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**Innovation in Research VII:**



 **BioInc@NYMC**

 **Westchester  
Biotech Project**

**Tomorrow's Life Science Workforce**

Nov. 28, 2023, @BioInc, Valhalla, NY  
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**Agenda** Innovation in Research VII: Tomorrow's Life Science Workforce Nov 28, 2023 8:30-4

8:30	<b>Check-in</b>	<b>Biolnc &amp; Roberta Lasky, Associate, Westchester Biotech Project</b>
9:00	<b>Welcome/Opening Remarks</b>  <b>Solomon Amar D.D.S., Ph.D</b> Senior Vice President for Research Affairs Chief Biomedical Research Officer Touro University & New York Medical College	<b>Paola S Salazar</b> Coordinator Biolnc @ New York Medical College  <b>Joanne Gere</b> Co-Founder & Executive Director Westchester Biotech Project
9:10	<b>Blueprint2030: The Space Race</b>  Moderated by  <b>Paola S Salazar</b> Coordinator Biolnc @ New York Medical College	<b>Lila Ghamsari, Ph.D.</b> Senior Director of Discovery Science Sapience Therapeutics  <b>Win Thurlow</b> Executive Director Life Sciences NY  <b>Nancy Kelley</b> Nancy J. Kelley + Associates/Builds Bio+  <b>Ofer Ohad</b> Managing Partner DBI Projects
10:15	<b>Break</b>	
10:45	<b>Young Investigators: Diversity, Access, and Celebration</b>  Moderated by  <b>Solomon Amar D.D.S., Ph.D</b> Senior Vice President for Research Affairs Chief Biomedical Research Officer Touro University & New York Medical College	<b>Katharine Yamulla</b> Assistant Dean of Clinical Skills Education and Assessment Director of the Clinical Skills and Simulation Center New York Medical College  <b>Cheryl Brannan</b> Founder Sister to Sister International  <b>Wendy Nadel</b> Senior Strategy Advisor North80  <b>Renee Reijo Pera Ph.D.</b> President McLaughlin Research Institute Dean of Research Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine-Montana
11:45	<b>Flash Talks</b>	Young Scientists on Science (3 quick talks)

12:00	<p><b>Building the Plane While Flying</b></p>	<p><b>Michael Welling</b> Partner, Meridian Risk Management</p> <p>Co-Founder &amp; Chief Strategy Officer Westchester Biotech Project</p>
12:10	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>	
1:00	<p><b>Keynote</b></p> <p>Challenge: <b>Addressing Myocarditis in Adolescents and Young Adults following COVID-19 Vaccination.</b></p> <p>On building a Westchester-centered collaborative research network spanning 30 U.S. medical institutions.</p>	<p><b>Supriya Jain, M.D.</b> Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics and of Radiology,</p> <p>Clinical Education Liaison New York Medical College</p> <p>Director of Pediatric Cardiac MRI/ Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital</p>
1:20	<p><b>Career Consortium: Pathways for Scientists</b></p> <p>Moderated by</p> <p><b>Joanne Gere</b> Co-Founder &amp; Executive Director Westchester Biotech Project</p>	<p><b>Kevin Friert</b> CEO, Salem Oaks Consulting</p> <p><b>Mary Lo Re Ph.D</b> Dean of the Graduate School of Business /Touro University</p> <p><b>Avrom Caplan Ph.D.</b> Associate Provost/EVP Academic Affairs, PACE University</p> <p><b>Juanice Mickles</b> former Associate Director, Westchester Biotech Project</p>
2:20	<p><b>Break</b></p>	
2:40	<p><b>Moderated Roundtable: What’s Next?</b></p> <p>Moderated by</p> <p><b>Michael Welling</b> Co-Founder &amp; Chief Strategy Officer Westchester Biotech Project</p>	<p>We’ve heard about great programs- how can we collaborate to build resources, pipelines, and opportunity density?</p> <p>This is the time to open the door to fresh partnerships toward a few consistent goals.</p>
3:40	<p><b>Final Round/Adjourn</b></p>	<p>Continue sharing with your new friends and then...</p>
4:30	<p><b>Captain Lawrence Brewery</b></p>	<p>Come on over for a round on us!</p>
	<p>Program subject to change.</p>	

## **Speaker Biographies:** (alphabetical order)

### **Solomon Amar, D.D.S, Ph.D.**

Senior Vice President for Research Affairs  
Chief Biomedical Research Officer  
Touro University & New York Medical College

Dr. Amar is a prolific researcher and author of more than 200 scholarly articles on topics including the role of inflammation and oral health, molecular immunology, biotechnology, periodontal disease, pharmacology and clinical trials. Dr. Amar's research team has a long-standing interest in periodontal tissue homeostasis and mechanisms of inflammatory bone loss. His work has led to seminal observations in periodontal systemic diseases, especially cardiovascular diseases and obesity, leading to innovative approaches in public health aspects of these diseases.

