

August 19-21, 2025 | Boston, MA

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3rd Annual adc Linker & Conjugation Summit

Showcasing Novel Linker & Conjugation
Technologies to Reduce Hydrophobicity &
Aggregation, & Improve Stability to Better
Balance Safety & Efficacy

Expert Speakers Include:



Valentin Petrich
Group Leader,
Chemistry
Heidelberg Pharma



Marcello Marelli
Principal Scientist
AstraZeneca



Juhani Saarinen
Chief Executive
Officer
Glykos



Florian Heinkel
Principal Scientist,
Antibody Discovery &
Engineering
Pfizer



Lea Rochet
Conjugation Scientist
ADC Therapeutics



Ganapathy Sarma
Director
Exelixis

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Welcome to the 3rd ADC Linker & Conjugation Summit



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As dual payload and novel payload ADCs emerge as the latest source of excitement from the antibody-drug conjugate world, and with novel linker and conjugation technologies awaiting clinical validation, a new window of opportunity has opened to further explore how to improve ADC's therapeutic window through optimizing their chemistry.

The **3rd ADC Linker & Conjugation Summit** offers a deeply technical platform for highlighting innovations in linker design and conjugation approaches. Delve into the chemistry to achieve a better stability profile, improve linker hydrophilicity by introducing polarity to prevent aggregation and see how others are tackling dual payload bioconjugation. Uncover the latest linker designs for compatibility with novel payloads and assess how structural modifications to linkers can be linked to activity changes.

This is your definitive platform for joining **80+ chemists** from **biopharma**, **CxOs from start-ups**, and **chemistry service** providers to learn, discuss and identify future areas for improvements with linkers and conjugation technologies.

As companies aim to de-risk their drug development by utilizing clinically validated targets and payloads, linker and conjugation technologies hold the key to making incremental strides forward in bringing more ADCs to patients sooner.

What Our Speakers Have to Say:

■ ■ The ADC field is a fast moving and complex discipline that requires the coordinated activity of the antibody, its sites of conjugation, and the chemistry of the linkers and payloads to effectively deliver to and kill cancer cells. I look forward to learning about the advances in each of these areas and how they are being combined to address current challenges with ADCs ■ ■

Marcello Morelli, Principal Scientist, **AstraZeneca**

Key Benefits of Attending



Deepen your knowledge of the various linker design strategies, including new hydrophilic linkers to balance out payload hydrophobicity, achieve the optimal cleavage kinetics and improve ADC stability for reducing offtarget toxicity with **Pfizer**, **Oncusp Therapeutics** and **Glykos**



Take a deep dive in workshop-based sessions focused on optimizing DAR and conjugation site selection to prevent aggregation and extend half-life with **ADC Therapeutics**, **Glykos** and **Exelixis**



Explore the various approaches for unlocking synergistic potential in dual payload ADCs, exploring novel conjugation platforms, branched linker design, and innovative conjugation chemistry with **Sutro Biopharma**, **Catena Biosciences** & **Araris Bio**



Delve into the potential of next generation conjugation strategies, including novel site specific technology and substitutes for maleimide to unlock improved stability and reduced off target toxicity with **Skymab Therapeutics**, **Astrazeneca** & **Pfizer**

Your Expert Speakers



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Philipp Spycher
Chief Scientific Officer &
Co-Founder
Araris Bio



Valentin Petrich
Group Leader, Chemistry
Heidelberg Pharma



Tatiana Novobrantseva
Chief Scientific Officer
NextPoint Therapeutics



Manel Merabet
Chief Development Officer
Skymab Therapeutics



Marcello Marelli
Principal Scientist
AstraZeneca



Tero Satomaa
Project Director & Partner
Glykos



Juhani Saarinen
Chief Executive Officer
Glykos



Wei Lu
Vice President - Research
OnCusp Therapeutics



Marco Lobba
Co Founder & Chief
Executive Officer
Catena Biosciences



Mark Distenano
Professor
University of Minnesota



Krishna Bajjuri
Senior Director, Chemistry
Sutro Biopharma



Philipp Ochtrup
Director, Chemistry
Tubulis GmbH



Bob Lutz
Chief Scientific Officer
Iksuda



Ganapathy Sarma
Director
Exelixis



Lea Rochet
Conjugation Scientist
ADC Therapeutics



Florian Heinkel
Principal Scientist,
Antibody Discovery and
Engineering
Pfizer



Alice Chen
Chief Scientific Officer
Baylink Biosciences



Marc Robillard
Founder & Chief
Scientific Officer
Tagworks



Andrea North
Team Leader -
Bioconjugates &
Biomaterials
CSIRO

Pre-Conference Workshop Day

Tuesday, August 19



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Workshop A

9.00

Identifying the Optimal Conjugation Site to Balance Stability & Payload Release

Choosing the ideal conjugation site is critical for maximizing ADC stability and ensuring efficient release at the target site. This workshop will explore how strategic conjugation site selection can enhance linker durability and improve ADC performance.

