



Dr. Sadhana Chitale is the Director of Life Sciences/Technology Transfer. Sadhana joined the Office of Industrial Liaison at New York University in 2001. Her primary area of responsibility is the management of intellectual property and technology transfer matters (Life Sciences). Sadhana received her PhD from the University of Mumbai and an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh. She did her post-doctoral fellowships at Colorado State

University and Weill Cornell Medical School. She is a Certified Licensing Professional and a registered patent agent. Prior to joining NYU, Sadhana was a Licensing Manager at the Weill Cornell Medical School.

Rana Al-Hallaq, PhD, is a clinical and business development professional with nearly 10 years of experience in product licensing, acquisitions, and clinical development in the pharmaceutical industry. She is currently a Transactionalist in Worldwide Business Development at Pfizer, where she is responsible for negotiating and transacting licenses, acquisitions, and partnerships across therapeutic areas. Rana joined Pfizer in 2015 as an Early Candidate Clinical Lead in CNS where she supported early clinical programs to ensure alignment with business strategies.



Prior to joining Pfizer, she spent 7 years at Allergan (formerly Actavis, formerly Forest Laboratories), the last 3 years of which she spent in Business Development. There, she was involved with assessing and executing on a number of acquisitions and licenses across therapeutic areas. Her first 4 years at Forest were spent in the Clinical Development Psychiatry group with increasing levels of responsibility as the scientific and operational lead on Phase 2 and Phase 3 studies investigating novel treatments for Major Depressive Disorder and schizophrenia. She began her training as a research fellow at NIH in the lab of Dr. Robert Wenthold, investigating NMDA glutamate receptor subunit composition and intracellular trafficking. Rana graduated Summa Cum Laude from Hamilton College and holds a PhD in Neuroscience from Georgetown University, where she first fell in love with the NMDA receptor.



Lisa Rhoads is Managing Director of a Private Equity Healthcare Advisory Company. In this role, she drives the firm's healthcare private equity investment strategy as well as helps provides capital advisory to healthcare business across the capital structure. Previously, Lisa was a Managing Director with the Easton Capital Group, a venture capital firm focused on the healthcare sector. She led sourcing, due diligence, and the structuring of investments, while participating in fundraising activities for the firm. She also served on the Board of numerous portfolio companies, assisting with strategy, product development, and mergers & acquisitions, and played an instrumental role in delivering a 5X increase in the valuation of key investments. Prior to joining Easton Capital, Lisa served as Chief Administrative Officer and Senior Vice President of Intellectual Property at Celtic Pharma Management, a venture capital firm focused on the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. She was a founding member of the firm, opening the Bermuda office, leasing the New York City office space, and establishing the intellectual property function. Lisa's previous experience includes serving as Director of Consumer Marketing for the U.S. Pharmaceutical business of Bristol-Myers Squibb, and as Consumer Strategist at Zeneca Pharmaceuticals. She holds a Master of Business Administration from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, and a Bachelor of Music from the Curtis Institute of Music.

Jessica Morris is Executive Vice President, Operations of Tonix Pharmaceuticals, a publicly-traded company developing innovative pharmaceutical products to address important public health challenges. Ms. Morris joined Tonix Pharmaceuticals in September 2013 and served as Acting Chief Financial Officer in January and February 2016 before being appointed to her current role. Ms. Morris has over 15 years of experience in finance and strategy, at both private and publicly-traded companies. She was previously a Vice President at Zhong Rong Group, a family office in New York City, where she oversaw the firm's investment strategy and asset allocations. Prior to Zhong Rong Group, Ms. Morris worked at American Capital, a publicly-traded private equity firm and global asset manager, where she sourced and underwrote investments in companies across a range of industries including healthcare. She also worked in an investment capacity at Calvert Street Capital Partners, a private equity firm, as well as at Silicon Valley Bank, a senior debt lender to technology and life science companies. Ms. Morris began her career at Deutsche Bank as an investment banking financial analyst. Ms. Morris received a B.S. in Commerce and B.A in Music from the University of Virginia, where she was an Echols Scholar. Ms. Morris is also a classically trained violinist.





Ms. Neeti Mitra has been working with CUNY Technology Commercialization Office as Senior Manager: Industrial Liaison and Licensing for almost 5 years, where she manages the daily operations of TCO. Her job is to leverage and manage CUNY IP, through portfolio management, marketing, legal protection and business transactions. She is the key strategic point of contact for CUNY inventors, attorneys and business personnel. Ms. Mitra is a registered Indian Patent Agent and has almost 9 years of experience in the field of Intellectual Property Rights. Before joining CUNY, she has worked in IP departments of top most law firms and biopharmaceutical companies in US and India. She has received her Bachelor's in Zoology from Delhi University, India and is double masters; Masters in Bioinformatics from Amity University, India and Masters in Intellectual Property Management and Market from Chicago Kent College of Law, Illinois. Ms. Mitra is also a keen environmentalist and has certificates and diplomas from organizations like WWF and was associated with organizations working on environmental issues.

Dr. Elma Hawkins has close to 35 years of business, management and scientific experience in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors. Her therapeutic expertise is in oncology, infectious diseases and wound healing. She started her career at Warner-Lambert/Parke-Davis in Clinical Research. Later she joined the Center for the Study of Drug Development at Tufts Medical School. Following that, she held various positions at BioSurface Technology and Genzyme and was later Vice Chairman of Antigenics. She served as President and CEO of Lion Biotechnologies and is currently CEO of Redpin Therapeutics as well as Chairman of Epibone.



