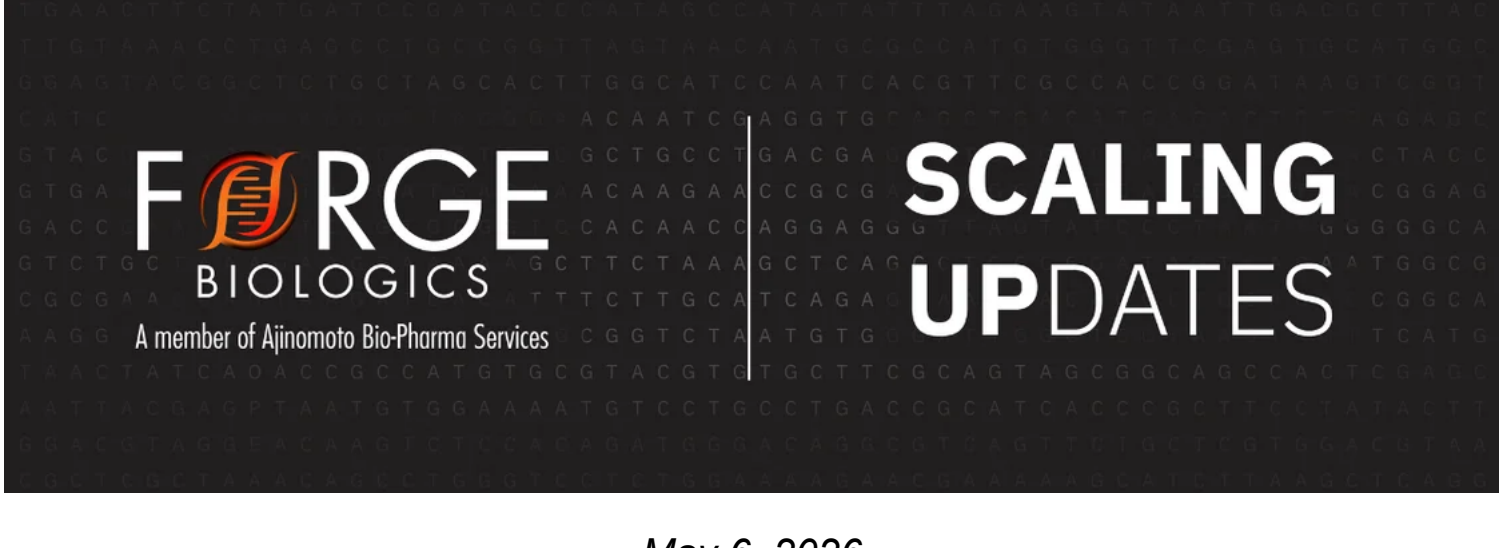




May 6, 2026

This month's newsletter is 480 words—a 3-minute read.



David Dismuke
Chief Technical Officer

Welcome to the May issue of *Scaling Up(dates)*. I'm proud to have just announced our manufacturing partnership with *Epicrispr* this week! If you missed it, see below. If you're heading to ASGCT next week, be sure to also read on to learn about Forge's presence and glean some tips from Dr. Barrett about how to tackle this definitive event for the gene and cell therapy industry.

- **ASGCT 2026:** Learn about Forge's presence at this year's conference.
- **"Viral" News:** Epicrispr Biotechnologies and Forge announce partnership.
- **Ember Events:** Meet with our team at ASGCT this month.
- **Dr. Barrett's Bench to Batch Advice:** Information overload.

We're Bringing the School of Scale to ASGCT

Here are the top ways to connect with our team at the American Society for Gene & Cell Therapy (ASGCT) 29th Annual Meeting May 11-15 in Boston!



At ASGCT 2026, we're bringing the School of Scale to support AAV programs from construct to commercial. We look forward to connecting with AAV leaders to learn how our AAV manufacturing capabilities can support your gene therapy program. Any stage, any serotype, built around your journey.

Gain insights at our **booth #1349** with AAV Office Hours, add your photo to the ASGCT Class of 2026 photo booth, visit the Forge School Store where you can enrich for full capsids to earn merch, and more. Mark your calendar to attend one of our presentations, plan a private meeting, or join us at our reception.

