



Point of Care Showcase & Pitch Event

Featuring Digital Health Innovators

June 3, 2025

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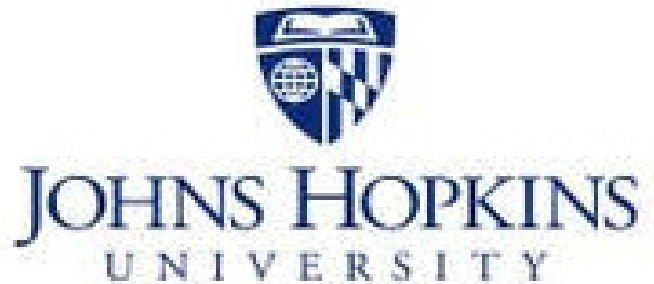


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Fireside Chat Speakers

Nate Hafer, PhD

Director of Operations,
UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science

Nate Hafer is an accomplished research professional with 15 years of experience at academic and government institutions. He currently serves as the Director of Operations for the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) and as an Assistant Professor in the Program in Molecular Medicine at UMass Medical School.



In his role at UMCCTS, Nate coordinates and supports sponsored research programs, acting as a key liaison between extramural partners — including biotech, pharma, NIH, and academic collaborators — and internal investigators. He manages pilot funding programs and educational initiatives, including the I-Corps program, designed to accelerate the translation of research into clinical applications.

Nate also co-directs the Massachusetts Medical Device Development (M2D2) Center, a collaborative biotech incubator fostering innovation and commercialization in medical technology across UMass Lowell and UMass Chan.

Prior to joining UMass, Nate was an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow at the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) at the NIH. He earned his Ph.D. in molecular biology from Princeton University and holds a B.S. in biology with a minor in science, technology, and society from Penn State University.

Fireside Chat Speakers

David McManus, MD ScM FACC FHRS FAHA FACP

Richard M. Haidack Professor & Chair, Dept. of Medicine,
University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School and UMassMemorial Health



David McManus, MD, ScM, is an esteemed clinical and research cardiologist and cardiac electrophysiologist who serves as the Richard M. Haidack Professor and Chair of the Department of Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School (UMass Chan). Known for his pioneering work in cardiac electrophysiology and digital medicine, Dr. McManus leads transformative research focused on integrating technology with cardiovascular care, notably as the founding director of the NIH-funded Center for Advancing Point-of-Care Technologies (CAPCaT) and as a contributor to the NIH's Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) initiative during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. McManus has led numerous high-impact clinical trials, including SAGE-AF, VITAL-AF, and PULSEWATCH, advancing the field of point-of-care diagnostics. He holds leadership roles with national cardiology and health organizations, including the Heart Rhythm Society, American College of Cardiology, and American Heart Association, where he currently serves as President-Elect of the Board of Directors.

As the founding director of the UMass Program in Digital Medicine, Dr. McManus launched the Health AI Assurance Laboratory, a state-funded initiative in partnership with MITRE's AI Assurance and Discovery Lab, to rigorously evaluate AI applications in healthcare. Through this and other programs, he is also dedicated to training the next generation of health AI professionals, establishing the NIH-funded CODER Training Program, and overseeing internships and innovation training for young STEM learners. He has published over 300 manuscripts, secured over \$140 million in NIH funding, and is the founding Editor-in-Chief of Digital Cardiovascular Health Journal.

Fireside Chat Speakers

Serban Georgescu, MD, MBA

Executive Committee,
Mass Medical Angels

Serban Georgescu is a physician entrepreneur with a strong focus on digital health and medical technologies. He brings over a decade of experience as a strategic advisor, board member, and consultant to startups and early-stage ventures in the life sciences and healthcare sectors.



Currently, Serban serves as Senior Trade Officer for the Canadian Technology Accelerator and Digital Health program at the Consulate General of Canada in Boston, where he connects innovative Canadian digital health, life sciences, and technology companies to the New England market, helping them engage with clients, partners, and investors.

He is the co-founder of NotoVox, Inc., a company pioneering intuitive medical coding solutions that translate physicians' clinical thinking into fast, accurate, and cost-effective medical codes to improve quality of care.

