



## **Nominations for Appointment to the Grants Working Group (GWG)**

### **Appointment of New Members**

#### **Krishanu Saha**

Krishanu Saha, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is also a member of the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery, Carbone Cancer Center, and Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Center. Prior to his arrival in Madison, Dr. Saha studied Chemical Engineering at Cornell University and at the University of California in Berkeley as a trainee in the labs of Professors David Schaffer and Kevin Healy.

Dr. Saha was a Society in Science: Branco-Weiss fellow at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research at MIT in the lab of Rudolf Jaenisch. Major thrusts of his lab involve gene editing of human pluripotent stem cells and cell engineering of human cells found in the retina, central nervous system and blood. His lab is now funded by the NIH, NSF and EPA to perform research on pluripotent stem cells, regenerative medicine, disease modeling and synthetic biology.

#### **Christopher Scull**

Christopher Scull, PhD, is a drug development professional whose experience has spanned research, discovery, preclinical development, and regulatory affairs. Dr. Scull's expertise includes product development strategy, design and management of pharmacology and toxicology studies, writing and reviewing FDA submissions, and achieving GLP compliance. Prior to joining Biologics Consulting, Chris served as Global Director, Discovery Sciences, at Innovimmune Biotherapeutics, where he managed development of a portfolio of pre-IND drug candidates. In addition to being the site-head for the Brooklyn-based research team, Chris was responsible for preclinical development planning and management of nonclinical studies.

Dr. Scull also served in multiple roles at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC). As a member of the Investigational Products team, he co-authored and reviewed IND applications and assisted investigators with FDA compliance during the design and conduct of pharmacology and toxicology studies. In a subsequent role at MSKCC, Chris led the establishment of a new testing facility for GLP-compliant nonclinical studies which included the design of laboratory and animal facilities, installation and validation of new equipment, authoring of SOPs, and training of personnel for GLP compliance.

While completing his doctoral studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chris assisted the biotech startup Entegriion with preparation and analysis of test articles for nonclinical studies and pre-approval testing of a new trauma bandage.

Chris received his BS in Chemistry from UNC Chapel Hill in 2003 and his PhD in Cellular and Molecular Pathology from UNC Chapel Hill in 2009. He also holds the Regulatory Affairs Certification (RAC) from the Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society. Chris joined Biologics Consulting in 2017 and currently resides with his family in Silver Spring, Maryland.

**Khalid Shah**

Dr. Shah is an Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School and the Director of the Center for Stem Cell Therapeutics and Imaging at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH). He is also the Vice Chair of Research for the Department of Neurosurgery at BWH and a Principal Faculty at Harvard Stem Cell Institute in Boston. Since his move to BWH, he has started a joint Center of Excellence in Biomedicine with KACST and is currently directing the new Center.

In recent years, Dr. Shah and his team have pioneered major developments in the stem cell therapy field, successfully developing experimental models to understand basic cancer biology and therapeutic stem cells for cancer, particularly brain tumors. These studies have been published in a number of very high impact journals like *Nature Neuroscience*, *PNAS*, *Nature Reviews Cancer*, *JNCI*, *Stem Cells* and *Lancet Oncology*.

Recently, Dr. Shah's work has caught the attention in the public domain and as such it has been highlighted in the media world-wide including features on BBC and CNN. Dr. Shah holds current positions on numerous councils, advisory and editorial boards in the fields of stem cell therapy and oncology. In an effort to translate the exciting therapies developed in his laboratory into clinics, he has recently founded biotech company, AMASA Technologies Inc. whose main objective is the clinical translation of therapeutic stem cells in cancer patients.