**Gary Gintant**

Dr. Gary Gintant is a Senior Research Fellow at AbbVie involved in multiple drug discovery and safety activities with a focus on translation of in vitro and in-vivo cardiac and cardiovascular models to clinical findings. His research interests include cardiovascular pharmacology, cellular electrophysiology/ion channels, arrhythmias, human stem-cell derived cardiomyocytes and tissues, and biomarkers-translational medicine. He gained his PhD from the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Columbia University.

**Brian Berridge**

Brian Berridge is the Associate Director of the National Toxicology Program (NTP) and the Scientific Director of the NTP Division at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in Research Triangle Park (RTP), NC. The National Toxicology Program is a 40-year inter-agency partnership between the NIH, FDA and CDC that evaluates agents of public health concern by developing and applying innovative scientific methods and tools. Brian is responsible for the day-to-day management and scientific leadership of the NTP.

Previous to NIEHS, Brian spent 17 years in the pharmaceutical industry in varying roles as a toxicologic pathologist at Eli Lilly in Indianapolis, Indiana, and GlaxoSmithKline in RTP, NC. His most recent 5 years at GlaxoSmithKline was as Head of Animal Research Strategy in RTP, King of Prussia, PA, and Stevenage, England. Previous to those roles, Brian was a Clinical Assistant Professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University in College Station, TX.

Brian is an Oklahoma State University-trained veterinarian with residency and PhD training from Texas A&M University. He is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists with post-doctoral training in comparative cardiovascular pathology from the Texas Heart Institute in Houston, TX. His areas of interest and expertise include toxicologic and comparative pathology with particular interest in cardiovascular and renal pathology. He is Co-Chair of the HESI Cardiac Safety Technical Committee. Brian is currently active in various consortium efforts aimed at advancing innovative approaches to modeling human pathobiology that improve the translation of preclinical research to clinical outcomes and advance our ability to characterize human cardiovascular health hazards.

**Blake Anson**

Dr. Anson received his doctorate in Neuroscience at the University of Oregon-Eugene, undertook postdoctoral training at the University of Wisconsin in Molecular Genetics, and continued working in Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Wisconsin Medical School as an assistant scientist examining ion channel structure/function, ion channel block, and translation to clinical phenotypes and disease presentation. He has authored over two dozen peer-reviewed manuscripts and book chapters and taught Continuing Education courses within the Safety Pharmacology Society over the past decade.

Industrial employment includes Cellular Dynamics International from 2005 to 2018, where he started as the Director of hERG Screening Services, launched iCell Cardiomyocytes, and

provided commercial direction for multiple iPSC-based tissue cell models across Toxicity/Safety Pharmacology and Drug Discovery sectors. He is currently the Senior Director of Marketing and Strategic Alliances at Stemonix, Inc, working to further develop and implement higher order human iPSC-based cardiac and neuronal preparations.

**Arne Hansen**

Arne Hansen received his MD at the University of Hamburg. After clinical training and a 3- year PostDoc at NIH, he joined the Department for Experimental Pharmacology and Toxicology at UKE/Hamburg in 2007 and was appointed as Assistant Professor in 2012. His research focus is the development of 3D cell culture models to study cardiomyocyte biology and disease. In this context, he has developed techniques to generate heart tissues from human CRISPR/Cas9 engineered iPSCs -and optimized test systems to analyze contractile force and calcium transients with high levels of automation.

**Amy Pointon**

Amy Pointon is an Associate Director in Drug Safety and Metabolism at AstraZeneca. She gained her PhD in 2009 from the University of Leicester MRC Toxicology Unit having developed insight into the molecular mechanism of doxorubicin cardiotoxicity, especially transcriptional control and mitochondrial dynamics using both in vivo and in vitro models. In 2009, she joined AstraZeneca, while at AstraZeneca, she has developed holistic cardiovascular safety strategies, in particular the development of in vitro approaches. She is currently the cardiovascular safety target organ lead and lead of the mechanistic safety group responsible for cardiovascular preclinical safety and the development of quantitative mechanistic understanding.

**Yama A. Abassi**

Dr. Yama A. Abassi is Vice President of ACEA Biosciences. He received his undergraduate degree in biochemistry from the State University of New York/Stony Brook in 1992, and a PhD in Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1999. Dr. Abassi joined the Burnham Institute for Cancer Research as an NIH post-doctoral fellow in 1999 where he studied cancer biology.