As Due Diligence Chair at Mass Medical Angels, Serban leads technology, financial, and market due diligence on early-stage life science companies, providing investment recommendations for one of the region's most active seed-stage life sciences investor groups.

He also serves on the advisory board of New England Breath Technologies, which is developing a non-invasive breathalyzer for diabetes detection and monitoring.

Beyond his entrepreneurial roles, Serban founded the Romanian American Biomedical Association, a global network connecting Romanian biomedical professionals across academia, healthcare, and industry to foster collaboration and raise awareness of their contributions.

Fireside Chat Speakers

Varun Ramdevan, MBA

Digital Technology External Innovation Lead,
Johnson & Johnson

Varun Ramdevan, MBA, is the Global Digital Health and Technology Partnerships Lead at Johnson & Johnson Innovation. In this role, he is responsible for shaping early-stage innovation partnering for digital health, data platforms, and enterprise technology across J&J's Innovative Medicines Technology organization. Varun works closely with early-stage technology ecosystems to drive incubation, investment, and partnerships that advance J&J's technology portfolio in areas such as advanced computing, data science, and digital health.



Prior to his current role, Varun served as Global Technology Leader at J&J Interventional Oncology (formerly J&J Lung Cancer Initiative and New Ventures), where he provided digital leadership for lung cancer detection and therapy innovations. His work encompassed building teams to deliver novel software informatics, AI-driven diagnostic products, and clinical innovation solutions.

Varun holds an MBA from Babson College's F.W. Olin Graduate School of Business and brings over eight years of experience in digital health, data science, and enterprise technology partnerships. His previous roles within J&J include leading data-driven strategy for Medical Devices R&D investment decisions, along with M&A in medical device R&D and economic research.

Beyond J&J, Varun is an active investor and advisor in the Boston innovation ecosystem, serving as an investor at OneVenture, a climate and food tech fund, and an advisor at MedSchoolCoach, a medical education platform. He also sits on the Emerging Leaders Board of the Kendall Square Association, a network of innovation leaders in Boston, and is deeply committed to mentoring startups and supporting educational non-profits.

Varun's work is driven by a passion for innovation and transformation in healthcare, with a focus on improving patient outcomes, enhancing access, and creating sustainable value.

Fireside Chat Speakers

Yuka Manabe, MD

Infectious Disease & Point-of-Care Expert, Johns Hopkins University

Dr. Yukari Manabe is a Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Johns Hopkins University's Department of Medicine, with secondary appointments in the Bloomberg School of Public Health's Department of International Health and the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Immunology. She earned her undergraduate degree from Yale University and her M.D. from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. After completing her residency in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases fellowship at Johns Hopkins Hospital, she joined the faculty in 1999.



Dr. Manabe's early research focused on tuberculosis (TB) immunopathogenesis using comparative animal models, especially examining latency, reactivation, and immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome (IRIS) in rabbits at the Johns Hopkins Center for Tuberculosis Research. In 2007, she served as Associate Medical Laboratory Director at the Makerere University-Johns Hopkins University Clinical Core Lab in Uganda, where she studied antiretroviral-associated TB and IRIS. She later became Head of Research at the Infectious Diseases Institute at Makerere College of Health Sciences (2008–2012), helping build research capacity and training programs for Ugandan investigators.

Her work centers on operational and translational research in TB and HIV co-infection, with a particular emphasis on rapid, point-of-care diagnostics for infectious diseases suited to resource-limited settings in sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Manabe's research evaluates the accuracy of these diagnostics and their impact on disease detection and patient outcomes, contributing to improved care in high-burden regions.

Fireside Chat Speakers

Kenzie Mucci, MPH

Digital Partnership Lead, Takeda

Kenzie Mucci, MPH, is the Digital Partnership Lead at Takeda, where she drives search and evaluation for digital health partnerships, investments, and joint ventures as part of the company's global innovation strategy. She also serves as an investor with Takeda Digital Ventures, where she supports portfolio companies focused on next-generation health technologies and serves as a board observer for digital health startups including Rheumission and Ishi Health.



Kenzie earned her Master of Public Health from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, where she later led the strategy and operational execution of the Beiwe Research Platform at the Onnela Lab. There, she helped operationalize the concept of digital phenotyping — the use of personal smartphones to continuously quantify individual-level human behavior — working with academic and pharmaceutical collaborators across more than 25 clinical groups.

