University of Pittsburgh | School of Medicine
Department of Pathology

SHERLOCK

Strategic Hub for Exploratory Research,
Learning, Outreach and Commercialization Know-How

Hub Director: Christiano (Chris) Alves | cra92@pitt.edu

The Gap We're Closing

Traditional Training

✗ Basic research skills emphasized

✗ Translational thinking comes late (if at all)

✗ No exposure to commercialization or clinical pathways

✗ Trainees unprepared to communicate impact

✗ **Missed opportunities to advance promising science**

With SHERLOCK

✓ Translational mindset from day one

✓ Frameworks for problem-to-project translation

✓ Real-world speaker series (podcast): VC, spinouts, licensing

✓ Bootcamp and competitive pitch training

✓ Interdisciplinary team-building experience

SHERLOCK is designed to catalyze a cultural shift toward earlier, more intentional engagement with real-world biomedical impact.

Who Is SHERLOCK For?

SHERLOCK is open to CMP graduate students and other early-career researchers thinking beyond the bench.

Graduate Students

CMP PhD students at any stage looking to connect their research to real-world outcomes

Other Early-Career Researchers

Undergraduates, postdocs and medical trainees ready to broaden their impact

Trainee-Led

Projects and learning experiences are driven by grad students and other trainees.

Translational

Equipping trainees with language, mindset and frameworks to move discoveries toward impact

Complementary

Feeds into Pitt's established faculty commercialization programs as a training ground for future leaders

What Are SHERLOCK Components?

01

Podcasts

- Real-world speakers: VCs, spinout founders, licensing experts
- Scientific due diligence in action
- Industry and entrepreneurship perspectives

02

Innovation Bootcamp and Pitch Competition

- Problem-to-project translation frameworks
- Hands-on, team-based exercises
- Identifying high-impact biomedical problems

Podcasts: Learn From Those Who've Done It

A curated speaker series featuring practitioners from across the biomedical innovation ecosystem

Venture Capital

How investors evaluate early-stage biomedical science and what makes a fundable story

Spinout Formation

Founders share lessons from forming and scaling university spinout companies

Licensing and IP

Technology transfer, IP protection and pathways to licensing discovery

Scientific Due Diligence

How deep technical review shapes investment and partnering decisions

Clinical Translation

Moving from lab results to clinical trials—regulatory and strategic hurdles

Industry Partnerships

Building relationships between academia and pharma/biotech partners

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September Podcast Series

Real-world perspectives: Featuring VCs, spinout founders and licensing experts

SEPT. 1

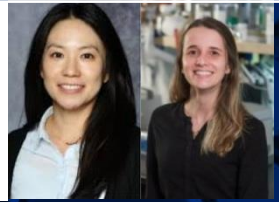
Luca Giani
Ilios Tx Founder
Principal AV

Shardule Shah
CEO
Lime Tx

SEPT. 8

Eric Green
CEO
Trace Neuroscience

SEPT. 22



Jihee Sohn
Bristol Myers Squibb

Cicera Lazzarotto
MaxCyte

For more information, please contact:

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Register Here
path.pitt.edu/sherlock

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Innovation Bootcamp

Alan Magee Scaife Hall

Monday Sept. 28 | 9a.m.-noon

Pitch Competition

- Problem-to-project translation
- Identifying high-impact biomedical problems

Keynote Speaker

Armon Sharei
Founder and CEO
Portal

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Bootcamp and Pitch Competition

Innovation Bootcamp Sept. 28 at 9 a.m.

Format

- Teams of 2–5 members (≥ 1 Pitt faculty)
- 4 weeks of preparation before bootcamp
- Morning session: 9 a.m.–noon

Bootcamp Day Agenda

- Keynote address on an impactful invention
- Flash Elevator Pitches
- 5 selected teams: 10-min pitch + Q&A

+ Keynote Speaker

- Keynote speaker: Armon Sharei, founder and CEO, Portal

+ Free food (and coffee phew)

Winner's Award–TBD (prizes, lab incubator and more)

Pitch Competition

- **Innovation—**Originality of the approach
- **Scientific Rationale—**Research foundation
- **Feasibility—**Realistic path
- **Translational Impact—**Potential to biomedicine
- **Commercial Potential—**Market pathway

Winner's Award–TBD (prizes, lab incubator and more)

Your SHERLOCK Journey

1

Join the Hub

Enroll as a SHERLOCK trainee and access the ecosystem.

2

Attend Podcasts

Hear from real-world innovators and expand your translational vocabulary.

3

Pitches

Work in teams to identify and frame high-impact biomedical problems.

4

Pitch and Compete

Present your project idea and receive expert feedback.

5

Build Your Network

Connect with Pitt's innovation ecosystem and industry partners.

SHERLOCK

— Solving High-Impact Problems —
in Biomedical Innovation

Ready?

Sign up!

Register Here
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