Symposium Presenters

Industry Spotlight Presenters

Ron Cooper

Former President and CEO
Albireo Pharma, Inc.

Ron Cooper is a global biopharmaceutical executive who formerly served as president, chief executive officer and board member of Albireo Pharma, Inc., a position he held until its $1 billion sale to Ipsen Corp in March 2023. He successfully matured Albireo Pharma, Inc. to a clinical-stage public company. Prior to joining Albireo Pharma, Inc., Cooper had a 25-year career at Bristol Myers Squibb, during which time he held multiple leadership roles in sales, marketing and general management, culminating in his role as president of Europe. In 2021, Generation Bio Co. (Nasdaq: GBIO), an innovative genetic medicines company creating a new class of gene therapy, appointed Ron to its Board of Directors.

Katherine Fink

Associate General Counsel,
Privacy & AI
IBM

Katherine is Associate General Counsel at IBM, where she leads the legal team that supports IBM's Security business unit. Her work ranges from counseling ethical hackers and incident response teams to supporting M&A deals to working with cross-functional stakeholders on data privacy and security issues. She was among the founding members of the BBA's Privacy, Cybersecurity, and Digital Law Section, and served as a member of the BBA's Public Interest Leadership Program while an associate at Foley Hoag. She is also an Adjunct Professor at Boston College Law School, where she co-teaches a course on cybersecurity law and policy.

Rajinder Khunkhun

Head, Neuroscience
Business Development
Takeda

Rajinder Khunkhun serves as the Head of Rare Disease Business Development at Takeda, where he leverages his expertise to drive strategic partnerships and advance rare disease therapies. Prior to his role at Takeda, Rajinder held the position of Business Development Associate Director at Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc., where he contributed to the company's growth and success. His earlier career includes an impressive tenure as a Licensing Manager at Boston Children's Hospital, spanning over eight years. Rajinder's passion for advancing healthcare solutions and his ability to forge meaningful collaborations make him a valuable asset in the industry.

Dr. John Maraganore

Former Founding CEO
Alnylam Pharmaceuticals

Dr. John Maraganore served as the founding CEO and a Director of Alnylam from 2002 to 2021, where he built and led the company from early platform research on RNA interference through global approval and commercialization of the first four RNAi therapeutic medicines, ONPATTRO®, GIVLAARI®, OXLUMO®, and Leqvio®. Prior to Alnylam, he served as an officer and a member of the management team for Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc., where he was responsible for the company's product franchises in oncology, and cardiovascular, inflammatory and metabolic diseases, in addition to leadership of M&A, strategy, and biotherapeutics functions. Before Millennium, he served as Director of Molecular Biology and Director of Market and Business Development at Biogen, Inc. Previously, he was a scientist at ZymoGenetics, Inc. and the Upjohn Company. He is currently a Venture Partner at ARCH Venture Partners, a Venture Advisor at Atlas Ventures, an Executive Partner at RTW Investments, and Senior Advisor for Blackstone Life Sciences.

Betsy McSheffrey
Vice President, Head Counsel,
Global Data, Digital & Technology
Takeda

Betsy McSheffrey serves as the Vice President, Head Counsel of Global Data, Digital & Technology at Takeda where she has ascended in several roles, including previously as Head Counsel, Data, Technology and Innovation, Specialty Business Units, Research and Development.

Sean Pitt
Senior Managing Director, Biopharma
Leerink Partners

Sean Pitt is a Senior Managing Director in Investment Banking at Leerink Partners. Sean has over a decade of healthcare investment banking experience and joined Leerink Partners in 2017. He has advised a broad range of biopharma companies across equity and strategic advisory assignments and transactions, having worked on over 200 transactions during his career. He earned a B.S. from The University of Sydney, Australia.

Covington Presenters

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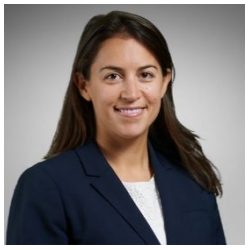
John Balzano is a partner in Covington's Food, Drug and Device Practice Group. He represents companies and business associations on U.S. and China regulatory and policy matters related to food, drugs, medical devices, cosmetics, and other regulated products. John has over a decade of experience with legal and regulatory issues related to China, particularly with regard to products regulated by the State Administration for Market Regulation, the National Medical Products Administration (NMPA), and other agriculture, animal and healthcare (including digital health) products and services.



Elizabeth Canter
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Libbie Canter is a partner in Covington's Data Privacy and Cybersecurity Practice Group. She represents a wide variety of multinational companies on privacy, cyber security, and technology transaction issues, including helping clients with their most complex privacy challenges and the development of governance frameworks and processes to comply with global privacy laws. She routinely supports clients on their efforts to launch new products and services involving emerging technologies, and she has assisted dozens of clients with their efforts to prepare for and comply with federal and state privacy laws, including the California Consumer Privacy Act and California Privacy Rights Act.

Rujul Desai
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Rujul Desai is a partner in Covington's Health Care Practice Group and advises clients on drug pricing, market access, reimbursement, strategic contracting, and regulatory solutions for drugs, biologicals, devices, and diagnostics. He brings deep experience with biopharma, specialty pharmacy, and pharmacy benefit management (PBM) companies. Rujul has held a number of leadership roles in the biopharma, PBM, and specialty pharmacy industry, including with CVS Caremark, UCB, and most recently as Vice President at Avalere Health. Rujul is an author of the U.S. chapter of a global treatise on drug pricing and reimbursement.

