



NCLifeSci

2026 ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, Sept. 16 // AGENDA

REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING



8:30 - 9:15 a.m.



Exhibits open

MORNING SESSION



Lauren Ansley

Event Emcee

9:15 a.m. Welcome Remarks

- Laura Gunter, president, NCLifeSci
- Steve Kearney, Pharm.D., global medical director, SAS

9:35 a.m. Celebrating 50 Years of Innovation, Policy and the NC Ecosystem

Introduction by *Chris Capel*, partner, **Smith Anderson**

- Fritz Bittenbender, senior vice president, public affairs and access, Genentech; chair, BIO Board of Directors
- Laura Gunter, president, NCLifeSci

10:15 a.m. Platinum Sponsor Remarks

- Carrie Kleinle, director, product marketing and partner engagement, **ALT**
- Ryan Doxey, vice president, technical services, **Kymanox**

10:20 a.m. Networking Break



Exhibits open

Laurie Braxton, senior vice president and site head, **Holly Springs, FUJIFILM Biotechnologies**

10:50 a.m. Business Session and Recognition of Scholarship Recipients

Laura Gunter, president, NCLifeSci

11:10 a.m. Platinum Sponsor Remarks

- Elise Wingate, director, alliance development and state policy, **Pfizer**
- Jason Kempton, regional sales director, **VWR, part of Avantor**

11:15 a.m. Looking to the Future: Federal Landscape and Innovation

Introduction by *Nick Bruck*, director of business development,

GXP Storage

- Andrew Barnhill, senior vice president, Biotechnology Innovation Organization (moderator)
- Carson Billingsley, process engineer, Novonesis
- Rachael Fones, senior director and head, regulatory and policy, design and delivery innovation, R&D Solutions, IQVIA
- Adam Lotspike, senior director, U.S. government relations, BD
- Angela Wiles, senior director, federal government relations, Pfizer

AFTERNOON SESSION



12:15 p.m. Networking Lunch

1:15 p.m. Transition to Theater

1:30 p.m. Technology Landscape in NC

Introduction by *Alma Montemayor*, director of project development, **Flad Architects**

- Tom Alapaattikoski, CEO, Brinter
- Dan Estay, founder and CEO, SonoVascular
- Jason Krentz, chief operating officer, AskBio
- Amber Raines, Ph.D., senior director, client project management, Coriolis Pharma
- Kseniya Simpson, Ph.D., partner, Hatteras Venture Partners (moderator)
- Gina Sloan, Ph.D., founder and CEO, AGRITX

2:30 p.m. Networking Break



Exhibits open

Introduction by *Christine Vannais*, project director, **Novartis**

3 p.m. The Point is the Patient

Introduction by *Chandler Conley*, senior director of technical operations, East Coast, **PSC Biotech**

- Nicole Bell, CEO, Galaxy Diagnostics
- Meghan Bradshaw, executive director, Center for Lyme Action
- Lori McLeod, Ph.D., vice president, patient-centered outcomes assessment, RTI Health Solutions (moderator)
- Pat Ritschel, CEO, Atsena Therapeutics
- Jeff Todd, president and CEO, Prevent Blindness

4 p.m. 50 Years of Innovation – Past, Present and Future

- Steve Kearney, Pharm.D., global medical director, SAS
- Joash Mudalige, vice president and site head, Holly Springs, Genentech
- Marlene Sanders-Seye, director, state government affairs and policy, Merck (moderator)

4:30 p.m. Closing Remarks & Raffle

- Laura Gunter, president, NCLifeSci
- Amber Niebauer, events director, NCLifeSci

4:45 - 6 p.m. Networking Reception

Sponsored by Genentech; traveling museum open



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