



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

APRIL 30, 2024

Presented by:



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Women, Life and Science is dedicated to create a forum and opportunity for bringing together women thought-leaders and knowledge experts from across the country to the Upstate, SC. The all day conference will place focus on accelerating and empowering women in all stages – whether women entrepreneurs, women in executive and leadership roles, women founders and young professionals - hear from seasoned women leaders and professionals in venture capital, lifescience, biotechnology, medicine, executive coach and philanthropy; tell their story, provide 'pearls' of wisdom and of course, opportunities for strategic partnerships. Upstate, SC can showcase the growth of the life science/biotechnology, health sector and perhaps attract key groups and companies to invest and be a part of this community.

The goal is to have this conference as an annual event in the Upstate and to develop programs and resources that will be impactful to the success of its future women professionals and leaders.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Cecilia Zapata-Harms, Founder, Women, Life and Science

Lillia Holmes, COO, Palmetto InnoSphere, Inc.

Julie Hamilton, Founder/CEO Core Rising Coaching

Kristen Gengaro, Founder/Co-Chair Kormera Foundation

CONFERENCE DETAILS



April 30, 2024, Tuesday



8:00 AM - 5:00 PM EST
Wine Reception Following Event



USC School of Medicine Greenville, 607
Grove Road Greenville, SC 29605 US



Women, Life & Science Conference 2024



USC School of Medicine Greenville,
607 Grove Road Greenville, SC
29605 United States



April 30, 2024 | 08:00 - 5:00
(Eastern Daylight Time)

SPONSORS



UpstateSCAlliance
Business moves here.



SYNC.MD



Purilogics™
By Donaldson

REITLER



McGriff

DIRECTION GUIDE

Directions to USC – School of Medicine Greenville from Downtown Greenville
Total drive time: 7 – 8 minutes

1. Head SW on S. Main St. toward Falls Park Dr.
2. Turn left onto Augusta Street and drive for 1.1 miles
3. Turn right onto Grove Rd. 0.9 miles
4. Turn left on Gate 2 of the campus (Prisma/Greenville Memorial).
5. Follow road to behind the building and park in garage. Alternative parking on surface lot - go to entrance gate 3 from Grove Rd.
6. Take elevators to lobby.

Picture below shows the bldg. only. Please follow the signs for other parking.




Note: We are not allowed to park in front of the building.



Women, Life & Science Conference 2024

 USC School of Medicine Greenville,
607 Grove Road Greenville, SC
29605 United States

 April 30, 2024 | 08:00 - 5:00
(Eastern Daylight Time)

AGENDA

8:00 AM - 8:45 AM

Registration/Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM

Welcome to Women, Life and Science Organizing Committee

9:15 AM

Keynote Speaker

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

Main stage panel discussion:
"When is the Right Time?"

11:15 AM - 11:25 AM

Break

11:25 AM - 12:20 PM

Round Table 1: Navigating the Minefield of Your Early Career

12:20 PM - 1:30 PM

Networking Lunch

1:30 PM - 2:20 PM

Round Table 2: Life and Career Transitions:
Your View from the Driver's Seat

2:20 PM - 3:00 PM

Round Table 3: Leadership of Women in Life Science

3:00 PM - 3:10 PM

Break

3:10 PM - 4:00 PM

Round Table 4: Female Founders

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Closing Speaker: Rachel Kuhlen,
"Where to Next: Taking What We've Learned and Create Change"

5:00 PM

Closing Remarks

5:15 PM - 6:30 PM

Wine Reception

Featuring Keynote Speaker



Marjorie Jenkins, MD MedHP FACP

Dean, School of Medicine Greenville
Associate Provost
University of South Carolina
Chief Academic Officer
Prisma Health Upstate

Presented by:





Women, Life & Science Conference 2024



USC School of Medicine Greenville,
607 Grove Road Greenville, SC
29605 United States



April 30, 2024 | 08:00 - 5:00
(Eastern Daylight Time)

Organizing Committee



KRISTEN GENGARO

Co-founder/chair, Kormera Foundation



JULIE HAMILTON

Founder Core Rising Executive Coaching



LILIA HOLMES

Executive and Board Member



CECILIA ZAPATA-HARMS

Founder, Entrepreneur and Executive



Women, Life & Science Conference 2024



USC School of Medicine Greenville,
607 Grove Road Greenville, SC
29605 United States



April 30, 2024 | 08:00 - 5:00
(Eastern Daylight Time)

Main Panel Speakers



LT. COL. SHERI BIGGS, DNP
Clinical and Psychiatry



**MARJORIE JENKINS, MD,
MEDHP, FACP**
Dean, USC School of
Medicine- Greenville



SHONTAVIA JOHNSON
Intellectual Property Atty.,
Clemson



KELSEA SCHULENBERG
PhD Candidate, Clemson



KRISTEN GENGARO
Discussion Lead

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Cecilia Zapata-Harms

Founder of Women, Life and Science
Co-founder 3rdEyeBio, LLC, CBIO of Sync.MD and
CEO Palmetto InnoSphere, Inc.

