



UCLA TDG is taking innovation to the next level by merging two premier events—the UCLA MedTech Conference and the LA Bioscience Ecosystem Summit (LABEST)—under the unified banner of **LABEST Week**. This strategic integration aims to foster deeper collaboration across biotech, MedTech, therapeutics, AI, and more, engaging key stakeholders in the Los Angeles ecosystem.

What: LABEST Week | Bioscience Day 2025

Highlights: This is the 7th Annual LABEST Bioscience Conference that takes place at UCLA Luskin Conference Center on Thursday, May 22, 2025. Keynote speakers include **UCLA Chancellor Julio Frenk**, **Gilead Sciences CEO Daniel O'Day** and **University of Pennsylvania Health System Executive VP Jonathan A. Epstein**. There are dozens of panels on the growth of LA as a bioscience hub, bioscience pitches, science presentations and more. View agenda for details.

[VIEW BIOSCIENCE AGENDA](#)

[LABEST BIOSCIENCE MAP](#)




LABEST Bioscience
05 • 22 • 2025
Agenda

Schedule as of May 14, 2025

 = Keynote Speaker  = Speaker  = Panel Discussion

THURSDAY, MAY 22 Main Track AM

 **Emcee: Judy Fortin**
Chief of Communications at UCLA Health

 **Welcomes**

Steven Dubinett, Dean, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
Brian Heath, Senior Vice President & Global Head of Commercial, Kite, a Gilead Company
Rachna Khosla, Senior Vice President, Head of Business Development, Amgen
Amir Naiberg, Associate Vice Chancellor, CEO & President, UCLA Technology Development Group
Mark Wisniewski, Senior Director, Biopharmaceuticals and UCLA Ventures, UCLA Technology Development Group

 **Keynote Speakers**

Julio Frenk, Chancellor, UCLA
Daniel O'Day, Chairman and CEO, Gilead Sciences
Jonathan A. Epstein, Executive Vice President, University of Pennsylvania Health System

8:30 AM - Noon
Centennial Ballroom
1st Floor

Biren Amin, Managing Director & Senior Research Analyst, Piper Sandler
Howard Chang, SVP Global Research & Chief Scientific Officer, Amgen
Ivan Farman, Global Co-head of Mergers & Acquisitions Group, Bank of America
Helen Kim, Senior Managing Director, Vida Ventures
Antoni Ribas, Director, Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy Center, UCLA

Chairman
Bellco Capital

Lunch Sessions

Centennial Terrace, 3rd Floor

Badges will be scanned for lunch seatings



11:30AM

12:10PM

12:50PM



Please only attend the lunch session that you signed up for on the conference app.
 Each lunch session is 40 minutes. Please be mindful and courteous to your other hungry attendees!

Main Track PM

1:30 PM Centennial AB
Ballroom
1st Floor

CAR T Therapy Application for Solid Tumors and Autoimmunity

PANELISTS:

David Barrett, Vice President for Cell Biology Research, Kite, a Gilead Company

Zachary Roberts, EVP of R&D and CMO, Allogene Therapeutics

Jim Robinson, CEO, A2 Biotherapeutics

Lili Yang, Professor of Microbiology, Immunology & Molecular Genetics, UCLA

MODERATED BY

Abla Creasey

Cell & Gene
Therapy Strategy
Advisor

2:10 PM

BioSuccess in LA

PANELISTS:

Bethany Mancilla, CBO, Capsida Biotherapeutics

Ken Schultz, Chairman & CEO, Trethera Corporation

Blaise Staab, Chief Commercial Officer, CleopatraRx

Nathan Wheeler, VP of Operations, Pelage Pharmaceuticals

MODERATED BY

Amir Naiberg

AVC, CEO &
President
UCLA Technology
Development Group

3:10 PM

Translating GeroScience into the Clinic

PANELISTS:

Denis Evseenko, Vice Chair for Research of Orthopaedic Surgery, USC

Bill Lowry, Associate Director, Education & Technology Transfer,
UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center

Erin Overstreet, Executive Director, USC Stevens Center for Innovation

MODERATED BY

**David
Changhan Lee**

Associate Professor
of Gerontology
USC

3:40 PM

Looking Beyond the Hype: In the Trenches of AI Application in Healthcare

PANELISTS:

Roger Kuan, Partner, Norton Rose Fulbright

Paul Lukac, Applied AI, Office of Health Informatics & Analytics,
UCLA Health Information Technology

Simon Nazarian, Chief Digital Officer, City of Hope

MODERATED BY

**Nasim (Zahra)
Eftekhari**

Executive Director
Applied AI &
Data Science
City of Hope

PEARL COHEN

Scientific Poster Plaza

Centennial CD Ballroom 1st Floor

Check out all the scientific poster entries and winners of this year's competition, sponsored by Pearl Cohen.

1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Harold Monbouquette, Professor of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering and
Special Advisor for UCLA Research Park, UCLA

12:40 PM Legacy
2nd Floor
South Wing

Developing Los Angeles into a Core Market

PANELISTS:

Alborz Mahdavi, Vice President Lilly Research Labs & CEO, Protomer Technologies
Kelly LoBianco, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity
Susan Windham-Bannister, Board of Directors, BioscienceLA

MODERATED BY
Rohit Shukla
Founder & CEO
Larta Institute

1:45 PM

Building a Thriving Biotech Startup Ecosystem in Los Angeles: Insights from Key Partners

PANELISTS:

Rene Hubert, Scientific Director Early Career Talent & Strategic Alliances,
Large Molecule Development & Research Data Sciences, Amgen
Duncan Huston-Paterson, Business Development, Amgen
Cynthia McKee, Manager, Amgen Ventures
Rubayath Mohsen, AVP, Business Development & Technology Transfer,
The Lundquist Institute
Carlos Munoz, CEO & Co-Founder, ReBlood RX
David Stover, Founder & CEO, Nammi Therapeutics

MODERATED BY
Rohit Shukla
Founder & CEO
Larta Institute

1:45 PM Enlightenment
2nd Floor
South Wing

How to Build in LA: Navigating the Planning & Permit Process in Greater Los Angeles

PANELISTS:

Stephen Cheung, President & CEO, Los Angeles County Economic
Development Corporation
David Klug, Economic Development Director, City of Pasadena
Andrew Powers, City Manager, City of Thousand Oaks
Danny Santana, Assistant City Manager, City of Torrance

MODERATED BY
Nancy Moses
Principal
Trammell Crow
Company

3:00 PM Enlightenment
2nd Floor
South Wing

Exploring Design Trends in Life Sciences: Mass Timber and Low Carbon Construction

PANELISTS:

Taylor Cabot, Senior Project Manager, Timberlab
Adam Jongeward, Principal, DCI Engineers
Ryley Poblete, Senior Associate, Global Sciences Leader, Gensler
Lisa Podesto, Director of Mass Timber & Sustainable Construction Innovation,
Swinerton

MODERATED BY
William Silva
Regional Director
of Preconstruction
Swinerton

4:00 PM Enlightenment
2nd Floor
South Wing

Think Global, Act Local: All Roads Lead to LA Life Sciences

PANELISTS:

Gunjan Bagla, Chief Executive Officer, Amritt Inc.
Dan Byrne, Founder & President, One Life Science
James Cummings, VP, Business Development, London & Partners
Ikram Guerd, Chief Marketing Officer & General Manager US, Aspivix
Min-Yi Shih, Executive Director, Taiwan Global Eastbound Association of
Launching America

MODERATED BY
Dave Whelan
Chief Business
Officer
Big4Bio

Learning Lounge

Gain insights on alternative funding sources, due diligence and improving your skills.

