FORGE BIOLOGICS
A member of Ajinomoto Bio-Pharma Services

SCALING UPDATES

Sept 2, 2026

This month's newsletter is 845 words—a 4-minute read.

David Dismuke
Chief Technical Officer

I'm excited to be adding "podcast host" to my resume! Listen in as I interview my first guest, Maritza McIntyre, Ph.D., on Forge's Bench Strength podcast debut. Hope you'll subscribe and tune in to future episodes too.

- **From the Lab**: Forge launches Bench Strength podcast!
- **"Viral" News**: Forge's Sumit Dutta discusses process characterization for late-phase manufacturing with GEN.
- **Ember Events**: Meet with our team at the ASGCT Policy Summit this month.
- **Dr. Barrett's Bench to Batch Advice**: Real-time ratios.
- **Genes of Interest**: Bailly Haggis keeps the AD teams running smoothly.
- **Factoid of the Month**: Out of the Lab podcast features David Dismuke.
- **Gene-ius Jobs**: Director of Quality Control, Raw Materials.

From the Lab

From our bench to you: introducing Bench Strength!

Bench Strength is officially live!

Our new podcast, hosted by **CTO David Dismuke**, brings the scientists, clinicians, engineers, and leaders behind gene therapy's rise into conversation, sharing the stories and perspective that got the field to where it is today. In the pilot episode, "The Approval Playbook," David sits down with **Maritza McIntyre, Ph.D.**, a former FDA regulator who led the agency's Gene Therapy Branch during its formative years and now advises today's cell and gene therapy companies, to unpack what it really takes to navigate the road to regulatory approval. The two longtime colleagues also take a walk down Forge's Main Street to reflect on ARA's early days, from cell stacks and plates to the industrial scale possible now, and what's still ahead for the field.

Subscribe and watch the first episode of Bench Stregth here.

"Viral" News

The latest and greatest news about Forge

- **Aug 13**, Meet our 2026 HR Impact Award winners (Columbus Business First), featuring Katie Saunders!
- **Aug 5**, Seamless Integration in Gene Therapy Process Development (GEN), Forge's Sumit Dutta discusses process characterization for late-phase manufacturing ahead of his presentation at the Bioprocessing Summit.

You can always find the latest Forge news here.

Ember Events

Opportunities to connect with our team live at these events

- **Sept 14**: ASGCT Policy Summit / Washington DC
- **Sept 16**: BioSpace Webinar: Manufacturing in Turbulent Times / online
- **Sept 22-25**: BioProcess International / Boston
- **Oct 5-7**: AIMa's Cell & Gene Meeting on the Mesa / Phoenix
- **Oct 13-16**: Nature Conference - Reframing Precision Medicine: Innovation to Implementation / London
- **Oct 27-30**: ESGCT 26th Annual Congress / Hamburg

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 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,

We are interested in gaining real-time insights to empty vs. full AAV capsid content throughout our process. We've heard of mass photometry; is this commonly used at your site? How does this compare to the use of analytical ultracentrifugation?

— Real-Time Ratios

Dear Real-Time Ratios,

Mass photometry (MP) is gaining real traction for exactly this purpose, and I understand why teams are drawn to it. The technique measures individual particles as they land on a glass surface, converting light scattering into mass with single-molecule resolution. Because empty and full capsids differ in mass by roughly the weight of the packaged genome, you get a clean separation between populations in a matter of minutes, using only microliters of sample and no labeling.

That speed is the real value for in-process use. MP will not replace your release assay, but it does not need to. What it offers is a fast read at critical points in the process (post-transfection, after affinity capture, across AEX or CsCl fractions) so you can make real-time decisions about pooling, loading, or when a step has reached its endpoint, rather than waiting on a slower orthogonal method to confirm what already happened.

Analytical ultracentrifugation (AUC) remains the gold standard for release because it resolves subpopulations (partial genomes, aggregates, dimers) with a precision mass photometry cannot fully replicate, and it carries the validation history regulators expect on a CoA. The two methods work well together: AUC anchors your final specification, while MP gives you eyes on the process as it runs, becoming a crucial insight during development of a process.

With FULL confidence,

— Dr. Barrett

Got a question? Email Dr. Barrett!

Genes of Interest

Our employee spotlight showcasing the individuals behind Forge that make our team unique

Get to know the Senior Lab Manager keeping Forge's Analytical Development team equipped, supported, and moving forward.

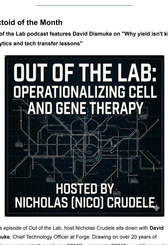
Bailey Haggis makes sure scientists have what they need to work safely and effectively, and steps in to solve the cross-functional challenges that fall between the cracks. For anyone considering a career in gene therapy, Bailey's advice is simple: don't let imposter syndrome hold you back, find a mentor, start a conversation, and go for it.

When the lab coat comes off, Bailey trades pipettes for sails, teaching central Ohio's sailing community how to get out on the water, no motors required.

Get to know Bailey in our latest Genes of Interest spotlight!

Factoid of the Month

Out of the Lab podcast features David Dismuke on "Why yield isn't king: analytics and tech transfer lessons"

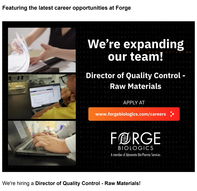


In this episode of Out of the Lab, host Nicholas Crudele sits down with **David Dismuke**, Chief Technology Officer at Forge. Drawing on over 20 years of experience across both academic CDMOs, corporate CMOs, and therapeutic developers, David breaks down why yield should not be your only metric, how host cell DNA and empty/full ratios impact clinical timelines, and why a low-CV potency assay is your ultimate insurance policy during tech transfer.

Watch the episode here.

Gene-ius Jobs

Featuring the latest career opportunities at Forge



We're hiring a **Director of Quality Control - Raw Materials**!

In this role, you'll lead the team responsible for incoming inspection, testing, and release of every starting material that goes into our gene therapy manufacturing. You'll build phase-appropriate material qualification programs, serve as the go-to expert on raw materials compliance, and drive investigations and quality decisions that keep our pipeline moving from preclinical through commercial scale.

It's a chance to shape quality strategy at the foundation of gene therapy manufacturing.

Take a look at the job description and browse the latest career opportunities at Forge. Apply now!

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

Visit www.forgebiologics.com