

LA BioStart Boot Camp Cohort 9

Summer 2026

Detailed information

Mentors and Instructors (some to be confirmed)

- Kwame Ulmer, Managing Partner, MedTech Impact Partners; Venture Partner, Wavemaker Three-Sixty Health
- Aiden Aceves, Vice President, Investments, Insight Partners; Founder
- Helen McBride, Partner, BOLD Capital Partners
- Sonia Maryam Setayesh, Investment Partner, Civilization Ventures
- Omar Perez, Manager of Business Development and Strategic Alliances, Cedars-Sinai Accelerator
- Wenyue Du, Director, Biotech Ventures, Cedards-Sinai
- Emily Mack, Program Manager, Global Alliances at Cedars-Sinai Technology Ventures
- Samantha Shobash, Manager, Cedards-Sinai Accelerator
- Dhruv Sareen, Executive Director, Cedars-Sinai Biomanufacturing Center
- Peter Park, Director, Business Operations, Cedars-Sinai Biomanufacturing Center
- Jacob Berlin, CEO, Terray Therapeutics
- Lindsay Bourgeois, Site Director, BIOLABS LA
- Rubayath Mohsen, Director, Business Development & Technology Transfer, The Lundquist Institute
- Farahnaz Forozan, Consultant and Biotech/Pharma expert
- Allan Glass, Executive Vice President – Life Sciences, NexCore Group, Co-founder, Hatchspaces
- Ed Baracchini, Consultant, former CBO, Xencor
- Neelima Firth, Principal, Best Laid Plans, Inc.
- Monica Alfaro Welling, Managing Director, Atheln, Inc.
- Stan Tomsic, Managing Director, Magna Point Group
- Min-Yi Shih, Angel Investor and Advisor
- Gerard Jensen, former Site Head & VP of Operations, Gilead Sciences, Inc., La Verne, CA
- Alan Crunkleton, Partner, Hardesty; former President & CEO, IOptic, Inc.
- Pamela Contag, CEO, BioEclipse Therapeutics
- Seth D. Levy, Partner & IP Practice Group Leader, Nixon Peabody
- Vincent Capati, Intellectual Property Attorney, Nixon Peabody
- Bassil I. Dahiyat, President & CEO, Xencor
- George Tolomiczenko, Executive Director, Merkins Institute for Translational Research, Caltech
- Tom White, Chief Revenue Officer, The Network for Global Innovation; Foudler, The Disruptor's Studio
- Orquidea Garcia, Sr. Director, Biomaterials & Biologics R&D, Johnson & Johnson

- Kevin Scanlon, Entrepreneur, Scientist, Founder & CEO, International BioScience
- Brandon Yamauchi, Managing Director, Audit and Assurance, Deloitte
- Nicole Cordonnier, Partner, Life Sciences and Healthcare, Deloitte
- Evan Tsang, co-founder, Quroba; VP, Skylar Consulting
- Will Chuchawat, Co-Leader, Mergers & Acquisitions, BakerHostetler
- Gary Fujii, CEO & President, Molecular Express, Inc.
- Mary Klein, Facilitator, The Leadership Edge
- Eva Serna, Vice President, Commercial Banking, JPMorgan
- Dan Gober, Executive Director, Biocom California Los Angeles
- Ryan Witt, SVP, RenovoRx
- Gerry Barañano, Startup mentor, Entrepreneur-in-Residence, Vanderbilt University
- Charles Eason, CEO, Large Scale Fab, Inc.; Advisor, SBIR grants
- Molly Schmid, SBIR grant advisor, SBDC, scientist and biotech executive
- More mentors/instructors will be added

Select Session Topics

- An Overview of Bioscience product development
- Lean Start-up; Business model canvas; Customer discovery
- Problem assessment
- Customer persona
- Value proposition
- Branding and Storytelling
- Evidence generation and the role of evidence in the evaluation of new technologies
- Ecosystem and Biotech clustering
- “Newco’s”: latest trends in how you want your company to evolve or what company would you like to join?
- Early startup fundraising: Angel investors and VCs
- Intellectual property; Employment; Corporate; Working with outside counsel
- insights of LA and Boston innovation/entrepreneurship clusters
- The pitch, the presentation and due diligence.
- Industry R&D Process: Internal vs External
- Non-dilutive funding for startups
- Business Development & Corporate Partnership
- Engineered proteins as therapeutics
- Cell and Gene Therapy
- Pricing & reimbursement strategies for bioscience products
- Quality System Requirements
- Stem cell and biomanufacturing
- Valuation and Exit Strategy
- Equity management; Cap tables; Valuations; Preferred Rights & Preferences
- Clinical trials: site selection

- Regulatory Affairs
- Overview of Preclinical Studies for Drug Development
- Disruption to Create Markets
- The Customer's Hero's Journey
- Fundraising through angel investors and early VCs
- Molecular Diagnostics
- Pharmaceutical manufacturing
- My leadership story
- Emotional intelligence to create strong relationships
- Clinical trial management
- Business leadership and management
- Art of the Start

Benefits of Becoming a Member of LA BioStart Community

- Meaningful personal connections to a network of mentors and experts
- Peer support among members of the same or different boot camp cohorts
- LA BioStart supports boot camp participants in attending regional innovation showcases (e.g., LABEST conferences)
- Opportunities to attend and participate in regional startup and entrepreneurship activities (e.g., pitch events, meet-ups, and networking events)
- Access to a comprehensive collection of curated national resources and opportunities
- Access to a network of preferred service providers

LA BioStar Award and LA BioStart Boot Camp Graduation

At the conclusion of each cohort of boot camp, we honor a biotech leader who has made exceptional contributions to the Los Angeles region's bioscience innovation, entrepreneurship, workforce development and commercialization with the **LA BioStar Award**.

[LA BioStar Award & Cohort 2 Graduation](#)

[LA BioStar Award & Cohort 3 Graduation](#)

[LA BioStar Award & Cohort 4 Graduation](#)

[LA BioStar Award & Cohort 5 Graduation](#)

[LA BioStar Award & Cohort 8 Graduation](#)

Exemplary Startups from LA BioStart Boot Camp

[Synova Life Sciences](#). Read an article regarding [Synova's FDA clearance](#).

[Intake Health](#). [Read a featured article](#).

[Diadem Biotherapeutics](#). [Diadem received an Amgen Golden Ticket](#).

[Angeles Therapeutics.](#)

[Cern Corporation.](#)

[Petri Bio.](#)

[Biomed](#)

[Veergen, Inc.](#)

[Metaba](#)

[Alsteni Medical](#)

[Preimure](#)

[ZeptoMed](#)

[Immunis](#)

[Mähmi](#)

[Cornea Sense](#)

[Amrixa Pharmaceuticals](#)

[OmBiome](#)

[Akeagen](#)

[JPTechnologies](#)

[XPET Technology](#)

[Mission Trail Biolabs](#)

Boot Camp Cohort 9 Virtual Informational Sessions

We will have two virtual informational sessions (dates and registration links below) where we will provide an overview of the boot camp program and its benefits and answer your questions. Several LA BioStart boot camp alums will join the info session to share their experiences.

LA BioStart boot camp info session June 5, 2026

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbRn8a4ZO_N942SnWCZx_8pzXXPjhkxBIESvm6cs1FU7I_Zbw/viewform?usp=publish-editor

LA BioStart boot camp info session June 10, 2026

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfivxwp6Y3HuSVUK6VWEEtJQIkUU-4ilqYAukxT03Ees7fSZg/viewform?usp=header>

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