With over eight years of experience advising startups at the intersection of healthcare, AI, and digital innovation, Kenzie has supported early-stage companies on product development, strategic positioning, and investor relations. Her previous roles include serving as a Venture Fellow with Civilization Ventures, a life sciences VC firm, and as a digital strategy consultant at Accenture.

Kenzie's work spans the academic, venture, and corporate sectors, with a common thread of translating innovative ideas into impactful solutions for patients. Her perspective on digital health innovation is informed by a commitment to advancing technologies that improve access, personalization, and outcomes in healthcare.

Review Panel



Yuka Manabe, MD
Infectious Disease & Point-of-Care Expert
Johns Hopkins University



Sandra Nagale, PhD
Director, Digital Health Products,
Platforms & AI
Boston Scientific



Kenzie Mucci, MPH
Digital Partnership Lead,
Takeda



Varun Ramdevan, MBA
Digital Technology External Innovation Lead,
Johnson & Johnson



Gladys Nunez, MS
Executive Director,
Amgen Ventures



Brian Rosnov, MBA
Founder & Partner,
Trailhead Partners

Pitch Presenters



Advanced Interactive Response Systems (AIRS) – High-quality safety and monitoring products for oxygen delivery

PRESENTER

Valerie Obenchain, CEO - valerie@oxygenalarms.com

[*Learn more about her on LinkedIn.*](#)



Valerie Obenchain



Baebies – Multifunctional rapid POC Testing - One Platform, Multiple Types of Tests

PRESENTER

Rainer Ng, PhD, Senior Director, Technology Development - rng@baebies.com

[*Learn more about him on LinkedIn.*](#)



Rainer Ng

Pitch Presenters



MyBiometry – Novel asthma treatment solution

PRESENTER

Bryan Nolan, Founder & CEO – bryan@mybiometry.com

[*Learn more about him on LinkedIn.*](#)



Bryan Nolan



Hemorai – Monitoring patch to detect PPH

PRESENTER

Hector Torres, MSc, Co-Founder & CEO – hector@hemorai.com

[*Learn more about him on LinkedIn.*](#)



Hector Torres

Pitch Presenters



Oximeter for People of Color – Device that accurately measure hemoglobin and oxygen levels in all skin tones

PRESENTER

Sanjay Gokhale, Founder – rajhanssanjay@gmail.com

[*Learn more about him on LinkedIn.*](#)



Sanjay Gokhale



Billion Labs – Novel blood pressure measurement using oscillometric method

PRESENTER

Edward Wang, PhD, Founder & CEO – edward@billionlabs.co

[*Learn more about him on LinkedIn.*](#)



Edward Wang

Research Symposium Presenters

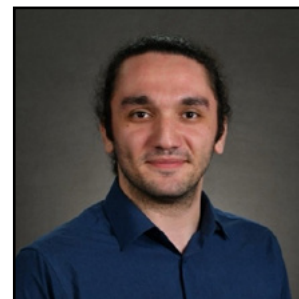


Conquering Metastasis: A Multiscale Platform for Personalized Medicine

PRESENTER

Ashkan Novin, PhD, Biotech Entrepreneur – ashkan@sequestbio.com

[*Learn more about him on LinkedIn.*](#)



Ashkan Novin

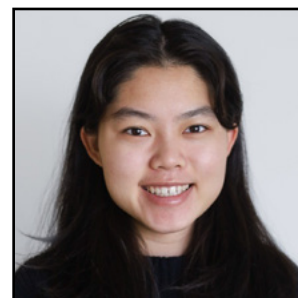


Digital Incentive Spirometer for Assessing Incentive Spirometry Adherence

PRESENTER

Yi-An Hsieh, MSc, Research Assistant, UPenn Medicine – hsieh.yian@alumni.upenn.edu

[*Learn more about her on LinkedIn.*](#)



Yi-An Hsieh

Research Symposium Presenters



Remote Patient Monitoring Program Predicts Exacerbations in Chronic Respiratory Illness Patients

PRESENTER

Jyotsna Mehta, MS, Founder & CEO, Keva Health – [jyotsna@kevahealth.com](mailto: jyotsna@kevahealth.com)

