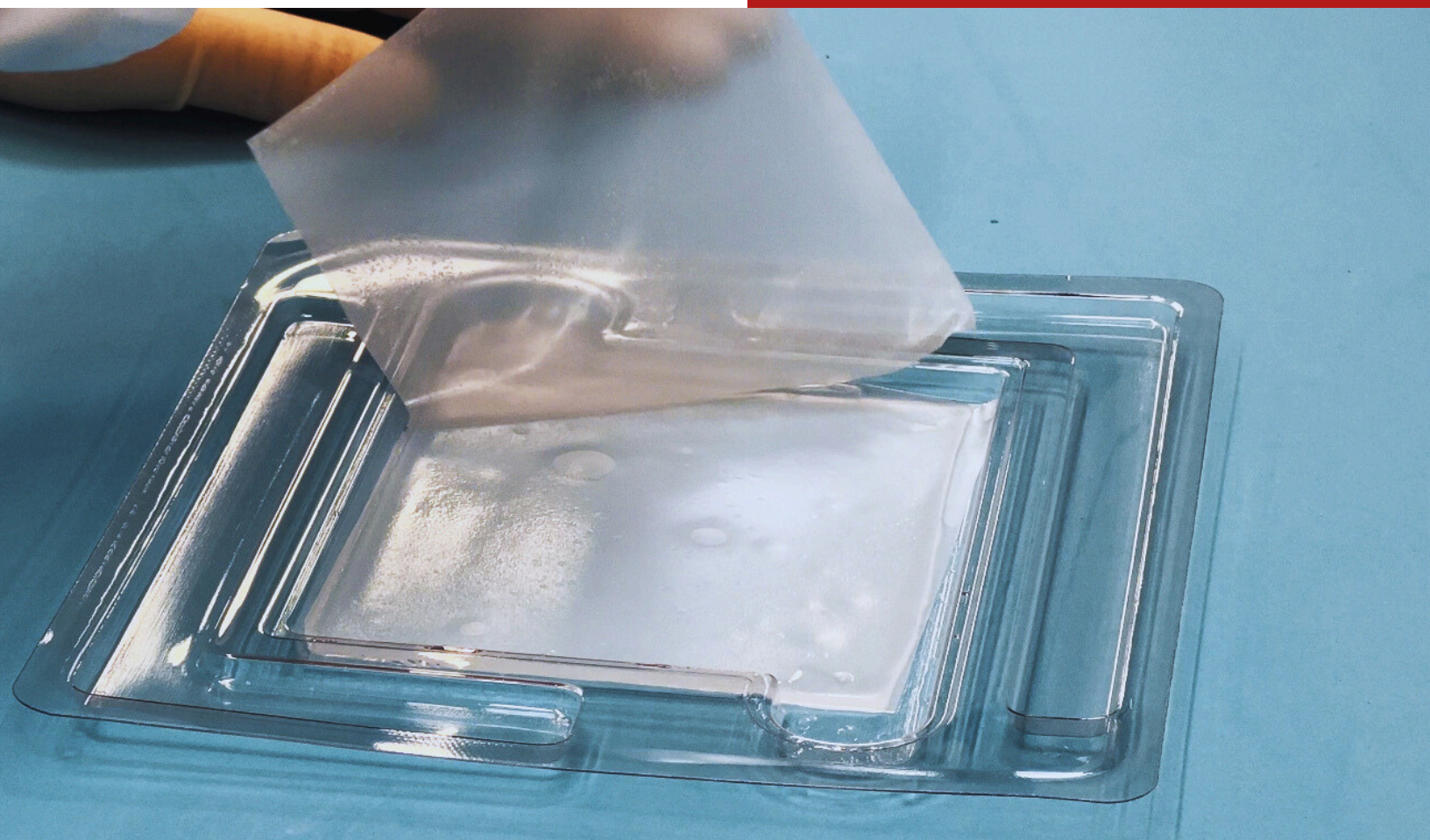




Weill Cornell Medicine

Enterprise Innovation



**Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2025**

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Cover Image: DermiSphere™ *hDRT hydrogel* Dermal Regeneration Template. Learn more about this innovative product based on Dr. Jason Spector's research on page 8. Image Courtesy of Fesarius Therapeutics, Inc.

Leadership Message



Dr. Lisa Placanica

Senior Managing Director
Center for Technology Licensing at Weill Cornell Medicine

As we turn the page on fiscal year 2025, we are proud of the resilience shown by our Weill Cornell community of innovators and entrepreneurs during a turbulent year and in the face of an evolving funding landscape. To meet these challenges, Enterprise Innovation forged ahead with new engagement strategies to support our innovators and bolster our innovative ecosystem during this past fiscal year and for the years to come.

Several startups powered by Weill Cornell innovations and technologies hit fundraising milestones to further advance their pipelines. Others were granted expedited pathways by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to accelerate the approval of their clinical stage drug candidates. A wound-healing product received FDA 510(k) clearance positioning it for U.S. market entry. All these achievements are emblematic of the great potential of Weill Cornell innovations to lead to patient impact.

In Fiscal 2025, we focused on strengthening the innovative and entrepreneurial culture across the institution and connecting with stakeholders from the broader New York City biotech ecosystem.

We provided foundational educational programming to over 2000 participants interested

in exploring relevant commercialization and business development topics through multiple webinars, classes and events.

A key focus area for Enterprise Innovation in Fiscal 2025 was increasing our efforts to source, curate and secure unique non-government funding opportunities for our innovators, focusing on research alliances and translational research with high commercial potential. By establishing an internal database of over 1,600 active private and federal research grants awarded to Weill Cornell researchers and leveraging AI capabilities to triage projects by key “industry-aligned concentration areas,” we matched industry and non-governmental requests-for-proposals to the best-fit research teams for potential collaborative opportunities.

Dr. Hugh C. Hemmings, senior associate dean for research and chair of the Department of Anesthesiology, stressed that Weill Cornell Medicine must support investigators and facilitate research efforts at all times. “By pursuing alternative research funding and collaboration models, we provide more opportunities for our clinicians and scientists to translate their research to patient care,” he said.

In the new fiscal year, we will keep refining our ability to pair scientific excellence and activity with industry needs to increase commercial collaboration, develop and deploy streamlined processes for industry collaborative research contracting, and explore additional funding mechanisms to nurture Weill Cornell innovations to the commercial partnership-ready stage.

