



A member of Ajinomoto Bio-Pharma Services

## Leadership Team Bios

### **Frank Agbogbo, Ph.D.**

#### **Vice President of Process Development**

Frank Agbogbo is Vice President of Process Development at Forge Biologics, responsible for rAAV process development and plasmid DNA production. He has 20 years of experience in process development, biotechnology, gene, and cell therapy industries. Previously, Dr. Agbogbo was the Senior Director of Process Development at Cytovance Biologics, where he took increasing responsibilities with oversight responsibilities over the Upstream and Downstream teams. Dr. Agbogbo's experience includes process development, Design of Experiments (DoE), process optimization, process characterization, and scale-up from R&D to manufacturing (cGMP and non-cGMP). He has co-chaired and presented at many scientific conferences such as ASGCT, Bioprocess Summit, BPI East. Dr. Agbogbo earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University, and an M.B.A. with a certificate in Entrepreneurship from the Price College of Business, Oklahoma University.

### **Taleen Barsoumian**

#### **Senior Vice President of Client Development**

Taleen Barsoumian is Vice President of Client Development at Forge Biologics, where she leads Forge's commercial team drawing on extensive experience in the biotech and pharmaceutical industry. As US Director of Sales and Business Development for Cell and Gene at Barkey Corporation, she was directly responsible for leading and executing many noteworthy partnerships with FDA approved CAR-T cell therapy teams, as well as closely collaborating with study sponsors in their ongoing Phase I, II and III clinical research trials. Prior to joining Barkey, Ms. Barsoumian was the BioScience Western Regional Sales Manager for North America at Greiner Bio-One, leading a team with high profile accounts in academia, biotech, pharma, government and diagnostics. She launched her career in therapeutics with Novartis Pharmaceuticals, launching seven FDA approved products into the Anti-Hypertensive market. Ms. Barsoumian earned her B.S. from the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California (USC) in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Studies/Epidemiology, and also holds a Pharmacy Technician License from the California State Board of Pharmacy.

### **Ron Chantung**

#### **Senior Vice President of Operations, AAV Manufacturing**

Ron Chantung is Senior Vice President of Operations for AAV Manufacturing at Forge Biologics. He has a wide biotech industry experience background that spans over two decades,



A member of Ajinomoto Bio-Pharma Services

most recently overseeing operations at Societal CDMO, San Diego, which specializes in clinical through commercial oral solid dose plus sterile injectable drug product. At Ajinomoto Bio-Pharma Services prior to that, he had direct oversight of drug substance, formulations, process sciences, supply chain, and 2 of the 6 sterile fill lines. Mr. Chuntung also supervised clinical and commercial production at PaxVax, Inc, led mammalian and microbial pre-commercial production at PacificGMP, and worked as a research associate for MediVas, LLC which focused on biologics delivery using a proprietary polyester-amide polymer(s). He managed the research cell and molecular biology labs at Immusol and started his career as an operator at MarDx in Carlsbad, CA, producing commercially approved Western Blot kits. Mr. Chantung obtained a B.S. in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Southern California.

#### **Ashley Craddick**

##### **Senior Director of Operations for AAV Manufacturing**

Ashley Craddick is Senior Director of Operations for AAV Manufacturing at Forge Biologics. She has over 15 years of experience in cell and gene therapy, including building the GMP manufacturing enterprise at Forge. Previously, Ms. Craddick was overseeing Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls department at Scout Bio, an animal healthcare therapeutics company, which was acquired by Ceva Santé Animale in 2024. Prior to that, she led the process development group for the Clinical Manufacturing Facility at the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital. Ms. Craddick holds multiple proprietary Invention Disclosures for the intellectual property on novel AAV purification processes. She also held various roles with increasing responsibility in GMP at NCH. Ms. Craddick obtained a B.S. in Chemistry from Urbana University and an MBA in Organizational Leadership from Franklin University.

