About UCSF Opportunities

The University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) is known for its commitment to high-quality science, an entrepreneurial culture, and strategic partnerships. This collaboration between UCSF researchers and the Innovation Ventures’ Office of Technology Management and Advancement (OTMA) has resulted in numerous commercial successes.

OTMA’s Engagement & Opportunity Development (EOD) team at UCSF plays a crucial role in fostering new ventures around promising technologies. They adopt a market-first approach, identifying potential products and market opportunities at the outset. To gather feedback from investors, EOD launched annual Investor Panels in 2021, where they present their most promising startup opportunities. The investors provide valuable feedback, help identify commercialization gaps, and refine the pitch.

Working closely with UCSF faculty inventors, EOD assists in various aspects of the startup process, including identifying unmet market needs, defining the product, conducting competitive analysis and market sizing, gathering initial feedback from the KOL Feedback Network of industry experts and venture capitalists, prioritization, pitch deck creation, and recruiting Executives in Residence (XiR) as well as Entrepreneurs in Residence (EiRs) as needed.

UCSF’s Innovation Ventures is excited about this upcoming event and looks forward to your active engagement during the panel session!
9:00 am  Welcome: **Todd Pazdera**, Director of EOD & Licensing, OTMA

9:30 am  **UCSF Therapeutics Opportunities**
Moderator **Darya Bubman**, Assistant Director, OTMA
20 minute presentation/10 minutes discussion and feedback

Tiller Therapeutics: Ligand assisted drug delivery
– Alan Ashworth, Jeffrey Neitz, Rahul Aggarwal, and Robert Flavell

Lasso Therapeutics: Precision allostERIC antibody therapeutics
– Steve Nishimura and Yifan Cheng

Meadu: Transforming cancer gene therapy
- Alex Haddad, Noriuki Kasahara, Manish Aghi, and Sara Collins

Hydronovo: Neuromimetic hydrogel to regenerate tissue of resident stem cells
- Chelsea Bahney and Sarah Knox

153 Therapeutics: NURR1 receptor modulators for Parkinson’s disease treatment
- Pamela England and Peter Noymer

Surfaceome X: Precision targeting of the cancer cell surfaceome
– Arun Wiita, Rob Flavell, and Audrey Reeves

12:30 pm  Lunch

1:30 pm  Welcome: **Todd Pazdera**, Director of EOD & Licensing, OTMA

2:00 pm  **UCSF dHealth & Med Devices Opportunities**
Moderator **Lorraine Johnson**, Sr. Manager, OTMA
20 minute presentation/10 minutes discussion and feedback

ZebraMD: EMR integrated software tool for disease predictions and treatment recommendations – Aubhishek Zaman, Vivek Rudrapatna

Sparsa AI: focused on reducing computation costs associated with large AI models – Partha Ray

NeuroSentry: Intuitive EEG-based stroke monitoring system
– Mauro Caffarelli

Salvista: Smart contact lens for monitoring intraocular pressure (IOP) and drug delivery – O’Rese Knight and EiR Carmen Caricchio

Hydrossohield: Self-associating polymer hydrogel for hydroadissection-aided percutaneous tumor ablation – Miles Conrad and Phil Messersmith
Karthik Ardhanareeswaran  
Partner at Google Ventures

Karthik Ardhanareeswaran is a San Francisco-based investing partner at GV, where he focuses on life sciences investments. Before GV, Karthik was a Vice President and Quant at D.E. Shaw & Co., where he developed algorithmic trading strategies and statistical models of markets. Karthik completed his undergraduate and graduate work at Yale in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology.