Our technical leaders will participate in seven presentations over the week highlighting how we're driving innovation and progress for AAV programs from discovery through late-phase manufacturing, including a Sponsored Symposia, Tools & Technology Forum, co-chairing an oral abstract session, and presenting four scientific posters.

All the details you need to find us are below.

SESSION PRESENTATIONS

Sponsored Symposia

Title: More Doses, Same Run: Process Innovation and Late-Phase Manufacturing Frameworks for Developers

Presenters:

Frank Agbogbo, Ph.D., Vice President of Process Development, Forge
Adam Davis, Ph.D., Vice President of Analytical Development, Forge
John Kerwin, Ph.D., Senior Vice President of Operations, Ascidian Therapeutics
Brianna Barrett, Ph.D., Director of Technical Sales & Scientific Advisory, Forge (moderator)

Date and Time: Wednesday, May 13, 10:15-10:45 a.m.

Location: Room 109AB

Tools & Technology Forum

Title: Validation of AUC assay to characterize AAV empty to full capsid ratio

Presenter: Micah Witte, Senior Scientist, Analytical Development

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 12, 3:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Location: Exhibit Hall Presentation Theater

Session: Oral Abstract Session

Title: AAV cell line development and engineering

Co-Chair: Frank Agbogbo, Ph.D., Vice President of Process Development

Date and Time: Wednesday, May 13, 8:00 – 9:45 a.m.

Location: MCEC Room 258ABC (Level 2)

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Title: The role of a drug master file in multi-program data sharing and improving review efficiency

Presenter: Julianne Bartz, Senior Manager of Regulatory Affairs

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 12, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Poster # 1233

Title: Advancing Purification Technologies and Process Innovations to Support High rAAV Upstream Productivity and Meet Growing Industry Demand

Presenter: Ganesh Krishnamoorthy, Director of Downstream Process Development

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 12, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Poster # 1164

Title: From Development to Commercialization: Late-Stage Process Characterization for rAAV Manufacturing

Presenter: Keerthana Subramanian, Associate Director of Downstream Process Development

Date and Time: Wednesday, May 13, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Poster # 2164

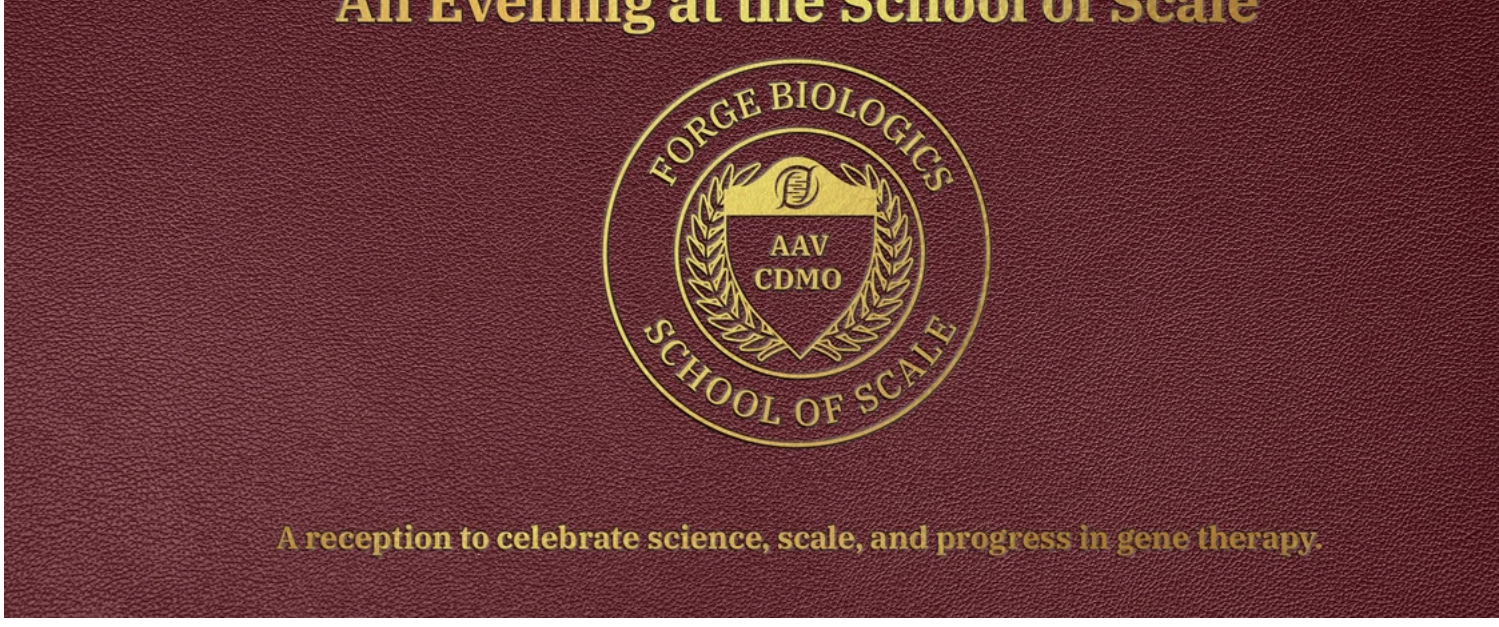
Title: Advancing High-Yield Suspension HEK293 rAAV Manufacturing in Single-Use Bioreactors