This workshop will cover:

- Understanding the influence of the chemical environment on conjugation site selection to improve hydrophobicity control
- Leveraging structural modeling and analytical tools to explore viable conjugation sites
- Balancing linker exposure to prevent premature cleavage while ensuring efficient release at the target site
- Exploring the impact of different conjugation chemistries (e.g., beta-glucuronidase, thiomaleimide) on site accessibility and stability
- Using hydrophobicity profiling and hydrophobic interaction chromatography to assess linker exposure

Workshop Leaders



Ganapathy Sarma
Director
Exelixis



Andrea North
Team Leader -
Bioconjugates &
Biomaterials
CSIRO

Lunch & Networking

12.00

Workshop B

1.00

Fine-Tuning Linker & Payload Design to Optimize DAR Without Compromising ADC Stability

Optimizing the DAR is crucial for achieving the balance between ADC stability and efficacy. This workshop will explore strategies for fine-tuning the DAR ratio to develop stable and efficacious ADCs, to improve clinical outcomes.

This workshop will cover:

- Understanding how hydrophobic payloads limit achievable DAR and strategies to mitigate this
- Leveraging moieties like phosphate prodrugs, PEGs, and charged amino acids to improve linker hydrophilicity and increase DAR
- Exploring the relationship between DAR, solubility, and off-target effects
- Balancing solvent selection, payload design, and conjugation strategies to achieve optimal DAR without compromising stability

Workshop Leaders



Tero Satomaa
Project Director &
Partner
Glykos



Lea Rochet
Conjugation
Scientist
ADC Therapeutics

End of Pre-Conference Workshop Day

4.00

Scientific Program Day One

Wednesday, August 20



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8.00 Check In & Registration

8.45 Chair's Opening Remarks

Enhancing Conjugation Chemistry for Unlocking Synergistic Potential In Dual Payload ADCs



Marco Lobba
Co-Founder & Chief
Executive Officer
Catena Biosciences

9.00 **Next-Generation Multi-Payload ADCs: How Site-Selective Conjugations Enable New Modalities**

- Potential of dual-payload ADCs and challenges presented by traditional conjugation approaches
- Review of approaches to manufacturing dual-payload ADCs, with focus on the CysTyr platform for site-specific conjugation
- Efficacy of Multi-Payload Conjugates produced using CysTyr conjugation



Phillipp Spycher
Chief Scientific Officer
& Co-Founder
Araris Bio

9.30 **Designing Branched Linkers for Dual Payload ADCs to Balance Synergy & Selectivity**

- Investigating chemical engineering strategies for designing branch linkers for achieving distinct tumor-specific cleavage mechanisms
- Addressing challenges in maintaining payload stability and ensuring effective payload release while preserving the overall functionality of the ADC
- Exploring the use of modified conjugation methods to achieve controlled ratios of each payload, ensuring synergistic effects without compromising safety or efficacy

ABZENA

10.00 **Development of a Site Specific & Versatile Conjugation Approach Based On Bacterial Transglutaminase & the Diels-Alder Cycloaddition Reaction for ADCs**

- The versatility of maleimides for the conjugation to antibodies - a different application that specifically conjugates via cycloaddition reaction vs conjugation to interchain disulfides or engineered cysteines
- Design and synthesis of the diene-containing linkers for site specific transglutaminase conjugation for two different payloads
- Evaluation of the in vitro and in vivo activity and stability of the ADCs generated via this transglutaminase – Diels-Alder approach



10.30 Morning Break & Speed Networking



Krishna Bajjuri
Senior Director,
Chemistry
Sutro Biopharma

11.30 **Developing the Next Generation of ADCs With High DAR & Dual Payloads to Enhance ADC Efficacy**



Juhani Saarinen
Chief Executive Officer
Glykos

12.00 **Targeting Solid Tumors & Hematological Malignancies with ADCs Utilizing Auristatin, Topo1i & Dual Payloads**

