

Duke | ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERS NETWORK

A partnership between

Duke  INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Duke | TRANSLATION & COMMERCIALIZATION



2024 Cohort

Claire Aldridge PhD '96

Claire Aldridge, Ph.D. is Chief Strategy Officer for Form Bio, the first spinout from the de-extinction and biodiversity company, Colossal Biosciences. Dr. Aldridge is also on the Scientific Advisory Board for Colossal Biosciences, the Board of Directors for MedCognetics and 4E Therapeutics and is the Chair of the Industry Advisory Council for the UT Dallas Department of Biomedical Engineering. She also sits on the Product Development Advisory Committee for CPRIT, the \$6B Texas effort to help Texans conquer cancer through research, prevention and commercialization and is a founding advisor for Nucleate Texas, a student led organization empowering biotech leaders. In May 2023, she was named one of Forbes' 10 women leading the synthetic biology revolution.

Dr. Aldridge brings more than 25 years' experience facilitating the translation of scientific discoveries into patient and commercial benefits and has leveraged her training to be a liaison between scientists and non-scientists. Her roles have included technology commercialization; improving patient outcomes through quality based initiatives; working with disease-specific nonprofits; development and venture philanthropy; and biotech and life science investing through venture capital.

Dr. Aldridge received her Ph.D. from Duke University in the Department of Immunology and Program in Genetics, and her Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science is from Texas A&M University.



Faisal Anees PhD '24

Faisal is passionate about using basic science to solve the worlds most challenging health problems. He is currently a 5th year PhD student in the Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science department and lead life science associate at Duke Capital Partners. He hopes to apply his research on modelling autoimmune diseases using nanomaterials to develop better diagnostic tools and therapies.



Deborah Bitterfield PhD '11

Deborah has over 10 years of experience in the biopharmaceutical industry and currently serves as the President and CEO of Lindy Biosciences, Inc., which she founded in 2017. Deborah's experience reflects positions across a broad range of strategic and operational disciplines including biotherapeutics and medical devices.

Prior to launching Lindy Biosciences, Deborah joined Southeast TechInventures, an innovation lab that partners with university inventors to further develop promising university technologies, where she led their scientific operations and project management. She holds a PhD in Materials Science from Duke University with a focus in biomaterials.



Michael Boyarsky PhD '19

Michael Boyarsky received his Ph.D. from Duke's Pratt School of Engineering, in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in 2019. His research pioneered the first application of metamaterials and metasurface antenna technology to satellite imaging. Following his Ph.D., he proposed, secured, and led a \$2.3M program from DARPA to advance metasurface antenna technology for microwave imaging from Earth orbit. This program's successful conclusion included experimental demonstrations in collaboration with commercial and government partners in Australia.

Recently, he has been working to commercialize his antenna technology for satellite imaging. With his colleagues, he has developed a new satellite architecture that can leverage his antenna technology to provide faster revisit, higher capacity, and lower product costs compared to existing companies. The commercial promise of this technology includes the ability to reach anywhere on Earth in real-time, in all conditions, offering a solution to many currently unserved markets of remote sensing.



Lori Chmura MBA '24

Lori Chmura is an accomplished healthcare executive with more than 30 years' experience in the medical device industry. She currently leads Nyra Medical, an early stage cardiovascular company focused in the structural heart space, as its CEO.

Most recently she served as President and Chief Executive Officer at Soundbite Medical Solutions, a privately held medical device company in Montreal, Canada. Lori provided strategic leadership to transform the business resulting in the receipt of FDA clearance of its revolutionary device for the treatment of calcific occlusive cardiovascular disease using shock wave, energy while securing non-dilutive capital for the company through the signing of an exclusive licensing partnership with a reputable Chinese cross border fund.

Prior to Soundbite, Ms. Chmura led Dune Medical Devices as the Chief Executive Officer, and member of the Board of Directors exiting with a sale of the company's business in April 2020. She has held escalating leadership roles within several leading medical device companies, including Medtronic, Covidien and Johnson and Johnson, with extensive experience in leading and growing medical device businesses in the United States and globally across cross functional areas such as commercialization strategies, research and development activities, regulatory affairs, and transfer to manufacturing, among others.