Evan Caplan, MD, MBA  
Principal at OrbiMed

Evan joined OrbiMed in 2018 and is a Principal focused on venture investments in therapeutics, medical devices, and other areas within healthcare. Prior to joining OrbiMed, he advised private and public biotech and medtech companies as an investment banker at J.P. Morgan. Evan received a BA in Economics from Middlebury College, an MD from Harvard Medical School, and an MBA from Harvard Business School.
Zak Doric, PhD
Investment Partner at Andreessen Horowitz

Zak is an investing partner on the Bio + Health team, focused on biotechnology companies. Zak holds a PhD in neuroscience from University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), where he was a Hillblom Graduate Fellow. His research focused on elucidating the molecular mechanisms responsible for causing familial forms of Parkinson’s disease. He also holds a BSc in Neuroscience from McGill University.
VC Panelists Biographies: Therapeutic Opportunities

Dr. Gomez, a distinguished professional in the field of life science venture capital and biotechnology operations, currently serves as Principal at TCG Labs. Previously he was Principal, Healthcare Investments at Mubadala Capital. Dr. Gomez's expertise in asset acquisition and strategic partnering was honed through his previous role as VP at BridgeBio where he led the sourcing, transactions, and creation of multiple therapeutics start-ups. He has a PhD in bioengineering from Rice and a BS from MIT.

Eric Gomez, PhD
Principal TCG Labs

KT Moortgat, PhD
Former Investment Partner
Droia Ventures

KT Moortgat is a seasoned venture investor, executive, and founder, with a track record of investing, leadership, and company incubation and growth, with realized and unrealized value creation. KT headed West Coast investing for a Fortune 100 corporation’s venture arm, and subsequently with a specialty biotech venture firm. Prior, KT held executive and consulting roles with multiple venture-backed biotech companies, including tenure as CEO at a clinical-stage startup. KT launched her career as founding director of the first university entrepreneurship center focused on life sciences, at QB3 and UC San Francisco.
Scott McIsaac, PhD
Head of Research and Venture Partner, Forsite Capital

Scott is a scientist and technologist, having made numerous contributions in the fields of synthetic biology, systems biology, and the computational and experimental study of transcriptional regulation. Scott received his B.A. in Applied Mathematics and Physics from Rice University, his M.A. and Ph.D. from Princeton University as a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellow with David Botstein, and his postdoctoral training at the California Institute of Technology as a Fellow of the Life Sciences Research Foundation with Frances Arnold.
VC Panelists Biographies: dHealth & Med Device Opportunities

**Abbie Strabala**
Associate Partner at True Wealth Ventures

Abbie joined the team in mid-2022 and helps with every aspect of running True Wealth Ventures. Abbie previously served as an Investment Analyst at RH Capital and Finance & Operations Manager at Rhia Ventures, driving innovation, access, and equity across the reproductive and maternal health landscape.

**Aaron Michel**
Partner at 1984 Ventures

Until recently Aaron was a partner at 1984 Ventures and just left to help the Biden campaign. Named to venture capital’s 40 Under 40 by VC Journal in 2020, Aaron is the co-founder of PathSource, an edtech startup that rose to be the top career app in the App Store until its acquisition in 2017. Aaron also created the online game Fantasy Politics for the 2012 election. Inducted into the annual Innovation Rockstar list by the Boston Business Journal, Aaron has written for Entrepreneur Magazine, Fast Company and a range of business outlets. He holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and an MPA from Harvard Kennedy School of Government.
Brenda Irwin
Managing General Partner at Relentless Pursuit

Brenda is Founder and Managing Partner of health technology focused Relentless Venture Fund. She has been named one of British Columbia’s Most Influential Women in Finance and 500 most influential business leaders in the province of BC. An experienced health investor, Brenda has led dozens of private and public transactions as venture capitalist and angel investor. As a board director, she brings expertise from company creation to exit.
VC Panelists Biographies: dHealth & Med Device Opportunities

Anika Sharin
Life Science Angels

Anika Sharin is working as Senior Program Manager for Regulatory Compliance at Intuitive Surgical Inc, which is market leader for surgical robotic products designed to improve clinical outcomes of patients through minimally invasive surgery, most notably with the da Vinci Surgical System. She is responsible for identifying compliance and regulatory risk associated with existing products in the market worldwide. She achieved her MBA in technology and product management at UCLA Anderson School of Management.