- Hydrophilic linker with optimized cleavable moiety enables efficient auristatin, exatecan / topoisomerase 1 and novel modality linker-payloads for ADC generation
- DAR4 and DAR8 MMAU auristatin ADCs showed outstanding therapeutic window against solid tumors and hematological malignancies
- Utilizing optimized linker and conjugation technologies for dual-payload ADCs



12.30 Lunch



Scientific Program Day One

Wednesday, August 20



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Advancing Linker Design Strategies for Achieving the Optimal Stability Profile

1.30 Roundtable Discussion: Balancing Linker Stability & Payload Release in ADCs for an Optimal Therapeutic Index

- Exploring how to balance chemical modifications for stability while maintaining effective release kinetics of the payload
- Exploring strategies to optimize linker stability under physiological conditions, focusing on factors such as pH and temperature for controlled cleavage
- Highlighting case studies and design modifications to enhance cleavable linker stability without compromising therapeutic efficacy



Tatiana Novobrantseva
Chief Scientific Officer
NextPoint Therapeutics

2.00 The Story of the B7-H7 Targeting ADC: Exploring a Proprietary Linker for Maximal Compatibility with Targeting Biology

- Attributes of B7-H7 as a tumor target
- ADC linker approach for addressing the vast B7-H7 positive patient population
- NPX125 linker design and attributes



2.30 Afternoon Break & Scientific Poster Session

This is an informal session to help you connect with your peers in a relaxed atmosphere and forge new, beneficial relationships. With an audience of linker & conjugation experts looking to stay on top of this evolving space, this is your chance to present, review and discuss posters featuring cutting-edge work.



Marc Robillard
Founder & Chief Scientific Officer
Tagworks

3.30 Exploring Click-Cleavable ADCs & Their Application Scope

- Understanding limitations of current ADC linkers
- Exploring the principle and design of click-cleavable ADC linkers
- Targeting scope expansion and potential for improved efficacy and safety offered by click-cleavable ADCs

4.00 Roundtable Discussion: Stable Versus Unstable Linkers for Optimizing Therapeutic Outcomes of ADCs

- Exploring the pros and cons of linker stability in ADC efficacy and toxicity
- Evaluating how stable linkers may prevent deconjugation, while unstable linkers can offer quicker payload release and enhance the bystander effect
- Discussing the balance between stability and controlled cleavage for optimized therapeutic outcomes

5.00 End of Scientific Program Day One

■ Excited to hear about the new developments in the linker and conjugation fields as well as connect with the experts of this area to tackle the challenges together! ■■

Lea Rochet, Conjugation Scientist, ADC Therapeutics

Scientific Program Day Two

Thursday, August 21



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8.00 Check In & Registration

Driving ADC Stability & Safety with Next-Generation Conjugation Chemistries



Mark Distefano
Professor
University of Minnesota

9.00 Protein Conjugation Beyond Maleimide - Exploring Protein Functionalization Using Prenyltransferases

- Prenyltransferases can be used to install a wide variety of biorthogonal functionality in proteins
- That functionality can be used to create protein conjugates for a range of applications ranging from directed cell killing to PET imaging
- Prenyltransferases can also be used to create prenylated nanostructures that can be positioned on the surfaces of cells to transfer a variety of cargos to specific receiver cells



Wei Lu
Vice President,
Research
OnCusp Therapeutics

10.00 CUSP06, a CDH6-targeting ADC Utilizing a Novel T1000-Exatecan Platform Demonstrates Promising Antitumor Activities

- T1000-exatecan is a novel platform with desired stability and safety profile and overcome drug-resistance mechanism
- CUSP06 demonstrates target-dependent cell killing and antitumor activities *in vitro* and *in vivo*
- Clean safety profile of CUSP06 from GLP toxicology studies indicates the excellent stability of T1000-exatecan



10.30 Morning Break

Uncovering Innovative Linker & Conjugation Strategies to Overcome Novel Payload Challenges



Philipp Ochtrop
Director, Chemistry
Tubulis GmbH

11.00 Unlocking Novel Payloads for Antibody-Drug Conjugates Through Targeted Delivery of Hydroxyl-Linked Drugs via Alco5

- Payloads of current marketed ADC are limited to three Modes of Action (MoAs): DNA binders, Tubulin- and TOP-I-Inhibitors
- Exploring novel conjugation technologies for stable conjugation and traceless release of hydroxy-containing cytotoxins with different intracellular MOAs
- Resulting ADCs are homogenous with a high DAR, have excellent linker stability, and exhibit excellent *in vivo* PK and efficacy