[*Learn more about her on LinkedIn.*](#)



Jyotsna Mehta



Proteomics at the Point of Care: Rapid, High-content, Sensitive Multi-Cytokine Analysis

PRESENTER

William Page, MD, Researcher, Ciencia – [wpage@ciencia.com](mailto: wpage@ciencia.com)

[*Learn more about him on LinkedIn.*](#)



William Page

Research Symposium Presenters



Head and Neck Postural Therapeutic Sniffing Position Device for Improved Maternal-Fetal Health and Sleep-Disordered Breathing

PRESENTER

Michael Popitz, MD, CEO, Aeolus Sleep – mdpopitzmd@gmail.com

[*Learn more about him on LinkedIn.*](#)



Michael Popitz



Advanced Prediction of Respiratory Depression Episodes with the Linshom Medical Continuous Predictive Respiratory Sensor

PRESENTER

Richard Urman, MD, MBA, Professor & Chair, Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center – richard.urman@osumc.edu

[*Learn more about him on LinkedIn.*](#)



Richard Urman

MLSC Resources & Funding Opportunities

Tiffany Walther, PhD

Program Manager,
Massachusetts Life Sciences Center

Tiffany Walther serves as a Program Manager on the Scientific Innovation & Strategic Investments team at the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC), where she develops and manages funding programs that drive life sciences innovation and commercialization across Massachusetts. With a background in biomedical research and life sciences consulting, Tiffany brings cross-sector expertise to support public, private, and nonprofit stakeholders. Prior to joining MLSC, she was a consultant at McKinsey & Company, advising top pharmaceutical and biotech companies on R&D strategy and clinical trial operations. Tiffany holds a Ph.D. in Molecular Physiology & Biophysics from Vanderbilt University and a B.A. in Molecular Biology from Princeton University.



The MLSC offers robust support for life sciences researchers and entrepreneurs through targeted investments in areas with significant potential and unmet need. Resources include funding for translational research and early-stage startups, capital grants to address critical equipment gaps, and programs specifically aimed at advancing therapeutic delivery, data science, and women's health.

The Center also supports underfunded fields of life sciences and medtech innovation and provides accessible entry points for academic spinouts and first-time entrepreneurs. These initiatives reflect MLSC's mission to strengthen the ecosystem, expand opportunity, and catalyze breakthrough solutions in healthcare.



Apply to the Fall 2025 LIFT Cohort!

Applications close Thursday, July 17th!

The M2D2 LIFT Program is a transformative opportunity for graduate and post-graduate researchers who are tackling aging-related diseases.