Beyond his role as researcher, Dr. Amar's passion for life sciences has led to Touro's expansion in research programs, a clinical trials unit, novel affiliations and acquisitions of biomedical institutions, hospitals, and more, as well as the creation or growth in research funding across Touro's intramural awards and external organizations.

### **Cheryl Brannan**

Founder, Sister to Sister International, Inc. (STSI), President, Brannan Solutions Group

Ms. Brannan is a seasoned professional with a unique portfolio of skills, currently focusing on what she considers to be her life's work. Brannan Solutions Group is a multi-faceted consulting firm, anchored in diversity, equity and inclusion expertise and specializing in the elimination of health disparities in communities of color; women's empowerment, STEM education and strategic management initiatives.

Sister to Sister International, Inc. (STSI) is a nonprofit organization established in 1994, linking and empowering women and families of African descent globally. This year STSI collaborated with Westchester Biotech Project to offer the Westchester Certificate: Essential Skills in the Laboratory at SUNY Westchester Community College.

Brannan is also a former executive at Xerox Corporation with over 20 years of experience in sales, marketing and human resources. She serves on several boards that promote the educational and professional advancement of girls and women of color.

### **Avrom Caplan Ph.D.,** Associate Provost/EVP Academic Affairs, PACE University

Avrom Caplan is a cell biologist and research administrator with nearly four decades of experience. He currently serves as the Associate Provost for Research at Pace University where he takes overall responsibility for the research enterprise. He came to Pace in 2019 from the City University of New York (CUNY), where he served as University Dean for Research, and was responsible for university-wide initiatives promoting research among faculty and students.

Avrom began his independent scientific career as a cell biologist at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in 1993, after postdoctoral work at Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His studies on the role of molecular chaperones in protein folding and protein degradation were funded by several grants from the National Institutes of Health, and he has authored more than 50 papers and book chapters on the subject.

**Kevin Friert**, CEO, Salem Oaks Consulting

Kevin is a seasoned drug developer with outstanding people skills. During his 30-year career with Pfizer, Kevin held many varied roles that have given him a broad and deep understanding of the Drug Discovery and Development Process. During much of his career he has educated colleagues and others about Pharmaceutical R&D, including establishing and running Pfizer Research University

After retiring from Pfizer, Kevin started Salem Oaks Consulting. The company's main purpose is to empower patients to shape the future of medicine by providing educational programs about Drug Discovery and Development.

Kevin is also the host of the [Improbable Developments](#) and [Raising Rare](#) podcasts.

**Joanne Gere**, CoFounder, Executive Director, Westchester Biotech Project

Ms. Gere has enjoyed a lively journey by seeking ways to add value across multiple silos. With a keen interest in opportunity density in non-urban communities, she has worked with academic, nonprofit, and industry leaders to stimulate interaction and the sparks that create true collaboration.

Thanks to Michael Welling and Westchester Biotech Project, she has engaged with diverse individuals and groups who contribute to the region's colorful future. Her next chapter adds a New York statewide initiative to build wet lab spaces for post-incubator companies, as well as support for rural artists and a community center to welcome LGBTQ youth

**Lila Ghamsari, Ph.D, M. Sc.**, Senior Director of Discovery Science, Sapience Therapeutics

Sapience Therapeutics is a clinical stage biotechnology company focusing on the development of peptide therapeutics for cancer patients. Dr. Ghamsari's work centers on pioneering the discovery of therapeutics and in vitro pharmacology, with a focus on difficult-to-drug targets in various cancer types.

With over two decades of experience bridging industry and academia, she has played a pivotal role in advancing therapeutic candidates through pre-clinical and clinical phases.

Dr. Ghamsari earned her postdoctoral credentials from Harvard Medical School and Columbia University, and her expertise is underscored by over 22 peer-reviewed publications.

**Biographies continue... scroll on!**

**Supriya Jain, M.D.**

Director of Pediatric Cardiac MRI/Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging,  
Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center

Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics and of Radiology, Clinical Education Liaison  
Director of Transition to Residency and Transition to Fourth Year Program  
New York Medical College-School of Medicine

Dr. Jain provides highly skilled patient care and services in the field of pediatric cardiology and cardiovascular imaging utilizing state-of-the-art technology. She is recognized nationally and internationally for her work in Myocarditis, Kawasaki disease, Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children MIS-C and COVID vaccine associated myocarditis.

As the Principal Investigator of Myocarditis After COVID Vaccination, MACiV, she is currently leading a large multicenter collaborative research network involving 38 institutions across the United States, looking at the mid and long-term outcomes in patients with COVID-19 mRNA vaccine associated myocarditis, supported by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. This study recently won the best research award in pediatric cardiology at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Congress in Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery.

