Big Idea
CONNECTpreneur

NETWORKING &

PITCH EXTRAVAGANZA

FEBRUARY 5, 2026
8AM - 12 NOON

BWTECH@UMBC

bwtech @UMBC
RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY PARK

TEDCO
LEADING INNOVATION TO MARKET

Agenda

8:00 - 9:20 am - REGISTRATION / NETWORKING

9:20 - 9:50 am - WELCOME REMARKS

S. TIEN WONG, CEO, Opus8; Founder, Big Idea CONNECTpreneur Forum
AARON MISCENICH, Executive Director, bwtech@UMBC
JOHN GILSTRAP, Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Maryland Department of Commerce
JEAN-LUC PARK, Deputy CIO, TEDCO
DEBORAH HEMINGWAY, Managing Partner, Ecphora Capital
MARCO ÁVILA, CEO, Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

9:50 - 10:30 am - COMPANY SHOWCASE / ROCKET PITCH

Companies will be introduced by:
ANTHONY MILLIN, Founder and Co-Chair, NEXT powered by Shulman Rogers

InventWood - Jonathan Strimling
Alcamena - Edmund Nest
Animate Biosciences - Peter Licari
GlycoMantra - Hafiz Ahmed
Humanetics - Colin Chinn
Natáur - Frank Turano

10:30 - 12:00 pm - EXPO & NETWORKING

Breakfast and networking in the Atrium

Speakers

TIEN WONG, CEO, Opus8, Inc.

Tien Wong is a private investor and technology entrepreneur focused on early- and growth-stage companies across life sciences, medtech, healthtech, and technology-enabled services. He is Chairman & CEO of Opus8, a capital strategy and investment firm that works with founders, boards, and investors on financing strategy, growth, and strategic positioning.

Tien also serves as Executive Chairman of CONNECTpreneur and the New York Private Equity Forum, private capital platforms that convene accredited investors, family offices, and experienced operators around curated investment opportunities. Across these platforms, he has helped build one of the most active private investor communities in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast.

He is a Venture Partner with IronGate Capital Advisors and a member of the Investment Advisory Board of Virginia Venture Partners. Over his career, Tien has arranged or advised on capital from leading institutional investors, family offices, and strategic allocators worldwide.

AARON MISCENICH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, bwtech@UMBC

Since joining bwtech as Executive Director in 2019, Aaron Miscenich has been a driving force behind Maryland's growing tech ecosystem. With decades of experience guiding companies from inception to maturity, Aaron brings unparalleled expertise in fostering entrepreneurship and innovation. In his native Louisiana, he spearheaded initiatives to build a knowledge-based economy through diverse funding streams and public-private partnerships. At bwtech, Aaron leads efforts to expand its role as a thriving hub where innovation, business, and entrepreneurship converge, fostering economic growth and opportunity across Maryland.

JOHN GILSTRAP, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

John Gilstrap serves as the Assistant Secretary under the Division of Innovation and Growth at the Maryland Department of Commerce. In this role, he collaborates with Deputy Secretary Ricardo Benn to oversee key offices, including the Office of International Investment and Trade, the Office of Military and Federal Affairs, and the Office of Strategic Industries. Their collective efforts aim to develop and implement strategies that foster innovation and entrepreneurship within the state. Prior to his current position, Gilstrap was a business executive in various organizations across the region. His extensive experience in real estate, community development, and educational technology has equipped him with a robust background that he brings to the Department of Commerce. Gilstrap has over 20 years of experience in operations, strategic planning and leadership, with extensive experience in policy, research and analysis, economic development, and AI innovation. Spending most of his career in New York City, he was most recently the principal consultant at NorthStar AI Rising Corp. He also co-founded and was the managing director of Hudson Cannabis LLC and previously served as the executive vice president at Empire State Development Corp.

JEAN-LUC PARK, SENIOR DIRECTOR, SOCIAL IMPACT FUNDS, TEDCO

Jean-Luc is the Deputy Chief Investment Officer & Sr. Director of Social Impact Funds at TEDCO. He leads the strategy for investment funds that aim to deliver strong financial returns while boosting Maryland's economic development. Jean-Luc co-founded Ferrum Capital, an EB-5 regional center that helped fund real estate projects to create jobs. He has also worked with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), part of the World Bank Group, researching how global private equity investments support job creation. At Calvert Social Funds, he managed over $50 million in investments across 30 funds and 30 direct ventures.

His investment career began in 1999 during the dot-com boom, with Draper Triangle Ventures and Lycos Ventures in Pittsburgh. He is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University (B.S. Math/Computer Science 1994, B.A. Economics 1994, MBA 1998). Jean-Luc has served on the Global Advisory Board of the MIT Enterprise Forum and led its Washington D.C. and Baltimore chapter. He's also been active with the Carnegie Mellon Alumni Association and helped revive the Tepper Alumni program in D.C. In addition to advising startups in Pittsburgh and D.C., he has coached hundreds of companies throughout his career. He was recognized by the Baltimore Business Journal as a 2025 Diverse Business Leader.

Speakers

DEBORAH HEMINGWAY, General Partner, Ecphora Capital

Dr. Hemingway brings more than 20 years of entrepreneurial, scientific, and investing experience in business formation, technology commercialization, startup leadership, and medical device entrepreneurship. She has been an active member of the Maryland entrepreneurial ecosystem as a serial entrepreneur, angel investor, philanthropist, and board member. D r. Hemingway is a mentor in the FedTech accelerator and sits on the advisory boards of eight biotech companies in the Mid-Atlantic region, including Pathotrak, Relavo, Playwell, and Aloe Therapeutics. She is a venture partner and serves on a number of medtech committees at NextGen Venture Partners. She was recognized by the UMD Dingman Center for Entrepreneurship as the 2019 Angel Investor of the Year.

Dr. Hemingway earned a PhD in biophysics from the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD), after completing dual bachelor's degrees at Ohio University. She currently lives in central Maryland with her husband and four children.

MARCO V. ÁVILA, PRESIDENT & CEO OF THE MARYLAND HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Marco V. Ávila, P.E., is a highly accomplished Civil Engineer and community leader with over 40 years of experience, including 27 years at WSP/Parsons Brinckerhoff, and 13.5 years at Hardesty & Hanover. A licensed Professional Engineer in Maryland, he has worked in major infrastructure projects across transit, highways, bridges, telecommunications, and public-private partnerships (P3). Currently serving as Vice President, Civil Engineer and Program Manager at WSP-USA, Marco is known for his strategic vision, multicultural leadership, and commitment to engineering excellence. Beyond engineering, Marco is a passionate advocate for community development, workforce advancement, and education. He is the President & CEO of the Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (MDHCC), where he has grown membership by over 1,100% and launched innovative programs in mentoring, education, infrastructure, energy, real estate, international affairs, and scholarships through the Maryland Hispanic Foundation. Marco also co-founded The Healing Hands Foundation, delivering free medical and dental care to underserved children globally, and he is the founder of the Golfers For Charity Foundation, raising funds for youth-focused on nonprofits for Health, Education, Scholarships, and Humanitarian Projects. He serves on numerous boards and advisory councils, including the Maryland Governor's Workforce Development Board, the Maryland Auto Insurance Fund Board of Trustees, Sail Baltimore, the Engineering Society of Baltimore (ESB), the ESB Education Foundation Board of Trustees, ESBEF Engineers Week Council, Past President of the American Society of Highway Engineers-Chesapeake (ASHE), Member of the Board of Sponsors at Loyola University-Maryland Sellinger School of Business, and a Senior Advisor at HCF.

ANTHONY MILLIN, Founder and Co-Chair, NEXT powered by Shulman Rogers

Anthony Millin is a trusted legal and business advisor to startup and emerging growth companies. Anthony is a senior startup attorney, a serial entrepreneur, and a former venture partner in a seed stage VC fund. As the Founder and Co-Chair of NEXT powered by Shulman Rogers, selected by LegalWeek as a finalist the past three years and the 2024 winner as the nation's top law firm for "Enabling Startup Success", Anthony brings his unique legal and business perspective to advising his clients. Anthony is also the Co-Founder of My Next Raise, launched by NEXT, a technology, community and education platform providing founders with a pathway to investor readiness. Anthony was recently elected by his peers to serve on Shulman Rogers' Board of Directors. Anthony understands firsthand what it takes to start, scale and manage a company, to successfully prepare for and run a fund raising process, and to address the legal issues faced by a startup. This background provides him with valuable insights into the legal and business needs of his clients. A creative problem solver and strong advocate dedicated to the success of his clients, Anthony frequently serves as his clients' "outside general counsel, taking a leadership role in managing the full range of their legal needs from formation and financings to growth and exit.Anthony is a frequent public speaker on topics impacting startup and emerging growth companies.

INVENTWOOD

INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- SUPERWOOD offers the strength of steel with the soul of wood
- $750B+ total addressable market across buildings, infrastructure, transportation, and defense
- Strong margins and excellent returns driven by premium early products and long-term cost advantages
- Defensible global IP moat with 140+ issued and pending patents
- Commercial manufacturing live with shipments underway, and strong interest from multiple verticals

Opportunity

InventWood has commercialized SUPERWOOD, a category-defining biomaterial that is stronger than steel, six times lighter, fire resistant, moisture resistant, and carbon sequestering. SUPERWOOD replaces heavy, energy-intensive materials such as steel and concrete while delivering superior durability, faster construction, and improved project economics — all while delivering an authentic, naturally-beautiful aesthetic.

Team, Technology & Moat

Proven executives Alex Lau (CEO), Allan Bradshaw (COO), and Jon Strimling (President) bring the experience to scale rapidly. Mr. Lau has 25+ years in ClimaTech, launching multiple businesses; Mr. Bradshaw led a $1.5B fleet upgrade at Weyerhaeuser; and Mr. Strimling led CleanFiber to become America's fastest growing manufacturer.

InventWood's proprietary molecular re-engineering and densification fundamentally transforms wood by collapsing its internal structure, eliminating defects, aligning fibers, and dramatically increasing inter-fiber bonding. This is the first technology to dramatically increase wood's intrinsic strength. Strength is increased by ~10x, while improving longevity, hardness, and durability - even enabling demonstrated ballistic resistance.

Market Opportunity and Entry Strategy

Steel, concrete, and aluminum represent global markets of approximately $1.5T, $1T, and $200B, respectively. InventWood is entering through premium beachhead markets — including premium cladding, decking, and furniture — representing a $50B+ TAM, and offers a unique blend of aesthetics, durability, and fire-resistance. The company will then expand into structural secondary elements such as mullions and louvers before progressing to primary load-bearing components including beams, columns, and trusses under existing mass-timber building codes. Applications span construction, defense, transportation, and other markets. InventWood has built a $1B+ commercial pipeline, with advance deposits on reservations representing $100M+ in interest.

Manufacturing Scale-Up, and Economics

SUPERMILL ONE (90,000 sq ft) is operational and supports profitable sales into premium exterior markets. SUPERMILL TWO is designed to reduce costs below steel and unlock broad structural adoption. Nondilutive funding materially enhances capital efficiency and equity returns (with $30M of nondilutive funding to date).

Why now?

InventWood has reached a critical inflection point with the launch of the world's first highly automated SUPERMILL and the start of commercial shipments. At the same time, tariffs, supply constraints, and macroeconomic pressures are driving up the cost of steel and aluminum.

Social and Environmental Impacts

SUPERWOOD reduces dependence on imported steel and aluminum, supports domestic manufacturing and forestry operations, and accelerates construction timelines. It enables long-term carbon storage in buildings while avoiding the 10x higher emissions associated with steel production. Its ability to be made from a variety of woody feedstocks unlocks underutilized domestic forestry resources while optimizing economics and manufacturing flexibility — enhancing supply chain resilience while creating jobs in rural communities.

For further information, please contact: Jon Strimling, President, jon.strimling@inventwood.com

ANIMATE BIOSCIENCES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PETER LICARI, PHD – CEO/CO-FOUNDER
PLICARI@ANIMATE.BIO | 650-534-8549

OVERVIEW

Animate Biosciences is pioneering a new class of peptide-based therapeutics for inflammatory and fibrotic diseases. By integrating insights from regenerative biology with AI and modern peptide chemistry, Animate designs multi-mechanistic drugs that address fibrosis across organs. Animate's platform is rooted in breakthrough research on super-regenerative species led by Harvard professor and co-founder Dr. Jessica Whited.

UNMET NEED = OPPORTUNITY

The global fibrosis market represents $200+ billion dollar opportunity, with significant demand for safer, disease modifying therapies.

Fibrosis is a core pathological process underlying many chronic and progressive diseases and contributes to **nearly 45% of global mortality**.

Current anti-fibrotic therapies are often organ-specific, poorly tolerated, and primarily slow disease progression rather than reverse underlying pathology.

ANIMATE PLATFORM + LEAD PROGRAMS

Platform and Technology

Animate's proprietary discovery platform combines:

- Multi-omic datasets derived from super-regenerative species, such as axolotl
- AI-driven peptide design to rapidly identify novel, bioactive sequences
- Advanced solid-phase peptide synthesis enabling rapid design-to-test cycles, often under two weeks

INTEGRATED APPROACH ENABLES RAPID DISCOVERY OF SHORT, DRUG-LIKE PEPTIDES WITH MULTI-MECHANISTIC ACTIVITY & FAVORABLE SAFETY PROFILES.

Multi-Organ Solution

Animate's lead peptide programs have demonstrated robust anti-inflammatory and anti-fibrotic activity across multiple human cell systems, incl. pulmonary, dermal, cardiac, & hepatic models. These peptides suppress key inflammation and fibrotic markers such as αSMA, COL1A1, IL-6, and TNF-α.

Effective and Safe

Animate peptides have demonstrated excellent safety & efficacy profiles in murine pulmonary fibrosis models.

In a rabbit hypertrophic scar model, peptides have improved healing rates while reducing scarring & aberrant cell proliferation.

Patent Pending Innovation

Animate's growing pipeline is protected by three patent filings covering platform technology, composition of matter, and methods of use.

STRATEGY

Animate is raising $3 million to advance IND-enabling studies and initiate Phase I clinical trials, initially targeting an orphan pulmonary fibrotic indication.

Successful clinical validation will support rapid expansion into broader systemic fibrotic diseases.

CONCLUSION

Animate Biosciences is transforming regenerative biology insights into first-in-class anti-inflammatory and anti-fibrotic therapeutics. With a differentiated discovery platform, compelling preclinical validation, and an experienced leadership team, Animate is well positioned to create substantial value while addressing one of the largest unmet needs in medicine.

LEADERSHIP

Led by a highly experienced team spanning biologics development, regenerative biology, and company building:

Peter Licari, PhD, MBA (Chief Executive Officer): Biochemical engineer with over 3 decades of experience in leadership roles at Merck, BASF, Kosan, Solazyme, and Eat Just. His experience includes work on approved products such as Humira and the Vaqta hepatitis A vaccine.

Jessica Whited, PhD (Chief Scientific Officer & Co-founder): Professor at Harvard University and a global leader in regenerative species biology.

Jonathan Wolfson, JD, MBA (Executive Chair & Co-founder): Serial entrepreneur with a track record of company creation, commercialization, and public exits, including Solazyme's IPO.

ALCAMENA STEM CELL THERAPEUTICS

1450 SOUTH ROLLING ROAD, SUITE 4.069
HALETHORPE, MD 21227-3867

Executive Summary

Expanding the Druggable Universe with Supernatural Peptides™

Alcamena is a clinical-stage biotechnology company redefining what is druggable. Our proprietary **PepGenesis™** platform creates **Supernatural Peptides™**—a new therapeutic class that merges the specificity of antibodies with the intracellular and CNS penetration of small molecules. With ~90% of disease-causing proteins still inaccessible, Alcamena unlocks targets that traditional modalities cannot reach.

The Undruggable Gap

Of ~20,000 human proteins, only ~3,000 are addressable with today's small molecules and antibodies. The remaining ~17,000 include complex PPIs and CNS-resident targets—areas where small molecules lack selectivity and antibodies cannot enter cells or cross the blood–brain barrier.

Our Solution: PepGenesis™ Platform

A closed-loop, AI-driven peptide engineering engine that uniquely integrates **directed evolution**, **generative design**, and **CNS penetration**:

- **PepFusion™**: Directed evolution libraries up to (10^{15}) variants
- **PepSelect™ / PepPenetrate™**: High-throughput screens for affinity, stability, intracellular & CNS penetration
- **PepGenesis™ GenAI**: Data-driven generative design

Only platform combining CNS penetration + directed evolution + clinical validation. Speed Advantage: 10–18 months from target to IND—2–4× faster than traditional biologics or small molecules.

Platform Validation: ASCT-83

- First-in-class REST:CTDSP1 antagonist
- CNS-penetrant (3× IC90 brain levels)
- IND accepted in <12 months
- Phase 1 clinical trials underway
- Validates CMC scalability, regulatory precedent, intracellular delivery, and CNS access

Partnering Assets

ASCT-1124 (Topical IL-6 antagonist) A first-in-class topical cytokine blocker for keloids and hypertrophic scars.

- Eliminates systemic immunosuppression risks of IL-6 biologics
- **27 nM KD**, **90% reduction** in keratinocyte proliferation
- Creates a **new market adjacent to Actemra** without cannibalization
- Validates topical cytokine blockade for future IL-17/IL-23 programs

ASCT-1201 (Intra-articular TNF-α antagonist) Precision therapy for single-joint refractory arthritis.

- Monthly IA dosing for systemic-intolerant patients
- **7 nM KD**, >40% reduction in TNF-α signaling
- Complements systemic TNF inhibitors and supports patient retention

Market Opportunity

- Refractory monoarthritis: **$4.4B**
- Localized inflammatory conditions: **$2B initial, $7B+ expansion**
- Broader CNS and intracellular targets: **multi-billion-dollar whitespace**

Partnership Model

A capital-efficient, risk-adjusted co-development structure:

- **Phase 1:** $7M investment (50/50 cost share) to achieve IND acceptance for two assets
- **Phase 2:** License, co-develop, or revert options at IND
- **Phase 3:** Milestones totaling **$30M per asset**

Value: Faster validation, lower entry cost vs. internal platform build, and a clinically de-risked modality.

Leadership

1,000+ collective INDs; 6 FDA-approved NDAs, Former FDA, HHMI, NIH, & DoD experts.

Contact: Edmund Nesti, PhD, CEO — e.nesti@alcastem.com - www.alcamenabio.com

GLYCOMANTRA EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

GlycoMantra is a Maryland-based life sciences company that is developing a potent and selective Galectin-3 antagonist, GM101, as a treatment option for patients with androgen deprivation therapy (ADT)-failed metastatic castration resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC). GlycoMantra is part of JLABS DC.

Challenge

Prostate cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death among men worldwide, with 1.47 million new cancer cases and 397,000 deaths reported in 2022. The androgen-signaling axis (hypothalamic-pituitary-gonadal axis) plays a pivotal role in the normal growth of the prostate as well as the pathogenesis of prostate cancer. Thus, the ADT has been a preferred method of treating advanced prostate cancer. The selective inhibitor of androgen biosynthesis, Abiraterone (Abi), and the androgen receptor (AR) antagonists, such as Enzalutamide (Enza), darolutamide, and apalutamide, are second-generation ADTs used to treat mCRPC. However, a significant number of tumors become drug-resistant over time and turn lethal due to the expression of AR variants, particularly AR-V7. The AR-V7 lacks the androgen binding domain, but constitutively active in activating AR target genes and defies the Abi/Enza therapies of mCRPC. Thus, the treatment options become significantly limited, with few approved therapies, such as radiation, chemotherapy, targeted inhibition, and immunotherapy, explicitly targeting this resistant phenotype. Unfortunately, none of these therapies are successful in controlling the growth of mCRPC, particularly mCRPC with liver metastasis. As a result, patients with metastatic prostate cancer die, and the numbers have been increasing every year, reaching 35,770 in 2025 in the US alone. Therefore, an alternative therapeutic strategy (either standalone or in combination) is urgently needed to address this unmet medical need.

Solution

GlycoMantra has identified and validated Galectin-3 protein (Gal3) as a druggable target receptor in mCPRC both in the tumor and tumor microenvironment (TME). Gal3 is a β-galactoside binding lectin that is involved in anti-androgen drug resistance in prostate cancer cells. GlycoMantra has developed a highly specific Gal3 antagonist (GM101 based on edible source) which has produced promising results in a relevant mouse model of mCRPC.

Key Differentiator

There is no FDA-approved therapy to extend the life of mCRPC patients once they develop resistance to Abi/Enza. Moreover, no FDA-approved drugs are available to lower the expression of AR or AR-V7. Our drug, GM101, was able to shrink tumors that were unresponsive to Abi in humanized mice implanted with patient-derived mCRPC xenografts (PDX) and increased survival. GM101 modulated AR signaling by reducing the expression of AR, AR-V7, phosphorylated AR, and AR-target genes, including hACPP, TMPRSS2, and KLK3. GM101 also promoted anti-tumor immune response in the TME. Our results suggest that GM101, either as a standalone product or in combination with SOCs, will be a significant arsenal against mCRPC and result in recurrence-free survival for mCRPC patients.

Value Proposition

GM101 is a patented Gal3 antagonist with picomolar affinity. It is a first-in-class biologic with carbohydrate functionality. GM101 treats drug resistant mCRPC including mCRPC with liver metastasis for which currently there are limited options.

Large Market Opportunity

The global mCRPC therapy market size was $12B in 2024 and expected to reach $22B by 2032. In 2024 sales of Enza (X-tandi) and Abi (Zytiga) was $5.8B & $0.63B respectively.

Strong Intellectual Property

GlycoMantra has an exclusive license for GM101 and related technology from the University of Maryland, Baltimore. In addition to the composition of matter on GM101, the patent covers the method of use for treating prostate cancer. Our additional IP covers treatment of metabolic diseases including Type 2 diabetes, liver and lung fibrosis. Patent filed for the engineered CHO cell line development and manufacturing of GM101 and its derivatives.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Hafiz Ahmed, PhD
Founder, CEO
- *30 yrs experience in glycobiology & cancer; 90 publications, 2 books; Secured $9.0M grants incl. > $6M for the company. I-Corps (NIH) trained; Led lead product to IND stage. Finalist, Life Sci. CEO of 2024 (ICON Award, MTC).*

Sanjay Srinivasan, PhD, MBA
Chief Business & Chief Operating Officer
- *25+ years of R&D/innovation, business w/P&L, operations, commercialization experience; Experienced in therapeutics, medical devices, & diagnostics start-ups Developed specialty chemical products that generated >$1B in revenues.*

Khairul Anam, PhD
VP, R&D
- *20 yrs experience in immunology. 30 publications*

Elizabeth Smith, PhD, MBA
Executive Director of Partnering & Strategy
- *25 yrs experience in business development; >50 Biotech companies*

Deepak Kilari, MD
Chief Medical Advisor
- *Extensive expertise in genitourinary malignancies and > 50 clinical trials in prostate & bladder cancers*

Rakesh Dixit, PhD, DABT
Toxicology &Regulatory Affairs Advisor
- *30 yrs experience in drug development, 100 INDs, 15 BLAs-NDAs*

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS/COLLABORATORS

- **Charles Bieberich, PhD,** UMBC-Preclinical Prostate cancer transgenic model
- **Partha Banerjee, PhD,** Georgetown Univ., Prostate cancer biology, AR signaling
- **Eduardo Davila, PhD,** UC -Denver, Immuno-oncology, T-cell biology
- **Darryl Carter, MD,** EIR, Univ. of Maryland, Oncology, Immuno-oncology

FUNDING

- $6M+ Non-dilutive funding (NIH, DoD)
  - Demonstrated in-vivo efficacy
  -Developed proprietary cell line for mfg.
  -cGLP mfg. underway
- Seeking $2M Seed funding for:
  -IND enabling studies incl. toxicity
  -CMC, Regulatory, and IND submission.
- Potential value creation/early exit for investors in ~2-3 years post favorable Phase 1 clinical response.
- Potential 5-10X return

Humanetics Corp.
Preventing Radiation Damage

- ***Advanced clinical stage***
- ***Dual use drug: warfighters & civilians***
- ***Near-term revenue***

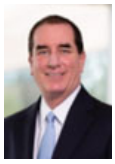
Key Facts
- $145M Capitalization
  - $90M Non-dilutive
  - $55M Equity
- Fully funded to Emergency Use Authorization
- Commercial revenue within 18-24 months
- 30+ issued / pending patents
- Orphan Drug; FDA Fast Track
- NDAA FY26 Congressional Testimony

Management Team

Ronald Zenk, CEO Founder; DoD Licensing Liaison; $45M Appropriations

Adm Colin Chinn, MD, CMO 38 Years Navy fmr Jt Staff Surgeon, Pentagon 2017–2019

Michael Kaytor, PhD, CSO Biochemistry and Biophysics; $45M NIH Funding Lead



Timothy Morris, COO Served as CFO, COO for multiple public pharma companies

Board of Directors
- Adm. Matt Nathan, MD, Chairman 37th Surgeon General US Navy
- Gen. Barbara Holcomb, fmr Commander, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command
- Jake Nunn, MBA, Cap'l Mkts Partner, SR One; fmr Partner, NEA
- Thomas Jasper, CPA, COO Choice Bank
- John Dykstra, fmr COO Humanetics

Company Overview

Humanetics is a clinical-stage specialty pharma company developing **BIO 300 (aka BYOGRAYZ®)**, the **most advanced drug in the industry to prevent radiation damage**, also referred to as a RadioProtectant.

Problem: Toxic Radiation

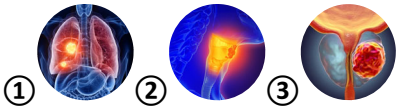
Warfighters | Nuclear Power Facilities | Cancer Radiation Therapy

Global threats of toxic radiation are rising; there is no available agent to protect military and civilian populations from harm. Likewise, there is no approved drug to protect healthy tissue from the harmful effects of cancer radiation therapy.

BYOGRAYZ: A Powerful New RadioProtectant

- Developed by U.S. Military; licensed to Humanetics
- Whole body protection
- Self-administered daily oral dosing (< one tablespoon)
- No needles, syringes, or refrigeration

Dual Use Market Opportunities



Medical Countermeasure

U.S. Military: $126M
U.S. HHS (Civilians): $590M
EU; Middle East; Asia: $290M

Cancer Radiation Therapy (Cases; US)

1. Lung: 100,000/yr; $1.6B
2. Head & Neck: 50,000/yr; $725M
3. Prostate: 150,000/yr; $4.0B

Clinical Data in Four Trials; Robust Safety Profile

- Phase 1b/2a in NSCLC: lower adverse event rates; improved tumor response; no dose limiting toxicities reported
- Phase 2 in Long COVID: improved pulmonary function and QoL; well-tolerated

Series B Preferred (up to $10M)

- Supports clinical development in cancer and pulmonary indications

www.humaneticscorp.com

261 School Avenue, Ste 210
Excelsior, MN 55331

Meet with management:
dshinbaum@humaneticscorp.com

Value Proposition: Natáur has developed a **fermentation-based platform** that provides a cost-competitive and environmentally responsible alternative to the traditional petroleum-derived supply chain for sulfur-based ingredients. By replacing fossil fuel chemistry with bio-based production, Natáur is reshaping how essential compounds such as taurine are manufactured.

Company Background: Founded in 2021, Natáur builds sustainable, bio-based ingredients that displace petrochemical synthetics across high-value consumer and industrial markets. The company was formed to meet consumer demand for clean-label, environmentally responsible inputs. Natáur's technology is protected by a growing patent portfolio and supported by a global manufacturing partner, enabling rapid scale without heavy capital investment. Initial target markets include dietary supplements, cosmetics, functional beverages, and animal health.

Leadership Team: Natáur's leadership team brings more than 70 years of combined experience commercializing novel biotechnologies across food, feed, agriculture, and pharmaceutical markets, with multiple successful exits and product launches.

Products: Bio-Taurine is Natáur's first commercial product and proof point for its fermentation platform. It is positioned as a high-purity, bio-based alternative to chemically synthesized taurine, addressing clean-label and sustainability requirements as well as risks associated with highly centralized supply chains. Taurine is a critical amino acid with established roles in brain development, cardiovascular health, healthy aging, microbiome balance, skin health, and pet and animal nutrition.

Technology and Intellectual Property: Natáur's proprietary fermentation platform uses safe, engineered microbes to produce taurine and other sulfur-based ingredients without reliance on fossil fuel inputs. Natáur controls the IP underlying its fermentation platform, supported by issued patents and a growing pipeline of proprietary filings. This IP position supports freedom to operate, scalable commercialization, and long-term defensibility in bio-based sulfur compound production.

Market: The global taurine market is ~ $2.5 billion and growing at a 5.3% CAGR. Additional growth opportunities of $1 - $2 billion exist in emerging human and animal health applications, as well as industrial uses such as surfactants. Natáur is positioned to capture both current demand and future market expansion as customers shift toward sustainable sourcing.

Business and Distribution Model: Natáur operates a B2B model, working directly with global customers while leveraging a manufacturing partner to produce and ship Bio-Taurine under Natáur's quality and process standards. This model supports capital efficiency.

Competition: Over 95% of global taurine production is chemically synthesized from petrochemical feedstocks and concentrated in Asia within a highly consolidated supply chain. Leading producers include Hubei Grand Fuchi, Jiangyin Huachang, and Qianjiang Yongan.

Quick Facts

Company Name: Natáur

Contact: Frank Turano, Co-Founder and Chief Research Officer

Address: 1450 S. Rolling Rd, Baltimore, MD 21227

Phone: 443-543-5582
Email: fturano@nataur.com
Website: www.nataur.com

Industry: Biotech

Law Firm: Perkins Coie, LLP

Patent Estate:
US10,092,527
US10,874,625
US11,078,547
US11,220,69
US11,771,114B2

Number of Employees: 5

Leadership Team:
Daphne Preuss*, CEO
Frank Turano*, CRO
Kathleen Turano*, COO
Francesca Gallucci, Head of Commercial

* Co-Founder

Amount of Financing Sought: $250k to finalize a $1 M pre-seed raise

Use of Funds: Commercial development, marketing, sales, and R&D

Our Partners

bwtech@UMBC

bwtech Research & Technology Park at UMBC is a dynamic innovation hub that supports companies at every stage of development—from concept to revenue growth. Through incubation, research partnerships, educational programs, expert mentorship, and strategic connections, bwtech empowers businesses to scale and succeed in Maryland and beyond. With over 500,000 square feet, bwtech offers state-of-the-art wet labs, offices, and meeting spaces tailored for tech-focused industries including AI, cybersecurity, environmental technologies, and life sciences. Learn more at bwtech.umbc.edu.

TEDCO

TEDCO is Maryland's leading source of funding for early-stage, technology-based businesses. Our mission is to enhance economic empowerment by fostering an inclusive and entrepreneurial innovation ecosystem. We identify, invest in, and help grow technology and life science-based companies in Maryland. Over the last 24 years, TEDCO has provided significant value to the state's start-up community by supporting over 10,400 Maryland jobs and generating more than $2.3 billion in statewide economic activity as of 2021. Learn more by visiting us at tedcomd.com.

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NEXT disrupts the legacy legal industry by offering a broad range of fixed fee solutions (stand-alone products and annual legal plans) delivered by senior attorneys with valuable business expertise. NEXT solves the problem that startup and emerging growth companies face when launching their business as well as scaling: lack of access to predictable legal fees, seasoned attorneys, the latest technology and key business services. We use cutting edge technology platforms to deliver real efficiencies, transparency and a collaborative environment for clients, attorneys and investors. NEXT partners with its clients to de-risk their business and get to the NEXT level, together reaching each milestone of success. NEXT is powered by Shulman Rogers, a full-service law firm with nearly 100 attorneys offering superior services across a wide range of practice areas. The firm also offers robust personal services such as residential closings and trust and estate planning. Shulman Rogers has earned its reputation for providing quality representation, business insight and client value, serving as a highly attractive alternative to larger, higher- priced firms and smaller, less diverse firms. Learn more at ShulmanRogers.com.

BUZZY ROCKET

Buzzy Rocket was founded 12 years ago with the mission to help startups grow and scale their businesses. Debbie and Victoria do this with their decades of marketing experience combined with their first hand experience founding, growing and scaling successful startups. They only work with 6 startups at any given time so they can provide 1:1 attention to you and your team. The Buzzy Rocket team is also made up of web developers, graphic designers and copywriters so they can help you easily execute the marketing strategy they create. Learn more about their services at BuzzyRocket.com.

INES LEBOW, Founder and Principal, Enterprise Transformation Solutions

Ines LeBow is the Founder and Principal Startup Consultant at Enterprise Transformation Solutions (ETS), which advises entrepreneurs on how to position themselves for funding. Over the course of her 30+ years in the industry, Ines has helped companies secure more than $800M in funding, led start-ups and turnarounds for companies with up to $500M in revenue, managed 11 M&A transactions, and guided 9 companies to a successful exit. With expertise spanning Operations, Executive Leadership, and Mentoring, Turnarounds, Revenue implementation, Engineering, as well as Communications, Ines has helped many companies prepare for VC and angel investment.

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