## Gary Borzillo, Ph.D.
### Johnson & Johnson

Gary Borzillo, PhD, is a cancer cell biologist with extensive experience in anticancer drug discovery and development. He obtained his Ph.D. in the laboratory of Dr. Max Cooper at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) and completed post-doctoral training with Drs. Chuck Sherr and Martine Roussel at St Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, focusing on mechanisms of B cell "lineage switching" and transformation. His work in the pharmaceutical industry has been largely geared towards identifying molecular targets for high-throughput compound screening (OSI Pharmaceuticals INC), as well as drug development, clinical biomarkers and companion diagnostics (Pfizer INC, Janssen R&D). Dr. Borzillo has contributed to externally-facing "Search and Evaluation/Innovation" initiatives, involving collaborations with academia, the biotechnology sector, and venture capital companies.

*Presentation Description:*

One of the many challenges in drug development lies in the heterogeneous nature of a given disease (e.g., breast cancer) in the human population. Fundamentally, each of us is unique, and o a great extent, the same applies to our diseases and the optimal strategies needed to treat them. In contemporary drug development, it is highly desirable to have methodologies (also called biomarkers) that can be used 1) to determine if an experimental therapy is working as expected, 2) to optimize doses and schedules, and 3) to select those patients most likely to benefit from a given therapy. Today, the concepts of "patient-selection biomarkers" and "companion diagnostics: are critical to the successful commercialization of experimental drugs in the highly-competitive pharmaceutical industry. In my talk, I will discuss how knowledge of the heterogeneous nature of patients and their diseases is being used to optimize human wellness.

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