Dr. Jain was recognized and awarded the 2023 New York State Women of Distinction award, by the New York State Assembly for her work in healthcare, research, and patient service. She is also the recipient of the Dean's Faculty award 2021 for excellence in teaching, educational and research leadership.

**Nancy J Kelley, J.D.,** Nancy J. Kelley + Associates/Builds Bio+

A nationally recognized executive, Ms. Kelley has driven key strategic initiatives in science and medicine for over 20 years. She was the Founding Executive Director of the New York Genome Center and a lead executive in the development of the East River Science Park (now, Alexandria Life Science Center) in Manhattan. She has overseen major development projects for clients such as Harvard's McLean Hospital, NIH, Johns Hopkins, and MIT.

She has a deep understanding of the healthcare, life science and research fields and has in-depth knowledge of the related legal, business, government, non-profit and academic sectors in NYC and across the country. She has been appointed both a White House Fellow and Truman Scholar.

**Roberta Lasky,** Associate, Westchester Biotech Project

Ms. Lasky comes to the organization with a diverse background in journalism, social media, media relations, marketing, magazines, and newspapers. She is an outstanding media and communication professional with a degree in Journalism from University of Maryland College Park.

She brings her skills in writing and event planning to expanding Westchester Biotech Project's scope and is currently a taste tester at Pepsico.

**Mary Louise Lo Re Ph.D**, Dean of the Graduate School of Business, Touro University

Dr. Lo Re oversees Touro graduate programs in NY, Berlin & Moscow. Her responsibilities include: strengthening curricular/co-curricular programs; enhancing interdisciplinary collaboration/integration amongst Touro schools; managing the academic, personnel, strategic, financial and administration operations; and building vital partnerships with alumni and the greater business community.

She attained her Ph.D. from the CUNY Graduate Center, specializing in Monetary Theories & Policies and International Trade and has published numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and books. Areas of teaching/research: finance, risk modeling, economics, data analysis/forecasting and international business.

Work history prior to academia: American Express, the United Nations, the Board of Education, Entrepreneur-retail business owner.

**Juanice Mickles**, Former Associate Director, Westchester Biotech Project

During her one-year tenure at WBP, she worked alongside Executive Director, Joanne Gere to reignite pre-Covid initiatives. She developed and implemented marketing campaigns, built and cultivated new partnerships with non-profit organizations, community colleges, real estate professionals, medical education institutions, and students. Juanice managed the annual Westchester Certificate: Essential Skills in the Laboratory, increasing the student participant number by 35%.

Through her internship with New York BIO she wrote a guidebook geared for the biotech industry Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging. [Click to Download](#)

Her professional background includes commercial real estate marketing, event production, and film advertising. She recently completed a training course as a Community Health Worker at Columbia University. In her spare time, she enjoys attending healthcare and biotech conferences and coaches early career professionals on networking techniques.

**Wendy Nadel**, Senior Strategy Advisor, Fareri Associates/North80, Founder and Principal, Nadel Philanthropic Advising

Ms. Nadel is an accomplished social entrepreneur. Throughout her 35+ year career in the not-for-profit sector, she has been the founder of several successful ventures and has held numerous leadership roles that showcase her vision, commitment and expertise. Her boutique philanthropic advising firm provides a full range of services to individuals, families and private foundations to help define their philanthropic goals and create purposeful giving plans that maximize the impact of their philanthropy.

Currently, she is involved with the development of North80-a 3 million square foot life science and innovation campus located in Westchester County, NY. The campus will have a significant philanthropic partnership that will focus on engaging students in careers in STEM.

Wendy served as the Founding Executive Director of Yonkers Partners in Education for 12 years. She currently serves on the Boards of the Westchester Community College Foundation and Grad Bag. In 2014, Wendy was named one of the 175 History Makers of Emory University.

**Ofer Ohad**, Managing Partner, DPI Projects

Ofer Ohad, DBI Projects' Managing Partner, brings more than two decades of expertise in real estate and capital projects with proficiencies spanning complex financial structures, contract negotiations, transaction management, and oversight of large construction projects. Under Ofer's guidance, DBI developed Newlab, the home to more than 250 deep tech startups and over 1,000 entrepreneurs, inventors, investors, and optimists with locations in the Brooklyn Navy Yard and Detroit. In addition to Newlab, Ofer has supported numerous other organizations to strategically plan and execute complex projects, including Pace University, Bard College, and St. John's University. Known for innovative solutions, he cultivates enduring partnerships, directing developments globally from the World Trade Center to historic sites in Paris, Rome, and Be'er Sheva.