Megan Gates
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Megan Gates is a partner in Covington's Securities and Capital Markets Practice Group and has been guiding publicly traded and late-stage private companies, primarily in the life sciences industry, through capital-raising transactions, SEC reporting compliance and corporate governance obligations, as well as strategic mergers and acquisitions' for over 25 years. Her clients benefit from the client-focused perspective she gained during a prior in-house counsel role with Thermo Electron Corporation, where she was responsible for securities offerings and compliance for the corporation and its 23 publicly traded subsidiaries. Megan frequently speaks at conferences on securities offerings, corporate governance, and compliance matters. She is also active in community organizations in Boston, including serving as a Board member or other leadership roles with the Pine Street Inn, the Boston Bar Foundation, and the Japan Society of Boston.

John Hurvitz
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John Hurvitz co-chairs Covington's Life Sciences-Pharma and Biotech Industry Group and heads the firm's Life Sciences Transactions Practice Group. John advises both established and emerging life sciences companies on their most important strategic transactions. For more than 25 years, John's practice has focused exclusively on meeting the specialized corporate, commercial, and transactional needs of the life sciences industry. As such, he serves as a trusted adviser to many of today's leading biotech and pharma companies, counseling his clients on all aspects of complex strategic alliances, M&A, and other transactions.

Michael Labson
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Mike Labson co-chairs Covington's global Life Sciences practice and has been a trusted advisor to pharmaceutical and biotechnology clients for over 25 years. He draws on his wide range of regulatory expertise to provide strategic and compliance advice, and address FDA and other health care law issues in litigation, investigations, and transactions. He previously served in a number of firm leadership positions, including as a member of the firm's Management Committee and Executive Committee and as co-chair of the Diversity Committee.

Gerald (Jerry) Masoudi
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Gerald (Jerry) Masoudi is a partner in Covington's Food, Drug and Device Practice Group and has more than 25 years of broad experience in the life sciences industry. He served as Chief Counsel of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from 2007 to 2009. Jerry also has held positions in the Antitrust Division at the US Department of Justice; as the general counsel of two large, highly regulated companies; and as a partner in private practice. He provides strategic legal, policy, and regulatory advice to life sciences clients, with a focus on FDA enforcement of manufacturing and promotional rules. His practice will focus on guiding clients through significant corporate transactions, litigation, shifting regulatory expectations, and intensive crisis management activities.

Jennifer Plitsch
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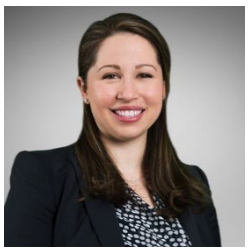
Jennifer Plitsch leads the firm's Government Contracts Practice Group, where she works with clients on a broad range of issues arising from both defense and civilian contracts including contract proposal, performance, and compliance questions as well as litigation, transactional, and legislative issues. She has particular expertise in advising clients on intellectual property and data rights issues under the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) and obligations imposed by the Bayh-Dole Act, including march-in and substantial domestic manufacturing.



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Julia Post is a partner in Covington's Food, Drug and Device Practice Group. She advises companies and trade associations on a broad range of regulatory and policy matters related to drugs, biologics, and other regulated products in both the U.S. and China. Julia has significant experience in advising clients on clinical trial and product development matters, including informed consent requirements, biospecimen procurement and research use, and other good clinical practice. She advises clients regularly on product life-cycle management issues, including patent linkage frameworks and marketing exclusivity in the U.S. and China.

Stephen Rademaker
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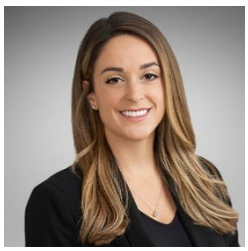
With wide-ranging experience working on national security issues in the White House, the State Department, and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, Stephen Rademaker helps clients navigate international policy, sanctions, and CFIUS challenges. Among his accomplishments in public service, Stephen had lead responsibility, as a U.S. House staffer, for drafting the legislation that created the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Serving as an Assistant Secretary of State from 2002 through 2006, he headed at various times three bureaus of the State Department, including the Bureau of Arms Control and the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation.



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Lauren Rakitin is a partner in Covington's Life Sciences Transactions Practice Group with a particular focus on complex strategic collaborations and licensing arrangements. Lauren advises a broad range of clients, from start-up and biotech companies to global pharmaceutical companies. By focusing exclusively in the life sciences industry, Lauren has established a deep understanding of the complex needs of pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies as they navigate the life cycle of their products, from discovery and development to commercialization and generic/biosimilar entry.

David Wildman
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David Wildman is a partner in Covington's Technology Transactions Practice Group and specializes in complex transactions involving technology, intellectual property, and data. In this role, he regularly advises clients on issues relating to data commercialization, IP licensing, software development, and information technology services (such as cloud services, IT procurement, and outsourcing). David, who is a registered Patent Attorney and former electrical engineer, also advises on the intellectual property aspects of mergers, acquisitions, and strategic investments. David represents clients in a wide array of industries, including health technology, travel, and finance.