Bob Lutz
Chief Scientific Officer
Iksuda Therapeutics

11.30 Emerging ADC Designs Provide Opportunity for Differentiated Next Generation ADCs

- The large number of ADCs with tubulin or topoisomerase 1 inhibitor payloads presents a high risk for clinical development of ADCs with these payloads in the future due to overlapping resistance and toxicity
- New payloads with differentiated MOAs will be essential for ADC sequencing in treatment paradigms for patients
- Innovations in linkers and bioconjugation will contribute to reducing the inherent risk in using these new payloads



Valentin Petrich
Group Leader –
Chemistry
Heidelberg Pharma

12.00 Novel: Exatecan-based ADC Using HDP's Innovative Multimeric Linker Platform

- A new multimeric linker platform facilitated the development of HDP-201, an ADC with exatecan as payload, as novel therapeutic modality for the treatment of solid tumors
- The role of solubility enhancers in enabling site-specific coupling to cysteines, leading to stable, potent, and well tolerated ADCs
- HDP-201 shows dose-dependent tumor regression *in vivo* and enhanced anti-tumor efficacy following multiple doses



12.30 Lunch

7

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Antibody Drug Conjugates



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Scientific Program Day Two

Thursday, August 21



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Exploring the Potential of Next-Generation Conjugation Strategies & Site-Specific Technologies



Manel Merabet
Chief Development
Officer
Skymab Therapeutics

1.30 Advancing Site-Specific ADC Conjugation: Skymab's Next-Generation Platform & First Preclinical Insights

- Innovations in site-specific ADC conjugation – overcoming the limitations of traditional maleimide chemistry
- Skymab's novel platform – enhancing stability, DAR control, and therapeutic index through optimized linker strategies
- Preclinical results and future directions – first insights into Skymab's lead ADC candidate and its potential clinical impact



Marcello Marelli
Principal Scientist
AstraZeneca

2.00 Unlocking the ADC Toolbox: Stable Chemistry & Sites of Conjugation Combine to Improve Therapeutic Index

- Stable conjugation chemistry and site of conjugation impact the stability of conjugates
- Long PKs increase tumor exposure and improve efficacy of ADC
- A move away from unstable thiol-maleimide conjugation chemistry and exposed conjugation sites will enable development of novel ADCs with improved therapeutic indices



2.30 Afternoon Break

Unlocking New Therapeutic Potential & Expanding Beyond Traditional Payloads Through Linker Innovations



Florian Heinkel
Principal Scientist,
Antibody Discovery and
Engineering
Pfizer

3.00 Linker & Conjugation Based Strategies for Improving MMAE-Based ADCs

- Optimization of MMAE-based ADCs through linker composition
- Improving payload properties
- Identifying the ideal conjugation site



Alice Chen
Chief Scientific Officer
Baylink Biosciences

4.00 A Linker Platform For Antibody Drug Conjugates: Expanding The Therapeutic Window

- Baylink's novel linkers enable use of hydrophobic drugs at high DAR, and can reduce off-target effects
- It expands the diversity of payloads, including chemotherapy, protein degraders, and immunotherapy
- The lead candidate will enter phase I clinical trial in 2026

4.30 Chairs Closing Remarks

4.35 End of Scientific Programme Day Two

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Program Partner: Abzena

Abzena is a bioconjugate and biologics-focused CDMO that pushes development of novel treatments forward at every stage from discovery through commercial launch. With the ability to tailor its strategy and customer experience to each project, Abzena develops and implements innovative solutions that enable biotech and biopharma companies to realize the full potential of their investments in human health. The company has research, development, and cGMP facilities across locations in San Diego, CA, Bristol, PA, and Cambridge, UK.

www.abzena.com



Exhibition Partner: AsymBio

AsymBio is the emerging business unit of Asymchem Group striving to become a technology-driven, fully-empowered one-stop CDMO services platform for biologic (mAb, ADC, plasmid&mRNA), offering customized services with outstanding quality and efficient performance. We have built an integrated and comprehensive CDMO service platform for ADC drugs (payload-linker, mAb, conjugation), which including but not limited to development, manufacturing, quality control and regulatory affairs. Our one-stop ADC CDMO service platform is able to efficiently empower ADCs.

www.asymbio.com



Exhibition Partner: Veranova

Veranova is a global leader in the development and manufacturing of specialist and complex active pharmaceutical ingredients for pharma and biotech customers. Veranova's global team of highly skilled process chemists and analytical scientists possess over a decade of experience developing and scaling up processes for linking small molecule payloads to polymers in support of antibody-drug conjugates and polymer drug conjugates.

