

**Allison Provost, Ph.D.**  
**Scientific Program Manager, Cohen Veterans Bioscience**



Allison is a Scientific Program Manager at Cohen Veterans Bioscience (CVB), a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization focused on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury research. CVB is dedicated to fast-tracking the development of diagnostic tests and personalized medicines for the millions of veterans and civilians who suffer the devastating effects of trauma on the brain. A neuroscientist by training, she has a passion for bringing the gap between neuroscience and psychiatry, working with academic and industry partners to identify and measure disrupted neural circuit function in psychiatric disorders. She manages the biomarkers and diagnostics programs at CVB and also serves on the Strategic Steering Committee for American Humane's initiative to establish guidelines for PTSD service dogs. Prior to Cohen Veterans Bioscience she worked at Orion Bionetworks, a computational modeling and knowledge engineering organization as a data scientist working across modeling groups. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Molecular and Cell Biology from the University of California, Berkeley and a Doctor of Philosophy in Neuroscience from Harvard University.

**Anais Gervais, Ph.D.**  
**Business Development Manager, Kiniksa Pharmaceuticals**



Anais is currently working as a Business Development Manager at Kiniksa Pharmaceuticals, which is a privately-held biotechnology company that focuses on bringing therapies to patients with devastatingly unmet needs. She is responsible for sourcing and evaluating new assets, which includes performing market assessment for therapeutic areas and programs, designing and conducting market research efforts, providing high-level scientific evaluation and assembling, and leading project due diligence teams across multiple company functions. She is also in charge of forecasting and data analysis for further advanced projects and participates in deal negotiations. Prior to working at Kiniksa, Anais was a Life Sciences Consultant (LSC) at Putnam Associates. Putnam is a boutique strategy and management consulting firm serving the biotechnology and biopharmaceutical industries. Anais was trained as an organic chemist. She completed her doctoral studies at Boston University (BU) where also she worked as an intern in the New Ventures team at the BU Office of Technology Development. Prior to arriving in the US, Anais studied in France where she received a master degree in chemical engineering.

**Ceren Korkut, Ph.D.**  
**Scientist in Drug Discovery, Biogen**



Ceren is a scientist in the Drug Discovery department at Biogen focused on mechanism of action studies for candidate therapeutics emerging from phenotypic screens using cellular, molecular and chemical biology tools to identify and characterize small molecule-protein interactions and regulation of signaling pathways. Prior to Biogen, she was at Pfizer Neuroscience as a postdoctoral

fellow working on the lysosomal aspect of the neurodegenerative disease Frontotemporal Dementia. She received her PhD. in Neurobiology at UMass Medical School, where she worked in Vivian Budnik's laboratory and identified a novel mechanism of signaling between the presynaptic and postsynaptic cell through exosomes.

**Charlotte Shabarekh**

**Director of the Analytics, Modeling & Simulation Division, Aptima, Inc.**



Charlotte is the Director of the Analytics, Modeling and Simulation Division at Aptima, Inc. She is responsible for developing and executing a strategic vision for Aptima's portfolio of advanced analytic technologies. Her responsibilities also include personnel management, staff mentoring and culture development for the division.

At Aptima, Ms. Shabarekh has been the Principal Investigator on multiple Department of Defense funded research programs on Machine Learning and Predictive Analytics. She has lead business development, capture, proposal writing and project management for a diverse customer base. Prior to joining Aptima, she worked in the fields of Information Extraction, Information Retrieval and Data Mining.

**Dominic J. Yee, Ph.D.**

**Associate, Jones Day**



Dominic focuses his practice on IP portfolio management and strategy, U.S. and foreign patent prosecution, and technology and licensing transactions for biotechnology, pharmaceutical, and materials science companies. His experience includes evaluating patent portfolios, performing diligence investigations, and providing opinions on patentability, freedom-to-operate, validity, and infringement.

Before joining Jones Day in 2016, Dominic worked as a patent agent at an intellectual property boutique firm in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Prior to law school, he was a formulation scientist at Vertex Pharmaceuticals, where he helped develop pediatric solid dosage formulations as well as vehicles for parenteral and localized drug delivery. As a postdoctoral fellow under the late Nobel laureate Roger Y. Tsien at UC San Diego, Dominic engineered protease-activated aggregating nanoparticles for imaging and treating cancer.

**Emmanuel Awa,**

**Software Engineer, Microsoft**



Emmanuel is an Engineer with extensive technical experience and leadership skills. He is currently a Software Engineer at Microsoft Algorithms and Data Science Group at the New England Research and Development (NERD) Center, Cambridge MA. His everyday job entails constant engagements with clients on how to use Azure Cortana Intelligence stack to solve big data and

machine learning problems. He is also a Big Data Engineer Alumni at Insight Data Science, New York (also referred to as Insight). Insight is a professional training institute that helps fellows from academia and software engineering backgrounds transition into Data Engineering and Science roles. At Insight he grew expertise in building data pipelines at scale, that easily handle petabytes of data, by utilizing big data open source tools. Before Insight, he worked, as a Software Engineer for Amadeus North America Inc.; a technology company that connects people with the travel ecosystem from search to making bookings, pricing of journeys to ticketing, and managing check-in to departure processes. Emmanuel has a B.Tech. in Physics with a minor in Electronics from Federal University of Technology, Minna Nigeria (2008) and a Masters in Computer Sciences from Brandeis University, Massachusetts (2013). He is Nigerian, married with a beautiful son and resides in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Felicia Nguyen,  
Engineer, Noise Control Engineering, LLC**



Felicia is an Engineer at Noise Control Engineering, LLC - an engineering consulting firm specializing in noise and vibration control for marine, industrial, and commercial applications. Her responsibilities range from inspecting diesel engine exhaust systems on active ships to performing custom testing and analysis on emerging commercial products.

Prior to becoming an engineer, Felicia worked as an analyst for a defense contractor focusing on soldier physiology. She also served the community as a volunteer firefighter. Felicia is excited to see more women enter STEM fields, particularly careers with both technical and physical demands.

Felicia received a Bachelor's degree in biochemistry and molecular biology and a Master of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Boston University.

**Jennifer Joe, MD  
CEO and Founder, Medstro.com**



Jennifer is CEO and Founder of Medstro.com and Editor-in-Chief and Founder of MedTechBoston.com. Medstro is redefining how physicians communicate and collaborate online through its unique online community building platform. Over the last 3 years, Medstro has been at the center of technology and innovation in medicine through its innovation challenges, online panel discussions, and custom micro-communities built for customers such as Google, the American Medical Association, the New England Journal of Medicine, Philips Healthcare, Boston Scientific, and others. Dr. Joe is passionate about digital health and the intersection of technology, sensors, wearables, data, and connectivity to improve patient care and experience.

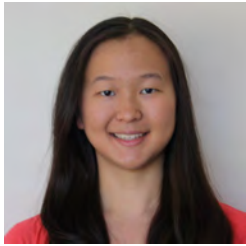
**Justin Slawson, Ph.D.  
Research Scientist, Aquinnah Pharmaceuticals**



Justin earned a B.S. from Haverford College in 2005 before pursuing his doctorate at Brandeis University. His dissertation work focused on the behavioral plasticity and function of motor circuits within the CNS of the fruitfly *Drosophila melanogaster*. It was here that he became interested in the question of why

neurodegenerative pathologies appear to affect specific neuronal populations, while other groups of cells remain relatively resistant to these aberrant processes. After receiving his Ph.D. in 2011, Justin spent several months as senior video editor at the Journal of Visualized Experiments (or JoVE) before accepting an industry postdoc at Biogen. Working in the neurology department, Justin applied his interest in cell-type-specific vulnerability to the amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (or ALS) disease space. He has since transitioned to a research scientist position at Aquinnah Pharmaceuticals where he has continued to pursue his interest in understanding cell-type-specific susceptibilities in ALS.

**Grace Xiao**  
**Co-founder, Kynplex**



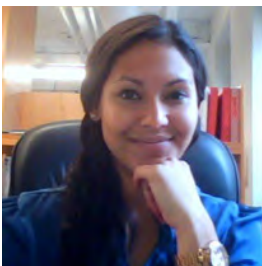
Grace Xiao is the co-founder of Kynplex, an online platform to share and discover science. Kynplex aims to make scientific information personalized and accessible, highlighting important issues from cancer research to climate change. Grace studied neurobiology and economics at Harvard before accepting the Thiel Fellowship to expand her company full-time. She has been featured in NBC, USA Today and the Boston Globe for her scientific and entrepreneurial initiatives.

**Keerthi Shetty Ph.D.**  
**Hellman Fellow, The American Academy of Arts and Sciences**



Keerthi is a Hellman Fellow in Science and Technology Policy at the American Academy. She contributes to several projects in the Science, Engineering, and Technology program including the Public Face of Science, Human Performance Enhancement, and New Models for U.S. Science and Technology Policy. Keerthi joined the American Academy after completing her doctoral work in immunobiology at Yale University. Keerthi's thesis research involved studying the recruitment of RAG1 and RAG2—two important proteins of the immune system that help create antibodies—to chromatinized DNA during V(D)J recombination. At Yale, she was the co-president of the Yale Science Diplomats, a science policy group. She was also named an eIntern for the State Department's Virtual Student Foreign Service program, where she assisted with global science and technology projects. Keerthi holds a Ph.D. in immunobiology from Yale University and an A.B. in molecular biology from Princeton University.

**Lynes Torres, Ph.D.**  
**Consultant, PA Consulting Group**



Lynes is a Life Sciences Consultant Analyst with PA Consulting Group in Cambridge. She joined the firm in May of 2016 after completing her PhD in Biochemistry at the Boston University School of Medicine. Her day to day work regularly puts her in front of executives within the pharmaceutical industry. She provides these clients with strategy suggestions and management support. Besides management consulting, Lynes is passionate about professional development advocacy in STEM. Currently, she serves as the MASS AWIS Sponsorship Committee Co-Chair but she planned events for years as a volunteer



on the Events Committee.

**Manizeh Khan, Ph.D.**  
**Data Scientist, Amazon**



Manizeh completed her Ph.D. in Psychology at Harvard in 2013. In her final semester in graduate school, she realized that she wanted pursue a career where she could apply research and data analysis skills to a variety of different problems. Since graduation, she has been working as a Data Scientist for Amazon Alexa. She is excited to see more women enter this field from a wide range of backgrounds and hopes to help that trend continue.

**Margaret (Peggy) Kruse, Ph.D.**  
**Technical Writer, Insulet Corporation**



Dr. Margaret (Peggy) Kruse has a PhD in Neurophysiology. During her post-doctoral research in the field of spinal cord injury, she discovered that she really enjoyed writing papers, and so she switched from bench science to writing. She has done scientific, technical, medical, and regulatory writing, including user's guides, websites, FAQs, white papers, educational forums, and videos, and she has been an editor at a biomedical research journal. Her target audience ranges from physicians and researchers to the general public.

Peggy and her husband have two children. Peggy has been active with her local League of Women Voters, and she serves on her town's Finance Committee. Her hobbies include reading mysteries, baking bread, and playing bridge.

**Natalie Nguyen Durham**  
**Interim Director, Office of Data Management and Outcomes Assessment, Massachusetts**  
**Department of Public Health**



As the Director of the Office of Data Management and Outcomes Assessment, Ms. Nguyen Durham is responsible for providing consistent leadership on data and research standards across the MA Department of Public Health. Ms. Nguyen Durham previously served as Chief of Staff at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and had provided key leadership around data analytics and data management. Prior to DPH, she worked as the Director of Strategy and Decision Support at Partners HealthCare's North Shore Medical Center. Her background also includes research management and hospital administration having worked at Partners HealthCare and the Massachusetts General Hospital, as well as being the co-founder of the Vietnamese Alliance to Combat Human Trafficking. Ms. Nguyen Durham holds a B.S in Biochemistry from the University of California, San Diego, and a Masters of Public Health from Yale University School of Public Health.

**Sharon Rapoport, Ph.D.**

## **Data Scientist, TripAdvisor**

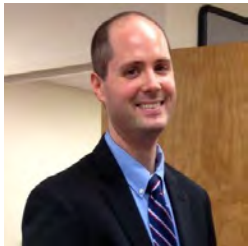


After graduating from MIT with a BSc in Physics, Sharon pursued a PhD in Astrophysics from the Australian National University where she was also awarded a grant to start a local business after winning the university entrepreneurial competition. Sharon is now working as a Senior Data Scientist at TripAdvisor where she leverages her machine learning techniques to improve their model of 2nd price auction dynamics on all the search engines. She previously worked at Plaid, a FinTech start-up, where she led the data science efforts to build products based on predictive models. In her free time, Sharon mentors graduate female students in the MIT women in STEM

Education Program. Last but not least, Sharon embraces her culturally diverse background. Originally from Israel, she is now married to a Scot and is the proud mother of two American girls.

## **Tal Kramer, Ph.D.**

### **Research Scientist, Vertex Pharmaceuticals**



Tal is a scientist in the Discovery Biology group at Vertex Pharmaceuticals since April 2015. He currently works on the neurobiology team to develop therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases. His current efforts are focused on target identification and mechanism of action studies, as well as running cell-based assays for medicinal chemistry and structure-activity relationship (SAR). Prior to joining Vertex, Tal was a postdoc at Boston Children's Hospital in Tom Schwarz's lab where he studied the cell biology of Parkinson's disease. He began his career in neurobiology as a graduate student at Princeton University in Lynn Enquist's lab,

where he studied viruses that infect the nervous system.

## **Yang Gao, Ph.d.**

### **Senior Engineer, Research Department, AIR Worldwide**



Yang "Gabby" Gao is a Senior Engineer in the Research Department of AIR Worldwide. Her work focuses on modeling physical properties' financial risk due to natural catastrophe hazards, which will serve as the industry benchmark for risk management of different stakeholders, such like primary insurers, reinsurers, brokers and government. Prior to work at AIR Worldwide, she worked as a research professional at Cornell University and participated in a research project, funded by National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), about modeling natural catastrophe insurance market. She received her Ph. D. in Civil Engineering from Cornell University in 2013, with concentration in complex infrastructure systems optimization and minor in operations research

and applied economics. Recently, she has earned a Data Science Specialization certificate from John Hopkins University by completing the program of data scientist training and practice.