Speaker Profiles

Robert Abraham, PhD
Senior Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer, Oncology Research Unit, Pfizer Worldwide Research and Development

Dr. Bob Abraham is a Senior Vice President in Pfizer Worldwide Research and Development, and the Chief Scientific Officer of Pfizer’s Oncology Research Unit. Prior to joining Pfizer, he led Oncology Discovery at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals. Before joining the pharmaceutical industry, he pursued an academic career that began at the Mayo Clinic and Foundation and ended at the Sanford-Burnham Institute for Medical Research, where he served as Director of the Institute’s NCI-designated Cancer Center. He has long-standing research interests in cancer cell signaling, metabolism, and DNA damage responses.

David Brenner, MD
Vice Chancellor, Health Sciences and Dean, UC San Diego School of Medicine

David Brenner is vice chancellor for Health Sciences and dean of the School of Medicine at the University of California, San Diego. In this role, he leads the School of Medicine, Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at University of California, San Diego, and UC San Diego Health System. Dr. Brenner has oversight of more than 900 faculty physicians, pharmacists and scientists; 7,500 staff; more than 600 medical and pharmacy students, and a health system that cares for approximately 125,000 patients annually.

A distinguished physician-scientist and leader in the field of gastrointestinal research, Dr. Brenner first joined UC San Diego in 1985 as a gastroenterology fellow, later joining the School of Medicine faculty, and serving as a physician at the Veterans Affairs (VA) San Diego Healthcare System. He also served as a Pew Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences and a Clinical Investigator in the VA system. In 1993, Dr. Brenner became professor and chief of the Division of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he continued to earn accolades for his patient care and research. He was ultimately recruited to UC San Diego from the Columbia University Medical Center College of Physicians and Surgeons, where from 2003 to 2007 he was Samuel Bard Professor and chair of the Department of Medicine, a member of the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, a member of the Columbia University Institute of Nutrition, and physician-in-chief of New York Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia.

Dr. Brenner’s professional memberships include the American Society for Clinical Investigation; the Association of American Physicians, for which he is the president, the American College of Physicians, the American Gastroenterological Association, and the American Clinical and Climatological Association. He is also on the board of directors of two philanthropic foundations, the AlphaOne Foundation and the Alcoholic Beverage Medical Research Foundation. Dr. Brenner has also been published numerous times and serves on several editorial boards.

He earned his medical degree from the Yale University School of Medicine. After completing his residency at Yale-New Haven Medical Center, he served as a research associate in the Genetics and Biochemistry Branch of the National Institute of Arthritis, Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
Sandra Brown, PhD  
Vice Chancellor of Research Affairs, University of California San Diego

Sandra Ann Brown, professor of psychology and psychiatry, was named the Vice Chancellor for Research at UC San Diego in December 2010.

She oversees the Office of Research Affairs, which is charged with creating opportunities, enhancing the research experience, developing tools and training to improve research administration, and supporting and promoting university innovations.

The office collaborates with or oversees the campus Organized Research Units, Animal Care, Animal Welfare, Contracts and Grants, Research Ethics, Government Research Relations, University-Industry Relations, Conflict of Interest, Stem Cell Research, Technology Transfer Office, Postdoctoral and Visiting Scholars programs, and Research Communications.

Total UC San Diego research funding for fiscal year 2010 was more than $1,043,000,000. That number included $160 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding the university was awarded over the same period.

During her tenure at UC San Diego, Brown has managed academic appointments in two departments: Psychology on the general campus, and Psychiatry in the School of Medicine. She has also simultaneously directed the development of clinical, education and research activities as the Chief of Psychology at the Veterans Affair Health Services System in San Diego. An internationally recognized substance abuse researcher, Dr. Brown has had over 20 federally funded grants and 250 scientific publications. She has extensive experience working with local, state and federal agencies and led national efforts to identify and prevent alcohol and drug problems among youth.

She earned her PhD in clinical psychology at Wayne State University in 1981, and is licensed as a psychologist by the California Board of Psychology.

