Monday, January 12, 2026

MORNING PLENARY SESSION

7:30 AM – **Registration and Networking**

8:00 AM – **Welcome and Introduction**
Jim Sergi, President, QNova LifeSciences
Shawn J. Green, PhD, President, MTEC

8:15 AM - **Current Trends and Impact in Seed-Stage Life Sciences Investing**
Tim Lew, Managing Director, Stifel

8:35 AM - **New Rules of Fundraising Private Equity Outlook for the Life Sciences in 2025**
Eric Mattson, Principal, Excellere Partners

9:00 AM – **Leveraging Non-Dilutive Funding to Advance Biopharma and Medtech Investing**
Lauren Palestrini, PhD, Chief Science Officer, MTEC
Eric Hanson, MD, MPH, CEO, MILMED Connect

9:30 AM – **Partnering, the Do's and Don'ts for Industry Interactions**
Frans Trouwen, Chairman, Liberi Group

9:45 AM – **Investor AMA: Ask Me Anything and Concluding Remarks**
Tim Tankosic, Managing Director, Aqua Partners LLC

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM – **B2B Partnering**

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM – **Investing in Australian Clinical Trials: What Funders Need to See**

Stefan Czyniewski, CoFounder and Clinical Director, Mobius Medical
Jacqui Wade, Director, Clinical Affairs and Director Services, Biointelect
TBD
Joel Rothman, former CSO, Equillium Inc. and Director, Equillium Australia
Jim Sergi, President, QNova LifeSciences

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Tuesday, January 13, 2026

TUESDAY MORNING PLENARY SESSION

7:30 AM – **Registration and Networking**

8:00 AM – **Welcome and Introduction**
Jim Sergi, President, QNova LifeSciences
Lauren Palestrini, Chief Science Officer, MTEC

8:10 AM – **Raising Capital Across Borders**
Shohei Shibata, Senior Manager & Department Leader, ITOCHU International Inc.

8:30 AM – **State of the Life Sciences Markets 2026**
Chris Garabedian, CEO, Xontogeny

8:50 AM **- Non-Dilutive Funding in Med Tech: an MTEC lens**
Chris Steele, PhD, Chief Officer of Strategy and Business Development, MTEC

9:10 AM- **Common partnering mistakes, and how to avoid them**
Bram de Jong, Director Business Development, Liberi Group

9:30 AM – **Importance of Leveraging Your Ecosystem**
Dylan Attard MD, MRCSI, MEnt., CEO & Co-Founder, MedTech World

9:45 AM – **Investor AMA: Ask Me Anything and Concluding Remarks**
Sean Drake, Managing Partner, Stoney Lonesome Group

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM – **B2B Partnering**

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM **- Build for Impact Startup Showcase & Reception (Hosted by Bessel)**
Meet breakthrough medtech startups solving real clinical challenges. Connect with founders, investors, and strategic partners driving disciplined innovation forward. See live demos, explore partnership opportunities, and join candid conversations about what it takes to scale impact in today's healthcare landscape.
Attendance is limited. Contact Bessel directly for event tickets.

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Wednesday, January 14, 2026

WEDNESDAY MORNING PLENARY SESSION

7:30 AM – **Registration and Networking**

8:00 AM – **Welcome and Introduction**
Jim Sergi, President, QNova LifeSciences
Chris Steele, PhD, Chief of Strategy and Business Development, MTEC

8:10 AM – **Beyond SBIRs: NIH as a Development Partner**
Michael Salgaller, Supervisor, Technology Analysis and Marketing Unit, NIH Office of Technology Transfer
Vladimir Popov, Chief Innovation Officer, Center for Innovation and Strategic Partnerships, Frederick National Lab for Cancer Research

8:45 AM – **Angel Funding Sources for Seed-Stage Startups**
Chris Steele, PhD, Chief of Strategy and Business Development, MTEC (Moderator)
Peter Socarras, President, Life Science Angels
Anne DeGheest, Founder and Managing Director, MedStars
Kristin King-Jankiewicz, Head of Group Management, Boston Harbor Angels

9:15 AM – **FDA Update and Strategies for Leveraging the DOW Dual Regulatory Pathway**
Jeremiah J. Kelly, Partner, Venable LLP – FDA, EPA

9:40 AM –**Tips, Tools and Targets: Workshop Highlights**
Chris Danek, PhD, MBA, CEO, Bessel

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM – **B2B Partnering**

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Thursday, January 15, 2026

BOOST WORKSHOP

Catalyzing Impact: Closing the Funding Gap for Seed-Stage Biopharm and Medtech

8:00 AM – **Welcome and Introduction – Where does it hurt? How to play through the Pain? BOOST tips on managing pain points: Project Teams and Roadmaps, IP, Regulatory, Fundraising**
Chris Danek, PhD, MBA, CEO, Bessel
Shawn Green, PhD, President, MTEC, Ventures

8:10 AM – **Non-Dilutive R&D Funding, Project Teams, Collaborations, and Innovations**
Eric Hanson MD, MPH, CEO, MILMED Connect

8:30 AM – **Intellectual Property**
Jon Brendsel, CTO, Patenter (pre-seed and seed)
Alec Sorensen, Founder and CEO, Tradespace (early – advanced)

9:00 AM – **De-Risking Resources**
Shawn Green, PhD, President, MTEC Ventures (Moderator)
Lynn Carney, Director, Medmarc
Bryant Rutledge, Vice President, Higginbotham
Hansilla Alaigh, Founder and CEO, WISE-R and MedX
Christian Espinosa, Founder and CEO, Blue Goat Cyber
Cooper Anderson, Associate Director, TigerMed America

9:30 AM – **Regulatory and Legal**
Chris Danek, PhD, MBA, CEO, Bessel (Moderator)
Justin Coen, Partner, Venable LLP – FDA, EPA
Wade Johnson, Shareholder, Polsinelli LLP
Delia Deschaine, Partner, Squire Patton Boggs

10:00 AM – **Matchmaker, Matchmaker - Investor and Founder Marriages**
Tim Lew, Managing Director, Stifel (Moderator)
Sophia Lugo, CEO & Chairman, Radar Therapeutics
Phil Grayeski, Managing Partner, KdT Ventures

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10:30 AM –**Building a Non-Dilutive Funding Portfolio**
Eva Garland, PhD, CEO, Eva Garland Consulting, LLC

11:00 AM –**Early Stage Fundraising for Dual Use Tech**
Chris Danek, PhD, MBA, CEO, Bessel (Moderator)
Sean Drake, Managing Partner, Stony Lonesome Group LLC
Sherman Williams, Managing Partner, AIN Ventures
Matthew Goldman, MD, General Partner, J2 Ventures

11:30 AM – **Follow on Fundraising Rounds**
Jonathan Norris, Managing Director, HSBC Innovation Banking (Moderator)
John Stanton, Managing Partner, QNova Capital
Joe Horsman, Investor, Madrona
Alan Marrullier, Managing Director, ClearCap Strategic Advisors

12:00 PM – **Capital Reimagined: The New Playbook for Funding Breakthrough Life Sciences**
Akshay Prabhu, Founder & CEO, WeFunder
Doug Heske, Founder & CEO, Causeway Impact Board
Saiesh Reddy, Managing Partner, Chakra Growth Fund and Causeway Impact Board of Advisors

12:30 PM – **Networking**

Monday, January 19th, 2026

2026 Virtual Annual Partnering Forum B2B Partnering Opens. All registrants are converted to virtual registrants.

Tuesday, February 2nd -6th, 2026

Day 1-5: **Virtual B2B Meetings (24 hours)**

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