V WEBINAR

Drug Discovery in Academia and The Three Seas Cancer Initiative: Importance of Entrepreneurial Scientists to the Future of the American and European Economy



11 December 2024
A conversation between



Prof. Waldemar Priebe

Dr. Waldemar Priebe, Professor of Medicinal Chemistry at UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, specializes in anticancer therapies. A Warsaw native, he earned a Ph.D. from the Polish Academy of Sciences and holds Poland's Professor of Chemistry title. With 200+ publications, 70+ patents, and six biotech startups (four NASDAQ-listed), he serves on Poland's National Development and Medical Research Councils.

and

Dr. Meredith Warshaw

Dr. Warshaw holds a doctorate in molecular biology from the University of Illinois Chicago and completed postdoctoral work at UCSF. She pursued a fellowship in Psychiatry at Stanford School of Medicine (SOM) and has expertise in neuro- and behavioral sciences. A former scientific advisor for Stanford's SPARK program, she founded and led the Future Brain Cancer Institute for six years. For the past four years, she has contributed to SOM in medical admissions, accreditation, and education operations.

Poland in Silicon Valley Center for Science, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship

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Initiative: Importance of Entrepreneurial Scientists to the Future
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Brief Outline

Worldwide political and economic changes in recent years have led to a "globalization." The massive shift of production outside of the USA and Europe combined with the transfer of cutting-edge technologies, sophisticated know-how, and export of well-paying jobs, makes the USA and Europe vulnerable by creating a potentially unsustainable economic system. However, the future of economic growth can be secured by investing in basic science, rapid translational research, and the creation of new products.

Close collaboration between scientist in academia and industry in general and with especially small businesses, are essential to innovation. These partnerships often lead to creation of new products, including new more effective drugs, which in turn promotes economic growth. The key elements of success to this pipeline are scientists with entrepreneurial propensities, robust institutional and governmental support for such persons, and a proper investment environment.

Analysis of the drug development process in academia and highlights of the critical steps of the translational research pipeline will be discussed from the viewpoint of an academic scientist. His journey of performing biomedical discovery research to create biologically important products, their ultimate development into five clinically evaluated drugs, and his formation of several biotechnological companies will be discussed.