David Campbell, PhD  
Chief Scientific Officer, Afraxis

Prior to Afraxis, Dr. Campbell served as a member of the Phenomix Corporation executive team since 2003, most recently as an executive officer and senior vice president, discovery and development with responsibility for all drug discovery and development thru early clinical development to proof of concept in humans. Dr. Campbell was the senior vice president of chemical sciences at ActivX Biosciences from 2001 to 2003, where he directed the company’s internal drug discovery programs as well as the development of ActivX’s activity-based chemical probes. Dr. Campbell was director of discovery chemistry at Bayer Corporation where he directed the research efforts of the 41-scientist group discovering and optimizing drugs in the cancer, obesity, osteoporosis, and diabetes therapeutic areas. Dr. Campbell began his career at Affymax Research Institute, a combinatorial chemistry company that was creating novel technologies and strategies to facilitate the identification and optimization of compounds for the treatment of cancer and immune-mediated diseases.

Dr. Campbell holds three sole-authored and fifteen jointly authored patents, and has co-authored 30 original papers. He conducted post-doctoral studies at the University of California, Berkeley after receiving a PhD in organic chemistry from Cornell University and a B.S. in chemistry from Harvey Mudd College.
Dennis Carson, MD  
Professor Emeritus of Medicine, Moores Cancer Center

Dennis Carson, MD is a Professor Emeritus of Medicine at Moores Cancer Center. He is also Associate Dean for Cancer Affairs and holder of the Chugai Pharmaceutical Chair in Cancer. Dr. Carson is perhaps best known for his landmark work in developing the agent 2- chlorodeoxyadenosine, or 2-CdA, for the treatment of hairy cell leukemia. This drug, now marketed as Leustatin, is the treatment of choice for this disease and has resulted in long term, complete remissions in about 75 percent of patients, often after just a single infusion. It is also effective in other lymphoid cancers, multiple sclerosis and psoriasis.

David Cheresh, PhD  
Professor, Vice Chair for Research and Development  
Associate Director for Translational Research, Moores Cancer Center

David Cheresh studies the mechanism of action of signaling networks that regulate cancer growth and metastasis and focuses on new strategies for biologically-based drug development. In particular, he studies how integrins and growth factor receptors promote, cell survival, angiogenesis and tumor invasion. His work has lead to the development of several drugs now in various stages of clinical development. Cheresh together with scientists at Applied Molecular Evolution developed a humanized antibody (Vitaxin) directed to integrin avb3 which is now being developed by Astra Zeneca. In collaboration with Merck Darmstadt, Cheresh developed an integrin antagonist (Cilengitide) targeting integrins avb3 and avb5 that has now produced significant survival benefit in glioblastoma patients and has lead to the first integrin targeted drug to enter Phase III clinical trials for cancer. David Cheresh was the scientific founder of TargeGen a San Diego based biotechnology company which developed a number of small molecules based in part on discoveries made in the Cheresh laboratory. Recently, TargeGen was acquired by Sanofi Aventis who is developing a highly selective JAK2 inhibitor discovered by TargeGen scientists. Most recently, Cheresh and his colleagues have developed a novel scaffold based chemistry approach to stabilize kinases in their inactive state. These studies have lead to the discovery of a first in class Raf inhibitor that has distinct advantages relative to ATP mimetics of RAF. Cheresh and his colleagues at UCSD have founded a new start up company (Amitech Therapeutic Solutions, ATS) which focuses on the discovery of allosteric inhibitors of kinases such as those targeting Raf and other important molecules/pathways relevant to cancer and inflammatory disease.

Marye Anne Fox, PhD  
Chancellor, University of California San Diego

Marye Anne Fox, a world-renowned chemist, is the seventh chancellor of the University of California, San Diego and distinguished professor of chemistry. Since her appointment as chancellor of UC San Diego, the university has established new research and partnership ventures to further innovation and increase international collaboration, achieved an ambitious $1 billion campaign goal, expanded academic and campus programs and facilities, received national and international recognition in prominent university rankings and assembled a strong, diverse leadership team to ensure the university’s continued rise in excellence.

Before her current appointment, Fox served as North Carolina State University’s 12th chancellor, as distinguished university professor of chemistry at NC State (from 1998 to 2004) and as Waggoner Regents Chair in chemistry and Vice President for Research at the University of Texas at Austin. She joined the faculty of the University of Texas at Austin in 1976, after a postdoctoral appointment at the University of Maryland. Fox received her B.S. from Notre Dame College and her Ph.D. from Dartmouth College, both in chemistry. She has been elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences and the American Philosophical Society, and to fellowships both in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Association of
Advancement of Science. In October 2010, President Barack Obama named Fox to receive the National Medal of Science, the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on scientists, engineers and inventors. She has also received honorary degrees from 12 institutions in the U.S. and abroad. Fox was born in Canton, Ohio in 1947.