Dr. Abassi joined ACEA Biosciences in 2003 to help develop a new technology for studying cells using microelectronics. He has more than 25 publications and issued patents in the applications of microelectronics for cellular assessment.

**Alexandre Ribeiro**

Alexandre Ribeiro is a researcher in the Division of Applied Regulatory Science of the FDA since January 2017 and he supervises the FDA Integrated Cellular Systems Laboratory, where research is developed on evaluating and using physiological and human in vitro cellular systems for drug development. Alexandre Ribeiro received a PhD degree in Biomedical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University in 2010, where he researched the mechanics of the nucleus of adult stem cells and cancer cells. He then became a postdoctoral fellow in the Stanford Microsystems Laboratory at Stanford University – Pruitt Lab – to develop microfabricated

devices that engineer biological properties of mammalian cells and analyze cell mechanobiology. Dr. Ribeiro later joined the Srivastava Lab at the Gladstone Institute of Cardiovascular Disease in 2013 to study stem cell-derived heart muscle cells (cardiomyocytes) with engineered physiological microsystems and he leveraged novel tools to mature and functionally analyze stem cell derived cardiomyocytes. At the FDA, Dr. Ribeiro has been continuing his research in stem cell derived cardiomyocytes and is also evaluating microphysiological systems as drug development tools.

**Najah Abi-Gerges**

Najah Abi-Gerges is Vice President of R&D at AnaBios Corporation. He holds a PhD in Cardiac Physiology from Paris XI University. Prior to joining AnaBios, he was involved in drug discovery programs at AstraZeneca. With over 18 years in the pharmaceutical industry, he is an innovative leader, having made substantial contributions to drug approvals (Tagrisso®), research across several areas of cardiac physiology and pharmacology resulting in over 40 published peer-reviewed articles, and novel paradigms to advance cardiovascular translational science. He is the Editor for the Journal of Pharmacological and Toxicological Methods, Vice President for Southern California Chapter of the Society of Toxicology.

**Brian C. Jensen**

Brian Jensen is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. Dr. Jensen is a physician-scientist with a clinical and investigative focus on heart failure. He has clinical certification in Advanced Heart Failure/Transplantation and spends three months of the year as an attending physician on the UNC Heart Failure/Transplant/LVAD inpatient service. He also directs the UNC Cardio-oncology clinic. He completed postdoctoral fellowship training at UCSF in the laboratory of Paul Simpson, a pioneer in the field of cardiac hypertrophy. His laboratory uses mouse and cell culture models to study cardiac hypertrophy, heart failure, and the molecular response to myocardial injury. The primary projects in the Jensen laboratory focus on (1) The use of an alpha-1A adrenergic receptor agonist to treat heart failure; (2) Identifying the mechanisms underlying cardiotoxicity of cytotoxic and targeted cancer therapies; (3) Delineating the cardiac roles of the nuclear receptor ROR-alpha.

**Jean-Pierre Valentin**

Jean-Pierre holds a Ph.D. in Physiology & Pharmacology 1990, from the University of Montpellier, France. Following a post-doc at UCSF, Jean-Pierre joined the Pierre Fabre Research Centre (1992-98) where he contributed to the discovery and progression into development of 3 candidate drugs. He joined AstraZeneca to build from inception, develop and lead the Department of Safety Pharmacology where he contributed to the safety evaluation of ~200 candidate drugs across a wide range of therapy areas, leading to the development and successful registration of several marketed products. In February 2014 he joined UCB-Biopharma as Senior Director Head of Investigative Toxicology, based in Belgium supporting the entire portfolio. He is a member of several scientific societies; former President of the Safety Pharmacology Society; and current co-chair of the HESI subcommittee on Proarrhythmia, and he is representing the EFPIA on the ICH E14-S7B Implementation Working Group. He is involved in training and

education programs and is author/co-author of several patents and >200 peer review publications and book chapters.

**Leposava Antonovic**

Dr. Leposava Antonovic is currently a science policy analyst in the Office of New Drugs (OND), Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER). She is involved in numerous CDER-wide initiatives where she helps inform framework development for knowledge management, data governance, real world evidence, drug development tools, and various CDER modernization efforts. Dr. Antonovic received her clinical pharmacology training at MD Anderson Cancer Center, Division of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Development Center and her doctorate degree in biochemistry and molecular biology at University of Texas, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Her research career was largely focused on implications of biological, physiological and pharmacogenetic differences on drug disposition.

