



2024
BLOOM
BURTON
Award
GALA

Program

THE RITZ-CARLTON, TORONTO

SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

#BBAward2024



#BBAward2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	Welcome from Bloom Burton & Co.
3	Agenda
4	Message from Stephen Dilly
6	Message from the Prime Minister of Canada
8	Message from the Premier of Ontario
10	Message from the Mayor of Toronto
13	Finalists
21	Judges
26	Table Sponsors

Welcome

Welcome from Bloom Burton & Co.

We are honoured to be hosting the 2024 Bloom Burton Award Gala this year at the elegant Ritz-Carlton, Toronto Hotel on September 26, 2024, to spotlight and celebrate the exceptional finalists for the 2024 Bloom Burton Award.

Each year, the Bloom Burton Award celebrates those who demonstrate excellence in the healthcare field and is given to an individual in any role, from any field of healthcare, and at any stage of development for their amazing and impactful work in the previous year. We aim to recognize and celebrate those who advance medical science, attract or provide risk capital, launch new products or companies, or change policy with a dramatic and positive impact on the world stage.

For 2024, we received nominations from the public at large and our international and esteemed judging panel narrowed down the list to the following outstanding finalists, in alphabetical order:

- 🎁 Roberto Bellini, BELLUS Health
- 🎁 Tom Frohlich, Chinook Therapeutics
- 🎁 François Ravenelle, Inversago Pharma

This year's finalists represent the very best of leadership and they each delivered blockbuster transactions as a culminating event for their respective organizations, taking the Canadian healthcare industry to new heights. We are incredibly honoured to share and celebrate each of their stories with you tonight.

Please raise a glass and toast their achievements with us.

Cheers!

Brian Bloom & Jolyon Burton

6:00 PM

Cocktail Reception

7:00 PM

Bloom Burton Award Program and Dinner

Welcome remarks from
Brian Bloom and Jolyon Burton

Celebrating
Roberto Bellini

Celebrating
Tom Frohlich

Celebrating
François Ravenelle

Remarks and Winner Announcement by
Stephen Dilly

10:00 PM

Networking and Entertainment

Tonight's event is a great opportunity to celebrate our finalists, to recognize the strength of innovation in the Canadian life science industry and to inspire new leaders to take up the challenge.

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the eighth edition of the Bloom Burton Award Gala!

Since being launched in 2017, the Bloom Burton Award Gala has become a highlight of the biotechnology calendar and is a great opportunity to network and take stock of the impressive progress of the Canadian life science industry.

It is both inspiring and informative to look back over the history of the award.

Firstly, one is struck by the willingness of Canadian innovation to tackle big, important problems rather than following the herd. On a personal note, it was truly humbling to receive the Bloom Burton Award last year from Pieter Cullis. Pieter's persistent, visionary, even iconoclastic pursuit of the potential of lipid nanoparticles as delivery vehicles proved critical during the pandemic by enabling the effective delivery of mRNA-based COVID vaccines to their target. It is salutary to remember just how many lives were saved by his passion and willingness to be outside the mainstream working on a difficult challenge for many years.

The finalists we are celebrating today fit this mold. Each of them was pivotal in driving important innovation in 'unpopular' areas with significant unmet need. Specifically, P2X3 inhibition to treat chronic cough, CB-1 blockade to regulate metabolism and appetite and Endothelin antagonism to treat IgA Nephropathy. Their work promises to have a significant impact on prevalent and problematic conditions. I'm excited to hear their stories during the gala.



Stephen Dilly

Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Codexis Inc.

Former President & Chief Executive Officer, Sierra Oncology

2023 Bloom Burton Award Winner

Secondly, the proportion of finalists that led companies that have been acquired in major M&A transactions has accelerated dramatically over the last few years. Seven of the last nine finalists compared to just two of the first fifteen finalists exited through M&A transactions. Although by no means the only metric of success, this statistic speaks to the increasing recognition of the importance and success of Canadian innovation. Canadian companies are clearly investable!

However, one of the downsides of acquisition can be the dissolution of the company and team. This happens more often than not. A challenge and opportunity for our industry is to create and maintain an environment where talent is not lost, and successful entrepreneurs can do it again.

Tonight's event is a great opportunity to celebrate our finalists, to recognize the strength of innovation in the Canadian life science industry and to inspire new leaders to take up the challenge.

Sincerely,

Stephen Dilly

Chairman & CEO, Codexis Inc.