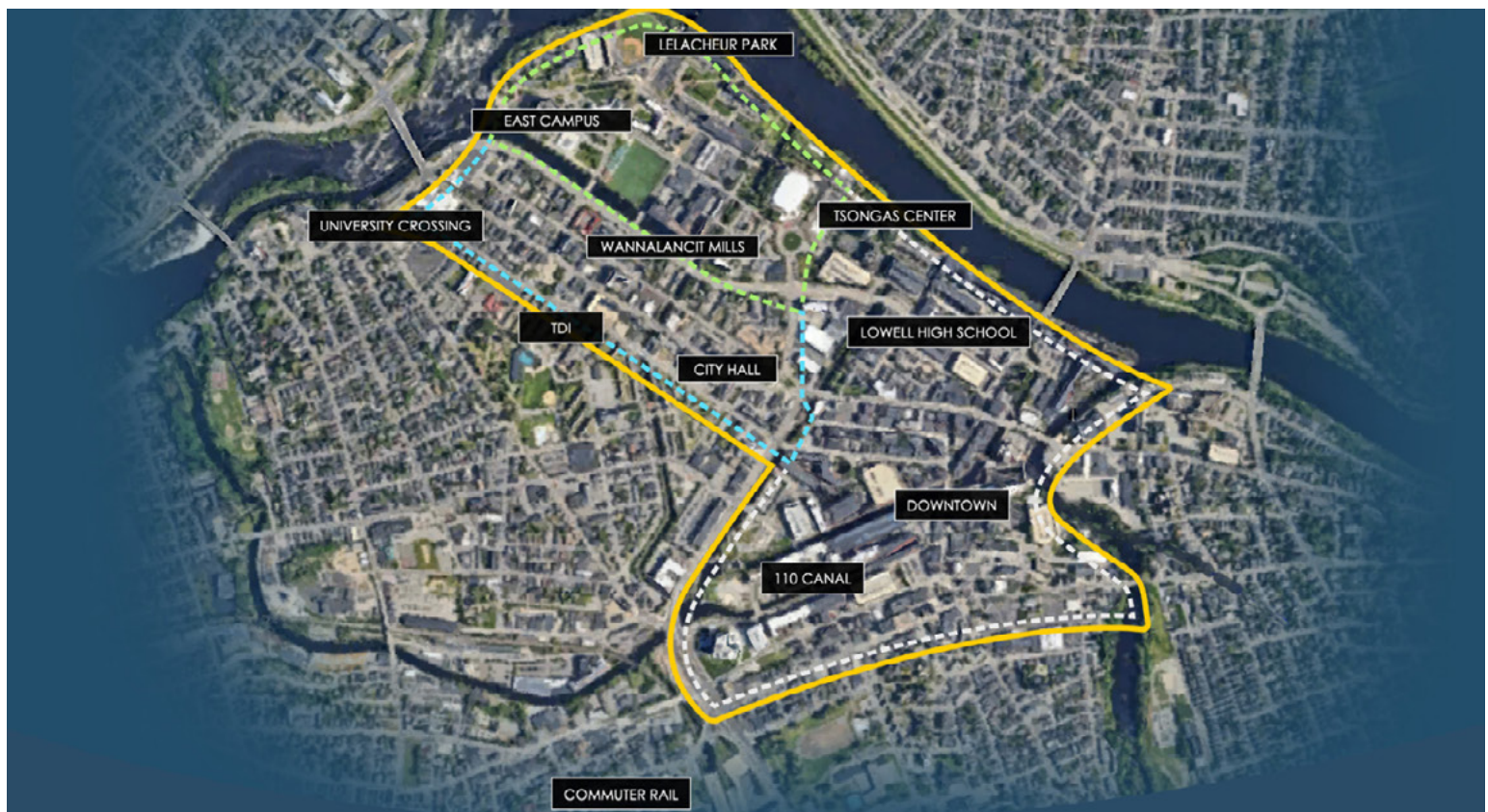
Over the course of a semester, you gain hands-on entrepreneurial training designed to expand their career horizons beyond academic research.



[Learn More and Apply](#)

If you're looking to turn your research into impactful innovations, the **LIFT program is your launchpad for success** in the aging space.

Don't just imagine a new career path — ***build it.***



LINC Lowell Innovation Network Corridor

The Urban Revitalization of a Historic Gateway City

What is LINC?

UMass Lowell is working with the City of Lowell to create the Lowell Innovation Network Corridor (LINC), a new commercial real estate development that will translate the university's success into economic development gains for Lowell and the Merrimack Valley.

Across UMass Lowell's campus and in the City of Lowell, LINC is a public-private partnership leading the planning for laboratories and office space as well as housing, restaurants, retail and entertainment venues.

Why now?

The timing is ideal, as companies are increasingly looking to relocate to Lowell to work alongside university faculty, researchers and students as well as industry peers and take advantage of the city's benefits and quality of life.

Why UMass Lowell?

- Top-tier national research university with ~\$120 million research enterprise
- No. 1 public university in Mass., according to The Wall Street Journal
- Extensive history of industry partnerships from start-ups to multinational corporations
- Expertise in sectors ranging from robotics and manufacturing, to biotechnology and biomedical devices, to space technology, sensors, cyber security and artificial intelligence.

Why Lowell?

- Access to pipeline of talented high-tech skilled interns and graduates
- Affordable cost of living, with Merrimack Valley housing costs 50% lower than Greater Boston
- Easy rail, road and air transportation to Greater Boston and beyond
- Enhanced entertainment, culture and quality of life



LINC, by the numbers

73%

funded by private
developer

\$4-6

million new annual tax
revenue for City of Lowell

1,300

new construction jobs

2,000

new permanent jobs
over next decade

1.2

million square feet

500

new housing units

50%

more affordable cost of living,
as compared to Greater Boston

Partners



NEWMARK



LINC Lowell Innovation
Network Corridor

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