#### **Adam Davis, Ph.D.**

##### **Vice President of Analytical Development**

Adam Davis is Vice President of Analytical Development at Forge Biologics, leading the development of product specific and platform method development for characterization, release testing, and stability testing. He has 20+ years of experience in recombinant adeno-associated viral vector product development, process development, and manufacturing. Dr. Davis established the Forge teams dedicated to nucleic acid-based methods, protein-based methods, and cell-based methods, oversaw the qualification and transition of methods to the Quality Control team, and established a Blaze Vector Core dedicated analytic team. He previously led teams in the scalability of multiple platforms for the production, purification, and characterization of both pre-clinical and clinical recombinant gene therapy vectors at Abeona Therapeutics and BioMarin Pharmaceutical. He began his gene therapy career at Nationwide Children's Hospital. Dr. Davis earned his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University, focusing on the rational design of recombinant AAV vector capsid for targeted delivery.



A member of Ajinomoto Bio-Pharma Services

### **David Dismuke, Ph.D.**

#### **Chief Technical Officer**

David Dismuke is the Chief Technical Officer at Forge Biologics, leading GMP manufacturing teams with his 20+ years of experience in large-scale CGT manufacturing. Dr. Dismuke is regarded as an authority in the bioprocessing and design of gene therapy vectors and has led CMC operations in the manufacturing of pre-clinical and clinical-grade AAV vectors for over a decade. Prior to joining Forge as the inaugural CTO, he was Vice President of Manufacturing at StrideBio where he directed the development of manufacturing and analytical processes for AAV vectors that utilize novel capsids. In addition, Dr. Dismuke led the design of therapeutic and reporter transgenes and innovative molecular enhancements to improve AAV production and therapeutic function. He served as Head of Vector Production at Voyager Therapeutics, where he led teams in the manufacturing and analytical testing of AAV using the baculovirus/Sf9 production system. Dr. Dismuke was also Director of the UNC Vector Core, where he oversaw GMP operations as well as the production of research-grade vectors. He earned his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University, focusing on the molecular biology and lifecycle of HIV-1, and conducted postdoctoral research at UNC Chapel Hill.

### **Meghan Leonard**

#### **Senior Vice President of Quality Management**

Meghan Leonard is Senior Vice President of Quality Management at Forge Biologics. She brings over 20 years of experience in FDA-regulated industries as a quality leader, operations leader, and project manager to the role, with experience in compliance, operations, quality systems, and regulatory initiatives within the sterile and injectable pharmaceutical industry. She launched her career in industry at Ben Venue Laboratories (a Boehringer Ingelheim Company), and her experience spans the CGT, medical device, and chemical industries. Ms. Leonard previously held a quality management role at Abeona Therapeutics. She has interacted with numerous regulatory health authorities and clients as both a subject matter expert in quality systems and an audit/inspection lead. Ms. Leonard earned a bachelor's degree in Biology and Chemistry from Case Western Reserve University.

### **John Maslowski**

#### **Chief Executive Officer & President of Forge Biologics**

John Maslowski is Chief Executive Officer and President of Forge Biologics, previously serving as Forge's inaugural Chief Commercial Officer. He brings extensive experience in the biotech industry to the company. He previously served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Castle Creek Biosciences, Inc. and served in the same role at Fibrocell Science, Inc. (a NASDAQ rare disease cell and gene therapy company) until Fibrocell was acquired in 2019, after serving as Senior Vice President of Scientific Affairs and Vice President of Operations



A member of Ajinomoto Bio-Pharma Services

there too. Mr. Maslowski was instrumental in advancing D-Fi, a genetically modified autologous fibroblast therapy to pivotal clinical trials, and LAVIV®, a non-modified autologous fibroblast therapy, through U.S. FDA approval and commercialization. Mr. Maslowski maintains close ties with the Alliance for Regenerative Medicine, where he previously sat on the board. He has been a trusted advisor to industry leaders through past and current board and advisory roles, sharing his 20+ years of experience at major pharmaceutical companies which also include Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, Merck & Co., Inc., and Teva Pharmaceuticals Industries Ltd. Mr. Maslowski received his B.S. in biology from Ursinus College and his M.S. in microbiology from Villanova University.

