

INVESTING IN INNOVATION FOR LIFE SCIENCE

Friday, June 6th, 2025
8:30AM to 1:00PM ET
EMD Serono
200 Pier 4 Blvd in Boston

GERMAN AMERICAN

ECONOMIC
FORUM

TRANSATLANTIC HEALTHCARE
LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
2025

AGENDA

- 9:00AM: Welcome & Keynote
- Panel: Unlocking the Value of the Ecosystem
 - Fiona Mack, Bayer Co.Lab
 - Karen Madden, MilliporeSigma (Moderator)
 - Oliver Schacht, BIO Deutschland
 - Uli Stolz, Novo Nordisk
 - Greg Verdine, LifeMine Therapeutics
 - Florian Wegener, Zageno
- Pre-Panel Remarks: Shaping the Future of Life Sciences: Insights from the 2025 Horváth Study
- Panel: CEO Perspective
 - Danny Bar-Zohar, EMD Serono
 - Thierry Bernard, QIAGEN
 - Jean-Charles Wirth, MilliporeSigma
 - Vanessa Welch, Empower (Moderator)
- Closing Remarks
- Networking Lunch
Curated, moderated networking lunch presented by Horváth

This exclusive half-day forum **organized by the German-American Business Council of Boston (GABC Boston)** will bring together leading executives from the life sciences industry to discuss key issues shaping the future of healthcare and biotech. The forum will delve into the complexities of driving innovation within an increasingly challenging funding environment and highlight the contrast between large pharma, which have evolved their innovations over generations, and biotech disruptors that often push the envelope with groundbreaking approaches. This forum will also explore the varying attitudes between the U.S. and Germany, shedding light on how these perspectives impact investing in innovation and long-term strategies.

Registration

[Forum Registration Link](#)



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SPEAKERS



Danny Bar-Zohar

EMD Serono

Danny Bar-Zohar has served as Global Head of Research & Development and Chief Medical Officer of the Healthcare business sector of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, since 2022 and will take on the position of CEO Healthcare on June 1, 2025. He has two decades of leadership experience in the pharmaceuticals sector, having worked previously at Novartis, Teva Pharmaceuticals and venture capital firm Syncona Investment Management.



Thierry Bernard

QIAGEN

Thierry Bernard joined QIAGEN in February 2015 and was named Chief Executive Officer in March 2020. Previously, Mr. Bernard held roles of increasing responsibility during 15 years with bioMérieux SA, most recently as Corporate Vice President, Global Commercial Operations, Investor Relations and the Greater China Region, and held senior management roles in several other leading international companies.



Fiona Mack

Bayer Co.Lab, Cambridge

Fiona Mack is Vice President, Head of Bayer Co.Lab in Cambridge. In this role she is building a new cell and gene therapy incubator to accelerate innovation within the field. Prior to joining Bayer, she was Head of JLABS@ TMC and has held senior leadership positions at Ipsen, Roche and Pfizer supporting external innovation efforts to expand Rare Disease, Neuroscience and Oncology portfolios.



Karen Madden

MilliporeSigma

Karen Madden is Chief Technology Officer for the Life Science business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany (and/or its affiliates). In this role, she is shaping the Technology Roadmap and long-term R&D strategy, systematically exploring emerging opportunities that lead to breakthrough innovations. Karen also serves as the U.S. Country Speaker, representing the Group's strategic needs in the key market while driving collaboration and unity among U.S. based employees.



Oliver Schacht

BIO Deutschland

Oliver Schacht is managing director of Life Science Nord and president of BIO Deutschland, Germany's national biotech association. Spanning a 30-year career as serial entrepreneur, Oliver has co-founded and led several Trans-Atlantic U.S.-German biotech companies. He co-founded 8 start-ups in the life sciences as well as digital health, cleantech and education sectors. Three of his companies went from start-up to being publicly traded companies.



Uli Stilz

Novo Nordisk Bio
Innovation Hub, Boston

Uli Stilz is Head of the Novo Nordisk Bio Innovation Hub in Boston, MA. In this role he is leading a cross functional R&D team establishing innovative partnerships with biotech, venture capital, and academia. Prior to joining Novo Nordisk A/S in Copenhagen in 2014, he was with Sanofi and Hoechst AG. Over a period of 20 years he contributed to more than 60 preclinical and clinical drug candidates.



Gregory Verdine

LifeMine Therapeutics

Gregory Verdine is Co-Founder, President and CEO of LifeMine Therapeutics and a Venture Partner at Andreessen Horowitz. He is a pioneer in the field of chemical biology, a serial biotech entrepreneur and a life science venture capitalist. Dr. Verdine is Erving Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at Harvard University and Harvard Medical School.



Florian Wegener

ZAGEN0

Florian Wegener, MD, MBA is the Co-Founder and CEO of ZAGEN0, a leading B2B marketplace transforming lab supply procurement through AI-driven solutions. Before founding ZAGEN0 in 2015, he was Vice President and Global Head of eCommerce at Qiagen, leading a \$400 million digital business, and a consultant at BCG, advising biopharma and med-tech clients across Europe and the U.S.



Vanessa Welch

Empower

Vanessa Welch is an eight-time Emmy Award-winning journalist, including three for Best Anchor, who brings her signature storytelling expertise to both the corporate and philanthropic worlds. She serves as a sought-after emcee for leading organizations including MassBio, the American Cancer Society, Target Cancer, Leukemia Lymphoma Society, Make-A-Wish, JDRF, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness.



Jean-Charles Wirth

MilliporeSigma

Jean-Charles Wirth is head of Science and Lab Solutions at the Life Science business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany (and/or its affiliates) and the incoming CEO of MilliporeSigma as of June 1, 2025. As head of the Science and Lab Solutions business unit with more than €4 billion in sales, Wirth oversees commercial geographies, strategic accounts, marketing, product management, research and business development as well as eCommerce, strategy and services.