Year in Review

Our mission is to translate innovative science and technologies developed by Weill Cornell Medicine investigators into revolutionary patient care through commercial partnership and entrepreneurship. We bridge academic research and industry commercialization by providing end-to-end support to our innovators and collaborators through diligent execution on five key strategies:



200 New Faculty Across 11 Departments Welcomed*
*(*100% engagement rate)*
75 Educational & Networking Events
2,227 Total Attendees
923 Weill Cornell Medicine Attendees

86 New Invention Disclosures
72% New Disclosures Approved for Investment



Year in Review

Protect



31 Newly Issued U.S. Patents

236 IP Strategy Decisions Made

1,053 Major Business Development Interactions

747 Unique Commercial Entities Engaged

21 Licenses/Options Executed

10 Research Agreements Executed

4 New Companies Launched

Connect



Collaborate



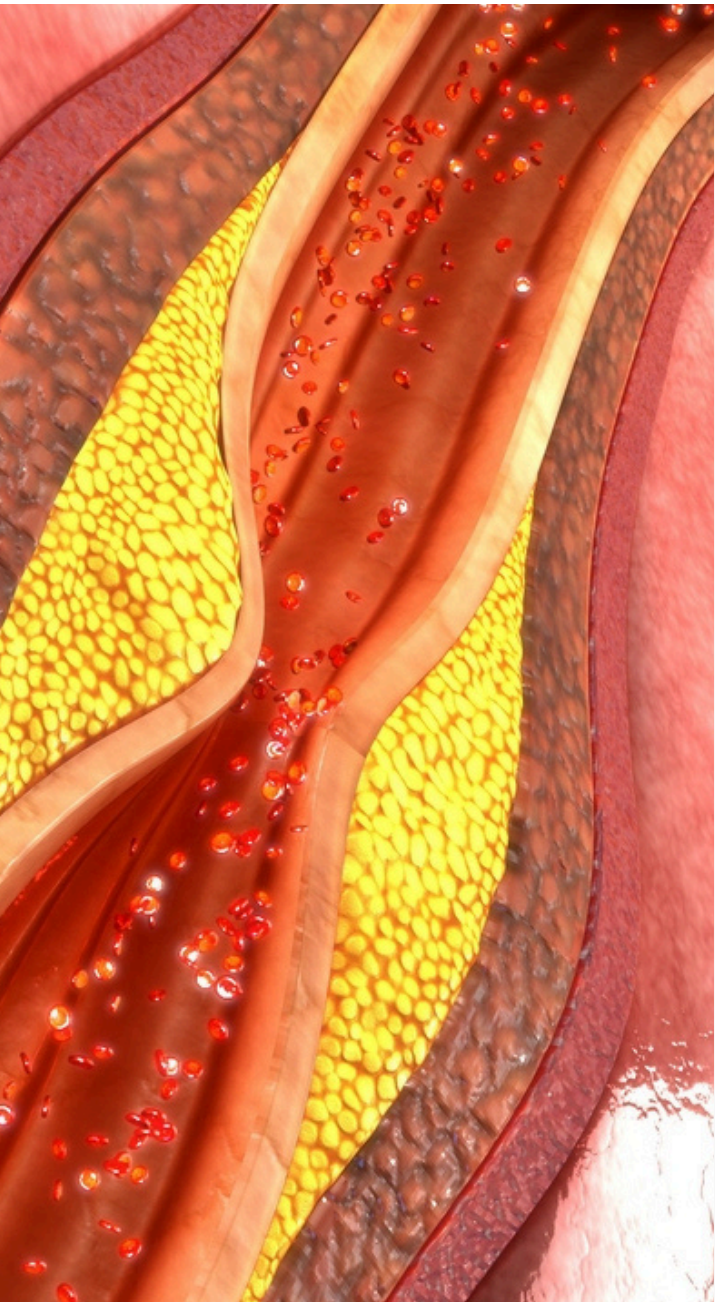
72 Products Currently on the Market

\$11M Gross Revenue Received*

*(*includes all license income plus patent expense reimbursement)*

Startups in the News

Many startups founded on Weill Cornell Medicine innovations and technologies reached significant milestones and fundraising goals in Fiscal 2025.



1

Affyimmune Therapeutics received Regenerative Medicine Advanced Therapy designation from the FDA for its novel CAR-T candidate to treat recurrent anaplastic thyroid cancer currently in Phase I clinical development.