Catriona Jamieson, MD, PhD
Associate Professor of Medicine, Hematology-Oncology
Director, Stem Cell Research, Moores Cancer Center

Catriona Jamieson, MD, PhD is Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematology-Oncology and Director for Stem Cell Research at Moores Cancer Center. Dr. Jamieson specializes in myeloproliferative disorders (MPDs) and leukemia. Myeloproliferative neoplasms are a family of uncommon but not rare degenerative disorders in which the body overproduces blood cells. Myeloproliferative neoplasms can cause many forms of blood clotting including heart attack, stroke, deep venous thrombosis, and pulmonary emboli and can develop into acute myelogenous leukemia. Although some effective treatments are available, they are laden with serious side effects. In addition, individuals can become resistant to the treatments. Dr. Jamieson studies the mutant stem cells and progenitor cells in myeloproliferative neoplasms. These cells can give rise to cancer stem cells. Cancer stem cells may lie low to evade chemotherapy and then activate again later, causing disease progression and resistance to treatment. Her goal is to find more selective, less toxic therapies.

David Kabakoff, PhD
Executive Partner, Sofinnova Ventures

David Kabakoff joined Sofinnova Ventures as an Executive Partner in 2007. David has 30 years of experience leading technology and product development programs in the pharmaceutical, biopharmaceutical, and drug delivery fields. He currently serves as Chairman of Trius Therapeutics and Chairman of Amplimmune, Inc. He is also a Director of InterMune, Inc.; and Allylix, Inc. Dr. Kabakoff also serves as a Board Observer at Intellikine.

David co-founded Salmedix, Inc., a developer of cancer drug treatments, and served as the company’s Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. In June 2005, David negotiated the acquisition of Salmedix by Cephalon, Inc. David also held the positions of Executive Vice President of Dura and President and Chief Executive Officer of Spiros Development Corp. while at Dura Pharmaceuticals, a specialty respiratory pharmaceutical and pulmonary drug delivery company. Earlier, David was also employed as Chief Executive Officer of Corvas International and held senior executive positions with Hybritech, Inc.

David received his PhD from Yale University and his B.A. from Case Western Reserve University.

Erika Keeton, PhD
Senior Scientist, AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals

Erika Keeton joined AstraZeneca in 2006 and has worked on several drug discovery programs. Since 2008 she has led the cell biology efforts for the Pim kinase project, for which an inhibitor is now entering clinical trials in AML. She joined AstraZeneca after performing postdoctoral research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, MA, where she investigated estrogen receptor coregulator roles in breast cancer. She completed her pre-doctoral research at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, MD and received her PhD from The George Washington University in Washington, DC in 2002.
Thomas Kipps, MD, PhD
Professor of Medicine and Director, Moores Cancer Center

Thomas Kipps, MD, PhD, is Professor of Medicine, Evelyn and Edwin Tasch Chair in Cancer Research, and Interim Director of the Moores Cancer Center. A major focus of his laboratory group is the immunobiology and genetics of human B-cell malignancies, with emphasis on chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). Study on CLL cells serially collected from patients at time points before therapy, during therapy, or after relapse from therapy allows for investigation of the genetic and biologic features associated with tumor progression, therapeutic response, or resistance to therapy. Discovery of features that distinguish CLL from their normal cell counterparts has helped identify new targets for therapy and/or define surrogate markers associated with more rapid rates of cancer progression or resistance to standard therapy. These studies are integrated with a clinical investigative program that attracts patients seeking improved modalities of treatment for CLL. From this, we have identified molecular markers that can segregate patients into subgroups that have different risks for disease-progression or different probabilities of response to conventional treatment. This also has allowed for testing the safety and relative efficacy of novel agents developed for treatment of all patients with CLL or subgroups of patients hypothesized to have the best potential response to novel forms of therapy. Because CLL cells can be harvested from the blood, it is possible to study primary tumor cells obtained from patients during the course of therapy. This is allowing us to test whether novel targeted therapies are hitting their intended target and whether this is associated with a clinical response to therapy. To further these efforts on a national scale, Dr. Kipps has organized and leads the CLL Research Consortium that is comprised of leading CLL investigators at the major cancer centers across the country and abroad.

