


Astellas & BioLabs Collaboration: Advancing Biotech Innovation from Japan to the US





07.30 Thu
Astellas Tsukuba Research Center

VICTOR STONE
Head of Cell Therapies
at Alloy Therapeutics

DOUG CRAWFORD
Managing Partner at
Mission BioCapital

MASAKI HIROSE
Co-founder and CEO
of MIRNDA, Inc.

YUKIE YOSHII
Founder and CEO
of LingMed Inc.



Astellas and BioLabs are delighted to invite you to an engaging event at Astellas' Tsukuba Research Center aiming to support current and future biotech entrepreneurs and innovators in Japan. This event will feature an inspiring **CEO panel discussion** where panelists will describe their journeys building companies in Japan's evolving biotech market and how they connected with the US market.

Afterwards, please join us for a **networking reception** to follow up with the panelists and build relationships with biotech researchers, innovators, investors, and other biotech and pharma community members.

アステラス製薬とBioLabs は、日本における現在および将来のバイオテックを担う起業家・イノベーターの支援を目的に、アステラス製薬 つくば研究センターにて交流イベントを開催します。

メインプログラムの **CEO パネルディスカッション** では、日本の変化するバイオテック市場で起業し事業を成長させてきた経験豊富な CEO を迎え、起業に至るまでの道のりや事業づくりのリアル、さらに米国市場との接点をどのように築いてきたのかについて議論します。

また、パネリストへの質問や意見交換の機会として、**ネットワーキング・レセプション** を実施します。バイオテック研究者、起業家、投資家、そしてバイオ・製薬業界の関係者の皆さまとつながり、今後の協業や新たな挑戦につながる交流の場として、ぜひご参加ください。

皆さまのご参加を心よりお待ちしております。

RSVP Today to secure your spot! Online streaming is also available.

<[Registration / 参加登録](#)>

Event Agenda:

Time	Agenda
2:30 – 3:00 pm	Doors open
3:00 – 4:45 pm	Main session in Auditorium (1F)–Hybrid (in-person & online) Supporting Japanese biotech startups and innovators will grow the biotech ecosystem in Japan and improve global health outcomes. 1. Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Hide Goto, Head, Open Innovation Management, Innovation Lab, Astellas 2. Presentation from BioLabs <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Susan Chase, Senior VP, Business Development, BioLabs 3. Panel discussion CEOs share experiences building companies in Japan and the US and lessons learned for new biotech founders. Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Victor Stone, Head of Cell Therapies, Alloy Therapeutics Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Doug Crawford, Managing Partner, Mission BioCapital● Masaki Hirose, CEO & co-founder, MiRNDA Inc.● Yukie Yoshii, CEO & founder, LinqMed Inc. 4. Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Victor Stone
5:00 – 6:30 pm	Networking Reception in Cafeteria (2F)–In-person only Connect with entrepreneurs, investors, and biotech and pharma professionals committed to biotech innovation in Japan and globally.

Date: July 30, 2026

Time: 3:00pm – 6:30pm, JST

Location: Astellas Tsukuba Research Center, Miyukigaoka 21, Tsukuba, Japan

Event Format: Hybrid (In-person and online participation available)

Language: Main session: English, Networking Reception: English & Japanese

Participation Fee: Free

Contact: Astellas secretariat [_MB06301@astellas.com](mailto:MB06301@astellas.com)

We look forward to seeing you at the event!

Astellas & BioLabs Team

Brief Biographies of the Speakers

Hide Goto, Ph.D. joined Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical after earning his degree from the Tokyo Institute of Technology. There, he conducted basic research on metabolic and infectious diseases. In 2011, he studied abroad at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He then served as Head of the biologics division from 2016, Head of the ophthalmology and otology unit from 2018, and as the representative of a cell therapy subsidiary in the Boston area from 2021 to 2024. As such, he has experience across a wide range of therapeutic modalities. After returning to Japan in April 2024, he assumed his current position. In this role, he contributes not only to Astellas but also to the development of Japan's broader external ecosystem.

Susan Chase is Senior Vice President of Business Development at BioLabs, a globally recognized shared laboratory and innovation platform supporting life science startups. In this role, she leads BioLabs' innovation consulting practice, drives international expansion initiatives, and cultivates strategic partnerships that advance entrepreneurial ecosystems worldwide.

Prior to joining BioLabs full-time, Susan served as Director of Collaborative Services at MASCO (now Longwood Collective), the planning and service organization for Boston's Longwood Medical Area. There, she led strategic sourcing and contracting and new program development on behalf of leading hospitals, research institutions, and academic organizations.

Earlier in her career, Susan held a range of operational leadership positions overseeing multinational property, facilities, and risk management projects. Her experience includes managing aspects of the due diligence process for the Caritas Christi acquisition by Steward Healthcare and leading the office expansion of Graham & James, the first U.S. law firm admitted to practice in Japan.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Susan is a dedicated advocate for children who have experienced abuse and neglect. A proud mother of two, she actively supports the mission of the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association and frequently promotes the organization's work on behalf of vulnerable children.

Victor Stone is an experienced biotech executive with a track record in biotech investments, platform builds, and regional ecosystem development. Major platform builds

include Takeda-Kyoto University iPS CAR-T platform (now Alloy Cell Therapies) and the largest SMOL platform in Japan (now full-service CRO Axcelead).

Doug Crawford, Ph.D. is a Managing General Partner at Mission BioCapital. He focuses on seed and early-stage biopharmaceutical investments as well as overall management of the firm. He currently holds board roles at Alessa Therapeutics, Epiodyne, Invenio, Myka Labs, Corsomed, and Tangible Science. Doug also runs our labs in the Bay Area, MBC BioLabs. Doug has made over 40 other investments in the Mission BioCapital portfolio including Alector Therapeutics, Caribou, Cell Design Labs, Dren Bio, eFFECTOR, iPierian, Principia Biopharma, Redwood BioSciences, and Zymergen.

Doug has been helping entrepreneurial scientists launch biotech startups since 2004. He created the first technical incubator for the University of California system while an associate director of QB3. This initiative demonstrated a new and better way to launch life-science startups. Based on that success Doug founded Mission Bay Capital, a predecessor to Mission BioCapital. In 2013, he created the first of 5 co-working labs for MBC BioLabs. These Bay Area labs allow companies with nothing more than a dream and a credit card to become a viable biotech company. They have been home to over 500 companies that have brought 176 drug programs to the clinic, 135 products to market, and raised over \$20 billion.

Doug received his PhD in biochemistry from UCSF where he studied the regulation of aging.

Masaki Hirose has over 20 years of experience in the medical device industry, including senior roles in marketing and business development at global companies such as Boston Scientific, Medtronic, Zimmer, and Philips. Throughout his career, he has led product strategy, new product launches, and post-merger integration initiatives, driving business growth and market expansion.

He currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of MiRNDA Inc., where he is spearheading the commercialization of innovative RNA modification technologies for the early detection of cancer, with a mission to bring advanced molecular diagnostics into clinical practice. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Keio University and an MBA from the Thunderbird School of Global Management (Arizona, USA).

Yukie Yoshii, Ph.D. is the Founder and CEO of LinqMed Inc., a radiopharmaceutical start-up based in Japan. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Tsukuba and began her

academic career at the University of Fukui before joining the National Institute of Radiological Sciences (now QST), where she worked for over a decade on molecular imaging and radiopharmaceutical development. She led translational research bridging preclinical and clinical studies and played a key role in initiating Japan-based clinical trials for copper-64 radiopharmaceuticals.