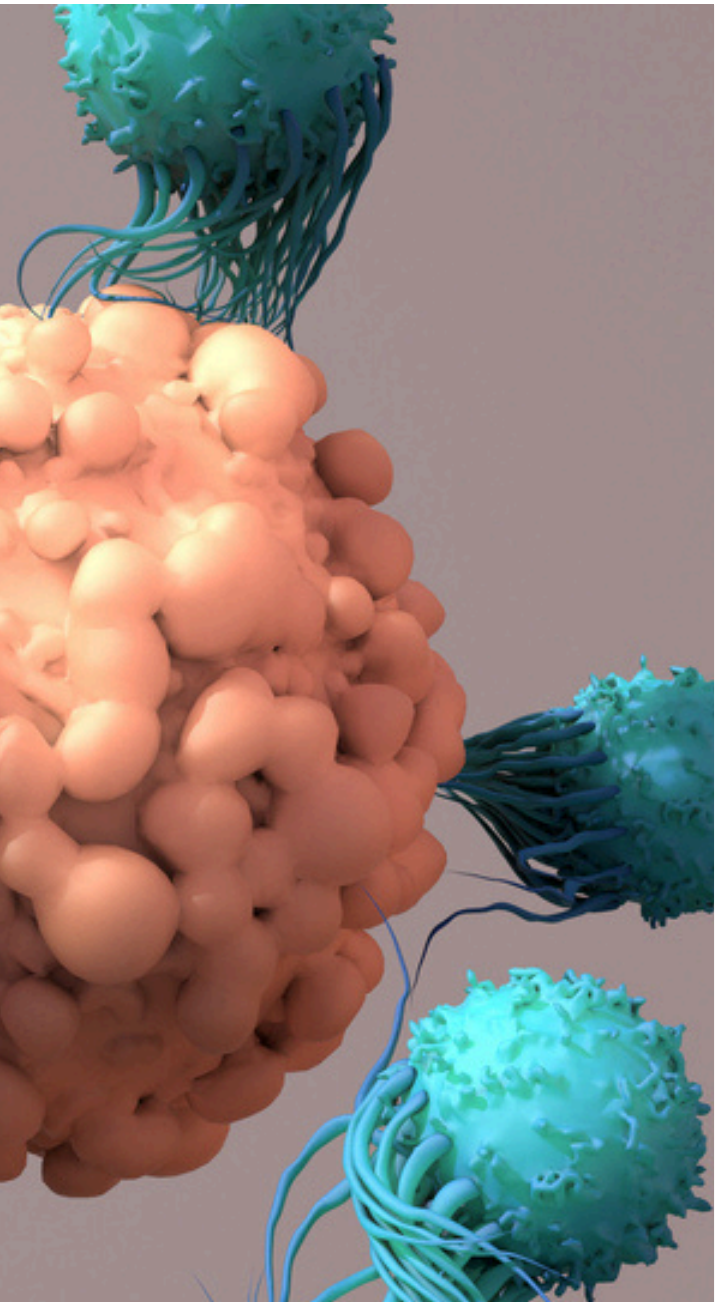
2

Bionic Sight received Regenerative Medicine Advanced Therapy designation from the FDA for its novel gene therapy to treat blindness currently in Phase I/II clinical development.

3

Cleerly, a leader in advanced cardiovascular imaging, closed its Series C extension funding round, raising a total of \$106 million to revolutionize heart disease care.

Startups in the News



4

Convergent Therapeutics initiated a Phase II clinical trial of a novel radiopharmaceutical for treating advanced prostate cancer.

5

Novita published positive data readout of its Phase II trial for a novel treatment for advanced metastatic solid tumors.

3

6

XyloCor Therapeutics raised \$67.5 million in Series B financing to advance Phase II clinical development of a novel gene therapy for cardiovascular disease.

Fesarius Therapeutics Poised to Bring Innovative Wound-Healing Product to Market

In January 2025, **Fesarius Therapeutics**, a startup founded on Weill Cornell Medicine technology, obtained the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 510(k) clearance for its hydrogel collagen-based dermal matrices designed for tissue integration and revascularization for improved wound healing. This major regulatory milestone in the U.S. positions Fesarius Therapeutics to make their innovative wound healing product available to patients for the first time.

The company's founder **Dr. Jason Spector**, chief of the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and a professor of surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine, and company CEO Tom Roueche took a deep dive into topics

such as obtaining funding and government approval for medical device innovations, commercializing a medical device and founding a startup in a recent **interview** with Enterprise Innovation.

As a surgeon and innovator, translating an idea from the operating room into a real-world solution can be daunting. The support and guidance from CTL was instrumental—they not only helped protect my invention but also helped connect me with the right partners and resources to grow my startup into a thriving company bridging medicine and innovation.

– Dr. Jason Spector



Tom Roueche, President and CEO of Fesarius Therapeutics (left) and Dr. Jason Spector. All Photos Courtesy of Fesarius Therapeutics.

Taking advantage of differential density in collagen interfaces that enhances cell invasion and vascularization, Fesarius' product could provide positive patient impact by significantly reducing the time to close a wound and spare patients with full-thickness skin loss the pain of a second surgery.

Dr. Spector also feels excited about the data-proven potential of their product to transform reconstructive and aesthetic treatments in flowable and injectable forms. Compared with products currently in the market, their device has the unique edge of inducing permanent healthy tissue formation.

Roueche envisions their market entry will take an intelligent and focused approach. Fesarius has contracted with a big data group to leverage technology to stratify and better understand perspective customers for each geographic market so that they can combine scientific data with sales representatives' expertise.

Aside from foreseeable patient benefits, commercializing the transformative dermal template technology can strengthen the reputation of Dr. Spector's laboratory, attract more talents to the institution and stimulate further innovations. More importantly, the product itself can continue to be improved based on user feedback for better patient results.

Being a serial inventor and entrepreneur, Dr. Spector utilizes resources available within the wider Cornell University innovation ecosystem and proactively collaborates with engineers on the Ithaca campus. The Center for Technology Licensing (CTL) at Weill Cornell Medicine has worked closely with Dr. Spector on many of his innovative projects and supported his teams on intellectual property protection as well as pitch competitions.

Engage with experts early. Follow successful pathways that others have gone ahead of you.

– Tom Roueche



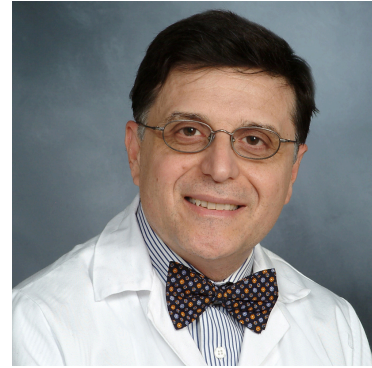
Licensing PDX Model Repository To Benefit Cancer Research Community

Weill Cornell Medicine and Champions Oncology signed a licensing agreement allowing Champions Oncology to commercially distribute Weill Cornell's extensive bank of hematological PDX models, generated by **Dr. Giorgio Inghirami**, a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine and a member of the **Englander Institute for Precision Medicine** and **Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center**.

Dr. Inghirami and his team have developed multiple PDX models for leukemias and lymphomas, including those that acquired drug resistance. His hematological PDX models are in high demand, and he is frequently contacted by companies and researchers at other academic institutions to produce them.