As interim director, Dr. Kipps is working to further integrate basic and translational research investigators at the Moores Cancer Center with clinical Investigators, epidemiologists, and physicians offering state-of-the art therapies for patients with other types of cancer. A major goal of this effort is to develop Centers of Excellence (CoE) in various cancer types. It is projected that each CoE will attract patients and researchers from across the country who are seeking out the best program in cancer prevention, detection, and treatment.

Wendy Levin, MD, MS
Director of Early Clinical Oncology/Hematology Development, Pfizer

Dr. Levin did her undergraduate and graduate work at UCLA with Dr. Dennis Slamon, focusing on Her-2/neu and its applications to breast cancer. After medical school, she did her Hematology/Oncology Training at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, where her attention turned to stem cells in the benign and malignant settings. She joined the Pfizer Translational Oncology group in 2007, where her focus is on Proof of Mechanism studies for the Early Development Oncology Portfolio. She is also the Global Clinical Lead for the Hedgehog Program which is currently in Phase 1 Hematology Trials, where she is hoping to eradicate cancer stem cells.

Francesco M Marincola, MD
Chief, Infectious Disease and Immunogenetics Section (IDIS), Clinical Center
Associate Director, trans-NIH Center for Human Immunology (CHI), National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland
Director, FOCIS Center for Excellence, NIH

Dr. Marincola is Chief of the Infectious Disease and Immunogenetics Section in the Department of Transfusion Medicine at the Clinical Center of the National Institutes of Heath in Bethesda, Maryland. He is also associate-Director of the Trans-NIH Center for Human Immunology and Director of the FOCIS Center for Excellence at NIH. Dr. Marincola received his MD, summa cum laude from the University of Milan, and his surgery training at Stanford University where he also completed a postdoctoral fellowship in surgical research. He joined the
Surgical Oncology Branch of the National Cancer Institute, NIH, in 1990.

Dr. Marincola is a NIH tenured senior investigator, Adjunct Professor, Peking Union Medical College, Beijing, China, Adjunct Professor, First Military Medical University, Tonghe, Guangzhou – China, and President Elect of the Society for the Immunotherapy of cancer (Previously: International Society for Biological Therapy of Cancer) and President elect of the International Society for Translational Medicine. Dr. Marincola serves at the Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Translational Medicine; US Senior Editor of Immunotherapy, Associate Editor for The Journal of Immunotherapy, Tumori, and Clinical Cancer Research; Section Editor for Expert Opinion in Biological Therapy; Editorial Board, Cancer Immunology & Immunotherapy, The Journal of Experimental and Clinical Cancer Research.

Dr. Marincola is an author of over 450 peer reviewed research articles and over 100 abstracts. He has been invited to speak at over 200 national and international meetings. Dr. Marincola is the second most cited scientist in melanoma during the last ten years.

Udo Müller, MD, PhD
Global Medical Director Oncology
Teva Pharmaceuticals

Dr. Udo Mueller is a Medical Oncologist who worked before joining the pharmaceutical industry for 14 years in a Comprehensive Cancer Center in Berlin (Germany) with focus on cancer patient medical care and clinical cancer research. Dr. Mueller holds a PhD degree in Clinical Pharmacology and a MD degree in Medical Oncology. He was the head of a Clinical Pharmacology Laboratory Unit for anticancer drugs and he had teaching obligations at the Medical Faculty of Berlin University. As part of his medical and pharmacology training Dr. Mueller worked at the Pharmacological Institute Mario Negri in Milan (Italy), at the Grace Cancer Drug Center at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo NY (USA), at Institute Bordet in Brussels (Belgium) and the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney (Australia).

Dr. Mueller has joined the pharmaceutical industry in 1991 where he worked in various local, regional and global clinical development and medico-marketing positions with Farmitalia Carlo Erba, Ciba-Geigy, Pierre Fabre Oncology, and ASTA Medica / Baxter Oncology.

In his recent position as a Global Medical Director for Teva Pharmaceuticals, Dr. Mueller is responsible for the medical support of Teva's oncology and biosimilar pipeline and marketed products.