Ms. Stacey Seltzer joined Aisling in 2008 and currently serves as a Partner. Previously, Ms. Seltzer was at Schering-Plough, where she held roles in business development, marketing and sales. Prior to Schering-Plough, Ms. Seltzer was the Director of Business Development for Akceli, a biotechnology company developing cell-based microarrays, and she began her career as a management consultant for McKinsey & Company. Ms. Seltzer serves as a director of Aimmune Therapeutics and Miramar Labs and previously served as a Board observer for Agile Therapeutics, Durata Therapeutics and ZELTIQ Aesthetics. Ms. Seltzer received her M.B.A. from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, and received her M.S. and B.S. from Yale University, awarded cum laude in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry.

[Kathy Fernando](#) is a senior director and strategy lead for Worldwide Research & Development (WRD) at Pfizer. Prior to joining Pfizer, she worked as a management consultant for seven years, most recently at Monitor Deloitte. She has strong strategy expertise across the R&D and commercial space and has navigated complex strategic challenges across 10+ products launches. During her time in consulting, Kathy helped address diverse business needs for pharmaceutical and biotech companies in the US and EU markets in areas such as therapeutic area strategy, product launch and lifecycle management. At Pfizer, she works on efforts to enhance R&D productivity, integration planning and on other strategic initiatives that cut across the portfolio. Kathy has a Ph.D. in Immunology from the University of Pennsylvania. Her Ph.D. thesis focused on HIV vaccine development. She has a bachelor's degree in biotechnology from the Indian Institute of Technology (I.I.T) in Kharagpur, India. She lives in NY city with her husband and two young boys.



[Carol Ashe](#) is a seasoned executive with over 25 years of experience in pharmaceutical and consumer healthcare business development, corporate development and venture capital. Carol currently serves as the Chief Business Officer for the New York Genome Center, and is responsible for identifying and executing on revenue generating business development opportunities. Previously, in addition to providing business development consulting services to early, late and commercial stage biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, Carol was Vice President of Corporate Development for Endo's three pharmaceutical business units (Branded, Generics and Implant Drug Delivery Technology). Prior to Endo, Carol was a Partner at SR One (GlaxoSmithKline's Corporate VC fund) where she helped source and evaluate opportunities, and facilitated SR One's investments in both Alios (acquired by J&J for \$1.75 billion) and Aileron Therapeutics (NASDAQ:ALRN), sitting as a Board Observer for both companies. Before she joined SR One, Carol was the Vice President, Legal Operations Corporate Functions – US at GSK where she led legal support for corporate staff functions in the US including mergers, acquisitions and equity investments such as GSK's acquisition of Reliant Pharmaceuticals (\$1.65 billion private company acquisition), Sirtris Pharmaceuticals (\$720 million private company acquisition) and Genelabs (\$57 million public company acquisition). Prior to her corporate legal role, Carol was the Vice President & Associate General Counsel, Head – BD Legal Transactions Team at GSK for many years and led a large, internationally based team that provided business development transactional legal support for GSK's Pharmaceuticals and Consumer Healthcare businesses on both a US and global basis. Carol is a registered patent attorney with the USPTO. She holds a J.D. from the Villanova University School of Law and a B.S. in Biology from the Pennsylvania State University.

[Ofra Weinberger](#), PhD, is the Director of Licensing at Columbia Technology Ventures (CTV), and Associate Vice President for Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer at Columbia University. Ofra oversees the commercialization of technologies in a varied portfolio comprising both life sciences and physical sciences opportunities. She has extensive experience commercializing discoveries from university labs; negotiating licenses and research collaboration agreements with industry, developing strategic alliances, and spinning out companies to commercialize university technologies. CTV, the technology transfer office of Columbia University, has been operational since 1982 and has returned over \$2B in revenue to Columbia, making it one of the most successful university tech transfer programs in the world. Ofra received her PHD in immunology from Harvard where she was a graduate student in the laboratory of the Nobel laureate, Baruj Benacerraf, and came to Columbia University as a faculty member, before joining the technology transfer office.



[Shoshana Shendelman](#), PhD is the founder and CEO of Applied Therapeutics, a privately held biotechnology company focused on developing transformative drugs in areas of high unmet medical need. Prior to founding Applied, she founded Clearpoint Strategy Group, a boutique strategic advisory firm in NYC, where she currently serves as a Senior Advisor. Dr. Shendelman has directed products through early and late stage development, from conceptual design to product launch for clients including top 10 pharmaceutical companies, biotech start-ups, and VC firms. She received her doctorate from Columbia University in Cellular, Molecular, and Biophysical Studies (CMBS), where her graduate work focused on neuronal stem cell differentiation and molecular mechanisms of Parkinson Disease.

[Lydia McNally](#) is Vice President, Patent Head for Novartis Oncology and the US Patent Department Site Head. Lydia and her team have global responsibility for all patent matters for the Oncology Business at Novartis, including drafting and prosecution, transactions, and litigation. Lydia has been a patent attorney for over 25 years and has been with Novartis for over 18 years. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Colgate University, a Master's degree in Chemistry from the University of Vermont, and a Juris Doctor degree from Albany Law School.



Additional Confirmed Leaders:

[Gloria Fuentes](#), Managing Counsel, Patents, Merck

[Alysia \(Lisa\) Finnegan](#), Assistant Counsel, Merck