

Founding Members (1/2)



Dr. Joan Shen

Joan (Huaqiong) Shen is the founder and CEO of NeuShen Therapeutics.

With wealthy global R&D experiences, Joan has a track record of success as a pharma executive. Before founding NeuShen Therapeutics, she served as head of R&D and CEO of I-Mab Biopharma. During her tenure, I-Mab was successfully listed on Nasdaq and formed a global collaboration with AbbVie for a CD-47 compound, Lenzoparlimab. Prior to I-Mab, Joan was the head of development of Janssen Pharmaceutical Company of J&J China where she led to multiple successful NDA/BLA approvals by China NMPA. She also built the largest clinical team among China's domestic pharmas and led clinical trials in Australia, US, and China as the chief medical officer (CMO) of Hengrui Pharmaceutical.

Joan is a physician certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. She holds a PhD in life science from Indiana University School of Medicine where she also completed her clinical residency training and three postdoctoral trainings in endocrinology, psychopharmacology, and clinical pharmacology. In the US, she was the clinical lead for CNS drug development at Eli Lilly & Co, Wyeth, and Pfizer, with increasing responsibilities.

She is currently a guest professor at Beijing University and was an adjunctive professor of Indiana University School of Medicine.

Joan was honored by Endpoints News as one of the 20 women in Biopharma R&D 2021 and was listed in Forbes' Top 50 Women in Tech in China 2021. She is also the recipient of Bayhelix Women Leader of the Year 2022.



Ed Zhang

Ed Zhang, MBA, serves as Co-founder and CEO at Overland Pharmaceuticals, and Venture Partner, BioVenture at Hillhouse Capital.

Prior to Overland, Ed was VP of Corporate Development at Boston Pharmaceuticals, representing a new biotech business model focused on translational clinical development. As part of its founding team, Ed led corporate development and strategic initiatives including establishing partnerships with leading global pharma and biotech companies. Prior to joining Boston Pharma, Ed headed Global Business Development for Sanofi's Renal Strategic Unit and was Director of Commercial Operations and Strategic Development at Genzyme before acquisition by Sanofi. Ed started his career as a medicinal chemist at Pharmacia & Upjohn and now brings over 17 years of biopharma industrial experience to Overland.

Ed holds an MBA from Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, an MS in chemistry from Binghamton University, and a BS from Nanjing University.



Dr. Alvin Luk

Dr. Alvin Luk is currently a member of the Board of Directors and Scientific Advisory Board at several US and China biotech companies. He is the former CEO and Board of Director at Neurophth, bringing over 30 years of leadership experience in global drug development, strategic portfolio management and clinical development. Alvin has held various executive roles in clinical research and medical affairs at different companies, including Shanghai Henlius Biotech, Spark Therapeutics (acquired by Roche), Biogen-Hemophilia (acquired by Sanofi), Bayer Healthcare, Avigen (acquired by Sanofi Genzyme), and Tularik (acquired by Amgen) of progressive responsibilities since the late 1990s. Alvin oversaw the clinical development and operations, global medical affairs strategy and execution, resulting in winning the regulatory approval of 21 products in neurology, ophthalmology, hematology, gene / cell therapy and cancer therapy as of today. Spark Therapeutics' LUXTURNA® was approved as the first gene therapy product by the FDA in 2017; Alvin was the Head of Clinical Research and Operations, participated in the BLA filing of LUXTURNA®, and led multiple AAV gene therapy candidates in clinical development and strategy. Alvin also served as a member at the industrial board of the U.S. FDA Rare Diseases Clinical Design Committee, focusing on optimizing the clinical trial design to shorten drug development between 2006-2009.

Alvin has published more than 100 book chapters, scientific, and medical articles in highly regarded peer-reviewed journals, including *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Nature*, *Cells*, and *Science*, and is an inventor on over 10 patent applications. Alvin holds an MBA from Harvard and received his Ph.D. in Neuroscience as well as being certified in clinical research from the University of California, San Francisco.