Presenter: Steven Wesel, Director of Upstream Process Development

Date and Time: Thursday, May 14, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Poster # 3145

Full abstracts are available on the [ASGCT Annual Meeting website](#), and conference participants can also access posters through the ASGCT website.



FORGE RECEPTION AT ASGCT

You're invited! Join the Forge team at our School of Scale Reception to connect and nibble Boston-style.

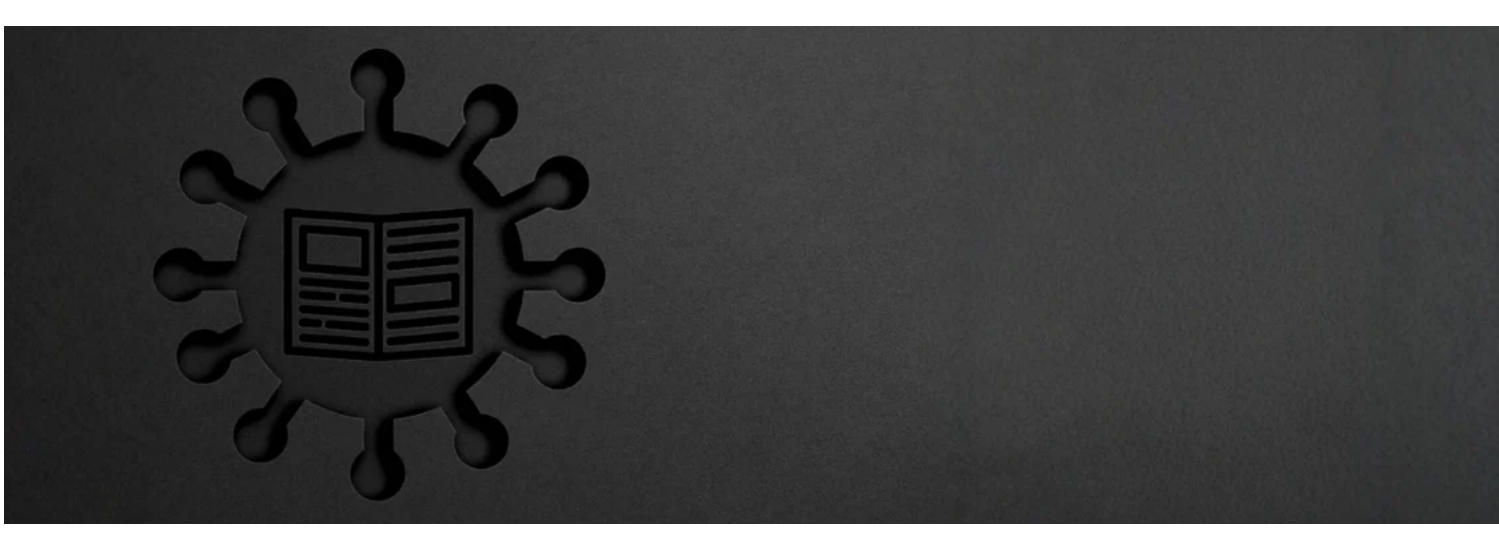
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

RSVP: Reach out to your client development representative to register!

"Viral" News

The latest and greatest news about Forge



- **May 5, PRESS RELEASE:** [Epicrispr Biotechnologies and Forge Biologics Announce AAV Development and cGMP Manufacturing Partnership](#)
- **May 5,** [Epicrispr Biotechnologies and Forge Biologics Announce AAV Development and Manufacturing Pact](#) (Contract Pharma)
- **May 1,** [Executives of the Year Awards: Business First recognizes excellence in leadership in 2026](#) (Columbus Business First)
- **April 23,** [Forge Biologics Among Select Global CDMOs to Earn My Green Lab® Certification Across All Laboratories and cGMP Suites](#) (BioSpace)
- **April 7,** [Development of Emerging Modalities: Challenges and Strategies](#) (BioPharm International)

You can always find the latest Forge news [here](#).

Ember Events

Opportunities to connect with our team live at these events



- **May 11-15:** [ASGCT Annual Meeting](#) / Boston
- **June 22-25:** [BIO International Convention](#) / San Diego
- **July 23-25:** [JSGCT](#) / Osaka, Japan

Can't make it to an upcoming event? Connect with us [virtually](#).



Every AAV program comes with critical manufacturing decisions and a labyrinth of options. In this new advice column, our **Head of Technical Sales and Scientific Advisory, Dr. Brianna Barrett, Ph.D.**, answers real developer questions about program manufacturing strategy with practical guidance shaped by supporting over 60 gene therapy programs. Consider it direct access to a manufacturing strategist from early planning through delivery.

Dear Dr. Barrett,

My team of early-stage AAV developers is heading to Boston to attend ASGCT in a couple of weeks. How do you suggest we tackle this conference to maximize our time there and help us select our CDMO?

— Information Overload

Dear Information Overload,

ASGCT is one of the best meetings of the year for gene therapy developers to gain the latest technical AAV insights (over 1,000 posters!), industry trends from key leaders (750 expert speakers!), regulatory updates, and more networking opportunities than you can count. If you are beginning your search for a CDMO, focusing on new manufacturing technologies and analytical techniques can help you “talk the talk” in your upcoming meetings. Below is my strategy and list of top sessions AAV developers should attend.

Prioritize.

You will not see everything, and that's okay. Identify a handful of “must-hit” sessions aligned to your goals and build your schedule around those. In 2026 we all know that AAV production yields are increasing and commercial cost of goods matter. Here are my top picks to learn something new:

1. **Refresh on AAV history with:** Founders Award: R. Jude Samulski, Ph.D., “Development of AAV vectors, a journey approaching 50 years: Where are we now?”
2. **Gain insight into what your cells are thinking during triple transfection:** Nikias Kraemer, “Nutritional Counselling at the Cellular Level – Combining Ambr® 15 and Orbitrap Mass Spectrometry to Analyze the Metabolome of HEK293 During AAV Production”
3. **Prioritize and evaluate new analytical technology with:** Qimin Quan, Ph.D., NanoMosaic, “Accelerating AAV Development with an FDA/CBER AMD-Designated Nanoneedle Analytics Platform”

Divide and conquer but make it fun.

Don't move as a pack. Split your team across sessions and poster halls, then regroup daily to share insights. At Forge, we've even turned this into a challenge, assigning topics and gaining internal spotlight opportunities for the most valuable takeaways. It keeps everyone engaged and ensures you cover far more ground.

Treat poster sessions as prime time.

The 5:00–6:30 p.m. window is where you can get into the real data. My pro-tip: walk the floor and read all the titles. You will walk away with the key themes of 2026.

While there are over 1,000 posters to choose from, this newsletter lists the Forge posters, presented by our scientists!

Book meetings ahead but leave room for serendipity.

An overpacked calendar firsthand out the unexpected conversations that often matter most. I have seen this firsthand at the Forge booth. Stop by #1349 to swap ASGCT insights, visit our Forge School Store to win cool merch, and discuss *The Devil Wears Prada 2*, if there's time 😊.

Go in with intention, stay flexible, and you'll leave with far more than just a stack of business cards.

— Dr. Barrett

Got a question? [Email Dr. Barrett](#)

Did someone you know (perhaps a *genius*) forward this email to you, and you want to get it, too? [Subscribe here to receive the Scaling Up\(dates\) newsletter straight to your inbox.](#)

Stay inspired, stay curious, and keep the fires of innovation burning!

Warm regards,
The Forge Team

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