Cecilia is a founder, an entrepreneur and executive. She has held leadership positions in strategy, joint venture, startup development, program administration and experience with mergers and acquisitions. Her career spans more than 27+ years in life science/biotechnology and healthcare industry. Cecilia started her tenure as a strategic planner under the direction of Dr. Robert Day, then President of Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research in the early 1990s. She then became Division Program Administrator for the Molecular Pharmacology, Clinical Research Division under the leadership of Dr. Lee Hartwell and Dr. Stephen Friend. The Seattle Project, as it was known in 1994, landed Cecilia as Project Officer for the National Cancer Institute as part of the contract agreement with the Seattle Project. Cecilia was part of the original team that founded Rosetta Inpharmatics which eventually became a Merck division. In 1998, the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance (SCCA) officially became a 501c 3 organization and Cecilia's expertise were recruited to assist with the programming and relocation of clinical staff and programs to its new facility. Cecilia held the position of Director of Strategic Development for the SCCA for two years and eventually became the Director of Affiliate Network and Strategic Outreach, overseeing all clinical research partnerships with community cancer centers in Alaska, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Hawaii. In the summer of 2017, Cecilia decided to return to her life science and biotechnology roots and started a new company 3rdeEyeBio, LLC as one of the Managing Partners. 3rdEyeBio, LLC is an accelerator group providing life science/biotech startups the infrastructure to support overall growth from scientific advisory to investment raise. Cecilia is also CBIO for Vyrty Corporation dba SyncMD, located in Anderson, South Carolina, a multi-dimensional technology company, delivering end-to-end solutions; from secure information exchange to identity verification.

She is founder and executive director of Women, Life and Science, Inc., a board member for the Luskin Family Foundation and CEO of Palmetto InnoSphere, Inc..

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Lillia Holmes

COO of Palmetto InnoSphere, Inc. and Board Member of Women, Life and Science

With over 20 years of experience in the life sciences industry, Lillia Holmes is known for utilizing her scientific research foundation to benefit companies with complex operations in order to successfully achieve corporate goals in settings requiring mastery of biology in oncology and cellular therapies. Currently Lillia is the Chief Operating Officer of KIYATEC, a functional precision oncology company that measures the response of each patient's live cancer cells to inform oncologists' treatment selection decisions. Under her operational leadership, KIYATEC's team established its CLIA certified laboratory and transitioned its assays from being performed in research and development to clinical studies and subsequent commercial availability. In her prior position, Lillia grew her operational and regulatory affairs expertise as the Director of Cellular Therapy Processing at The Blood Connection, a non-profit organization ensuring safe and adequate supply of blood to 35 counties in NC and SC as well as lifesaving bone marrow transplants for oncology patients. Before that, she served as a regulatory affairs consultant for cellular therapies which capitalized on her experience managing manufacturing of a novel cell therapy at the Oncology Research Institute of Greenville Hospital System and research studies at the Greenwood Genetic Center.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Julie Hamilton

Founder/CEO, Core Rising

Julie is the Owner and CEO of Core Rising which she launched in 2021 to help individuals, leaders and organizations do their best work by providing individualized and team leadership and career coaching services. Drawing on 25 years' experience working with executive and management teams in the healthcare industry, Julie works with clients to identify goals, remove barriers and advance their careers in advantageous ways by focusing on leadership development skills and transition success. From 2017-2021, she was a Managing Director (MD) at Deloitte & Touche, a big four global consulting firm. In her role as MD, she was responsible for assisting clients in identifying opportunities to enhance their current operations, resolve compliance and regulatory matters and educate them on innovative strategies to identify and manage risk within their organization. She also worked closely with client teams by providing education and coaching on how to work effectively across the organization when dealing with complex compliance matters. Prior to working at Deloitte, she served as the Vice President and Chief Compliance & Privacy Officer at Yale New Haven Health for five (5) years. In this role, she oversaw a team of 22 people and worked directly with executives, management and the Boards to help them identify, mitigate and manage risk systemwide. As the leader of the compliance department, her approach was to work collaboratively and focus on effective communication strategies with all employees and leaders to align with the mission of the organization while managing and addressing organizational risks. As an executive leader, Julie has coached and mentored team members, physicians, employees, graduate students and others over the course of her career, both formally and informally. Today, she specifically works 1:1 with clients and teams who are looking to design their career paths, transition successfully and develop/enhance their leadership skills. Julie is certified as a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE) and by iPEC as a Certified Professional Coach (CPC) and as a Master Practitioner in Energy Leadership Assessments (ELI-MP).

