, triggering actions, avoiding overreliance
- Define steps to scale AI use beyond pilots—from prototype to enterprise integration

**Madhavi Pokkuluri**, *Senior Director, Transformation Programs & Process Excellence*, **Honeywell**

**16:00**

## **WORKSHOPS**

Workshops provide a structured, hands-on environment where participants can learn and apply practical methodologies under the guidance of an experienced workshop leader. Attendees are encouraged to actively participate and apply what they learn in a collaborative and supportive setting.

## **TABLE 1: IMPLEMENTING PROJECT PRIORITIZATION FRAMEWORKS FOR STRATEGIC DECISION-MAKING AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION**

Through interactive exercises and real-world case studies, participants will:

- Gain a deep understanding of various project prioritization frameworks
- Learn how to apply quantitative and qualitative analysis to investment decisions
- Explore techniques for balancing resources between competing projects
- Develop actionable strategies for aligning prioritization with long-term business objectives.

**Martin Brum**, *Director, Program Management*, **illumina**

## **TABLE 2: ALIGNING INTEGRATED PROGRAM PLANS WITH STRATEGIC GOALS LEVERAGING AI**

**Robert Happy**, *Managing Director, Life Sciences*, **OnePlan**

**Phil Zack**, *Executive Life Sciences Advisor*, **OnePlan**

## **TABLE 3: BUILDING EFFECTIVE CROSS-FUNCTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR ENHANCED PRODUCTIVITY**

- Building engagement models to establish trust and collaboration
- Identifying and avoiding common partnership pitfalls
- Tools and strategies for maintaining strong relationships across functions

**Saleha Amin**, *Sr Staff Program Manager*, **Insulet**

**16:45 CHAIRPERSON'S CLOSING REMARKS**

**17:00 END OF DAY ONE AND NETWORKING RECEPTION**

## 8:55 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARK

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

## 9:00

### KEYNOTE PANEL DISCUSSION: CUSTOMIZING PROJECT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR BIOPHARMA SUCCESS—KEY LESSONS FROM SMALL AND LARGE COMPANIES

- Adapting project management approaches to fit the maturity of the organization
- Comparing team structures, governance models, and decision-making processes in large vs. small biopharmas
- How trade-offs are made in resource-limited environments versus resource-abundant settings
- Leveraging the strengths of both large and small companies to optimize R&D project success

**Estelle Paysinger-Hill**, *Director, Nonclinical Project Management*, **Sangamo Therapeutics**  
**Jennifer Lee**, *EVP, Clinical Operations and Quality Assurance*, **Novita Pharmaceuticals**  
**Gianluca Puliti**, *Associate Director, R&D Program Excellence*, **BD**

## 9:30

### PRESENTATION: 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 demonstrating measurable time-to-market improvements through resource optimization

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

## 10:00

### PANEL DISCUSSION: OPTIMIZING RESOURCE ALLOCATION IN LIFE SCIENCES PROJECTS

- Techniques for identifying and prioritizing resource needs across multiple projects
- Real-time resource allocation methods for agility and efficiency
- Solutions for resource limitations and bottlenecks
- Tools and technologies for effective resource tracking and management

- Case studies of successful resource optimization

**Martin Brum**, *Director, Program Management*, **Illumina**  
**Tara Paulsen**, *Global Research Portfolio Lead, Diagnostics*, **Roche**  
**Noel Sobelman**, *Partner*, **Accel Management Group**  
**Moussa Gherbi**, *Account Director*, **Planisware**

## 10:30 NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK

## 11:00

### PANEL DISCUSSION: BUILDING EFFECTIVE CROSS-FUNCTIONAL TEAMS: KEY STRATEGIES FOR INTERNAL COLLABORATION IN PHARMA

- Developing structured decision-making approaches within cross-functional teams
- Enhancing communication to ensure alignment and commitment to team decisions
- Techniques for addressing uncertainty and fostering buy-in across diverse teams
- Best practices for cross-functional collaboration to drive successful execution

**Estelle Paysinger-Hill**, *Director, Nonclinical Project Management*, **Sangamo Therapeutics**  
**Le Dao**, *PMP, Director, Global Program Management, Strategic Operations*, **Kite Pharma, a Gilead Company**  
**Lee Sayers**, *Executive Director of Program Management*, **Zentalis Pharmaceuticals**