Peter Olcott, PhD
Principal at First Spark Ventures

Peter Olcott, PhD, is a Deeptech Principal at First Spark Ventures (FSV) specializing in early-stage investments. His background encompasses over 20+ years of experience in electrical engineering, software engineering, algorithm design, combined hardware-software robotic devices, and novel innovations in biomedical engineering. He holds 25 issued patents that range from basic innovations to large robotic machines that are used in radiotherapy. Has over 1800 academic citations for work in medical imaging and radiotherapy, at Reflexion Medical he successfully developed a robotic imaging device to treat late-stage cancer. Peter has a PhD from Stanford in Bio-engineering.
VC Panelists Biographies: dHealth & Med Device Opportunities

Rumi Yokota
Life Science Angels

Rumi is a medical device and digital health investment fellow at Life Science Angels and a business development intern at UCSF Innovation Ventures. She has worked in pediatric cardiology at Stanford Children’s Hospital for over a decade and is an Assistant Clinical Professor at the UCSF Department of Family Health Care Nursing. She is enrolled in the MBA program at Johns Hopkins University and has a BS in Management Science from UC San Diego.

Luc Ghislain, PhD
Life Science Angels

Dedicated to innovation, teamwork and strategic collaboration. 20+ years experience assembling dynamic teams and launching revolutionary life science products. Proven multi-functional leadership in R&D, Business Development, Program Management, Product Development, Intellectual Property, Angel Investing. Luc is interested in digital health, diagnostics, digital biomarkers, eye-tracking, cognitive health, and bio-tools. He received his PhD in applied and engineering physics at Cornell University.
A translational biologist and laboratory researcher, Ashworth’s research focuses on understanding breast cancer genetics to improve the treatment and care of patients. He was a key part of the team that identified the BRCA2 breast cancer susceptibility gene that is linked to an increased risk for some types of cancer. Ten years later, he discovered how to kill BRCA1- and 2-related tumor cells by treating them with PARP inhibitors which are drugs that increase the damage caused by the broken DNA repair machinery in those cells. This exemplifies the principle of synthetic lethality as cancer therapy. Three different PARP inhibitors are now approved by the FDA.

Jeffrey is an innovative researcher who has developed approaches to screen for chemical tools and drug leads. He began his career in 1996 at Athena Neurosciences in San Francisco and later obtained his PhD under Bill Roush at the University of Michigan. In 2003, he returned to San Francisco to focus on neurodegenerative diseases. Since joining UCSF in 2011, Jeffrey has been involved in developing new therapeutic leads for various conditions, including lung cancer, multiple myeloma, and prostate cancer. He serves as an Adjunct Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Associate Director of the Small Molecule Discovery Center, which houses a high-throughput screening facility.
Rahul Aggarwal, MD
Associate Director for Clinical Sciences, UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

UCSF Presenters: Therapeutic Opportunities

Rahul is a Medical Oncologist within the Division of Hematology/Oncology at the University of California San Francisco. My clinical practice focuses on patients with advanced solid tumor malignancies with a particular emphasis on genitourinary malignancies including prostate, kidney, bladder, and testicular cancer. He serves as the Co-Leader for the GU Medical Oncology program at UCSF. His research focus is on developing novel therapies and imaging modalities for patients with advanced solid tumor malignancies, with a focus on patients with advanced prostate cancer.

Dr. Flavell’s laboratory focuses on the development of new molecular imaging and therapeutic tools for better understanding of disease progression in patients with prostate and other cancers. One area of interest is the relationship between acidic interstitial pH and disease progression, where he has developed new tools to directly image tumor pH using hyperpolarized 13C MRI and positron emission tomography (PET). Another major focus is the development of novel theranostic agents, where new therapies are paired with imaging agents against the same target. Dr. Flavell’s research spans from basic chemistry and chemical biology projects, to translational and clinical studies.