HOSTED BY
Charan Arora
Chief Intellectual
Property Officer
UCLA TDG

1:00 PM Laureate
Classroom
1st Floor

Industry Sponsored Research

Rubayath Mohsen, Director, Business Development & Technology Transfer,
The Lundquist Institute
Michelle Popowitz, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research & Co-Founder/
Executive Director, UCLA Grand Challenges, UCLA
Guy Rosenthal, President and CEO, Oryn Therapeutics
Karla Zepeda, Senior Director, Industry Research and Material Transfer, UCLA
Technology Development Group

1:45 PM

AI from R&D to Commercialization

Judy Fortin, Chief of Communications at UCLA Health

3:00 PM

Navigating the Evolving Landscape of the FDA Approval Process for Medical Devices & Pharmaceuticals: What You Need to Know

Eunjoo Pacifici, Chair & Associate Professor, Department of Regulatory & Quality Sciences, USC Alfred E. Mann School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences
Jessica Richter, EVP, CRO & Consulting Services, Veranex Solutions

First Look SoCal Innovation Showcase

The First Look SoCal Innovation Showcase features quick investor pitches from the best early-stage startups commercializing life science breakthroughs from the top research institutions in SoCal.

1:00 PM

 Illumination
2nd Floor
South Wing

- Biomark Oncology
- EndoFold
- Nectaris, Inc.
- NeuroAirmid
- OncoXome, Inc.
- Paralos Bioscience Inc
- Silver Spur Therapeutics

HOSTED BY

Steve Gilison
Interim Executive
Director & COO
Alliance for SoCal
Innovation

Pitch Gym LIVE by UCLA Ventures and Women in Bio

Pitch Gym Live will allow the opportunity to pitch live in front of an audience and receive real-time feedback and engagement from knowledgeable industry experts and investors.

3:00 PM

 Illumination
2nd Floor
South Wing

Showcase Keynote:

Tanjina Shapiro, Strategic Growth Advisor, Elevate and Evolve

Judges:

Lee Gordon, Chairman, Pasadena Angels
Kelly Kaihara, Founding Partner, Blueward Ventures
Helen McBride, Partner, BOLD Capital Partners

MODERATED BY

Pascal Krotee
Principal
Rivervest Ventures

Hot Topic: Metabolism

1:30PM -
3:30PM

 Artistry
2nd Floor
South Wing

Cancer Metabolism

Gaps in knowledge and technology and emerging solutions: organellar targets and organelle biology as markers and targets.

Aaron Lisberg, Assistant Professor, Clinical Medicine, UCLA
David Shackelford, Principal Investigator, UCLA

HOSTED BY

Orian Shirihi
Director
Metabolism
Research Theme
UCLA

 Imagination
2nd Floor
South Wing

Anti-Obesity Treatment and Its Challenges

GLP1 agonist treatment: their complications, alternatives, and emerging solutions.

Debora Sobreira, Vice Chair, Biological Chemistry, UCLA
Thomas Vallim, Associate Professor, UCLA

5:00 PM

 Centennial
Terrace
3rd Floor

Join us for the LABEST 2025 Closing Reception!

Let's celebrate the week of science, connection and discovery.



Schedule and Speakers subject to change.

#LABEST2025 | tdg.ucla.edu

REGISTER TODAY

tdgevents@tdg.ucla.edu for verification to receive a dedicated link.

Department buys available via Recharge or FAU.

GENERAL REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE

Register today before prices increase

LABEST Bioscience Ticket \$500

This event ticket provides you access to LABEST Bioscience ONLY on May 22, 2025

REGISTER HERE

PEARL COHEN POSTER COMPETITION - The deadline has **passed** for the competition and we are no longer accepting submissions. Register for the LABEST Bioscience Conference where the WINNING posters will be on display along with the other poster contest entries.

PEARL COHEN POSTER COMPETITION

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PEARL COHEN

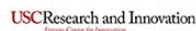
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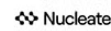
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