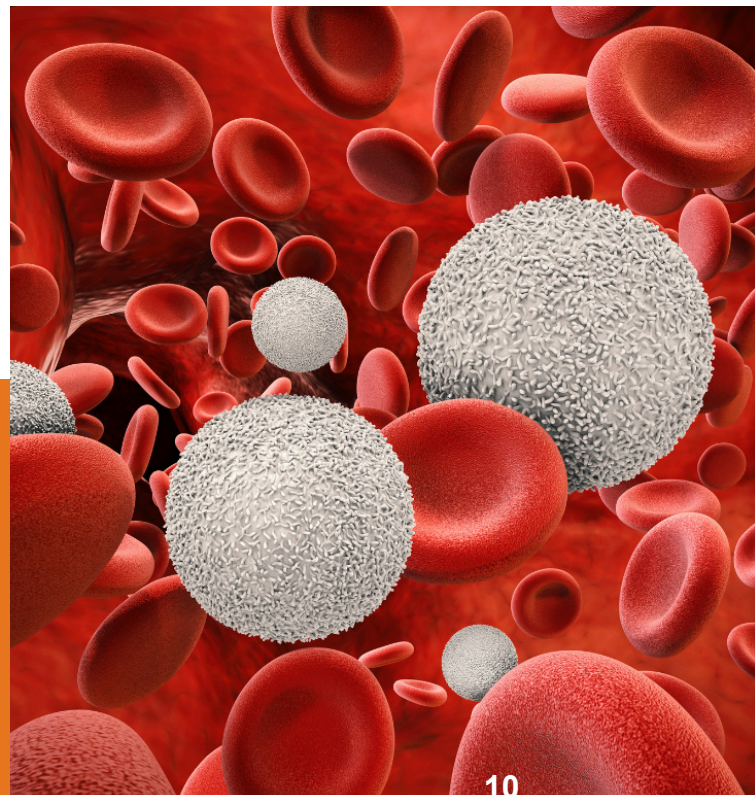
Dr. Inghirami is globally renowned for his expertise in generating hematological PDX models. Our extensive experience in commercializing clinically relevant, pre-treated hematological models will ensure rapid and scalable access to these unique PDXs for both our biopharma partners and academic institutions.

– Dr. Ronnie Morris
Chief Executive Officer, Champions Oncology



Dr. Giorgio Inghirami

To allow more efficient access to these models, CTL put them into a repository and marketed the portfolio to potential commercial distributors. CTL approached Champions Oncology, a contract research organization, to expand their pre-existing PDX relationship. This expanded relationship adds new PDX models to Champions Oncology's collections available to the research community.



Our NewCos

Enterprise Innovation guides and supports faculty-entrepreneurs interested in starting a company based on Weill Cornell innovations as the foundational technology. We have helped launch nearly 90 startups to date.

In the past fiscal year, we welcomed these **four** NewCos into the Weill Cornell Medicine startup family: Montage Bio Inc., Providentia Technologies, RheoNexa and Vescor Therapeutics, Inc.

Montage Bio is an early-stage biotechnology company developing precision medicines against novel targets discovered in the somatic genetics space, the next frontier of human genetics. The company was incubated by early-stage VC fund Qiming Venture Partners USA in close collaboration with **Dr. Dan Landau**, the Bibliowicz Family Professor of Medicine, around a diverse set of proprietary computational, cell-free DNA sequencing, and single-cell multi-omic technologies, developed in the Landau Lab.

Montage Bio resulted from multiple years of collaboration between Qiming Venture Partners and CTL at Weill Cornell, starting from first interactions in August 2022. Montage Bio and CTL first established a contractual framework to allow further evaluation and de-risking of the technologies prior to licensure, including a research collaboration agreement to support additional work in Dr. Landau's lab. A license agreement was ultimately executed in February 2025 providing Montage Bio access to the foundational platform technology to enable the company's pursuit of new therapeutics.

NewCo Spotlights

The human body consists of 30+ trillion cells, and the classic understanding informed scientists of a shared cellular genome. Thanks to the pioneering work by Dr. Landau and his colleagues in the somatic mosaicism field, we now know that cells across our body are mosaics, prone to gain mutations that drive either a pathogenic or protective clonal outgrowth. These mutations are thought to play a key role in our understanding of common chronic diseases and may offer new insights for generically informed precision medicine. Montage Bio is now actively deploying its somatic genetics platform to accelerate discovery of novel biology, with the goal of developing new therapeutics against these novel genetic targets.

Our NewCos

Providentia Technologies is a biotechnology startup that uses synthetic cell membrane screening to predict the toxicity of drugs in development. This technology was co-invented by Dr. R. Lea Sanford, who received her doctoral degree in biophysics from the **Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences** and serves as the chief executive officer of the company. Dr. Sanford participated in Cornell Tech's Runway Startup Postdoc Program, which is a combination of business school, research institution and startup incubator that helps academics with technology expertise launch new ventures.

Dr. Olaf Andersen, professor emeritus of biochemistry and biophysics, is one of the co-inventors and scientific advisors.

Dr. Sanford and Dr. Louise Sarup from CTL at Weill Cornell worked together to license the foundational Cornell intellectual property to Providentia, and they continue to collaborate in areas where CTL can help support continued growth of Providentia Technologies.

The current novel drug development process is inefficient, costly and has a failure rate of over 90% with much of the failures attributed to unforeseen toxicity issues. Live cell-based screens are the standard for early-stage in vitro toxicology prediction. However, they are expensive and error prone. A new approach is needed for early-stage toxicity prediction to make drug development more cost effective and efficient.

Providentia Technologies' foundational patented innovation licensed from Cornell is based on the observation that the extent of cell membrane damage caused by a drug is strongly correlated

NewCo Spotlights

with and predictive of that drug's toxicity. Dr. Andersen, Dr. Sanford and their collaborators developed a synthetic cell membrane screening platform that enables early-stage toxicity prediction for small molecule drugs. This cell-free approach offers faster turnaround time, lower testing costs, increased fidelity and an understanding of a drug target's quantitative probability of cytotoxicity.

In addition to this cytotoxicity screening platform, the Providentia team plans to feed the data generated by the platform into machine learning models to identify the aspects of the molecule that are causing toxicity in a drug target and recommend corrective modifications. Their unique data type and proprietary libraries are also enabling them to work towards making the cell membrane a druggable target.

Our NewCos

RheoNexa, Inc. hopes to revolutionize the treatment of hydrocephalus with a novel, minimally invasive device, the LumboVen Shunt. The technology was jointly invented by **Dr. Yves Pierre Gobin**, professor of radiology, and Mr. Jeff Callister, an engineer and CEO of RheoNexa.

The foundation of the LumboVen Shunt relies on a minimally invasive endovascular approach that has multiple benefits.