Robert Flavell, MD, PhD
Associate Professor in Residence, Department of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging, UCSF
In his research, Nishimura is investigating the regulation of cell behavior related to development, cell signaling, tumor growth, metastasis (the spread of cancer from the primary site), blood vessel formation and differentiation, and wound repair, particularly in the lungs. He has received numerous honors and awards from organizations including the American Lung Association, UCSF Academic Senate and American Cancer Society. He is a member of the American Society for Cell Biology and American Society for Investigative Pathology.

Steve Nishimura, MD
Pulmonary pathologist
UCSF Health

Yifan focuses on studying the three-dimensional structures of macromolecular complexes using molecular electron microscopy (cryoEM). This involves exploring their structural architectures, functional regulation, and dynamic assembly and disassembly processes. CryoEM provides valuable structural information across various resolutions, ranging from atomic details of components to spatial arrangements and interactions.

Yifan Cheng, PhD
Professor, Biochemistry and Biophysics
UCSF School of Medicine
Alex is a resident physician in the UCSF Department of Neurological Surgery. He holds a postdoctoral fellowship in the labs of Dr. Manish Aghi and Dr. Noriyuki Kasahara. With a strong interest in glioblastoma research, Alex focuses on various areas including gene therapy, immunotherapy, synthetic biology, and viral vector development. His work aims to advance our understanding and treatment options for this aggressive form of brain cancer. Through his research, Alex strives to contribute to the development of innovative approaches that can improve patient outcomes and quality of life.

Dr. Kasahara’s research focuses on the improvement of vector technologies to make gene therapy more practical and clinically useful. To do so, the Kasahara Lab has pursued strategies for utilizing conventional vectors more efficaciously when applied to specific diseases, and developing the next generation of viral vectors for more efficient gene delivery. They have most recently developed novel vector systems that include cancer-targeted viruses, chimeric hybrid viral vectors, and tumor-selectively replicating viruses.

Alex Haddad, MD
Resident, Neurological Surgery
UCSF School of Medicine

Noriuki Kasahara, MD, PhD
Principal Investigator
UCSF Brain Tumor Center
A neurosurgeon and scientist at UCSF, Dr. Aghi’s research focuses on how the role of tumor-microenvironment interactions in driving aggressive biology and therapeutic resistance in brain tumors. He serves as PI on multiple industry sponsored and investigator-initiated clinical trials comparing immunotherapy versus anti-angiogenic therapy of recurrent glioblastoma, as well as investigating convection-enhanced delivery of oncolytic viruses and nanoliposomal chemotherapy to recurrent glioblastoma. Dr. Aghi completed his MD-PhD degrees through the MSTP program at Harvard Medical School, followed by neurological surgery and postdoctoral training at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Manish Aghi, MD, PhD
Professor Neurological Surgery
UCSF Health

Dr. Collins is an expert in advanced retroviral techniques for gene transfer. She is currently the Director or new vector platform at 4D Molecular Therapeutics. Prior to that, she held specialist and lab manager positions at UCSF and the University of Miami. She obtained her PhD at the University College Cork.

Sara Collins, PhD
Former Specialist
UCSF
The overall goal of Chelsea’s research is to develop novel therapies for the treatment of musculoskeletal diseases and injuries. To accomplish this “Developmental Engineering” approach our laboratory utilizes a cross-disciplinary tools combining biologically modified synthetic polymers, stem cell biology, and murine models of orthopaedic injuries. The long-term goal of our research is to solve problems that will have a direct and significant impact on human health.

