

Edmonton Global - Pharmaceutical Innovation and Production
Opportunities in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Webinar
Panelist Profiles

GREG KLAK, VP OF OPERATIONS & GENERAL MANAGER, GILEAD



Greg Klak is the Vice President of Operations and General Manager for the Gilead Alberta manufacturing facility. Prior to the acquisition by Gilead in 2006, he spent 16 years with Raylo Chemicals providing custom manufacturing services to the pharmaceutical industry, including Gilead Sciences. Mr. Klak received both his B. Comm and MBA degrees from the University of Alberta and currently serves as a board member for BioAlberta.

ANDREW MACISAAC, CEO, APPLIED PHARMACEUTICAL INNOVATION (API)



Over the past decade Andrew has successfully established over \$75 million in partnerships between industry, academia, government and donors, and developed catalysts for economic investment totalling more than \$200 million. With a background in economics and public sector management, Andrew has worked with UBC, and the University of Alberta and is currently the Assistant Dean for the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Andrew sits on the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, Policy Committee, the Edmonton Health City Steering Committee, and the board of the Canadian Mental Health Association, Edmonton.

MICHAEL OVERDUIN, PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, CO-FOUNDER & CO-DIRECTOR, DISCOVERY LAB



Michael Overduin is a Professor in the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Alberta, Executive Director of NANUC, Canada's national NMR centre in Edmonton, and CEO of DiscoveryLab and Science Capital. He was previously Professor of Structural Biology and Director of the Henry Wellcome Building for NMR, a UK national facility in Birmingham from 2003. He established his first lab at the University of Colorado in Denver in 1996, initiating the Rocky Mountain Regional NMR Facility there. He postdoc'ed at the University of Toronto and earned a PhD at The Rockefeller University in 1993. His lab focuses on structural biology and the discovery of ligands of proteins involved in cell adhesion, signaling and endocytosis. The aim of his group is to better understand the mechanisms underlying progression of cancer, infection and prion diseases. He focuses on desmosome attachment to the cytoskeleton, phosphoinositide recognition by signaling proteins, and cancer targets including oncogenic Shp2 phosphatases and calcium/calmodulin dependent ser/thr kinases and GTPase regulation. Methods including NMR are being used to identify unexploited interdomain, lipid binding and allosteric sites, with the end goal of providing new avenues for intervention. Ligand screening including with drug fragments are used in the structure-aided design of novel agents for therapeutic intervention for signaling and membrane-embedded targets. Technological contributions include a computational method ("MODA") which predicts lipid binding surfaces on protein structure, and the Styrene Maleic Acid Lipid Particle (SMALP) system for detergent-free purification of native membrane proteins into stable, soluble nanoparticles, for which he has formed an international network which shares polymers and protocols through the SMALP Network which he founded in 2015.

MICHELLE GARTLAND, SENIOR TRADE COMMISSIONER, BELGIUM & LUXEMBOURG, CANADIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER SERVICE



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SAMEENA QURESHI, SENIOR TRADE COMMISSIONER, NETHERLANDS, CANADIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER SERVICE



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STEFAN SCHERER



Stefan was born and raised in Germany and completed his education as an experimental physicist in Germany and Switzerland with a PhD in Space Sciences. Following many years in space science and the automotive industry in Europe and the US, he made Edmonton his new home in 2009. For the past decade, Stefan worked at higher education in the area of research management and directed large international research programs covering topics from energy and environment to health and life sciences before joined Edmonton Global in spring 2020. Stefan is looking after the Life Sciences sector at Edmonton Global and hopes to further drive relations with Europe.