



CVs of your speakers

Kevin Johnson, Partner at Index Ventures London office

Prior to that he was CEO of PanGenetics, an antibody development company based in the Netherlands, and one of the Index Ventures portfolio.

Kevin was one of the team at Cambridge Antibody Technology (CAT), heading up research from 1994 onwards. In 1997 he was appointed to the Board, where he held the posts of Research Director and Chief Technology Officer.

Kevin led both the development of CAT's platform technologies, and also their application to the discovery of a number of human antibodies currently in clinical development. Two of these are now marketed, Humira (Abbott Pharmaceutical) and Benlysta (HGS, GSK). He was also part of the management team that floated CAT on the London Stock Exchange (main market).

Björn Ekström, Board Member at Olink Bioscience

Björn Ekström is co-founder and retiring President and CEO of Olink. He was co-founder and Executive VP of Pyrosequencing AB and part of the IPO team listing the company on Stockholm Stock Exchange in 2000. Prior to that he held several leading positions within Pharmacia Biotech (now GE HealthCare). Ekström serves on the board of Cobolt AB, Qlinea AB, Sigolis AB, and Halo Genomics AB.

PD Dr. Axel Polack, General Partner at TVM Capital

Dr. Axel Polack joined TVM Capital in 2000, and is a General Partner for life sciences at TVM Capital GmbH, Munich, which manages Fund generations III to VI. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Noxxon Pharma AG (Berlin, Germany), Invendo Medical (Kissing, Germany, f-star (Vienna, Austria), Bluebird Bio (Cambridge, MA, USA) and Probiodrug AG (Halle, Germany).

Before joining TVM Capital, Dr. Polack was General Manager of Innovative Technologies Neuherberg GmbH (ITN – now known as Ascenion). Ascenion acts as a marketing partner to research institutions of the Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft, for example, GSF – National Research Center for Environment and Health GmbH, which licenses patents and fosters start-up companies.

In the eight years prior to Ascenion, Dr. Polack was the deputy head of the GSF – Institute of Clinical Molecular Biology. Dr. Polack is also a member of the board of the German Vaccine Research Foundation (Hanover).