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Kristen Gengaro

Healthcare Executive and Non-profit Leader

Having spent nearly 25 years in the healthcare marketing space—most recently as President of CDM, a healthcare marketing firm in New York City that is part of the globally-renowned holding company Omnicom—Kristen aspires to be a heart-forward executive who leverages her for-profit leadership skills to drive advancement in the non-profit sector. To that end, Kristen is currently the Deputy Director of Partnership Schools—a non-profit school management organization helping children beat the odds in under-served neighborhoods—supporting PreK to 8th grade students in New York City and Cleveland. In addition, Kristen has been involved with a non-profit called Komera—a Rwanda-based organization working to develop self-confident young women through education, community development, and health—serving on the Board for the past 15 years and as a Co-Chair for the past 2 years. In her for-profit endeavors, Kristen has held various healthcare leadership roles across many disciplines and across the globe, with responsibilities including Operations, People Management, DE&I Strategy, Learning & Development, Financial Health, and Business Development. For her efforts, in 2016 she was named an inaugural member of the Medical Marketing and Media (MM&M) Hall of Femme, which honored the most senior female leaders throughout the healthcare industry who have made an impact in marketing and communications. In 2009, Kristen was also named a Rising Star by the Healthcare Businesswomen's Association (HBA) in recognition of her work in the industry. From her studies at Yale University to her work in a biochemistry lab, and now her work in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors, Kristen remains personally and professionally committed to organizations that sustain the promise of improved health and wellness for individuals, families, and the larger community.

SPEAKERS AND PANEL MEMBERS



Marjorie Jenkins, MD MedHP FACP

Dr. Jenkins serves as the Dean of University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville, Associate Provost, and as Chief Academic Officer for Prisma Health-Upstate. In 2015, Dr. Jenkins was invited to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Office of Women's Health (FDA OWH) where she led, and disseminated research, education and health policy programs across the agency and national landscape. Her past academic appointments include tenured Professor of Medicine, Associate Dean for Women in Medicine and Science, Founding Executive Director and Chief Scientific Officer for the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health, and held the J. Avery Rush Endowed Chair for Excellence in Women's Health Research. Dr. Jenkins holds the following degrees, BS in chemical engineering, MD, and Master in Education for Health Professions. As a visionary leader, Dr. Jenkins cultivated research and education programs across TTUHSC and nationally specifically in the areas of sex and gender. In 2008 she founded and, over the next five years, successfully steered TTUHSC's Laura W. Bush Institute to global recognition and statewide growth and expansion across five TTUHSC campuses. Dr. Jenkins has delivered more than 200 presentations to professional and public audiences and co-authored numerous works. She led the development and served as co-editor for a one-of-a-kind textbook *How Sex and Gender Impact on Clinical Practice: An Evidence-Based Guide to Patient Care* (2020). For consumers, she co-authored the book, *Why Women Aren't Winning at Health (but can)* (2023). She has served in a variety of national roles such as Program Chair of the 2015 and 2018 National Sex and Gender Health Professional Education Summits, Co-Chair of the Reproduction Workgroup of NASA's Decadal Review, USMLE Women's Health National Board of Medical Examiners Writing Group, HRSA expert panel advisories and NIH expert panels. She has been interviewed for consumer media such as *Cosmopolitan*, *Marie Claire*, and *Today.com* and served as an expert consultant to *60 Minutes*. Dr. Jenkins has been honored through numerous awards such as the American Medical Women's Association Elizabeth Blackwell Award, the Women's Health Congress Award for Public Policy and Advocacy in Women's Health, the Cedars Sinai Linda Joy Pollin Advancing Women's Heart Health Leadership Award. She has been recognized as a Texas SuperDoc, South Carolina Woman of Influence, South Carolina top Woman Business Leader, and Greenville's 50 Most Influential. In addition to her academic accomplishments, Dr. Jenkins remains a dedicated clinician who has provided personalized care to thousands of men and women throughout her medical career. She and her husband, Steve, share three children, Katharine, Matthew, and Rebecca.