Recognized by the Southeast Medical Device Association as its "Woman of the Year" in 2017, Lori's proven leadership, with a successful track record in leading, transforming, and growing global medical device businesses, has enhanced shareholder value among both large cap public companies as well as privately held, venture supported organizations.

Lori currently serves on the Board of Directors, as a member of the audit committee, of OpSens Inc. (TSX:OPS), a medical device cardiology-focused company delivering diagnostic and treatment solutions based on its proprietary optical technology. She also serves on the Executive Committee of the ADVAMED Women's Executive Network Board (WEN) and is past President-elect of the Board of the Atlanta Chapter of the Healthcare Businesswomen's Association. Passionate about working with and developing young professionals, she also supports C-LEGS, a catholic leadership development program as a mentor to college students as they prepare for entry into their professional careers.

Lori received her BSN in Nursing from Southern Connecticut State University and expects her MBA from Duke University Spring 2024. As a lifelong learner, Lori has also participated in numerous advanced education programs from Harvard University, as well as other reputable institutions throughout the years. She has been married to her biggest supporter and lifelong partner for 34 years, sharing two beautiful grown children and one son in law.



Paul Cray Postdoc '22

Paul Cray holds degrees in Biochemical Engineering and Chemistry from the University of Georgia. He did his doctoral work at North Carolina State University studying the innate intestinal epithelial barrier to receive a degree in Comparative Biomedical Sciences with a concentration in Immunology. He started his postdoctoral research at Duke University under Justin Pollara in the department of Surgery. He studies sterile inflammation and methods for mitigating inflammation in solid organ transplants. Additionally, he assisted with developing a novel gene therapy platform technology which he is currently maturing for spinning off into a new venture.



Jennifer Cui MBA '24

Jennifer is a second-year MBA student at Fuqua. She is part of the Health Sector Management program and interned in healthcare investment banking at Bank of America over the summer. Prior to Fuqua, Jennifer worked in pharmaceutical regulatory affairs at Knight Therapeutics and AbbVie, focusing on new drug approvals, clinical trial approvals, and buy-side in-licensing due diligence.



Ashley Flucas '08

Ashley Flucas has invested in 250+ startups. She is the head of Flucas Ventures, a syndicate of ~3,500 venture capital investors (and growing) that has deployed \$100M+ since July 2020. She serves as a partner at a South Florida-based real estate finance fund with over \$3B deployed, representing \$15B+ in real estate development. She was previously an attorney in Davis Polk & Wardwell's London office, focusing on capital markets. Her experience spans real estate, venture capital and the gamut of capital markets - debt and equity, IPOs, SPACS, bond offerings, right offerings and public company reporting.

Ashley earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Duke University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.



Victoria Goldenshtein PhD '23

Dr. Victoria Goldenshtein has a diverse academic background, including a B.S. in Chemistry from CUNY, an M.S. in Bioengineering from Brown, and a PhD in Biomedical Engineering from Duke, where she also performs her post-doctoral research. With expertise in protein engineering, DNA cloning, Next Generation Sequencing, and Directed Protein Mutagenesis techniques, she is one of the primary architects of the GRIP Display: a novel high-throughput protein screening technology. Her leadership has proven instrumental in the success of various protein evolution projects, and she holds the primary inventor position on the international patent application. Driven by her dedication to advancing cancer treatment, she actively contributes to the development of HCC-specific peptides and plans to spin out the platform technology and the lead compound within the drug development industry.



Hansel Alex Hobbie PhD '24

Hansel Alex Hobbie is currently completing a PhD in Electrical Engineering at Duke University where he is co-advised by Dr. Aaron Franklin and Dr. Paolo Maccarini. With his advisors, Hansel invented a patent-pending platform technology capable of multidisciplinary application to printed electronics and biomedical devices. After graduation, Hansel plans to pursue an entrepreneurial spinout of his technology where he will develop the technology further and apply the method towards improving catheter-based device manufacturing for medical companies.



Demetrios Kydonieus MBA '07

President, R-Pharm US, President and CEO Phoenix Biopharma, Founding Partner Biotech Value Advisors

Demetrios Kydonieus is a senior pharmaceutical executive with proven success leading small, medium, and large BioPharma companies in executing their corporate strategies resulting in significant growth and shareholder value.