Former President & Chief Executive Officer, Sierra Oncology



Justin P. J. Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

September 26, 2024

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 2024 Bloom Burton Award Gala, hosted by Bloom Burton & Co.

This annual event honours individuals who have made significant contributions to Canada's healthcare sector. I join with you congratulating this year's finalists: Roberto Bellini; Tom Frohlich; and François Ravenelle. Their many achievements make them most deserving of this special recognition.

I would like to thank the organizers for their commitment to promoting innovation and excellence in Canadian healthcare.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable evening.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada



Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario



Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario

September 26, 2024

A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER DOUG FORD

Warm greetings to everyone taking part in the annual Bloom Burton Award Gala. Tonight, we gather to recognize the scientists, inventors, entrepreneurs, policy makers and leaders who made the greatest contributions to Canada's health care sector in the past year.

I want to congratulate this year's finalists. We have some of the best minds working in our health care industry, and your achievements are proof of that.

I applaud the people at Bloom Burton & Co. for organizing this terrific event. Your commitment to celebrating excellence in the Canadian health care sector helps build a culture that rewards the pursuit of knowledge and innovation.

As you know, Ontario's life sciences ecosystem supports thousands of good-paying, high-skilled jobs in communities across our province. Our government will continue working to unlock the full potential of the sector, support innovation and new technologies, and enhance companies' competitiveness at home and on the global stage.

Best wishes for a memorable gala!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Ford".

Doug Ford
Premier



Olivia Chow
Mayor of Toronto



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

It is my pleasure to extend greetings and a warm welcome to everyone attending the 2024 Bloom Burton Award Gala.

This event is a great way to celebrate and honour individuals who have made a significant impact in health care and related industries. Congratulations to this year's award nominees and finalists. Thank you for all that you do and for all of your contributions to Canada's healthcare industry.

The City of Toronto is proud to acknowledge organizations and individuals who are committed to making a difference in their communities.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable event.

Yours truly,

Olivia Chow
Mayor of Toronto

2025
BLOOM BURTON & CO.
HEALTHCARE
INVESTOR
CONFERENCE



MAY 5 & 6, 2025



Roberto Bellini

BELLUS Health



Tom Frohlich

Chinook Therapeutics



François Ravenelle

Inversago Pharma



Our three finalists are celebrated for their incredible contributions to the Canadian healthcare sector.

Each of the finalists have received a \$25,000 cash prize, and a single winner will have the honour of being the recipient of the 2024 Bloom Burton Award.



Roberto Bellini

Former President and Chief Executive Officer, BELLUS Health

Roberto Bellini

Former President and Chief Executive Officer, BELLUS Health

Roberto Bellini is currently a Managing Partner at BSQUARED Capital, a family office biotech fund.

He served as President and CEO of BELLUS Health between January 2010 and July 2023. Under his leadership, BELLUS Health developed a P2X3 antagonist, camlipixant, for chronic cough from preclinical to Phase 3 and was acquired by GSK plc for US\$2.0B in 2023.

Roberto Bellini holds a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from McGill University.





Tom Frohlich

Co-Founder & Former Chief Operating Officer, Chinook Therapeutics

Tom Frohlich

Co-Founder & Former Chief Operating Officer, Chinook Therapeutics

Tom Frohlich has more than 25 years of leadership experience across multinational pharmaceutical and emerging biotech companies. He co-founded Chinook Therapeutics in 2019 and served as Chief Operating Officer until Chinook's acquisition by Novartis. He is currently on the board of Nested Therapeutics.

Since 2018, Tom has also served as an Operating Principal and subsequently as an Entrepreneur-in-Residence at Versant Ventures, a healthcare investment firm. Prior to Chinook, he was Vice President of Business Development at Arbutus Biopharma, where he played a key role in multiple transactions including the merger of Tekmira/Oncore and the spin-out of Genevant. Previously, Tom worked internationally at Johnson and Johnson and Merck in various roles leading commercial strategy across all stages of product development including the global launches of telaprevir and STELARA® (ustekinumab).

Tom Frohlich has a B.Sc. in biochemistry from the University of Victoria and an MBA from the University of Oxford.





François Ravenelle

Former President & Chief Executive Officer, Inversago Pharma

François Ravenelle

Former President & Chief Executive Officer, Inversago Pharma

As CEO of Inversago, the leader in the development of next generation CB1 receptor blocker therapies, François played an integral part in the company's recent acquisition by Novo Nordisk, totaling up to US\$1.075 billion, following an aggregated capital raising of US\$110M in three financing rounds over only four years.

François has contributed to the biotech and pharmaceutical industry for more than 20 years, a period during which he built a comprehensive set of skills in pharmaceutical and business development, as well as a proven ability to identify strategic assets, assemble and lead teams of experienced drug developers to move products forward to address unmet medical needs.

Prior to Inversago, François focused on drug development in increasing leadership roles, from early-stage development programs to clinical trials, with key contribution to one approved NDA. François holds a PhD in physical chemistry from McGill University.

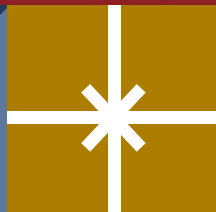




SAVE THE DATE

**Bloom Burton & Co.
Holiday Party**

November 27, 2024





Judges

Our esteemed panel of judges are respected international leaders in healthcare investment, entrepreneurship and journalism.



Michael Altman

Managing Director

Perceptive Advisors

Michael Altman joined Perceptive in 2007 and is a Managing Director on the investment team. His focus is on medical devices, diagnostics, digital health and Specialty Pharmaceuticals. He is also a member of the investment committee for the credit opportunities fund. Additionally, Michael serves as the CFO and Director of ARYA Sciences Acquisition Corp II & III. Prior to Perceptive he was a healthcare trader and analyst at First New York Securities.

Michael graduated from the University of Vermont with a B.S. in Business Administration. Michael serves on the board of directors for Lyra Therapeutics, Nautilus Biotechnology, and Vitruvius Therapeutics.

Based at Takeda's Cambridge, Massachusetts, R&D campus, Christopher Arendt is responsible for oversight of Takeda's Research and Early Development portfolio across Takeda's core therapeutic areas of Gastroenterology and Inflammation, Oncology, and Neuroscience. Since joining Takeda in 2015, Christopher has helped reshape Takeda's pipeline with a strong network of top-tier global collaborators, emphasizing emerging science leveraging a breadth of mechanisms and modalities, including allogenic innate immune cell therapies, antibody-targeted small molecules and oligonucleotides, and cutting-edge biologics.

Christopher is a Ph.D. Immunologist who carried out postdoctoral training with Dan Littman at New York University Medical Center.

Prior to joining Takeda, Christopher spent more than 13 years at Sanofi, where he led global teams advancing novel immunotherapies for cancers and inflammatory diseases.



Christopher Arendt

Chief Scientific Officer

and Head of Research

Takeda



Karen Bernstein

Co-founder and Chairman
BioCentury Inc.

Karen is Co-Founder and Chairman of BioCentury Inc. and was Editor in Chief from October 1992 to August 2015.

She is a Director at Ovid Therapeutics Inc., which is developing drugs for neurological diseases, and at The Critical Path Institute, a non-profit that leads collaborations to accelerate drug development. She is an advisor to Impact Therapeutics and Wild Biotech. Karen also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Keck Graduate Institute and serves on the Board of Overseers of Scripps Research.

Karen holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Stanford University and a B.A. in Politics and History from Brandeis University, where she served for many years as a member of the Brandeis University Science Advisory Council.

Joan Eliasek is President of McKesson Canada. As a member of the McKesson Corporation's Executive Operating Team, Joan is responsible for leading McKesson's portfolio of businesses in Canada, including pharmaceutical distribution operations, McKesson Canada Specialty Health and McKesson's network of independent pharmacies (I.D.A., Guardian, Remedy'sRx, The Medicine Shoppe, Uniprix, Proxim, e-commerce retailer Well.ca, and Rexall Pharmacy Group) Joan joined McKesson in 1995 and has held a variety of leadership roles across the company, including operations, sales, marketing and supplier management.

Joan has served on several boards in the healthcare industry, including Healthcare Industry Distributors Association (HIDA), HIDA Educational Foundation and Global Healthcare Exchange. She is also a long-time advisor to the Professional Women in Healthcare (PWH) board. In 2018, Joan was the first recipient of the Anne Eiting Klamar Leadership Award of Distinction by PWH.

Joan received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Business Administration from the University of Iowa.



Joan Eliasek

President
McKesson Canada

Judges



Carl Gordon
Managing Partner
OrbiMed

Carl is a Managing Partner and leads OrbiMed's private equity team. Carl joined OrbiMed's predecessor firm in 1995 and was a founding General Partner of OrbiMed in 1998. He did his undergraduate work at Harvard (A.B., Chemistry & Physics, 1987), worked at the biotechnology company Imclone Systems (1987-1988), then attained a Ph.D. in Biology from MIT (1993), and was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Rockefeller University (1993-1995).

Carl has been fortunate to have been on the Forbes Midas list of top venture capital investors multiple times. He has founded and invested in numerous biotechnology companies and served on many public and private company boards.

When considering investments, Carl looks for innovative technology and creative management teams and believes the key to success is a combination of integrity, hard work, and passion.

Dennis Purcell is the original Founder of Aisling Capital LLC. Previously, he served as the Senior Managing Partner. Prior to Aisling Capital, Dennis served as Managing Director of the Life Sciences Investment Banking Group at Chase H&Q (formerly Hambrecht & Quist, "H&Q") for over five years. Prior to joining H&Q, Dennis was a Managing Director in the Healthcare Group at PaineWebber, Inc.

Dennis Purcell is a frequent commentator on the industry and has been honored in the "Biotech Hall of Fame" by Genetic Engineering News, named to the Biotechnology All-Stars list by Forbes ASAP, honored as one of the top 50 Irish-American businessmen and cited as one of the top 100 contributors to the biotechnology industry.



Dennis Purcell
Founder and Senior Advisor
Aisling Capital



Melinda Richter

Global Head

Johnson & Johnson
Innovation JLABS

Melinda Richter is the champion for entrepreneurs and startups, who drive potential breakthrough ideas and approaches with the goal of better health for all. She founded Johnson & Johnson Innovation – JLABS, the global incubator network of Johnson & Johnson Innovation, to connect early-stage companies to critical resources, expertise and community to support their success. Melinda co-leads Johnson & Johnson Innovation’s integrated approach to address Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in the early stages of a company’s life.

Before joining Johnson & Johnson, Melinda was Founder and CEO of Prescience International, an award-winning firm dedicated to accelerating research to the patient. Prior to starting Prescience, Melinda held posts across a variety of functional areas with a global corporation, Nortel Networks in Research Triangle Park, New York, Toronto, London, Hong Kong and Beijing before arriving in San Francisco. She also raised capital and secured large corporate deals for companies in both the life science and technology space.

Melinda holds a B.Comm from the University of Saskatchewan in Canada and an MBA from INSEAD in France. Melinda is Board Chair Emeritus and board member of California Life Sciences (CLS), a board member of BIO’s Technology Transfer Committee, a board member of The ESSEC International Advisory Board, and a member of the National Cancer Advisory Board Ad Hoc Working Group of the National Cancer Institute Small Business Innovation Research Program.

Camille (Cami) focuses on healthcare with an emphasis on biotech, medical devices, and consumer health. Temperamentally an early-stage investor and company helper, Cami currently serves on the board of Cavalry, Iris, Mahzi, Ocelot, Unity (UBX), and is a board observer at Interdict. She previously served on the board of several exited Venrock portfolio companies, including Corvidia (sold to Novo), RegenXBio (RGNX), and Spirox (owned by Stryker). Prior to Venrock, Cami was a Managing Director at Versant Ventures where she served on the board (or as a board observer) at many companies including Genomic Health (GHDX/sold to Exact), Jazz (JAZZ), Kythera (KYTH/sold to Allergan), and Novacardia (sold to Merck). During her early career, Cami worked in corporate development at Genzyme, Millennium Predictive Medicine, and Tularik, and she was a management consultant at LEK.

Cami earned her Bachelor’s degree in Biology from Duke University and an MBA from Harvard Business School (HBS), where she graduated as a Baker Scholar. She is a Henry Crown Fellow, serves on the Duke University RTC Council (research translation and commercialization), on the Investment Advisory Committee of Mission BioCapital (MBC), and on the HBS Global Advisory Board.



Camille Samuels

Partner
Venrock


Table Sponsors



Thank you for supporting
our annual celebration of
Canadian healthcare!







Monday, September 30, 2024 is **National Truth and Reconciliation Day** and we would like to acknowledge the land on which the 2024 Bloom Burton Award Gala takes place as the traditional land of the Anishinabewaki, Haudenosaunee, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Wendake-Nionwentsïo.



2024 BLOOM BURTON
AWARD GALA



SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

THE RITZ-CARLTON, TORONTO
181 WELLINGTON ST W

[#BBAward2024](#)