SPEAKERS AND PANEL MEMBERS



Lt. Col. Sheri Biggs, DNP

Dr. Sheri Biggs, a graduate of Samford University, has her Doctorate in advanced nursing practice and is certified in Psychiatric Mental Health and Family Practice. She is an Air Force Lieutenant Colonel/Flight Nurse and is at Joint Force Headquarters where she serves in the position of Deputy A-3, Operations for the MS Air National Guard. She provides mental health services to veterans in the long-term care setting and works closely with a nonprofit organization, When Life Sucks. Her focus with WhenLifeSucks.org is to meet the mental health needs of veterans of all ages, with special emphasis on suicide prevention.



Erin Ford COO, SCbio

Erin Ford is Executive Vice President and COO of SCbio. Ms. Ford works on corporate strategies emanating from the organization's three statewide offices, its Board, and hundreds of supporting Members and Investors. Her comprehensive responsibilities include serving as primary lead for SCbio's business operations and finances, championing workforce development and existing industry strategies, and spearheading integrated marketing initiatives. She previously served as sales and marketing executive at Poly-Med, a global innovation company that is developing absorbable polymers and constructs for the medical device industry, during which she served on the SCbio Board of Directors. Before her role at Poly-Med, Inc., Erin was a business recruitment officer at the Upstate SC Alliance. She served as the main point of contact for life sciences companies interested in expanding or locating in South Carolina. While at the Upstate Alliance, Ms. Ford served as an ex-officio SCbio board member from 2013-2015 and led a regional biosciences task force comprised of industry executives from across the region. She received her B.A. in Communication from La Salle University in Philadelphia.

SPEAKERS AND PANEL MEMBERS



Kelsea Schulenberg,
PhD Candidate, Clemson University

Kelsea Schulenberg is a Ph.D. Candidate and Graduate Research Assistant in Human-Centered Computing at Clemson University. Her work in the Clemson University Gaming and Mediated Experiences (CUGAME) lab with Dr. Guo Freeman focuses on harassment in the future metaverse, particularly against marginalized individuals and focusing on user-driven design solutions. Her personal work will be focusing on how the creation and integration of AI into the future workforce intermingles with women's lives - specifically women as designers, implementation strategists, and end users. Although Kelsea grew up in Tampa, FL, she is about to celebrate her 10-year anniversary with the Upstate - She also graduated from Clemson with my B.S. in Psychology in 2017 and an M.A. in Communication, Technology, and Society in 2021. She worked as an Intellectual Property Specialist in Greenville between the two degrees. Kelsea considers the Upstate her home, and is honored to be a part of this incredible effort to connect and uplift women's professional and personal development here.



Kassandra Pierre Bedell
Founding Member of WiCys (Women in
CyberSecurity)

Kassandra Pierre Bedell is a champion of advocacy. She has seen firsthand the positive impact diverse spaces can have on women, individuals with disabilities, and multi-minority individuals and she recognizes allyship as imperative to unlocking human and organizational potential. Kassandra is a founding member and past Affiliate President of the WiCyS (Women in Cybersecurity) Neurodiversity Affiliate and was recently appointed as a Google Women's Techmakers Ambassador. She serves as an advisor on the Cyber Guild's Diverse Mind Movement committee and is a Senior Advisor with Link OT Consulting. She has presented at Day of Shecurity, the Diana Initiative Conference, DefCon and WinterCon with Blacks in Cybersecurity and she currently is employed as a VP Program/Project Manager in Payment Operations with JP Morgan Chase. Kassandra is a technology enthusiast who loves being in innovative spaces where she can learn new things. She enjoys mentoring, reading, gardening, playing with her dogs and cooking for friends and family.