Today, Demetrios is leading commercial and development stage biotech companies in Oncology and Immunology including; R-Pharm US, a differentiated specialty BioPharma company focused on Oncology and Immunology; Phoenix Biopharma developing differentiated medicines for hard-to-treat cancers and Biotech Value Advisors (BVA), a boutique consulting company preparing biotech companies for go to market strategies.

Previously, Demetrios was the Vice President, Strategy, Alliances and Transactions (SAT) at Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS) where he was instrumental in helping BMS implement the BioPharma transformation and execute the String of Pearls strategy.

Demetrios began working at BMS as Director, Worldwide Regulatory Affairs in the Health Care Group. After leaving the Health Care Group, Demetrios joined the Corporate Strategy and Issues Management Group as Director, Business Risk Management, where he identified and helped manage the largest risks to the BMS strategy. Demetrios later moved with his family to Boston to be General Counsel for BMS Medical Imaging, where he was a member of the business unit's Executive Team and helped lead the divestiture of the business to private equity.

Demetrios earned his Juris Doctor degree from Quinnipiac University School of Law and his Masters of Business Administration from Duke University, Fuqua School of Business.



Casey Lessard JD/LLM '24

Casey Lessard is a third-year student at Duke University School of Law, where he is pursuing a J.D. and L.L.M. in Law & Entrepreneurship. Upon graduation, Casey plans to work at Goodwin Procter's Boston office alongside companies and investors at the intersection of business, law and innovation. He believes that the most effective corporate lawyers go beyond providing sound legal advice by acting as trusted advisors to their clients. Casey looks forward to continuing to support and engage with the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Casey currently serves as the Lead Law Associate at Duke Capital Partners, the university's early-stage venture investment arm. In his role, Casey has led various sourcing, screening and diligence efforts to connect investors and companies within the Duke community.

Last year, Casey worked directly with a team of lawyers as part of the Association of University Technology Managers' term sheet drafting initiative. The resulting University Startup Basic Outlicense Term Sheet (Life Science Edition) provides a representative set of terms for tech transfer offices and investors seeking to launch startups.

Before attending Duke, Casey earned his B.S. in Finance from the University of Florida in his home state. He enjoys playing golf and hanging out with his poodle, Rosie, in his spare time.



Xiaobao Li MBA '24

Prior to Duke, Xiaobao obtained his PhD in microbiology at Northwestern University and worked as a Principal Scientist at Diversey Inc. developing products for healthcare infection prevention. He has more than 20 peer-reviewed publications and three patents. At Duke, Xiaobao is an HSM fellow, a Fuqua Impact Scholar, and a New Venture Fellow, the treasury at FuquaPride Club.



J. Paul Mosley MBA '24

Paul Mosley is a co-founder of Viewflow Medical, a medtech company engaged in the development of proprietary, non-contact diagnostics for cardiovascular and vascular surgeries with the aim to enhance patient outcomes, making surgeries safer and more cost-effective. Viewflow focuses on improving outcomes of heart bypass, revascularization, organ transplant therapies, and myriad other procedures where blood flow is key to recovery and could reduce death and costly complications.

Paul is currently a Captain in the United States Marine Corps Reserve, where he serves as an Infantry Officer / Advanced Foreign Security Forces (FSF) Advisor. He is a veteran of the Wars in Iraq (2006 - 2007) and Afghanistan (2020). He most recently deployed with 4th Reconnaissance Battalion as an adviser for the Afghan National Army's 215th Corps brigade operations officers (G-3) and plans officer (G-5) in Helmand and Nimroz provinces.



Paul double majored in Economics and History at Covenant College and served as Chair of the Alumni Board of Directors at Fork Union Military Academy from 2020-2023.

Victoria Chibuogu Nneji ME'15, PhD '19, MS '19

Dr. Victoria Chibuogu Nneji is the founder & CEO of AKALAKA.

AKALAKA is building a digital platform enabling care partners to sustain long-term home & community care for family and friends.

