



Baruch S. **BLUMBERG** INSTITUTE | **PENNSYLVANIA** BIOTECHNOLOGY CENTER

# FIRESIDE CHAT

**FEATURING JIM GREENWOOD'S INDUCTION TO THE "WALL OF FAME"**



**JIM GREENWOOD**  
Senior Policy Advisor  
DLA Piper Law  
Former U.S. Congressman



**JOHN F. CROWLEY**  
Executive Chairman  
Amicus Therapeutics



**RON PHILIP**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Spark Therapeutics

**Moderator:** Dr. Randall N. Hyer, CEO Merlin Biotech  
President, Blumberg Institute

 Date	 Time
Oct. 17, 2023	4 p.m. - 6 p.m. EDT

**REGISTER NOW**

### 2023 Fire Award Honoree



PHL Inno honored the Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center (PABC) recently with the 2023 Fire Award!

We appreciate this recognition of the Center's dedication to advancing biotech innovation and driving transformative scientific progress.

Please read more [here](#).

**Wistar Institute, Blumberg Institute and PABC team up**



The [Blumberg Institute](#) and [PABC](#) have formed a new strategic collaboration with [The Wistar Institute](#) to accelerate the advancement of “bench-to-bedside” biomedical research discoveries in the tri-state region by collectively supporting the seeding, launching and maturation of life science startups.

Read [more](#).

*The lobby of B+labs at Cira Centre*



## Nick Spring & Cirna Diagnostics Ongoing Collaboration



Nick Spring, BSc (Hons), DipM, MCIM, presently serving as Senior Partner at Bracken, has a longstanding association with the PABC, spanning nearly 20 years, tracing back to the center's inception in 2005.

His career spans both senior leadership positions at Merck as well as successfully leading life sciences companies from start up to exit. Famed for his results-driven approach, Nick's expertise encompasses strategic planning and tactical execution within the pharma, biotech and medical devices arenas. Recently, his collaboration with PABC spinout, Cirna

Diagnostics, has been particularly noteworthy. They've been developing groundbreaking biomarkers for early liver cancer detection, promising to revolutionize treatment methodologies.

On this pioneering work, Nick said: "These biomarkers represent a transformative step in liver cancer diagnostics. This innovation could reshape liver cancer prognosis and patient care in the coming years." Please read more [here](#).

## PABC Podcast: Biotech Insiders with Lou Kassa



**BIOTECH INSIDERS**  
From the PABC  
with Lou Kassa  
**Episode: 4**

Lillian Chiang, CEO  
Evrys Bio

Thomas Shenk, Founder  
Evrys Bio

Miranda Song,  
Univ. of Maryland  
College Park

This episode features Lou Kassa, CEO of the Hepatitis B Foundation, Blumberg Institute and PABC, talking with Dr. Lillian Chiang, CEO of Evrys Bio, about the company's start and what's to come! Also, we have Dr. Timothy Block, co-founder of PABC and its sister organizations, with Dr. Thomas Shenk, founder of Evrys Bio, on the scientific path the company is taking.

Finally, we have a "Where are you now?" segment featuring Miranda Song, a former PABC intern currently at the University of Maryland.

We are excited to announce that **Pofabro Communications** is the first sponsor of our new podcast. Please learn more about the company [here](#)!

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## Blumberg Institute Distinguished Speaker Seminars



**Aug. 31 - 11 a.m.** - Patrick Glassman, PhD, assistant professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Temple University School of Pharmacy

**Sept. 7 - 11 a.m.** - Christina Woo, PhD, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology Harvard University

**Oct. 26 - 11 a.m.** - Daphine C. Avgousti, PhD, assistant professor, Human Biology Division, Fred Hutch

To learn more about our Distinguished Speaker Seminar series click [here](#).

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# 2023 Regional Biotechnology Conference

*Hot BIO – Gene therapy, mRNA and AI:  
An insider’s look at biotech in the  
Philadelphia region.*

Nov. 16, 2023  
9 a.m. - 12 p.m. EST  
3805 Old Easton Rd., Doylestown

[www.pabcevents.org](http://www.pabcevents.org)

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## Welcoming Joe Erckert as our new Chief Development Officer

Joe Erckert has joined the Hepatitis B Foundation as Chief Development Officer. He is no stranger to Doylestown, as

he served from 2008 to 2017 as Vice President for Advancement at Delaware Valley University. There he worked with former President Joe Brosnan, leading a \$59M comprehensive campaign.

Joe began his career at Lafayette, working in annual giving and major gifts from 1993 to 2003. Most recently he was with Emory University, managing all development functions for university centers, institutes and programs.

Joe is a Lafayette alum and earned a masters degree in education from Columbia University. He and his wife Irene, a clinical psychologist, have lived in Newtown for the last 23 years. They have two children in college and a 10-pound fluffy dog named Mango.

To discuss ways to support the PABC, please send a note to Joe [[joe.erckert@hepb.org](mailto:joe.erckert@hepb.org)] or call him at 267-294-2779.



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## New Branding for a PABC Member



FOX CHASE THERAPEUTICS DISCOVERY, INC.

Be sure to check out Fox Chase Therapeutics Discovery Inc.'s (FCTDI) new [website](#) and branding.

FCTDI is a science-based company focused on applying best discovery practices of early stage drug and probe discovery research including modern computational methods and chemical biology, laboratory medicinal chemistry, ADME characterization and cutting-edge pharmacological screening all in the support of translational research programs.

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## LightSeed receives SBIR grant second year of funding

LightSeed, a company developing therapies to prevent damage to the heart from chemotherapy given to children and adults with cancer, has received an additional year of funding from an SBIR grant.

Cardiac damage from current therapies causes series morbidity and death in children and adults undergoing cancer treatments.

LightSeed has identified a drug that provides substantial cardiac protection in preclinical studies and aims to conduct validation in clinical studies.

More [here](#).



*Richard G. Pestell, MD, PhD, FACP, FRACP, MBA, President*

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## Welcome to our newest members

Welcome to the newest members of the PABC!

- [Archer & Greiner](#)
- [DiaVac Biotech](#)
- [Flamma Group](#)
- [Sterling Pharma Solutions](#)



Est. by the Hepatitis B Foundation



The PABC has more than [90 member organizations](#) and almost 50 have onsite operations.

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The PABC is one of the nation's most successful life sciences incubators. A nonprofit organization, the center is dedicated to creating a world-class biotechnology center; promoting regional economic development and job creation; and educating and training tomorrow's researchers.

The Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center (PABC)  
3805 Old Easton Road Doylestown, PA 18902  
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[www.pabiotechbc.org](http://www.pabiotechbc.org)

***Don't forget to follow us on social media!***

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Penna Biotech Center (PABC) | 3805 Old Easton Road, Doylestown, PA 18902

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