Chelsea Bahney, PhD
Associate Professor
Trauma & Problem Fractures
UCSF

Specializing in the cellular and molecular events involved in organogenesis and organ regeneration after injury, Sarah’s research focuses on analyzing various epithelial organs such as salivary and lacrimal glands, prostate, pancreas, and the organs of the eye to uncover the key regulators that govern organ architecture. Specifically, her lab investigates the process of branching morphogenesis, where a single epithelial stalk forms an interconnected tubular network.

Sarah Knox, PhD
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Cell & Tissue Biology, UCSF
The England Lab focuses on the development and use of small molecules to manipulate and monitor the activities of biologically important ligand-receptor systems. Execution of these research projects typically involves a combination of synthetic chemistry, computational chemistry, structural biology, and appropriate biochemical and biological assays. Two systems currently being studied are glutamate-gated ion channels and hormone-activated nuclear receptors.

Pamela England, PhD
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, UCSF

Peter Noymer, PhD, is currently an EIR at UCSF Innovation Ventures and CEO of 153 Therapeutics, a UCSF spinout focused on neurodegenerative disorders. He also serves as Executive Chairman of PyrAmes, a Stanford digital health spinout, and ForCast Orthopedics, a startup for musculoskeletal infections. Previously, he was CEO of Kedalion Therapeutics and held leadership roles at SteadyMed Therapeutics and Alexza Pharmaceuticals. Peter holds MS and PhD degrees from MIT, and a BS degree from Princeton University.

Peter Noymer, PhD,
CEO, 153 Therapeutics

Dr. Wiita is a Clinical Pathologist and physician scientist with research focus on the development of novel immunotherapies for blood cancers. His group aims to integrate mass spectrometry based proteomics, chemical biology, protein engineering, and cellular engineering to treat these diseases. His group specifically focuses on target discovery to overcome poor prognosis or refractory forms of hematologic malignancies via novel cellular therapies. Dr. Wiita completed his undergraduate degree in Chemistry at Princeton, his MDPhD with graduate training in biophysics at Columbia, and residency training in Laboratory Medicine at UCSF.

Arun Wiita, PhD
Associate Professor, Dept. of Laboratory Medicine
UCSF

UCSF Presenters: Therapeutic Opportunities

Peter Noymer, PhD
Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, UCSF

Arun Wiita, PhD
Associate Professor, Dept. of Laboratory Medicine
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Audrey Reeves, PhD
Post-Doc
Dept. of Laboratory Medicine
UCSF

Dr. Reeves is a chemical biologist with a passion for applying analytical chemistry methods towards cutting-edge therapeutics research. She has particular interest in observing and targeting native post-translational modifications on proteins, with 6+ years of experience operating and maintaining mass spectrometry instrumentation to do so. During her tenure as co-lead of the analytical team at Tegmine Therapeutics, she optimized methods for assessing glycosylation patterns in antigens collected from patient tumor samples. Dr. Reeves completed her undergraduate degree in Chemistry from Southern Methodist University and her PhD in Chemistry from UC Berkeley. She is currently a postdoctoral scholar at UCSF investigating cell-surface capture methods towards the discovery of more precise antigen targeting techniques.

Partha Ray, BSEE, MBA
CoFounder & CEO
Sparsa AI

Partha, a UCSF XiR and Co-Founder & CEO of Sparsa AI, has 25+ years of deal & operating experience with leading global firms like J&J, Medtronic, Dexcom, Sony, Netscape, and IBM. He’s launched 6 FDA-regulated products globally, closed 15 venture and strategic transactions benefiting over 7M patients, generating $20B/yr in revenues. As core faculty at Stanford Biodesign, he’s mentored 36 Stanford Biodesign Faculty Fellows. Partha holds a BS in Electrical Engineering from Northwestern University, an MBA from UCLA Anderson School of Management, and was an Innovation Fellow at Stanford Biodesign.

