

Speaker Bio:

Scott J. Weir, PharmD. PhD. is Director, Institute for Advancing Medical Innovation (IAMI), University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC). He also serves as the Associate Director for Translational Research for the University of Kansas Cancer Center. Weir holds academic appointments as Professor in the Departments of Cancer Biology, Pharmacology, Toxicology and Therapeutics as well as the Department of Medicine, Division of Medical Oncology at KUMC. He is the Kelly Family Foundation IAMI Professor in Cancer Drug Discovery and Development. IAMI conducts product development-focused translational research, transforming laboratory and bedside discoveries into medical innovation products with clear paths to market. IAMI's areas of focus are drugs, diagnostics and medical devices that benefit pediatric, adolescent, adult and elderly patients suffering from cancer and rare diseases. In 2015, IAMI established a preferred partnership with BioNovus Innovations LLC, providing a clear path to commercialization of medical innovations. This public-private partnership has advanced to a unique product development-focused translational research model CureBridgeCollaborative™ with six Kansas City area biotechnology companies formed to date. Weir has over 38 years of professional experience in the field of drug discovery and development, twenty of which were spent in the pharmaceutical industry prior to joining KUMC in 2006. During his tenure in the pharmaceutical industry, Weir contributed to the development and registration of over twenty-six drug products. His specific areas of expertise are in clinical pharmacology and developing innovative approaches to drug discovery and development. He has built a reputation of being innovative in bridging the "Valley of Death" through high performance public-private partnerships as well as repurposing FDA-approved drugs and rescuing abandoned drugs. Such partnerships have resulted in the creation of a robust cancer drug discovery portfolio of approximately thirty projects as well as advancement of five KU-invented anticancer agents to clinical trials over the past six years. From 2012-2017, Weir served on the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) Advisory Council as well as the Cures Acceleration Network (CAN) Board. He co-chaired the NCATS Working Group that developed goals and objectives for the NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award program. Weir also participated on the Institute of Medicine Mapping the Drug Discovery and Development initiative and served on the NCI STTR/SBIR Working Group, advising this small business granting program on initiatives designed to strengthen collaborations with NCI-designated cancer centers. Weir serves on scientific and external advisory boards for Family Health International 360, the Myeloproliferative Neoplasm Research Foundation, Center for Clinical and Translational Science at the University of Kentucky, and KUMC Midwest Stem Cell Therapy Center. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Leo and Anne Albert Institute for Bladder Cancer Care and Research as well as in an advisory capacity to several biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies.