

MIDWEST BIO RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY CONFERENCE KC



MIDWEST BRICK

*The Forces Shaping the Next
Generation of Biomanufacturing*

August 4–5, 2026 • Overland Park, KS

DRAFT AGENDA



DAY 1

August 4, 2026

Research Symposium



8:00 – 9:00 AM

Arrival, Registration & Breakfast

9:00 – 10:30 AM

Session I: Organoids

Chairs: Darby Stanford, PhD • Scott Leigh
Keynote + Research Presentations

10:30 – 10:45 AM

Coffee Break

10:45 AM – 12:15
PM

Session II: Rare Disease

Chair: Lorena Maili, PhD
Research Presentations

12:15 – 1:15 PM

Lunch & Networking

CV submission • Open job posting • Connecting the right people

1:15 – 2:30 PM

Session III: Biomaterials and Bioengineering

Chair: Hanieh Sadat Ghazali
Research Presentations – Tim Dawsey + Postdoc

2:30 – 2:45 PM

Coffee Break

2:45 – 4:15 PM

Session IV: Cancer Meets Materials Science

Chair: Cameron Berry, PhD

Research Presentations

4:15 – 4:30 PM

Coffee Break

4:30 – 5:15 PM

Keynote: Neuroscience and Artificial Intelligence

Chair: Aaron Smith, PhD

Speaker: Dr. Andrew Abumoussa

5:15 – 6:30 PM

Poster Session & Networking

VIP RECEPTION

August 4, 2026 • 7:00 – 9:00 PM • KU Edwards (Overland Park, KS)

9:00 – 9:15 AM

Welcome & Opening Remarks – Kevin Mills, President & CEO, AdAstra BIO

9:15 – 9:45 AM

Keynote Address – Dr. Kelvin Lee, Director, National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals

Title: “Collaborative Innovation in Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing for U.S. Competitiveness”

9:45 – 10:30 AM

Morning Plenary Session

Federal Policy and Regulatory Dynamics That Will Shape Biomanufacturing in the Next Decade

Bioscience industries are rapidly evolving against a backdrop of seismic shifts in federal policy – regulation, trade policy, research funding, manufacturing investment, and more – that will create both pressure and opportunity. Speakers include:

- Moderator: Melissa Roberts Chapman – Director, KC BioHub

10:30 – 11:30 AM

Breakout Workshops (proposed)

- The KC BioHub – How The Puzzle Pieces Fit Together
- The Emerging Biocollar Workforce
- Kansas Manufacturing Solutions – Your Partner in Manufacturing Success
- Industry Sponsored Breakouts

11:30 AM – 2:30
PM

Extended Exhibit Hall Viewing & Open Lunch

2:00 – 2:30 PM

Concurrent Engagement Session(s)

Industry Spotlights – Company presentations and meet-and-greet

2:30 – 3:15 PM

Afternoon Plenary Session

The Evolving Bioscience Workforce: Challenges and Solutions

The nature of bioscience industry is rapidly evolving, with new technologies, new products, and new investments in domestic manufacturing capacity. Speakers include:

- John Balchunas – Director, Workforce Development, NIIMBL
- Angela Consani – CEO, Bioscience Core Skills Institute (Moderator)
- Rob Morrison – Senior Director, Pfizer

3:15 – 3:45 PM

Closing Address – Mayor Curt Skoog, Overland Park

3:45 – 4:00 PM

Awards Ceremony

4:00 – 6:00 PM

Cocktail Hour & Exhibit Hall Open