Azra Raza, MD
Professor of Medicine and Director, MDS Center, Columbia University Medical Center

Dr. Raza is the Director of the MDS Center at Columbia University in New York, NY. Dr. Raza completed her medical education in Pakistan, training in Internal Medicine at the University of Maryland, Franklin Square Hospital and Georgetown/VA Medical Center in Washington, D.C. and her fellowship in Medical Oncology at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, New York. She started her research in Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS) in 1982, moved briefly to Cincinnati, Ohio and then to Chicago, Illinois in 1992, where she established a highly productive translational research program in MDS. This program, along with a Tissue Repository with >50,000 human samples is now located at Columbia University. Dr. Raza has published the results of her research in high profile journals including Nature, New England Journal of Medicine, PLoS, Blood, Leukemia etc and is the author of 280 original articles, 20+ book chapters and a book devoted to MDS. Dr. Raza belongs to that rare group of unique investigators who are adept at both basic and clinical research. Her basic research has been strictly therapy-driven and is marked by Dr. Raza's tireless efforts to move the advances in the
laboratory to the bedside with alacrity for the improvement of treatment outcome of MDS patients. Dr. Raza is well known internationally for several landmark observations related to the biology and treatment of MDS.

David Reardon, MD
Clinical Director, Center for Neuro-Oncology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

David Reardon is clinical director at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Center for Neuro-Oncology. His research interests are brain and spinal tumors, clinical trials in neuro-oncology, targeted therapies, anti-angiogenic treatments, immunotherapy, convection-enhanced delivery. His board certifications include Neuro-Oncology, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, and he completed his fellowship at University of Michigan Hospital, MOTT Children's Hospital, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology in 1992. He completed his residency at John Hopkins Hospital, Pediatrics, in 1989 and received his MD from Tufts Medical School in 1986.

Duane Roth
Chief Executive Officer, CONNECT

Duane J. Roth is Chief Executive Officer and member of the Board of CONNECT. CONNECT is the globally recognized public benefits organization fostering entrepreneurship in the San Diego region by assisting new business formation of technology and life sciences companies. CONNECT has been directly involved with over 1,500 companies since its inception in 1985 and these companies have secured over $10 billion in funding. Mr. Roth serves on a number of advisory committees and boards of the University of California, including the President's Board on Science and Innovation, the UC San Diego Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center (past Chair), the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, the Preuss Charter School (Chair), the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology (Calit2), the Health Sciences advisory board and the UC San Diego Foundation Board of directors (past Chair). He also serves on the San Diego State University College of Business (past Chair), and the Sciences & Engineering Advisory Board. Mr. Roth is a member of the Executive Board for the California State University (CSU) Professional Science Master's Program. Mr. Roth is active in the San Diego community serving as co-Chair of the Regional Housing Working Group, and as a member of the Advisory Council for Math for America. Mr. Roth was appointed to the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee for the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) as Vice Chair by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and he also serves as a member on the Governor's Commission for Jobs and Economic Growth. Mr. Roth is a graduate of Iowa Wesleyan College, where he serves as a trustee.

Martin Seidel, PhD
Institute Director, Genomics Institute of the Novartis Research Foundation

Martin is Institute Director at the Genomics Institute of the Novartis Research Foundation (GNF) in San Diego. GNF’s mission, as part of the Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (NIBR), is to develop and apply cutting-edge technology to drive breakthrough biology and accelerate the discovery of new medicines. Prior to joining GNF in early 2003, Martin spent two years as the Director of Discovery Biology at the former San Diego site of DuPont Pharmaceuticals, where he built a biology department responsible for biology and high-throughput screening. Prior to DuPont, Martin spent 9 years at Ligand Pharmaceuticals, where he served as Associate Director of Nuclear Receptor Biology and Transcription Research based on his expertise in cytokine signal transduction pathways and mechanisms of nuclear receptor action. Martin received his Ph.D. in chemistry from Harvard University in the laboratory of Jeremy R. Knowles. Prior to his graduate work, he spent a year at the Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg on a DAAD Fellowship. Martin received his A.B. in chemistry from Princeton University.
Jonathan Thomas, PhD, JD
Chair, Governing Board of the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (Independent Citizens Oversight Committee)

Jon Thomas is a Co-Founding Partner at Saybrook Capital (“Saybrook”), an investment banking and private equity firm based in Santa Monica, California.

Long interested in the biological sciences, Thomas majored in Biology and History at Yale, where he graduated summa cum laude. As a George C. Marshall Scholar at Oxford, he then earned a PhD with a medical focus in Commonwealth History. He subsequently returned to Yale for a JD at the Yale Law School. While there, Thomas retained an involvement with biology by teaching courses on the legal implications of genetic engineering and the impact of disease on history.

Thomas went on to be an investment banker for Ehrlich Bober & Co. (a top-10 Wall Street public finance firm) where, among other things, he led a team that underwrote over $1 billion in various kinds of bonds for the Los Angeles Community College District. He left Ehrlich Bober in 1990 to co-found Saybrook. While with Saybrook, Thomas led an early round of financing for Advanced Cell Technology, which recently received Food and Drug Administration approval for two embryonic stem cell-based clinical trials.

In addition to his financing expertise, Thomas brings legal expertise that will help CIRM navigate clinical trials, bilateral collaborative agreements, intellectual property, loan agreements and other legal challenges that will confront CIRM going forward. His legal experience includes clerking for White House Counsel Lloyd Cutler in the last year of the Carter Administration and also for the Honorable George Mackinnon of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. He later practiced at then-Munger, Tolles & Rickershauser in Los Angeles.

Thomas also has a broad knowledge of governmental agencies, having served for seven years each as either member or vice president of the City of Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners and as a member of the Governing Board for the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority. In that latter role, he developed a plan to finance the $2.4 billion expansion of the Corridor rail lines from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to downtown Los Angeles. Through this government work and his many years in public finance, he has served at various times as underwriter, financial advisor and issuer of a wide range of tax-exempt and taxable bonds.

Thomas has worked closely with political officials at the federal, state and local level on a variety of projects for over 25 years. He was the chief government liaison to the Governor and State legislature for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors in the PG&E bankruptcy, for whom Saybrook acted as financial advisor in their Chapter 11 proceedings. He has structured a number of public/private partnerships, including the financing for the Nokia Theater in Hollywood, home to the Academy Awards.

Thomas has a long-standing commitment to patient advocacy. He spent more than 15 years on the Board of the Crippled Children’s Society of Southern California and served as chair for four years. The organization, now called AbilityFirst, assists children with spinal cord injuries and mental disabilities that could be targets of stem cell therapies. Thomas currently serves as a member of the AbilityFirst Board.

Carl Weissman
President, CEO, Accelerator

Carl Weissman serves as the Chairman and CEO of Accelerator. He has been the CEO since its founding in May 2003, and was elevated to Chairman in 2008. Carl is also a Managing Director at OVP Venture Partners, one of the Accelerator investors and a firm with which he has been affiliated as a Managing Director or
previously a Venture Partner since 2006. Prior to Accelerator, from 2001-2006, Carl was a Venture Partner at MPM Capital (Boston) and in that capacity served as President and CEO of Centagenetix, a Cambridge, MA, human genetics company, prior to founding Accelerator on MPM’s behalf. In his role as CEO of Centagenetix, Carl led the February 2003 merger of Centagenetix, with Elixir Pharmaceuticals, and remained on the Board of Directors of the combined entity until January 2005. Prior to joining Centagenetix and MPM, he spent six years at Prolinx, Inc., where he held a number of positions, culminating as the head of both Finance and Business Development.

Carl serves on the Board of the Washington Biotechnology and Biomedical Association (WBBA) and the Board of the Oregon Translational Research and Drug Development Institute (OTRAI).

Irving Weissman, MD
Professor of Pathology, Stem Cell Institute, Stanford School of Medicine

Irving L. Weissman's research encompasses the phylogeny and developmental biology of the cells that make up the blood-forming and immune systems. His laboratory identified and isolated the blood-forming stem cell from mice, and has defined, by lineage analysis, the stages of development between the stem cells and mature progeny (granulocytes, macrophages, etc.). This required developing and cloning stromal cells of the hematolymphoid microenvironments from the bone marrow for myeloid and B cells, and from the thymus for T cells. While the adhesion molecules and factors from these stromal cells proved important as molecules (and the genes that encode them) for myeloid and B cells, the analysis of T cell development required in vivo studies of thymic development. In addition, the Weissman laboratory has pioneered the study of the genes and proteins involved in cell adhesion events required for lymphocyte homing to lymphoid organs in vivo, either as a normal function or as events involved in malignant leukemic metastases.

The Weissman laboratory also has a small group at Hopkins Marine Station, where they have developed a model organism for laboratory and field study of allorecognition the invertebrate counterpart of transplantation immunity. Working with the protochordate Botryllus schlosseri (which has a chordate larval stage and an invertebrate adult form) they have identified a single major gene locus that governs rapid allorecognition, and 2-3 other loci involved in delayed allorecognition events. They are using this model to study the genes, proteins, and cells that govern protochordate allorecognition, and the effects of these genes on their population dynamics in the field.