SPEAKERS AND PANEL MEMBERS



Karen Nichols, RN

Karen Nichols is a native South Carolinian. She has bachelor's degrees in psychology from the University of South Carolina as well as in nursing from Lander University. She has spent over 25 years of her career dedicated to serving seniors. As a Nurse, Director of Nursing, Administrator, Executive Director and family member she knows the issues that seniors, their families and staff face on a day-to-day basis. Her work on a state and national level toward creating person centered care has made her a well-respected speaker, advocate and advisor. She served as statewide coordinator of an organization dedicated to improving quality of life in Long Term Care as well as the director of the geropsych unit in a hospital setting. She helped design, build, and operate several skilled nursing, assisted living, memory care and independent living organizations while being an Administrator and Executive Director. She is currently serving seniors in the Lowcountry through Aging Life Care Charleston in geriatric case management. She has spent the past two years as the Director of Program Development for Carolina Health Care and continues to do so. Karen is particularly passionate about caring for and training people to care for those living with dementia and feels that helping people understand the challenges they face is her life's calling. When not working she is an avid reader, wife, mother of three adult daughters, and Gigi to three adorable grandchildren.



Shontavia Johnson

Shontavia Johnson is an award-winning lawyer, academic and speaker who thrives at the intersection of entrepreneurship, intellectual property, and culture. She serves as Clemson University's associate vice president for entrepreneurship and innovation. Shontavia has also founded the Brand and Business Company, a thriving community created to support, educate and inspire diverse innovators who want to turn their ideas into money-making businesses. She has served as a Fulbright Specialist in Uzbekistan and is a member of the Liberty Fellowship, which is part of the Aspen Global Leadership Network.

SPEAKERS AND PANEL MEMBERS



Cathy Maday
CEO/Founder

Since 2003, she worked with business owners, C-level leaders & their teams in companies as large as Google and as small as one-person startups. She understands intimately the challenges we all face in people performance, communication and relationships. As an award winning speaker and sought-after performance coach for leaders across the globe, professionals love her down-to-earth, practical approach to creating life-changing results with leadership that moves people.



Lindsey Calcutt, PhD
CEO/Founder, Incora Health

Dr. Lindsey Calcutt is CEO and Co-Founder of Incora Health, a women's health technology company. Incora Health envisions a world where women have access to tools and information that empower them to make the best decisions for their health, wellbeing, and families. The company's inaugural product, Incora Smart Earrings are designed for women, by women, to help understand female bodies' unique patterns by tracking key vitals and biodata with precision and elegance.

Dr. Calcutt is a business professional with a strong background in the medical device, pharmaceutical, and life science industries. Dr. Calcutt's expertise in technology-oriented business has enabled her to leverage cutting-edge tools and techniques to create high-growth value by developing and implementing innovative solutions. Dr. Calcutt earned her Ph.D in Bioengineering from Clemson University and is a USPTO registered Patent Agent. She is a wife and mother who resides in Greenville, South Carolina.

SPEAKERS AND PANEL MEMBERS



Victoria Palatnik, MBA

Managing Partner, Raw Ventures (UK)

Victoria Palatnik is a passionate technology Entrepreneur, Board Member, Managing Director and Investor. As part of the founding team at Raw Ventures, she brings years of financial experience, as well as the innate, comprehensive skill set needed to directly fuel growth. With a bachelor's degree in International Business from the European Business School and an MBA from Oxford University, Victoria was well positioned early in her career to create impact. After time spent at UBS and leading a real estate development group, she would eventually move into venture capital and co-found multiple businesses. Today, Victoria is a three-time CEO and seasoned angel investor with an impressive track record in digital media, edtech, healthtech and big data sectors. Her early investments include Ipsy, My Heritage, Graduway, Bizzabo and Sold, the latter of which was sold to Dropbox in 2016. She consistently demonstrates unwavering commitment in supporting startups, helping them flourish, and bringing her expertise across strategy, planning, project sourcing and evaluation and overarching direction to do so.




Rachel Kuhlen, MBA ACC-CPC, ELI-MP


Rachel has 19+ years of experience leading, developing, and coaching global teams in Fortune 500 companies. She has led teams across the globe, from India to Denmark to New York, and since 2015 has designed, developed, and delivered training that has delivered an ROI exceeding \$3B. Through her experience building and executing multiple global leadership training academies, high-profile product launches, keynote speaking, and facilitating, Rachel has trained over 57,000 people in person in her tenure. With her focus on leadership and professional development, Rachel builds and delivers content designed to create real, actionable, and immediate behavior change. In 2020, Rachel took the most significant leap of faith and started her training and coaching business, Realize You Coaching, where she works with businesses, associations, and executives to flex their emotional intelligence muscles to amplify their impact. Rachel's work with corporations and individuals inspired her 2022 book, Living Fearlessly Ahead, to empower people to live and lead with impact.




Let's keep in touch!

 /Women, Life and Science

 WLSCIENCE.COM

 /womenlifeandscience

 /womenlifescience_22