Aubhishek Zaman, PhD
Associate Specialist,
Computational Health Scienc
UCSF School of Medicine

A decade worth of experience in cancer biology, a deep appreciation of data-driven interdisciplinary research, Aubhisheks curiosity in data science drove him to complete two hands-on certification courses- MIT’s data science institution and Springboard. His trainings in these programs allowed him to venture into data science projects of wide interests, scopes and use-cases. As a cancer biologist, to predict candidate therapies from in-depth laboratory research, I have also actively collected, managed, quality-controlled, analyzed and visualized high throughput bioscience OMICS data.
Rudrapatna earned his medical degree and a doctorate in cancer genetics at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He completed a residency in internal medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, followed by a fellowship in gastroenterology at UCSF.

Vivek Rudrapatna, MD, PhD
Assistant Adjunct Professor Dept. of Medicine, UCSF

Dr. Mauro Caffarelli, a pediatric neurologist and critical care specialist, focuses on hospitalized children, especially those in critical condition or post-high-risk surgery. Trained in both intensive care medicine and child neurology, he collaborates across departments and ICUs to enhance care for children with neurological issues. His research aims to advance brain monitoring methods using electroencephalography to identify and track brain injury in pediatric ICU patients, improving detection during life support and surgical procedures.

Mauro Caffarelli, MD
Assistant Professor, UCSF
Founder, NeuroSentry
UCSF Presenters: dHealth & Med Device Opportunities

Dr. O’Rese Knight is an ophthalmologist who specializes in caring for patients with glaucoma and cataracts. Knight earned his medical degree at the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine. He completed a residency in ophthalmology at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center and a fellowship in glaucoma at University of North Carolina Health.

O’Rese Knight, MD
Department of Ophthalmology
UCSF

With 25 years of agency and in-house experience, I have helped organizations of all shapes and sizes achieve market recognition and leadership resulting in successful corporate/product launches as well as new customers, followers, adopters, partners, investors, IPOs and acquisitions.

Carmen Caricchio
Entrepreneur in Residence
UCSF Innovation Ventures
UCSF Presenters: dHealth & Med Device Opportunities

Miles Conrad, MD, MPH
Department of Radiology
UCSF

A Clinical Professor in the Department of Radiology at the University of California, San Francisco. In 2001, Dr. Conrad received his MD from Dartmouth Medical School in Hanover, New Hampshire, and in 2002 he obtained his MPH in Quantitative Methods from Harvard School of Public Health in Boston. He completed his residency in Diagnostic Radiology and Vascular Interventional Radiology Fellowship at the University of Arizona, Tucson. He joined UCSF after his fellowship in 2008.

Phil's laboratory is interested in understanding structure to property relationships in biological materials and in using this information to design biologically inspired materials for use in healthcare. Fundamental studies include single molecule and bulk biophysical studies of biointerfacial and bulk mechanochemical phenomena in biological materials, whereas our applied studies the design and synthesis of novel biomaterials for tissue repair and regeneration.

Phil Messersmith, PhD
Chair of Bioengineering
UC Berkeley
Althea is currently an Entrepreneur in Residence at UCSF. Previously she was an investment partner at Longview Innovation, the US operations for IP Group, a venture capital company. Althea has held board positions in range of portfolio companies, including Carisma Therapeutics, Innervace, Somalytics, and Enzymetrics Bioscience. She also has held senior leadership roles in several portfolio companies and is experienced in company build-out and fundraising. Althea is passionate about developing early-stage technologies to advance human health. She holds a PhD in Genetics from Yale University and a BA in Molecular Biology from UC Berkeley.

Eileen McCullough is a seasoned company builder, fundraiser, and investor who sees the product in the technology and guides biotech teams to investible milestones and exit strategies with capital efficiency. She brings business acumen to the earliest stages of scientific discovery and collaborates closely with scientific founders. As an executive, Eileen communicates a clear leadership vision, attracts and builds diverse, high-performing teams, and provides steady leadership through times of change. Eileen is passionate about generating positive returns for investors by bringing forward first and best in class therapies.
UCSF Innovation Ventures

Todd has over 15 years of business development and licensing experience and is currently the director of BD and Licensing in Innovation Ventures at UCSF. Todd leads both the EOD and the Licensing teams which are engaged in identifying, prioritizing, developing, and partnering UCSF innovations. Todd and his teams also lead efforts to cultivate and launch new startups based on UCSF discoveries. Todd received his Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from Carnegie Mellon University and a B.S. in Cell and Structural Biology from the University of Illinois.