The endovascular approach is less traumatic than a standard surgical approach and therefore anticipated to have less inflammatory response, decreased infection rates, replacement rates, and reduced hospital stay by mitigating the need for a surgical approach. The shunt is designed to reduce the risk of occlusion by implementing a simple, shorter, single lumen design that promotes higher flow velocity and decreases fluid stagnation. Finally, the procedure is anticipated to be done on an outpatient basis, thus reducing the cost implications associated with an extended hospital stay.

The inventors have rigorously pursued key activities that have materially advanced the technology and the company, including, initial device engineering, customer discovery that confirmed the unmet need, extensive academic literature review, patent landscape analysis, business strategy and planning, commercialization activities, and fundraising efforts.

NewCo Spotlights

Dr. Donna Rounds, an associate director of business development and licensing, helped RheoNexa license the LumboVen technology from Cornell and supported their efforts in applying for gap funding programs to accelerate the achievement of proof of concept.

Enterprise Innovation Expanded Its Capacity to Nurture Promising Early-Stage Research

To further strengthen Weill Cornell Medicine's commitment to advancing biomedical innovation, Enterprise Innovation has launched the EI Catalyst Fund, a comprehensive funding framework designed to support the development and commercialization of promising technologies. This initiative addresses a critical need in the innovation lifecycle: the funding gap that often exists before industry or venture capital investment becomes viable.

The Catalyst Fund was made possible through a generous donation from Richard Ruben, vice chair of the Weill Cornell Medicine Board of Fellows, and his wife, Amy Ruben. Their support enables Enterprise Innovation to consolidate and expand its early-stage funding efforts under a single, strategic umbrella.

The fund is structured to support projects across various early stages of development and across multiple asset classes, including therapeutics, devices, diagnostics and digital health.

It also allows Enterprise Innovation to engage industry experts for feedback on projects being actively marketed and to assist innovators in data or technology generation, thereby accelerating the path from discovery to commercial partnership.

The Catalyst Fund is organized into three tiers which include: the Proto Stage Award, the Breakout Stage Award and the Validation Stage Award.

This expanded funding vehicle is instrumental in supporting our mission to bring medical innovations to the marketplace.

– Dr. Lisa Placanica

The **Proto Stage Award** funds device, digital health and other early projects to validate preliminary proof-of-concept and accelerate prototype development

The **Breakout Stage Award** provides larger funding amounts to projects that require specific de-risking experiments to attract industry partners, leverages external expert advisors and outsources tasks to meet industry requirements.

The **Validation Stage Award** is a relaunch of the Daedalus Fund for Innovation, which was established in 2014. It continues to benefit projects that have already demonstrated preliminary proof of concept, identified unmet needs in the market and drawn up a plan for commercialization.

This award incorporates the Selma and Lawrence Ruben Validation Stage Awards, which Richard Ruben and his sisters Lenore Ruben and Shelly Kivell established in 2017 as the Selma and Lawrence Ruben Science to Industry Bridge Fund.



To date, **66** research projects have been supported by the Daedalus Fund for Innovation, the predecessor of EI Catalyst Fund, which led to the creation of **15** startups founded on the innovative technologies. Four of the technologies are partnered with existing companies.

To learn more about the EI Catalyst Fund or its application process, email: ei-catalystfund@cornell.edu



ARMA BIO, a startup developing novel therapeutics for castration-resistant prostate cancer, is a company born out of a technology that was advanced using funding from the Catalyst Fund (when it was known as Daedalus Fund for Innovation) and embodies Enterprise Innovation's partnership with Weill Cornell innovators to nurture and bring scientific discovery to market.

Dr. Paraskevi Giannakakou, professor of pharmacology in medicine, and **Dr. Cheuk Man Cherie Au**, assistant professor of pharmacology research in medicine, discovered that a key mechanism of treatment resistance in prostate cancer is the expression of the androgen receptor (AR) splice variant 7, called AR-V7. The two investigators then explored using molecular glue degraders that target both AR full length and AR-V7 as a treatment option to improve patient outcomes.

They were encouraged to further develop their technology and consider it for commercialization after disclosure to Enterprise Innovation. As a result, Drs. Giannakakou and Au took BioVenture eLab's Biomedical Innovation Challenge course to hone their presentation and business development skills. This training introduced them to the possibilities of taking an entrepreneurial path to accelerate translation of their research into a potential product. Winning first prize at the pitch competition in the course built their confidence in commercializing the new technology.

In 2024, their project was awarded Enterprise Innovation's internal gap

funding (Daedalus Fund for Innovation) to help the investigators get to the next inflection point beyond proof of concept and enable company formation.

Our team of business development and licensing experts supported Drs. Giannakakou and Au throughout their entrepreneurship journey. CTL and the BioVenture eLab assisted them with IP strategy, obtaining patent protection, and applying for additional funding opportunities. The two investigators received a dual Fast Track Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) award, which has allowed them to work on drug optimization

and assessment as they launched ARMA BIO. The startup has a collaborative research agreement and option to the foundational technology with CTL.

In Fiscal 2025, ARMA BIO participated in multiple competitions, pitch events and external funding programs with our experts' guidance. It earned the Cure XSeed Award and second place at AIM-Hi Venture Competition.



“

“I am very grateful for Daedalus funding because it is coming at a critical point in our project that will help de-risk our technology. It will also help with making our technology more attractive to external stakeholders who can help us accelerate the clinical development of our compound.”

”

Advancing Innovation Through Research Collaborations with Industry

Dr. James Bellush, manager of scientific scouting, came onboard with the goal of further strengthening Enterprise Innovation’s ability to diversify funding sources, secure unique non-government funding opportunities and establish early-stage translational research collaborations with industry. Leveraging AI analysis of all grants awarded to Weill Cornell researchers, Dr. Bellush identified translational research programs that overlap with biopharma pipeline trends, providing substrate for future sponsored research. He curated 98 requests for proposals (RFP) from non-government sources worth a total of up to \$68.1 million in aggregate potential funding, provided investigators with consultation and guided them through the proposal submission process. Submissions by Weill Cornell investigators to pharma and foundation grants saw a significant increase in FY24 - FY25. Our efforts led to engagement with 40 investigators who had not worked with Enterprise Innovation previously.