**Hua Rong Lu**

Dr. Hua Rong Lu is a Scientific Director for in vitro Cardiac and neuronal Safety in Safety Pharmacological Research in Janssen Pharmaceutical. Hua Rong has a broad and deep scientific knowledge with more than 20-year experiences in cardiovascular drug discovery and safety pharmacology research both in vitro and in vivo. He obtained an MD in Zheijing Medical Colleague (China) and worked as Physician in the Peking Medical College Hospital from 1985 to 1987. He later immigrated to Belgium to do a PhD in Cardiovascular Research at the K U in Leuven (KUL). He has more than 70 full publications in cardiovascular and safety research. Currently, he is also responsible for the strategic evaluation of a new platform using human stem cell derived cardiomyocytes and neuronal cells, which could potentially replace a number of preclinical in vitro tests. He is also actively involved in HESI-CIPA and HESI-MEA for drug-induced seizures using iPSCs.

**Yasunari Kanda**

Dr. Kanda is the Division Head of Pharmacology at National Institute of Health Sciences (NIHS) in Japan. His research area is regulatory science regarding drug and chemical safety assessment. He is a leader of JiCSA (Japan iPS Cardiac Safety Assessment) research group toward a practical use of iPSC technology and is collaborating with HESI on multiple areas (Cardiac safety, NeuTox, and PKPB). In addition, he has contributed to OECD guidance (such as Good In Vitro Method Practice, Developmental Neurotoxicity, PBPK) as an expert.

He received B.S. degree, M.S. degree, and Ph.D. degree from the University of Tokyo. After he worked as a research assistant professor in National Defense Medical College, he joined the Division of Pharmacology, NIHS in Japan as a section head in 2008 and was promoted as the Division Head in 2017.

**Paul Burridge**

Dr. Burridge is an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and a founding faculty member of the Center for

Pharmacogenomics. Dr. Burridge began his career in genomics and bioinformatics at the Sanger Institute working on the human and mouse genome projects. He completed a PhD in Human Stem Cell Biology at the University of Nottingham before pursuing postdoctoral fellowships at the Johns Hopkins University in Pediatric Oncology and then at Stanford University in Cardiology before becoming an Instructor in Cardiovascular Medicine at Stanford. For more than 15 years, Dr. Burridge has worked on the applications of human pluripotent stem cells (both hESC and hiPSC), concentrating on culture and differentiation methodologies, regenerative medicine, and disease modeling, specifically the pharmacogenomic and molecular mechanisms of chemotherapy-induced cardiomyopathy and heart failure. Dr. Burridge is the recipient of the NIH NHLBI Pathway to Independence Award and a Fellow of the American Heart Association in Genomic and Precision Medicine.

**William B. Mattes**

Dr. Mattes is the Director of the Division of Systems Biology, part of the FDA's National Center for Toxicological Research. He was the Director of Toxicology at the Critical Path Institute where he developed and directed the Predictive Safety Testing Consortium (PSTC). This work resulted in the establishment of a formal process of FDA/EMA biomarker qualification. His other positions included independent consulting, Director of the COPD Biomarkers Qualification Consortium, senior scientific director of Toxicogenomics at Gene Logic, Associate Director of Toxicogenomics and Group Leader of Genetic Toxicology at Pharmacia Corp, Kalamazoo, MI, Group Leader of Experimental Toxicology and Metabolism at Ciba Pharmaceuticals, Summit, NJ, and Group Leader of Molecular and Cellular Toxicology, Ciba-Geigy Agricultural Chemical Division, Farmington, CT.

Dr. Mattes received a BA from the University of Pennsylvania and PhD in biological chemistry from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He did postdoctoral training at the Johns Hopkins University and was a staff fellow at the National Cancer Institute. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology, and a full member of the Society of Toxicology and the American College of Toxicology (ACT). He has served in several capacities for these groups and is currently on ACT's Council. His research interests include bioinformatics, data science, cross-species and cross-tissue comparisons of molecular responses, as well as group dynamics that lead to successful collaboration between scientists and changes in scientific policy. He also currently fills the guitar chair for the group Jazzicology at the ACT's annual meeting.