

Fri, Nov 19, 2021

**Exploring Technology
Commercialization at
Fannin Innovation Studio**

12:00-1:00 pm CT

Panel Discussion

Zoom ID: 856 5209 1908

Password: 640145

1:00-1:30 pm CT

Meet the Panelists

Zoom ID: 871 2676 4606

Password: 761729



Mai Tran, PhD

Associate Principal

Dr. Tran earned her Ph.D. in Cancer Biology in 2013 from the MD Anderson UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, where she received extensive training in the molecular mechanisms of cancer initiation, progression, and metastasis. Her study played an important role in the discovery of different subtypes of muscle-invasive bladder cancer. While working as a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Michigan Medical School, she has discovered a mechanism of chemoresistance in metaplastic breast carcinoma, an aggressive subtype of triple-negative breast cancer. Since joining Fannin, she has been involved in multiple projects across different portfolio companies. Currently she is leading two portfolio companies and two projects in others.



Sana Shaikh, PhD

Sr. Entrepreneurship Fellow

Dr. Shaikh is a Senior Entrepreneurship Fellow at Fannin Innovation Studio. She pursued her Ph.D. in Biochemistry at The Ohio State University where she studied the uncoupling of the Sarco-endoplasmic Reticulum Calcium ATPase in skeletal muscle, establishing that the pump not only transports calcium, but also is a heat-producing mechanism for thermogenesis that can be harnessed to combat obesity. Sana then moved to UTHealth as a Postdoctoral Fellow where she used single molecule Fluorescence Resonance Energy Transfer (smFRET), and electrophysiology to investigate the modulation of Glutamate Receptors of the central nervous system, which have significant applications in the development of novel therapies for stroke and Alzheimer's. Sana worked at Fannin as an intern where she developed a resounding interest in drug development and commercialization and now works in the Therapeutics team at Fannin.



Stephanie Vega, PhD

Sr. Entrepreneurship Fellow

Dr. Vega is a Senior Entrepreneurship Fellow at Fannin Innovation Studio. She earned her Ph.D. in Microbiology & Immunology from the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB). She developed a novel 3D bioengineered human lung organoid as an experimental model to study lung injury, pathogenesis of pulmonary fibrosis and respiratory infections. While at UTMB, she worked on a research project with NASA and SpaceX to send the bioengineered human lung organoid to the International Space Station to understand the influence of microgravity on lung immunology and repair mechanisms. After obtaining her Ph.D. she worked as a postdoctoral research fellow at UTMB where her research work was focused on human stem cell-induced immune modulation during traumatic brain injury. She currently works in the Therapeutics Division at Fannin Innovation Studio and manages various targeted therapeutics platforms for cancer and other diseases.