Preliminary Agenda
As of 1/26/2024

8:00 a.m. EST Registration and Exhibit Booth/Poster Setup

9:00 a.m. Rare Disease Day at NIH Overview
Meera A. Shah, M.P.H., Program Analyst, Division of Rare Diseases Research Innovation (DRDRI), National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Ainslie Tisdale, M.P.H., Program Analyst, DRDRI, NCATS, NIH

9:10 a.m. Welcoming Remarks
Joni L. Rutter, Ph.D., Director, NCATS, NIH
James K. Gilman, M.D., CEO, Clinical Center, NIH

9:40 a.m. NCATS DRDRI Update
Dominique C. Pichard, M.D., M.S., Director, DRDRI, NCATS, NIH

9:50 a.m. Rare Story #1: Shortening the Diagnostic Odyssey—Project GIVE (Genetic Inclusion by Virtual Evaluation) for the Rio Grande Valley
Seema R. Lalani, M.D., Professor, Department of Molecular and Human Genetics, Baylor College of Medicine

10:10 a.m. Rare Story #2: A Typical Normal—Finding Our Stride Through Exceptional Times
Jessica Swanson, M.A., BCBA, QBA, LBA, CAS, Rare Disease Caregiver; Co-Chair, Undiagnosed Diseases Network Participant Engagement and Empowerment Resource

10:25 a.m. Break
- Exhibits and Scientific Posters
- Art Exhibition and Films
- Networking

10:55 a.m. NIH Director Remarks
Monica M. Bertagnolli, M.D., Director, NIH

11:05 a.m. Session 1: Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Its Potential Role in Rare Diseases
Moderator: Christine Cutillo, M.M.C.i., Health Data Scientist for AI Ethics, Office of Data Science Strategy, Office of the Director, NIH
Panelists:
- Kimberly A. Moran, Ph.D., M.B.A., CDP, Head, U.S. Rare Diseases, UBC, Inc.
• Manisha Balwani, M.D., M.S., FACMG, Professor and Chief, Division of Medical Genetics and Genomics, Department of Genetics and Genomic Sciences, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
• Ewy A. Mathé, Ph.D., Director, Informatics Core, Division of Preclinical Innovation, NCATS, NIH

Q&A will follow the panelist presentations.

12:05 p.m. Rare Story #3: Microphysiological Systems as Applied for Rare Diseases Therapeutic Development
James J. Hickman, Ph.D., Professor, Chemistry, University of Central Florida; Co-Founder and Chief Scientific Officer, Hesperos, Inc.

12:25 p.m. Rare Story #4: Repurposing With Purpose—From Discovery to Rapid Treatment of Bachmann-Bupp Syndrome
André S. Bachmann, Ph.D., M.S., Professor and Associate Chair for Research, Scientific Director of the International Center for Polyamine Disorders, Department of Pediatrics and Human Development, College of Human Medicine, Michigan State University
Caleb P. Bupp, M.D., FACMG, Division Chief, Medical Genetics and Genomics, Corewell Health and Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital; Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics and Human Development, College of Human Medicine, Michigan State University; Clinical Director, International Center for Polyamine Disorders

12:45 p.m. Lunch (on your own)
• Exhibits and Scientific Posters
• Art Exhibition and Films
• Networking

2:00 p.m. Rare Story #5: Authenticity and Vulnerability in Storytelling
Ashley Eakin, Rare Disease Patient, Advocate, Film Director, and Writer

2:20 p.m. Rare Story #6: Wolfram Syndrome: Diagnosis, Clinical Protocols, and Advances in Gene Editing, Regenerative, and Molecular Targeted Therapies
Fumihiko Urano, M.D., Ph.D., FACMG, Samuel E. Schechter Professor of Medicine, Director of Wolfram Syndrome and Related Disorders Clinic, Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Lipid Research, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis

2:40 p.m. Rare Story #7
Meredith Schultz, M.D., M.S., SVP, Clinical Development and Medical Affairs, Taysha Gene Therapies
3:00 p.m.  **Break**
- Exhibits and Scientific Posters
- Art Exhibition and Films
- Networking

3:30 p.m.  **Rare Story #8: Vamorolone: How a Public-Private Partnership Succeeded in Bringing a Rare Disease Drug to Market**
**Moderator:** Dominique C. Pichard, M.D., M.S., Director, DRDRI, NCATS, NIH
**Speakers:**
- Eric P. Hoffman, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Binghamton University - State University of New York; CEO, ReveraGen BioPharma, Inc.
- Sharon Hesterlee, Ph.D., Chief Research Officer, Muscular Dystrophy Association

3:50 p.m.  **Session 2: Recent Approvals and Advancements in Gene Therapy**
This session will begin with a brief introduction and overview of genetic therapies. Attendees will then hear from the director of FDA’s Center for Biologics Evaluation Research - Office of Therapeutic Products on new initiatives and recent guidances related to gene therapies. Following these remarks, presenters will describe the path to approval for two recent approvals of genetic therapies for rare diseases, highlighting potential clinical impact, relevance for similar diseases, remaining challenges and concerns, as well as patient perspectives.
**Introduction and Moderator:** Philip John (P.J.) Brooks, Ph.D., Deputy Director, DRDRI, NCATS, NIH
**Presentations:**
- **FDA Rare Disease Gene Therapy Initiatives**  
  Nicole Verduin, M.D., Super Office Director, Office of Therapeutic Products, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER), The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- **Gene Therapy for Patients With Cerebral Adrenoleukodystrophy**  
  Florian S. Eichler, M.D., Director, Center for Rare Neurological Diseases, Massachusetts General Hospital; Professor, Neurology, Harvard Medical School
- **Gene Therapies for Patients With Sickle Cell Disease**  
  Alexis K. Leonard, M.D., Assistant Member, Department of Hematology, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital

*Q&A will follow each presentation.*

4:45 p.m.  **Closing Remarks**
Joni L. Rutter, Ph.D., Director, NCATS, NIH

5:00 p.m.  **Adjournment**