Todd Pazdera, PhD
Director Business Development, EOD & Licensing

Darya Bubman, with over 10 years of business development experience, evaluates UCSF inventions for market potential, identifies startup opportunities, works on startup development in partnership with UCSF PIs and negotiates NewCo licenses. She leads the EOD Team and manages the KOL Feedback Network of VCs and industry contacts and OTMA’s XiR/EiR program. With a B.A. in Biochemistry from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY and Ph.D. in Pharmacology from Weill Cornell Graduate School in NYC, she previously worked on business development at NASA Ames Research Center and on IP and access to medicines issues at the U.S. State Department as an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow.

Darya Bubman, PhD
Assistant Director, Business Development and EOD

Lorraine Johnson joined the UCSF Office of Technology Management and Advancement in January 2021 as a manager of Engagement and Opportunity Development. In her role, Lorraine focuses on evaluating inventions and commercial opportunities in the areas of devices, diagnostics, and digital health. Lorraine comes to UCSF from Industry and has spent more than 20 years commercializing medical devices and digital health platforms with Johnson & Johnson and several start-ups.

Lorraine Johnson
Senior Business Development Manager EOD
Dr. Marlene Grenon is a physician, scientist, and entrepreneur, serving as Director of Digital Health at UCSF Innovation Ventures and Associate Clinical Professor in UCSF’s Department of Surgery. With extensive experience, she has led clinical trials funded by NIH and NASA/NSBRI. Dr. Grenon holds an MD from McGill University, a MMSc from Harvard Medical School, an MBA from Brown University and IE Business School, and a diploma in Space Sciences from the International Space University. She advises Bay Area startups in digital health and consults for the American Medical Association on digital health and AI.

Mike was most recently with Optovue where he served as the VP of Strategic Planning and Innovation. Prior to Optovue, Mike was with Alcon for 15 years. Mike had several roles at Alcon including the lead on the development of a white space strategy to expand Alcon’s portfolio in new therapeutic areas, head of surgical glaucoma R&D, and the research head for vitreoretinal instrumentation. He has been responsible for moving several products through the development and commercialization process. Mike has a Ph.D. from UC Irvine in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and is an inventor with over 42 patents.
Kathy has ten years of business development experience in university settings, both at UCSF and Stanford, where she sourced and executed several high-value licenses and managed various industry collaborations. Kathy is passionate about working with faculty members and industry partners to forge paths for startup formation with the goal of bringing new technologies to the public domain. Prior to joining the technology transfer field, Kathy obtained a PhD in Genetics at Yale and was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Buck Institute for Research on Aging, where her research focused on the roles of histone deacetylase inhibitors and ribosomal proteins in breast cancer. She received her AB in Biology from Cornell.

Kristin, with over 10 years of business development experience, leads the Therapeutics and Diagnostics Licensing Team at Innovation Ventures. She collaborates with UCSF researchers to advance their innovations for commercial development, focusing on therapeutics, diagnostics, and medical devices. Kristin holds a Ph.D. in Virology from Harvard University and an A.B. in Molecular Biology from Princeton University. She also has expertise in biotech consulting and science policy at the National Academies.

With a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Washington State University and an MBA from the University of Massachusetts Amherst’s Isenberg School of Management, Lindsay also holds a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Utah. Her research there focused on developing instrumentation and algorithms for faster PCR and more accurate high-resolution DNA melting. Prior to her current role at UCSF, Lindsay served as a Licensing Director for Engineering at the University of Connecticut.