## 11:30

### PRESENTATION: 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**

## 12:00

### CASE STUDY: DEVELOPING KPIS AND VISUALIZING PROJECT INFORMATION FOR FAST DECISION MAKING

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

## 12:30 NETWORKING LUNCH

13:30

## PANEL DISCUSSION: BEYOND KPIS: REAL-TIME PERFORMANCE INTELLIGENCE AND PREDICTIVE EXECUTION MODELS

- Behavior-based metrics beyond milestones
- Early signal detection and intervention models
- Live dashboards and cognitive nudges for faster execution

**Riyesh Menon**, Head of Program Management, Amgen

**Jonathan Cote**, Director of Portfolio Value Improvement, BD

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

**Shresh Saleem**, Director Program Management, Sangamo Therapeutics

14:15

## 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

14:45 NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK

15:15

## ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

Roundtable Discussions provide an interactive, informal setting where participants can engage in open discussions, raise their own challenges, and benchmark strategies with their peers. Each roundtable will be facilitated by a discussion leader who ensures the conversation stays focused and that everyone can contribute. These sessions are designed to foster active problem-solving, share practical experiences, and encourage collaborative idea exchange.

### TABLE 1: FROM RISK REGISTERS TO REAL DECISIONS: MAKING ASSET-LEVEL RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIONABLE IN LIFE SCIENCES R&D

- Identifying and prioritizing asset-level risks that are truly decision-critical across pre-clinical, clinical, regulatory, CMC, and commercial domains
- Integrating evolving risk signals into routine asset reviews, development planning, and governance forums
- Examining common breakdowns in asset-level risk management—such as delayed escalation, over-formalized processes, and misaligned incentives—and proven approaches to address them

**Tom Heaps-Nelson**, Associate Director, Program Management, Neurocrine Biosciences

### TABLE 2: ENSURING TRUSTED DATA FOR CONFIDENT DECISION-MAKING

- Implementing processes to ensure data reliability and completeness for better decision-making
- Overcoming internal biases to maintain data accuracy and integrity
- Techniques for communicating data insights to senior management for effective action

**Wouter Schul**, Executive Director, Head of R&D Project Management Office, Biomarin Pharmaceutical

### TABLE 3: MAXIMIZING GROWTH THROUGH STRATEGIC DIVESTMENT: ALIGNING WITH CORPORATE VISION

- Identifying how divestment supports the company's vision and long-term strategy
- Reallocating freed-up resources to pursue strategic growth opportunities
- Navigating the challenges of divestment to maximize long-term growth and alignment

**Tara Paulsen**, Global Research Portfolio Lead, Diagnostics, Roche

15:45

## WORKSHOPS

Workshops provide a structured, hands-on environment where participants can learn and apply practical methodologies under the guidance of an experienced workshop leader. These sessions are designed to offer deep dives into specific topics or tools, allowing participants to develop new skills, refine their approach to problem-solving, and gain actionable insights that can be implemented immediately.

### TABLE 1: MASTERING DATA GOVERNANCE FOR FASTER, SMARTER PORTFOLIO DECISIONS

- Techniques for ensuring seamless data flow and communication across teams
- Best practices for implementing master data management to streamline operations
- Strategies for clean and standardized data delivery to accelerate decision-making
- Practical exercises on optimizing data governance and stewardship

**Jonathan Cote**, Director of Portfolio Value Improvement, BD

### TABLE 2: AI FOR PMO USES — THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE UGLY

- What has your organization done, in reality?
- What are you considering for your team?
- What do you wish to get out of AI?

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

16:30 CHAIRPERSON'S CLOSING REMARKS

16:35 END OF CONFERENCE

# OUR **VALUED PARTNERS**, PAST AND PRESENT



# CONTACT US

Updated: 6 February, 2026  
for the latest programme update, please  
download agenda on conference website



## GENERAL INQUIRIES:



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Vice President, PPM World Tour

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## SPEAKING:



### **Jenn See**

Conference Producer

✉ [jenn.see@whysummits.com](mailto:jenn.see@whysummits.com)

## ATTENDING AND SPONSORING:



### **Srihari Kamban**

Sponsorship Director

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## FOR THE 2026 SPONSOR KIT:

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🌐 [whysummits.com/partnership-exhibitopportunities/](https://whysummits.com/partnership-exhibitopportunities/)

## JOIN US IN **SAN DIEGO**

The industries that shape the future will be in the room. Make sure your brand is part of the conversation.

Please note – all of the information in this document is subject to change at any time. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, statements and decisions recorded in them, their status will remain that of a draft until such time as they are confirmed as a final version prior the subsequent meeting. Additionally, the user information is only valid at a certain moment in time and is subject to change due to movement and changes in bit rate requirements.