Mission

- Grow early-stage life sciences product pipeline
- Bolster pre-IP research pipeline through specialized private grant sourcing
- Increase visibility to “industry-aligned” translational research projects
- Source non-federal funding opportunities focused on product development

FY24 to FY25 Metrics



RFP Inquiries & Engagements

126

Total RFP Submissions

81

CDA & Due Diligence Review

19

Awarded & Contracted

6

Making Connections at International Conferences

Enterprise Innovation delegates continued to make a presence at major venues for investor and industry engagements, such as the annual JPM Healthcare Conference and BIO International Convention, to gauge investor interests and market trends.

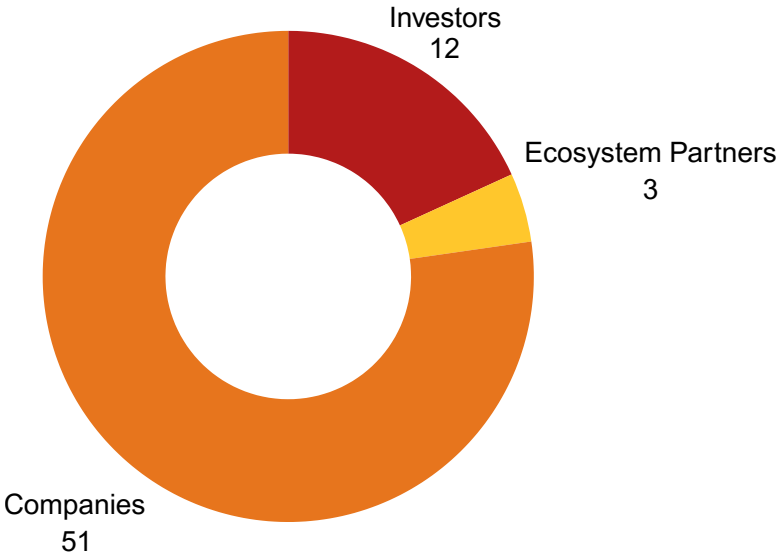


Typically, the JPM Healthcare Conference is the main venue for investor meetings. This year, we saw an uptick in investor engagement at BIO, particularly with smaller groups or those with niche interests, such as regenerative medicine. This increase in venture engagement may reflect the perception among the venture community that it is a “buyers market” for early-stage programs.

Our team of delegates conducted 66 meetings, many of which led to continued relationships with potential investors and industry collaborators after BIO concluded. About a third are close contacts, providing continual feedback on our technologies or support to our network. The convention spotlighted 65 Weill Cornell technologies and showcased 12 industry collaborations.

We were able to balance engagement with both big pharmaceutical and small-to-mid-sized biotech companies.

Asian Pacific pharma companies showed higher interest in partnering with academia in the U.S. Generally, this group has had less interest in academic partnership in the past, but this year we observed higher engagement – including from large players with whom we were not previously connected. They are primarily seeking novel targets and target-focused sponsored research.



BIO 2025 Meetings

Some are looking at creative models such as set-up of U.S. subsidiaries based on academic research.

Enterprise Innovation’s participation in international conferences has borne fruit with the creation of a new venture.

We fostered the collaboration between NLC Health Ventures, a Dutch venture capital firm we previously met at BIO, and Cornell investigators **Dr. Roger Härtl**, the Hansen-MacDonald Professor of Neurological Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine, and **Dr. Lawrence Bonassar**, the Daljit S. and Elaine Sarkaria Professor in Biomedical Engineering at Cornell University.

NLC Health Ventures is incubating a potential new company based on Drs. Hartl and Bonassar’s innovative tissue-engineered intervertebral discs technology to treat degenerative disc disease, a widespread disorder that causes severe back pain and hinders spinal movement. NLC Health Ventures showcased this technology at the NASS Innovation NetWORK Summit in June 2025, and Enterprise Innovation continues to work with them on company formation and launch.

We're
Changing
Medicine.



Expanded Collaboration with PICI

Weill Cornell Medicine's alliance with the **Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy (PICI)** expanded this year to include additional investigators and new projects.

Drs. David Artis, Nicholas Collins, Juan Cubillos-Ruiz, Chun-Jun Guo, Antonio Marzio, Manish Shah, Despina Siolas and Gregory Sonnenberg joined original members, including Drs. Jedd Wolchok (Center Director), Taha Merghoub (Center Co-Director), Niroshana Anandasabapathy, Mohamad Hamieh and Roberta Zappasodi.

The collaboration now includes 12 PICI-funded projects that aim to advance cancer immunotherapy research in the areas of next-generation cell therapy, agonist pathways, vaccines, tumor microenvironment reprogramming, and the intersection of nutrition, metabolism and cancer immunology.

Additionally, early-career investigators were selected

for PICI awards and scholarships, and further PICI funding was secured to support a cancer-related tissue bank initiative at Weill Cornell Medicine and an initiative that provides middle school students with hands-on science experiences and opportunities to engage with scientists and physicians at the cancer center.

Enterprise Innovation liaises between Weill Cornell investigators and PICI for managing intellectual property that results from this partnership. Dr. Jeff James, associate director of business development and licensing, and Dr. Monica Kolinsky, PICI alliance manager, provide internal support to PICI members by serving as the main business development contacts for intellectual property management, commercializing PICI-funded projects, and as liaisons to enable and enhance the collaborative effort between Weill Cornell Medicine and PICI.

Eighth Annual Dean's Symposium on Innovation and Entrepreneurship



ROAD TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Dr. Robert A. Harrington, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine, hosted a fireside chat with Dr. Rachel Haurwitz (right in bottom photo), co-founder, president and CEO of Caribou Biosciences at the Dean's Symposium in Dec. 2024. Dr. Haurwitz didn't set out to be an entrepreneur but was following her passion for science and ended up founding a startup focused on genome-editing technology and gene therapies.

She shared different stages of that unexpected path with Dean Harrington and the lessons she learned in the process.

Getting a biotech startup off the ground is never easy. Caribou Biosciences started as a CRISPR technology platform company and pivoted to developing therapeutics for cancers and autoimmune diseases. Dr. Haurwitz encouraged next-generation scientists to explore possibilities in intellectual property, business and regulatory science.

She also advised the audience that constantly learning, having the right team at all stages of business development, always making decisions with the challenges patients face in mind can ensure a company operate with ethics and make a difference in health care.



