

# THE 9TH ANNUAL ENTREPRENEUR SPOTLIGHT

THURSDAY, JULY 20

3:30-5 p.m. EDT
RECEPTION AND NETWORKING
TO FOLLOW
5-6 p.m.





### 2023 Featured Entrepreneurs



Nick Spring Cirna Diagnostics, LLC

Cirna Diagnostics mission is to save lives by detecting disease early, when it is manageable or curable, and to guide therapy of disease, guiding to the most effective medicines and course of treatment. Cirna's (circulating mutant RNA) Mericle™ detection platform promises to be uniquely sensitive in detecting disease while providing drug sensitivity information, distinguishing it from all other current non-invasive tests.



David Lopez, Esq, CPA Advent Therapeutics

Advent Therapeutics, a Pennsylvania-based rare disease biotech formed by senior industry executives with extensive expertise and proven track records in neonatal, pediatric and similar orphan drug 'niche' therapies, is focusing on addressing serious unmet medical needs of these underserved patients. The company has developed a proprietary formulation of retinol palmitate (vitamin A) specifically optimized for dosing to preterm infants to address vitamin A deficiency and associated serious complications of prematurity.



Kunwar Shailubhai, PhD, MBA Nous Biosciences

Nous Biosciences, a start-up biotechnology company registered in Pennsylvania, is engaged in the discovery and development of therapeutics for treatment of gastrointestinal (GI), neurodegenerative and pulmonary Inflammatory diseases. The company's strategy is to utilize our proprietary formulation technologies to deliver drugs directly to the affected organs and tissues to facilitate rapid local action.



## ENTREPRENEUR SPOTLIGHT

THURSDAY, JULY 20 3:30-5 p.m.

#### Welcome and Introduction

Louis P. Kassa, MPA - CEO, Hepatitis B Foundation, Baruch S. Blumberg Institute and Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center (PABC), President, PABC

Sen. Steve Santarsiero, Bucks County

Com. Bob Harvie, Bucks County

### **Introduction of Panel and Presentations**

**Grant Castor** - Senior Vice President, Commercial Strategy and Operations

### **Spotlight Presenters**

David Lopez, Esq, CPA - Advent Therapeutics

Nick Spring - Cirna Diagnostics, LLC

Kunwar Shailubhai, PhD, MBA - Nous Biosciences

### **Panel**

Greg Anthos, MBA - Tunnell Consulting

Jennifer Griffin, PhD - Mission BioCapital

Lorenzo Pellegrini, PhD, MBA - Hatch Biofund

### **Closing Remarks**

Reception and Networking



## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**



Louis P. Kassa III, MPA
CEO of the Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center (PABC),
Baruch S. Blumberg Institute and Hepatitis B Foundation
and President of the PABC.

Lou oversees daily operations, finance, business development and compliance at the PABC, which is home to the Hepatitis B Foundation and its research arm, the Baruch S. Blumberg Institute. In 2017, Kassa was promoted to Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer. Kassa worked part-time as the Chief Executive Officer for Youth Services Agency, a non-profit social services agency, from 2015 to 2017. He cofounded Family Foundations Partnership in 2017 and currently is Chief Executive Officer. He previously served as State Director and Chief Operating Officer at VisionQuest National, Ltd., a national behavioral health company.

Kassa was among the Philadelphia Business Journal's "Power 101" list of the region's most influential business leaders published in January of this year. He was named to the "10 Best COOs of 2020" by Industry Era, a global technology media outlet. A Bucks County resident, Kassa earned an undergraduate degree at the Pennsylvania State University and a Master of Public Administration from Villanova University.





## Grant W. Castor Senior Vice President, Commercial Strategy and Operations

Mr. Castor holds more than a decade of strategy, finance and commercial operations experience in the biopharma and medical device industries. Prior to joining Sentynl as a founding member in 2015, Mr. Castor led marketing operations for Amedra Pharmaceuticals LLC and Lineage Therapeutics, which was successfully sold to Impax Laboratories, LLC, now Amneal Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Before his focus in biopharma, Mr. Castor held numerous commercial roles in the medical device sector, most notably as the head of U.S. operations and global marketing for an Israel-based organization, where he successfully commercialized a novel orthopedic device in more than 30 countries. Mr. Castor earned his Bachelor of Science in international business from Johnson & Wales University.



## **PANELISTS**



Greg Anthos, MBA Tunnell Consulting

Greg brings to Tunnell over 30 years of experience in the life sciences industry, including over a decade of consulting experience in all business functions. He is adept at strategy development and execution, change management, operations management and program / project management. He is a seasoned operations leader with significant experience in engineering, organizational transformation and supply chain.

Prior to joining Tunnell, he spent 30 years at Merck & Co., most recently as Executive Director, Business Consulting, where he was a program leader in charge of transforming a 2,000 person global regulatory affairs function in order to provide a more competitive advantage for Merck. Previously he was Senior. Director, Merck Sigma Program and Training and MMD Operational Excellence Director where he developed a worldwide Lean Six Sigma Training program that was adopted by over 5,000 employees. He is a Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt as well as Change Agent II and Process Improvement Master.



## **PANELISTS**



Jennifer Griffin, PhD Mission BioCapital

Jennifer Griffin, PhD is a Partner in the Cambridge office of early stage venture firm Mission BioCapital. Jennifer has spent the last 10+ years accelerating early stage life science companies through direct investing, as well as creating ecosystems for them to thrive. As a VP at the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, she designed and executed the Commonwealth's investment strategy with a particular focus on developing underserved and underrepresented markets and talent within the industry. Before this, she served as a management and strategy consultant at Back Bay Life Science Advisors. She began her career as a licensing professional at MIT's Technology Licensing Office working with faculty, entrepreneurs, and investors to commercialize early-stage life science innovations. Jennifer holds a B.S. in Microbiology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Massachusetts Medical School, where she studied the genetic basis of mycobacterial cholesterol utilization.





### Lorenzo Pellegrini, PhD, MBA Hatch Biofund

Lorenzo is the Managing Partner of the Hatch Biofund with overall responsibilities for its investing and operating activities. He is a scientist, investor and entrepreneur with 30 years of experience in the life sciences and a passion for translating scientific discoveries into products that make a difference in patients' lives.

Lorenzo was founder or co-founder of six biotech companies, as either sole founder or venture capital equity co-founder and manager. Prior to joining Hatch, Lorenzo Pellegrini was the Founder of Palladio Biosciences, a privately owned biotech company developing innovative drugs for the treatment of rare kidney diseases. Serving as Palladio's first CEO, he raised \$20 million in venture capital financing and advanced the company's lead drug through Phase 2 studies. He then transitioned to the COO role and helped steer Palladio through its acquisition by Centessa Pharmaceuticals and subsequent IPO (Nasdaq: CNTA).



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### SAVE THE DATES



Regional
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PABC Golf Outing

May 13, 2024