



catalyst conversations: Rapid Research and Disruptive Development

Speaker Bios



Klaus Urbahns is head of Discovery & Development Technologies at EMD Serono, the biopharmaceutical business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany in the U.S. With laboratories in Darmstadt, Boston, Tel Aviv, Rome and Turin, Klaus' team is dedicated to creating new medicines in the areas of oncology and immunology. Klaus is based in Boston and also been serving on advisory roles for Malaria Ventures (Geneva), the Lead Discovery Center (Max-Planck) and the Merck-Venture fund. Prior to his role at EMD Serono, Klaus has worked at AstraZeneca in the UK and Sweden and at Bayer in Germany and Japan. Klaus has studied at the Universities of Kiel and Freiburg and holds a Ph.D. in synthetic organic chemistry from the University of Frankfurt.



While attaining his Ph.D. in Systems Biology at Harvard, **Dr. Evan Daugharthy** co-invented fluorescent in situ sequencing (FISSEQ) technology for massively multiplex detection of RNA, DNA and proteins directly inside fixed cells and tissue. A scientific founder of ReadCoor, Inc., acquired by 10X Genomics in October, 2020 for \$350 million, Dr. Daugharthy lead research and development as V.P. of Science. Dr. Daugharthy previously studied biology and mathematics at the University of Pennsylvania, conducting pioneering research on the function of antisense transcription in yeast, and developing early automated RNA-Seq methods for the study of diverse African human population genetics.



Dr. Jenny Molloy is a Senior Research Associate at the University of Cambridge, researching the potential for local, distributed manufacturing of enzymes to improve access and build capacity for biological research and innovation. She has an undergraduate degree from the University of Cambridge and a DPhil from the University of Oxford. Since 2015 she has co-founded four social enterprises and nonprofits making open source tools more accessible to researchers and building communities for open source tool developers.

In 2020, Dr. Molloy was Chair of the Diagnostics Subgroup of the UN Technology Access Partnership and is now Chair of an independent Local Production and Diagnostics Working Group. She is also the 2020-21 Fellow of the World Economic Forum Global Futures Council on Synthetic Biology.

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David Sun Kong, Ph.D., is a synthetic biologist, community organizer, musician, and photographer based in Lexington, MA. He is the director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Media Lab's new [Community Biotechnology Initiative](#), a pioneer in developing microfluidic, or "lab-on-a-chip" technologies for synthetic biology, and a leader in the global Community Bio movement.

In 2017, he founded the Global Community Bio Summit, a gathering convening the global network of community biology labs, and was recognized as an emerging leader in synthetic biology as a "LEAP" Fellow. He is co-founder of 'How To Grow (Almost) Anything,' an international course on synthetic biology taught with Professor George Church of Harvard, and founder of 'Metafluidics,' an open repository for fluidic systems.

David conducted his graduate studies at MIT's Media Lab, receiving a master's degree for developing technology for printing nanostructures with energetic beams and a Ph.D. for demonstrating the first gene synthesis in a microfluidic system. His research has been covered via outlets such as the Washington Post, Science, the Boston Globe, Gizmodo, and STAT News.

He has also performed as a DJ, beat-boxer, vocalist, and rapper at hundreds of venues, and his photography has been exhibited at the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian and other museums and galleries across the country.



Kate McLaughlin, Ph.D., joined MilliporeSigma in 2020 as the Head of Life Science Strategy. She spearheads MilliporeSigma's long-range strategy development, guides external market insights, and serves on the Life Science Innovation Board to elevate key themes and projects. Prior to joining MilliporeSigma, Kate advised companies and investors on the life science and diagnostic markets as a Vice President at Health Advances. She holds a Ph.D. in Immunology from Harvard University.