Dr. Nneji earned her PhD in robotics from Duke University and has over 15 years of professional experience as a scientist, technologist, engineer, and mathematician but has even more years of lived experience as a family care partner.



Todd Sega MBA '24

Todd Sega is the CEO who oversees relationships with payers and pharmacy organizations that partner with PQS to manage performance information and optimize the quality of medication use.

Todd has a passion for quality improvement and more specifically, helping patients receive the best care from network pharmacies. Todd believes the first step to quality improvement starts with solid measurement. He enjoys working and leading organizations through a process of understanding, engaging and eventually managing performance information and deploying a portfolio of improvement strategies and programs.

Todd has followed the profession's first pay-for-performance programs and has helped payers covering over 60 million lives partner with over 90% of community pharmacies for quality improvement.

Prior to his role, he worked at the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) where he helped to advance innovations and collaborations related to quality and Medicare Stars, transitions of care, and comparative effectiveness research. Furthermore, he also managed the AMCP Foundation Pharmacy and Therapeutics Competition and established a new approach for pharmacy students to gain experience with comparative effectiveness research as it relates to evidence evaluation and formulary decision making.

Todd holds a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the Raabe College of Pharmacy at Ohio Northern University where he currently serves on the Pharmacy Advisory Board.



Bimal R. Shah MD '01, MBA '01

Dr. Shah is a nationally recognized cardiologist who is a Venture Partner at RA Ventures. He was formerly the Chief Operating Officer and Co-founder of Homeward. Previously, Dr. Shah was the Chief Medical Officer at Teladoc (NYSE: TDOC) after its merger with Livongo Health (NASDAQ: LVGO) where he held the same title. In these roles he oversaw clinical product strategy, content, value and insight analytics, behavioral health strategy, clinical operations, quality and credentialing, and commercial enablement. Prior to Livongo, he was the Chief Medical Officer for Emerging Technology and Informatics and Service Line Vice President for Life Sciences at Premier Inc., (NASDAQ: PINC) where he led the P&L across all aspects of strategy, sales, marketing, product management, and operations.

Prior to Premier, Dr. Shah served as an Assistant Professor in both the Department of Medicine and Fuqua School of Business at Duke University where he led numerous research programs in the areas of health services research, implementation science, clinical trials, and registry analyses as well as an administrative role as the Director of Quality for the Department of Medicine. Dr. Shah graduated from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill with highest honors and earned both a MD and MBA from Duke University. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Stanford University before finishing a general cardiology fellowship at Duke University.

Dr. Shah remains on faculty at Duke University. He is a Fellow of both the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology. He is chair emeritus of the Board of Visitors at the Duke University School of Nursing and is also a current member of the Arts and Sciences Foundation Board of Directors at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill.



Jake Stauch '15

Jake is the CEO and cofounder of IT automation company Serval. Previously, he was an early employee and Director of Product at Verkada, where he led business units around video security, environmental sensing, and alarms. Prior to Verkada, Jake was CEO and founder of NeuroPlus, where he was named to the Forbes 30 Under 30. Jake studied neuroscience at Duke before dropping out to start NeuroPlus.



Stefan Stryker MS '19, PhD '21

Stefan Stryker is cofounder/CEO of Calidar which is developing 4D Mammography to improve breast cancer diagnostic. Stefan earned his PhD in medical physics from Duke University (class of 2021) where he created a variety of medical imaging devices while also utilizing AI. Stefan's mission is to build a future where cancer diagnosis and treatment is as simple and successful as treating teeth cavities – with minimal stress to patients and eliminated mortality.



Joe Wilson '11

Joe Wilson is the Founder and Managing Partner of Undeterred Capital, an early-stage venture firm investing in bioscience and robotics companies at the pre-seed and seed stages.

Undeterred Capital has a portfolio of more than 20 companies, including in AI for drug discovery and formulation to gas fermentation, carbon-negative food production, advanced robotic systems for fish processing, and diagnostics for early detection of ovarian cancer, among others.

Joe has worked as a deep tech operator for over a decade and was previously the co-founder and COO of Multiply Labs, a pharmaceutical robotics company that was spun out of MIT in 2016 and that has raised over \$25M to date.

