



Science2Startup (S2S)™ Symposium on April 10th, 2024 Will Connect the Boston Biotech Ecosystem to Top Academic Researchers Worldwide

Event led by venture capital firms Atlas Venture, F-Prime Capital, Osage University Partners, RA Capital Management, and 5AM Ventures in partnership with Massachusetts Biotechnology Council

Eight presenters from leading global academic institutions to present individual startup ideas to biotech investors and executives

Science2Startup (S2S)™ is an invitation-only symposium focused on bringing academic innovations to the attention of the thriving Boston-based venture capital ecosystem. The event will be held April 10th, 2024 at the Broad Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with participation from [Atlas Venture](#), [F-Prime Capital](#), [Osage University Partners](#), [RA Capital Management](#), [5AM Ventures](#), and [Massachusetts Biotechnology Council](#) (MassBio) to strengthen connections between leading scientists at the world's top research institutions and biotech investors.

This year's S2S is led and organized by:

- Kevin Bitterman, Ph.D., Partner at Atlas Venture
- Jessica Alston, Ph.D., Partner at F-Prime Capital
- Matt Cohen, Ph.D., Managing Partner at Osage University Partners
- Joshua Resnick, M.D., Managing Director at RA Capital Management
- Deb Palestrant, Ph.D., Partner at 5AM Ventures.

S2S Advisor, Deb Palestrant (Partner and Executive Chair of 4:59, 5AM Ventures), will host a fireside chat around entrepreneurship featuring David Liu. David Liu is the Richard Merkin Professor, Director of the Merkin Institute of Transformative Technologies in Healthcare, and Vice-Chair of the Faculty at the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT; Thomas Dudley Cabot Professor of the Natural Sciences and Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Harvard University; and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator.

The eight selected presenters will showcase their discoveries as well as their projected development path toward demonstrating clinical proof-of-concept. Mentorship for the selected presenters reflects deep expertise across multiple scientific disciplines and is facilitated by MassBio.

S2S is generously sponsored by Colliers, [Deloitte](#), [Evotec](#), [Goodwin](#), [Pliancy](#), and [Silicon Valley Bank \(SVB\)](#). Senior representatives from each sponsor will share their respective expertise with S2S presenters in closed-door workshops prior to the symposium.

"The 2024 S2S cohort unites a remarkable group of scientists from leading research institutions around the globe," said Dr. Bitterman. "This forum provides exposure, guidance, and hands-on mentorship as they embark on the critical task of translating cutting-edge science into novel therapies. Our goal is to enhance their chances of success as they set out to build new companies and leverage their innovative concepts for the benefit of patients."

"S2S is more than an event; It's a beacon for innovation where top scientists worldwide come together to present their ideas and interact with leading investors and executives in Boston's established biotech ecosystem," said Dr. Alston. "Our goal is to nurture our connections while supporting the translation of scientific breakthroughs to solve the greatest challenges in healthcare and medicine."

Attendees at the event will include senior biopharma executives, life science-focused investors and biotech entrepreneurs. In addition to the presentations, S2S will provide substantial opportunities for networking among the presenters and attendees.

"Developing new medicines that treat disease requires the foundational and innovative work being pioneered in research universities. Launching a startup presents a totally unique set of challenges, however," said Dr. Cohen. "The goal of S2S is to support academic founders, particularly those building their first company, and to increase their chance of success."

"By inviting top researchers from around the world to pressure-test ideas with industry veterans, S2S aims to both strengthen and broaden the biotech ecosystem," said Dr. Resnick. "We are delighted to continue to support this event and look forward to interacting with the champions of new discoveries that may someday bring relief to patients."

"It's a privilege to mentor the S2S 2024 cohort of entrepreneurs and academics and offer a forum in the Boston ecosystem for them to showcase their work," said Dr. Palestrant. "These presentations reflect significant promise and we're excited to spotlight these discoveries in front of seasoned investors and pharma execs to help advance potentially transformational therapies."

This year's eight scientific presenters were selected by an advisory group comprised of experienced biotech investors. S2S received over 132 submissions from over 60 institutions across 11 countries. The selected presenters are enrolled in a mentorship program led by MassBio, where they will receive one-on-one mentorship from advisory group members and other industry participants, as well as feedback on their scientific translation and drug development plans.

S2S's class of 2024 includes:

- **Rivka Dikstein, Ph.D.**, Professor and Dean of Biochemistry at the Weizmann Institute of Science. *Spt5-Pol II Inhibitors as an Effective Therapeutic Approach for Huntington's Disease*
- **Irina Balyasnikova, Ph.D.**, Professor of Neurological Surgery at Northwestern University. *Broadening Glioblastoma Responses with Tri-Specific T cell Engaging Antibody*
- **William Donaldson, Ph.D.**, CEO of Estrigenix Therapeutics. *Development of a Therapeutic with the Benefits of Estrogen but without the Risk for Breast Cancer*
- **Sander Houten, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. *A novel pharmacological approach for the treatment of glutaric aciduria type 1*
- **Martin Matzuk, M.D., Ph.D.**, Director, Center for Drug Discovery and Chair, Department of Pathology and Immunology at Baylor College of Medicine. *Targeting Opportunistic Kinases for Treatment of Endometriosis*
- **Ariella Shikanov, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Michigan. *Restoring natural ovarian function for pediatric cancer survivors*
- **Stephanie Stanford, Ph.D.**, Director at Knoubis Bio, Inc. *Phosphatase-targeted biologics for autoimmunity*
- **Christina Woo, Ph.D.**, Morris Kahn Associate Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Harvard University. *Cyclimid therapeutics*

For a list of S2S's 2024 advisors, please visit www.science2startup.com.