Eighth Annual Dean's Symposium on Innovation and Entrepreneurship



INNOVATIONS BEYOND THERAPEUTICS

Health care innovations encompasses more than therapeutics. Two panels consisting of Weill Cornell clinicians addressed the importance of innovating in the medical device and clinical workflow spaces for better patient care.

Women's health is one area where innovations are much needed. **Dr. Tamatha Fenster**, an obstetrician and gynecologist, and **Dr. Bobak Mosadegh**, an associate professor of biomedical engineering in radiology, have collaborated on multiple medical device innovations.

Their MRI technology that renders 3D images of the uterus enables more accurate identification and location of fibroids and leads to better surgical results. **Dr. Rache Simmons**, who is a professor of surgery, invented a soft, translucent, pearl-like breast tissue. This device could adjust to the needs of individual patients after lumpectomy and wouldn't obstruct imaging.

Clinical care pain points affect both doctors and patients. Four experienced panelists shared how they think out of the box to enhance clinical workflow, efficiency and quality of care.



Eighth Annual Dean's Symposium on Innovation and Entrepreneurship



REVOLUTIONIZING CLINICAL CARE

Dr. Denise Howard, associate professor of clinical obstetrics and gynecology, is prototyping a preop app to help patients better understand their medical procedures and speed up the consent process.

Dr. Rahul Sharma, Barbara and Stephen Friedman Professor of Emergency Medicine and chair of Emergency Medicine, led the development of virtual care and telemedicine training, which was adopted for all Weill Cornell medical students and offered to other institutions commercially.

Dr. Keith Hentel, professor of clinical radiology, became interested in medical imaging academically and helped create the Appropriate Use Criteria, a clinical imaging workflow decision tool that was licensed to both academic and non-academic practices across the country.

Dr. Conor Liston, professor of psychiatry and of neuroscience in the Feil Family Brain and Mind Research Institute, developed an AI-enabled online survey to match participants to resources available or treatments for psychiatric disorders. This tool has been licensed to the hospitality industry and used broadly around the globe.





Showcasing Innovations in Artificial Intelligence and Big Data

BioVenture eLab's Biomedical Innovation Challenge program graduated the seventh cohort of aspiring entrepreneurs on June 24 with a final pitch competition and scientific presentations in Uris Auditorium.

This program provides lectures, mentorship and industry resources to Weill Cornell scientists and clinicians who want to develop their innovations into commercial products. Participants explore the commercialization process by studying intellectual property, market research, R&D planning, regulatory pathways, go-to-market strategy and financial needs.

All three winning teams this year pitched artificial intelligence-enabled solutions aimed at improving early disease detection and enhancing health outcomes at scale.

First place went to **Neurotwain**, represented by co-founder **Dr. Amir Goldan**, who was recruited as an associate professor of electrical engineering in radiology. Neurotwain's goal is to improve early detection of Alzheimer's disease through a novel, non-invasive diagnostic platform. Tracking responses to stimulations to create a functional map of brain activity combined with AI analysis, the team hopes to predict neurodegenerative disease progression and treatment response.

Dr. Derek Lake (M.Sc. '16), an instructor of population health sciences and expert in value-based care, earned second place for **CarePredict**. CarePredict uses AI models to predict adverse clinical events and associated costs based on clinical data. Their mission is to reduce waste from preventable and low-value care in the U.S. health care system with potentially earlier interventions by care teams.

Lilia, led by **Dr. Yiye Zhang**, associate professor of population health sciences, won third place. Drawing on electronic health record and user-generated data, Lilia's current focus is on maternal mental health. The team wants to combat online health misinformation through an AI-enabled app that delivers personalized, evidence-based health content and peer support. They envision the app could be used in broader mental health care delivery in the future.

What Next?

Chiara Biosciences, the 2024 runner-up, has developed a high-throughput screening platform built on a comprehensive library of target proteins and monomers. It is developing small-molecule protein degraders for the treatment of cancer. Chiara has raised \$9 million in funding, added key team members and is exploring additional oncology targets.



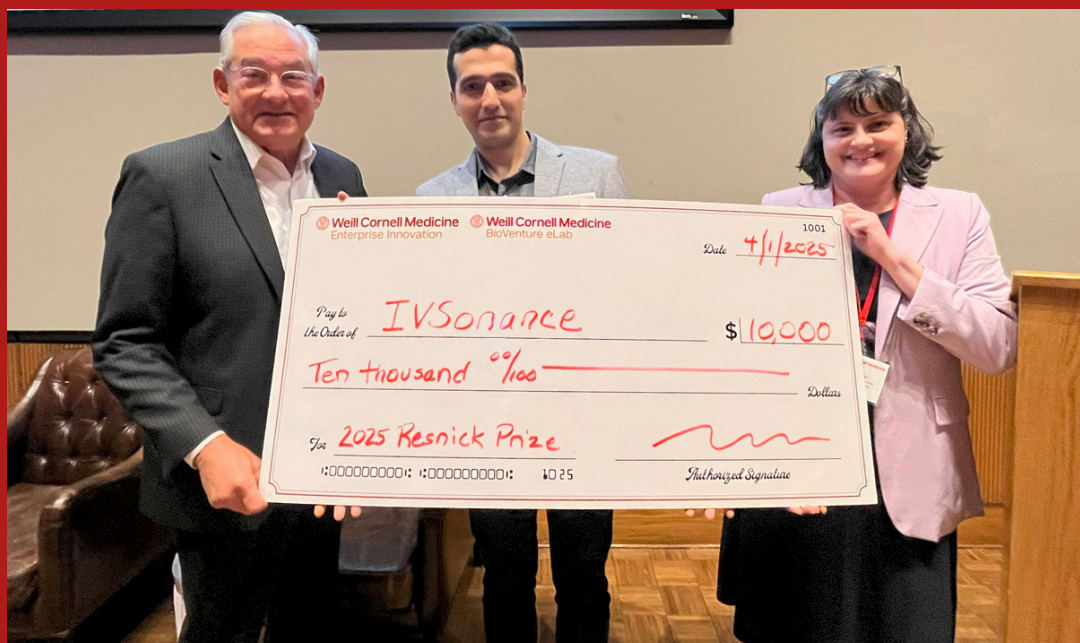
Entrepreneurial success that involves cross-campus partnership was celebrated at this year's Biomedical Innovation Challenge final pitch event.

Dr. Gene D. Resnick ('70, M.D. '74) awarded IVSonance with a \$10,000 prize. The Susan and Gene D. Resnick '70, MD '74 Prize for Excellence in Entrepreneurship ("Resnick Prize") was established to fund a technology that will be commercialized through a Cornell startup with an active, intercampus collaboration.

IVSonance targets the automation of ova denudation procedures in an IVF cycle. Its product is a novel contactless acoustic tweezer that promises to drastically simplify and improve the consistency and reproducibility of the procedure, leading to better outcomes.

The technology was jointly developed by co-founder and medical advisor, **Dr. Gianpiero Palermo**, a professor of embryology in obstetrics and gynecology at Weill Cornell Medicine, and a laboratory in Cornell Ithaca.

Co-founder and CTO Dr. Amir Mokhtare (middle of photo) received his doctorate in biomedical/medical engineering from Cornell University and entrepreneurial training at CTL's **Ignite Postdoctoral Fellow program**. Dr. Nicole Lustgarten, who is a reproductive scientist and Weill Cornell Graduate School alumna, was another co-founder and serves as IVSonance's CEO.



Dr. Gene D. Resnick (left) giving out the award check along with BioVenture eLab Director Loren Busby (right).

Innovator Recognition

EI celebrates the following lead principal investigators whose technologies were issued U.S. patents in fiscal year 2025.

(* indicates a PI is no longer at Weill Cornell Medicine though their technology was developed here and is a Cornell University patent.)

Stewart Anderson*

Cortical Interneurons and Other Neuronal Cells Produced by the Directed Differentiation of Pluripotent and Multipotent Cells

John Babich*

- Trifunctional Constructs with Tunable Pharmacokinetics Useful in Imaging and Anti-Tumor Therapies
- Macrocyclic Complexes of Alpha-Emitting Radionuclides and their Use in Targeted Radiotherapy of Cancer

Neil Bander

Methods and Reagents for Tumor Targeting with Greater Efficacy and Less Toxicity

Francis Barany

Method for Quantification of Nucleic Acid Sequence, Expression, or Copy Changes, Using Combined Nuclease, Ligation, and Polymerase Reactions

Sarah Bettigole*

IRE1 Small Molecule Inhibitors

Kristy Brown

Des-acyl Ghrelin and Analogs as Cancer Therapies

Innovator Recognition

EI celebrates the following lead principal investigators whose technologies were issued U.S. patents in fiscal year 2025.

Lewis Cantley*

Combination Therapy for PI3K-Associated Disease or Disorder

John Fredrick Cornhill*

Method and Apparatus for Manipulating the Side Wall of a Body Lumen or Body Cavity so as to Provide Increased Visualization of the Same and/or Increased Access to the Same, and/or for Stabilizing Instruments Relative to the Same

Ronald Crystal

- Treatment of Brain Cancers Using Central Nervous System Mediated Gene Transfer of Monoclonal Antibodies
- Oxidation-Resistant AAT Gene Therapy
- Gene Therapy for Eosinophilic Disorders

Simon Dunham

- Systems and Methods for Micropatterning Objects
- Mitral Valves with Integrated Cutting Features
- Catheter Deployable Soft Robotic Sensor Arrays and Processing of Flexible Circuits

Peter Goldstein

Substituted Alkylphenols as HCN1 Antagonists

Samie Jaffrey

Methods for Expressing Proteins in Axons

Innovator Recognition

EI celebrates the following lead principal investigators whose technologies were issued U.S. patents in fiscal year 2025.

Moonsoo Jin

Transduced T Cells Expressing Human SSTR2 and Application Thereof

Shek Hang Benedict Law

Peptide-Linked Drug Delivery System

Joshua Levitz

Compositions and Methods for Enhancing Visual Function

David Lyden

Nanoparticles and Distinct Exosome Subsets for Detection and Treatment of Cancer

Christopher Mason

Single Sperm Gene Expression and Mutation Analysis for Prediction of Diseases

Jeffrey Milsom

Method and Apparatus for Providing Increased Visualization and Manipulation of a Body Side Wall

Innovator Recognition

EI celebrates the following lead principal investigators whose technologies were issued U.S. patents in fiscal year 2025.

Manu Sharma

Compositions and Methods for Treating Adult-Onset Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis (Kufs Disease)

Rache Simmons

Implant with Fiducial Markers

Jason Spector

Tissue Scaffold Materials for Tissue Regeneration and Methods of Making

Hazel Szeto*

Methods for the Prevention or Treatment of Heart Failure

Yi Wang

System and Method of Perceptive Quantitative Mapping of Physical Properties

Jeremy Wiygul

Catheter Systems and Methods

Meet Our New Team Members



Monica Kolinsky, Ph.D., J.D.

Manager, Alliance Management PICI at Weill Cornell Medicine

Monica supports Weill Cornell Medicine scientists who participate in the collaboration between the institution and the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy (PICI) and serves as the primary liaison to manage intellectual property matters pertaining to the consortium.

Monica received her doctorate degree in Pharmacology from Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences, and she earned her J.D. from New York Law School.

Before returning to Weill Cornell, Monica worked as a corporate lawyer at Wiggin and Dana LLP in Connecticut, where her practice focused primarily on life sciences and biotechnology transactional matters including licensing, corporate partnering and other technology transfer transactions. She also provided intellectual property-related support for due diligence matters, mergers and acquisitions, and litigation. In addition, Monica worked at Grimes & Yvon LLP in New York, where she prepared and prosecuted patent applications in the areas of life sciences and biotechnology and negotiated agreements related to intellectual property. She was previously a licensing officer for Medical Research Council Technology (now known as LifeArc) in London, England, and an associate and technology specialist at the law firm WilmerHale in New York.



Jaklien Samaan

Operations and Project Coordinator

Jackie provides administrative and project management support for BioVenture eLab programming, industry/foundation calls-for-proposals and related metrics and tracking activity, and the expanded EI Catalyst Fund.

Before joining the Enterprise Innovation team, Jackie was senior administrative specialist for the chair of the Department of Medicine, where she handled complex scheduling needs, oversaw logistics of Medicine Grand Rounds and CME, and managed financial tasks. With over 20 years of experience at Weill Cornell Medicine, she has a lot of knowledge and insight into navigating the administrative landscape.



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