**Renee Reijo Pera, Ph.D.**, President, McLaughlin Research Institute,  
Dean of Research, Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine-Montana

Dr. Reijo Pera is a stem cell biologist whose research focuses on the development and differentiation of somatic and germ cell lineages and neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's disease. and also infertility in men and women. She is the inventor of more than 10 patented technologies and author of 200 publications as well. She spent almost 20 years in Silicon Valley at the University of California at San Francisco and Stanford University, where she was the George D. Smith Professor of Regenerative Medicine. Her work at Stanford was the basis of the co-founding a company, Auxogyn, that later was consolidated to form Progyny, Inc. Prior to joining MRI, she was Vice President of Research, Economic Development and Graduate Education at the California Polytechnic State University and at Montana State University.

She received TIME Magazine's Top 10 Medical Breakthroughs in 2010, Newsweek's Twenty Influential Women Leaders in the United States, and induction into the National Academy of Inventors.

**Paola Salazar**, Coordinator, BioInc @ New York Medical College  
and Office of the Vice President for Research

Ms. Salazar's work has helped in the development or continuation of research communications, conferences, committees and collaborations, public liaising, and client outreach at the only biotechnology incubator sited on a health sciences college campus in the Mid-Hudson Valley.

She has a strong background in STEM outreach for ages K-12 and adults in public arenas, higher education and media, for Boston University the Cambridge Science Festival; and Science on the Street through the Massachusetts Institute of Technology,

She continues to be involved in nurturing a passion for STEM among women and minorities for the next generation of scientists and practitioners.

**Biographies continue... scroll on!**



**Win Thurlow JD**, Executive Director, Life Sciences NY, (formerly MedTech)

Winthrop "Win" Thurlow is the Executive Director of LifeSciencesNY (formerly MedTech), a non-profit trade association representing New York's bioscience and medical technology industry.

For nearly 30 years, Thurlow has been engaged as a leader and consultant in the private and public sectors. He is a former New York Assistant Attorney General-in-Charge and has worked as a lawyer in private practice and as a prosecutor, a regulator and an administrator, including serving as Counsel and Vice President for University Compliance and Ethics at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, New York where he oversaw institutional compliance, scientific and research misconduct, commercialization and technology transfer.

Thurlow has served in leadership roles at various not-for-profit agencies and is a frequent lecturer on organizational ethics, internal controls and enterprise risk management. He is also an adjunct professor in Syracuse University's College of Engineering and Computer Science.

**Michael Welling**, Co-Founder & Chief Strategy Officer, Westchester Biotech Project  
Partner, Meridian Risk Management

Michael Welling is a father of a now 18 year-old son who received two separate unrelated anonymous stem cell transplants at the age of 1. After their family's 6 month stay at Sloan-Kettering and watching firsthand how cutting-edge medical research saved his child's life, Michael set out to support scientific progress in any way that he could for the purpose of helping save more lives. This led to Michael co-ounding and launching the Westchester Biotech Project in 2017.

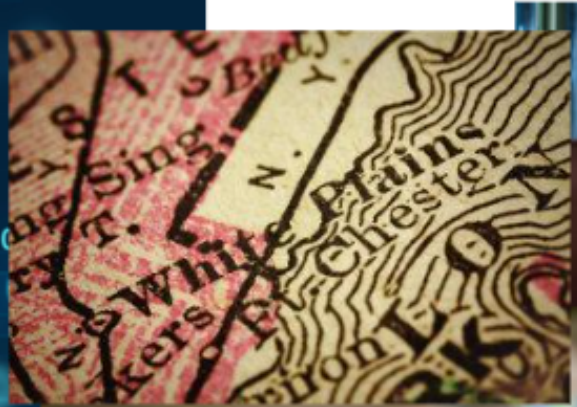
Currently a White Plains resident, Michael grew up in Westchester and then returned after living and working abroad. Having been part of the Westchester Business community for years, he is a Partner with Meridian Risk Management in Pelham.

**Katharine Yamulla, MHEA, CHSE**, Assistant Dean of Clinical Skills Education and Assessment  
Director of the Clinical Skills and Simulation Center

Ms. Yamulla's Clinical Skills and Simulation Center (CSSC) at NYMC trains more than 3,000 learners per year. She has just been promoted from Senior Director of Competency Based Assessment and Clinical Skills Education to Assistant Dean of Clinical Skills Education and Assessment.

She is very active at the national and international levels with her innovations being recognized by the International Society for Medical Science Educators and the Society for Simulation in Healthcare. Most recently Katharine was elected to the Executive Council for the Directors of Clinical Skills Education, an AAMC affiliated group, and was also appointed as Program Planning Chair.

She was the recipient of the 2017 Business Council of Westchester 40 under 40 Rising Star Award, named the 2015 Navy Seabees Distinguished Scholar and was honored by the Children's Dream Foundation of Westchester as a 2022 Educator of the Year.



Science Beyond Borders

Lab to Market

Building the Cluster

Connecting Community



Westchester Biotech Project