www.veranova.com

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Matt Ashman

Commercial Director

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August 19-21, 2025 | Boston, MA

Your Global Platform to Drive Innovation in ADC Linker & Conjugation Technologies

The **3rd ADC Linker & Conjugation Summit** offers an opportunity to be at the forefront of the rapidly evolving ADC R&D landscape. As the industry seeks novel linker and conjugation technologies to gain a competitive edge through improved PK profiles or unlock success in emerging modalities like dual payload ADCs, there is no room for error in overcoming challenges in hydrophobicity, aggregation, and stability. This summit brings together 80+ established chemists, CxOs from startups, and thought leaders to share insights, explore cutting-edge solutions, and discuss the future of linker and conjugation innovations.

4 Reasons to Partner:



Gain Cutting-Edge Industry Insights

Understand the technical challenges our audience faces in areas like hydrophilicity optimization, dual payload conjugation, and balancing various factors such as stability, off target toxicity, DAR and hydrophobicity to explore how to meet their present and future needs.



Maximize Market Visibility

With the summit attracting highly technical decision makers, this is your chance to showcase your services and technologies to a highly engaged group. Present your solutions and technologies to companies actively seeking new ways to optimize their ADC designs.



Unmatched Networking Opportunities

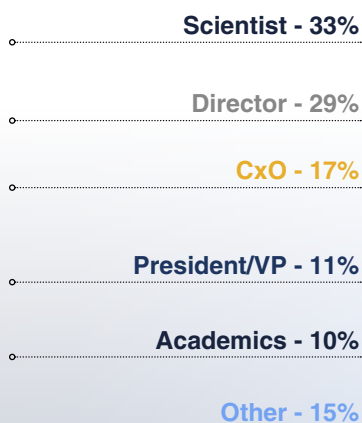
With over 6 hours of dedicated networking, you'll have the opportunity to engage directly with key stakeholders from a range of established biopharma and startups. Build meaningful relationships, exchange knowledge, and discover potential collaborations.



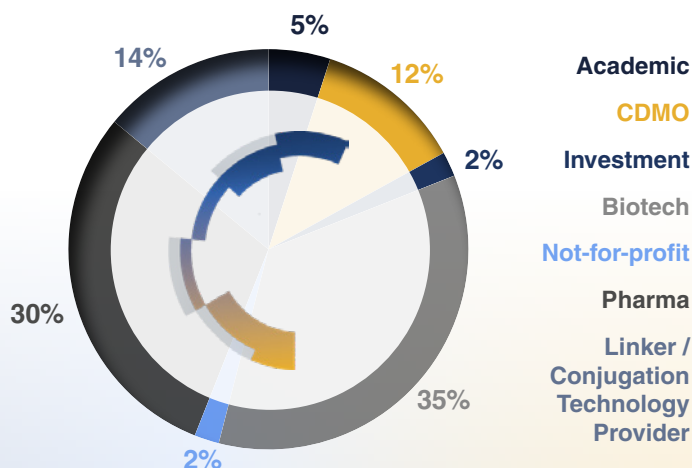
Showcase Your Technology

Do you have a conjugation platform which you would like to shine a spotlight on? Highlight it to our audience of over 100 highly engaged bioconjugation experts who are seeking the latest approach for improving ADC stability & DAR homogeneity.

Seniority of Attendees*



Types of Companies Attending*



*Statistics taken from 2nd ADC Linker & Conjugation Summit

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Matt Ashman
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Discover how leading innovators are advancing linker and conjugation technologies to overcome challenges like hydrophobicity, aggregation, and stability in ADCs



Apply your learnings to optimize linker properties based on tumor type and target, exploring innovative release mechanisms and tailored linker designs to enhance PK profile, control release kinetics, and minimize off-target effects



Engage with 80+ chemists and key decision-makers to discuss the future of ADC linkers and conjugation approaches, forge valuable partnerships and connections



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Drug Developer Pricing*	Register & Pay By Friday, May 9	On the Door Price
Conference + Workshop	\$3,297 (Save \$900)	\$4,197
Conference Only	\$2,499 (Save \$500)	\$2,999

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Conference Only	\$3,199 (Save \$500)	\$3,699

Academic Pricing**	Register & Pay By Friday, May 9	On the Door Price
Conference + Workshop	\$2,697 (Save \$900)	\$3,597
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- 10% discount – 3 Attendees
- 15% discount – 4 Attendees
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Venue

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