#### **Yasuyuki Otake**

##### **Chair, Forge Biologics**

##### **Corporate Executive, Ajinomoto Co.**

##### **General Manager, Bio-Pharma Services Department, Ajinomoto Co.**

Yasuyuki Otake is a Corporate Executive at Ajinomoto Co., and General Manager for the Bio-Pharma Services Department of Ajinomoto Co. He has over 20 years of extensive leadership, business development, and CDMO experience in the pharmaceutical industry. Mr. Otake is responsible for managing the global Ajinomoto Bio-Pharma business (Belgium, United States, India, and Japan sites). He began his career with Ajinomoto as a process chemist, eventually leading the CDMO business at the Tokai facility, and moving into executive leadership at HQ in Tokyo heading the AJIPHASE® business. Mr. Otake holds both a B.S. and a master's degree in engineering from Kyoto University.

#### **Christopher Shilling**

##### **Chief Regulatory Officer**

Christopher Shilling is Chief Regulatory Officer at Forge Biologics. He has over 20 years of experience in the development of novel gene therapies for rare and significant disorders. Mr. Shilling is an experienced leader in gene therapy regulatory affairs, pharmacology, toxicology, and project management focused on developing strategies for early phase clinical trials in support of a variety of transformative therapeutics for pediatric and rare diseases. Prior to joining Forge, Mr. Shilling started the Drug and Device Development program at Nationwide Children's Hospital which was instrumental in gaining acceptance from regulators for over twenty first-in-human gene therapy clinical trials of novel biologic products, a dozen orphan drug designations, and two fast track designations. This body of work contributed to over fifteen successful licenses with industry partners for technologies discovered while at NCH and The Ohio State University. He has provided regulatory guidance and strategy to patient-focused foundations and industry ranging from angel invested startups to late stage and commercial staged biopharma. Mr. Shilling received a B.S. in biology and his M.S. in Pathology from The Ohio State University.



A member of Ajinomoto Bio-Pharma Services

### **Tanner Taneichi**

#### **Vice President, Innovation Strategy**

Tanner Taneichi is Vice President of Innovation Strategy at Forge Biologics. He brings experience leading innovation activities for Ajinomoto Health & Nutrition North America, Inc., as Director of Innovation Strategy, and as previously as Manager of Innovation Strategy/CVC at Ajinomoto Co., Inc. in Tokyo. He was also Associate Director of Engineering for Ajinomoto Bio-Pharma Services in San Diego, following a process engineering management role at Ajinomoto Health & Nutrition North America, Inc. in Iowa. He launched his career as a Purification Engineer with Ajinomoto Co. in Tokyo. Mr. Taneichi obtained a B.S. and M.S. in Agricultural biology from Hokkaido University in Japan.

### **Magdalena Tyrpien**

#### **Chief Business Officer**

Magdalena Tyrpien is Chief Business Officer at Forge Biologics. Her experience spans corporate business development, strategic planning, and investor relations in the biotechnology and venture capital industries across a range of therapeutics areas and stages of development, culminating in the acquisition of Forge by Ajinomoto Co. Previously, she was Director of Business Development at PTC Therapeutics, a global commercial stage small molecule and gene therapy biopharmaceutical company. Ms. Tyrpien was directly responsible for leading efforts around licensing and acquisition of assets and led a \$268M company acquisition with a Phase III ready asset for patients with PKU. Prior to joining PTC, she served as Director of Corporate Strategy and Business Development at Abeona Therapeutics, a gene and cell therapy company. Ms. Tyrpien earned her B.A. from Montclair State University and an M.B.A. from the University of Liverpool (UK).

### **Joyanna Wesche Blake**

#### **Vice President of Technology Services**

Joyanna Wesche Blake serves as Vice President of Technology Services at Forge Biologics, bringing extensive experience in strategic IT leadership within the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. With a career spanning nearly two decades, she has led the development and execution of IT roadmaps that enhance manufacturing, supply chain, and quality operations. Prior to joining Forge, she served as Vice President of IT Project Delivery at Alkermes, where she spearheaded strategic IT initiatives across the organization. She also held senior leadership roles at Boehringer Ingelheim, overseeing IT systems for quality control and manufacturing across multiple sites in the Americas. Ms. Wesche Blake holds a M.B.A. from Cleveland State University and a B.S. in Human and Consumer Sciences from Ohio University.