THE SOCIETY FOR RNA THERAPEUTICS

Academic Consortium for Personalized RNA Therapies

Inaugural Workshop

Coronado Island Marriott, San Diego • October 28, 2026

1:00p **Registration**

2:00p **Welcoming Remarks**
Introduction to the Academic Consortium for Personalized RNA Therapies
John P. Cooke, M.D., Ph.D. — Professor and Director, Center for RNA Therapeutics, Houston Methodist Research Institute; Weill Cornell Medical College

The Promise of Personalized mRNA Cancer Vaccines

Moderator: Pieter Cullis, Ph.D., University of British Columbia

2:05p **University-sponsored Clinical Trials in mRNA Cancer Vaccines**
John P. Cooke, M.D., Ph.D. — Houston Methodist Research Institute

2:10p **Industry-sponsored Clinical Trials in mRNA Cancer Vaccines**
Ben Greenbaum, Ph.D. — Co-Director, Vaccine Center, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Manufacturing in an Academic Environment

Co-moderators: Graham Taylor, Ph.D., Helix Biotech, and Jesse Erasmus, Ph.D., HDT Bio

2:30p **Solving Problems in Manufacturing and Analytical Characterization**
Andrew Varley, Ph.D. — Director, RNA and Formulation Core, University of British Columbia

2:45p **cGMP Manufacturing in an Academic Environment**
Murilo Bueno, Ph.D. — Scientific Director, RNACore, Houston Methodist Research Institute

3:00p **Translating mRNA into medicines: the design, manufacture and delivery of mRNA-LNPs at BASE**
Timothy Mercer, Ph.D. — Professor, BASE, AIBN, University of Queensland

Federal Innovation to Facilitate Academic Programs

Moderator: John P. Cooke, M.D., Ph.D., Houston Methodist Hospital

3:15p **The Future of US Clinical Development: Pathways for First-in-Human Clinical Trials of RNA Therapeutics**
Tim Scott — President and CEO, Biocom

3:35p **Genetic Medicines and Individualized Manufacturing for Everyone (GIVE)**
John Schiel, Ph.D. — Program Manager, Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)

4:00p **HDT Bio: The Distributed RNA Synthesis (DRS) Team of ARPA-H GIVE**
Jesse Erasmus, Ph.D. — Director of Virology, HDT Bio

4:10p **Brown University: The FUSE Team of ARPA-H GIVE**
Anubhav Tripathi, Ph.D. — CV Starr Professor of Engineering and Medical Sciences, Brown University

4:20p **Break**

Emerging Academic Programs in Personalized mRNA Cancer Vaccines

Co-chairs: Bruce Sullenger, Ph.D., and Smita Nair, Ph.D., Duke University

4:35p **University of British Columbia: The AVENGERs**
Mike Hughes, Ph.D. — Lead, Personalized Cancer Vaccine Program, University of British Columbia

4:45p **University of Pennsylvania: Penn Institute for RNA Innovation**
Irina Shkundina, Ph.D. — Senior Research Investigator, Weissman Laboratory, University of Pennsylvania

4:55p **Johns Hopkins University: RNA Innovation Center**
Michelle Kim, Ph.D. — Managing Director, RNA Innovation Center, Johns Hopkins University

5:05p **Mayo Clinic RNA Therapeutics Program**
Shubh Roy, Ph.D. — Director, Mayo Clinic RNA Synthesis Facility, presenting on behalf of Nilüfer Ertekin-Taner, M.D., Ph.D.

5:15p **West Virginia University: The Montimeran mRNA Platform**
F. Heath Damron, Ph.D. — Director, Vaccine Development Center, West Virginia University

5:25p **From Sequence to Patient: Building the Operating System for Personalized RNA Therapies**
Jason Barbour, Ph.D. — Chief Executive Officer, Echo Immunotherapeutics, Inc.

5:35p **Open Discussion and Next Steps**
Moderator: John P. Cooke, M.D., Ph.D. — What is the rationale for academic programs in personalized mRNA cancer vaccines, and what are the hurdles?

6:30p **ASCENT Opening Reception**
6:30 – 8:30 p.m., hosted by the Alliance for mRNA Medicines and sponsored by Wacker Biotech

SUPPORTED BY

FOUNDING PARTNER

CONSORTIUM PARTNER

CONSORTIUM PARTNER

Recording and photography. Please be aware that portions of the conference will be recorded and/or photographed. Your presence at the Workshop constitutes your consent to be photographed and/or filmed, either in the background or as part of B-roll footage during the event. Content may be used in connection with the Society for RNA Therapeutics and its initiatives, including, but not limited to, use on websites, in social media, and for promotional materials. Additionally, there may be opportunities for short, recorded interviews during the event. Participation in these interviews is entirely voluntary, and you are not obligated to take part if you do not wish to.