

Timothy Boire, PhD

President and CEO of VenoStent, Inc.

Timothy Boire, PhD developed a passion for improving the quality and length of life for people undergoing dialysis during his participation in the National Science Foundation's I-Corps program. During that experience, Dr. Boire interviewed vascular surgeons, nephrologists and dialysis patients and learned about the many complexities and challenges of living with dialysis, and caring for people with kidney diseases.

Dr. Boire committed himself and his research efforts to making positive change for this important and often vulnerable group of patients. He earned his PhD in Biomedical Engineering from Vanderbilt University in 2017, focusing his dissertation on biocompatible, bioresorbable perivascular wrap to prevent hemodialysis access site failures. With co-founder Geoffrey Lucks, he launched VenoStent Inc., a biomaterials and medical device company, to help address some of these challenges in treatment. Through VenoStent he and his team developed SelfWrap™, a wrap that goes around dialysis access sites during surgery.

Before pursuing his PhD, Dr. Boire worked at Genzyme. He received his B.S. in Chemical and Biological Engineering and Biotechnology from Tufts University in 2008. A New Hampshire native, he loves his work and is inspired daily by the opportunity to make dialysis a better experience.

Sarah Lee

CEO of Relavo, LLC

Sarah Lee is the Chief Executive Officer of Relavo, LLC, a medical device company founded by students at Johns Hopkins University. Sarah holds a B.S in Biomedical Engineering and is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Engineering degree in Mechanical Engineering from Johns Hopkins University.

Ms. Lee and her co-founders launched Relavo as an outgrowth of a successful exploration into dialysis innovation as part of an undergraduate design team in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Johns Hopkins. The student team worked with Dr. Alicia Neu at Johns Hopkins Hospital to explore ways to address the problem of infection in peritoneal dialysis.

This early introduction to challenges in kidney care inspired in the entire team a commitment to transform care and quality of life for people who need dialysis treatment to live. Recognizing the launch of the Advancing American Kidney Health (AAKH) initiative as a catalyst to positive change, Ms. Lee assembled a dedicated and results-driven team of innovators. Beyond kidney care, Relavo staff look forward to solving other unmet challenges in catheter care and home-based therapies.

Buddy D. Ratner, PhD

Director of University of Washington Engineered Biomaterials (UWEB21) Engineering Research Center

Co-Director of the Center for Dialysis Innovation (CDI) and the Darland Endowed Chair in Technology Commercialization.

Professor of Bioengineering and Chemical Engineering, University of Washington..

Buddy Ratner is a world-renowned leader in biomaterials and biomedical engineering. He has been involved in the launch of seven companies and won numerous awards, including the AVS Welch Award (2002), Society for Biomaterials Founders Award (2004), the BMES Pritzker Distinguished Lecturer Award (2008), the Acta Biomaterialia Gold Medal (2009), the Galletti Award (2011) the George Winter Award of the European Society for Biomaterials (2012) and the University of Washington School of Medicine Lifetime Innovator and Inventor Award (2014).

Dr. Ratner served as President of Society For Biomaterials in 1998 and President of AIMBE in 2002. He is a fellow of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE), AVS, AAAS, American Chemical Society, ACS-POLY and the International College of Fellows Biomaterials Science and Engineering. In 2002 Ratner was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, USA.

Dr. Ratner is lead editor of the textbook, "Biomaterials Science: An Introduction to Materials in Medicine" -- the book has sold over 40,000 copies and is used in most biomaterials education programs, worldwide. His research interests include biomaterials, medical devices, tissue engineering, regenerative medicine, biocompatibility, polymers, surface analysis and plasma thin film deposition.

Dr. Ratner received his Ph.D. (1972) in polymer chemistry from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn

Shuvo Roy, PhD

Professor, Department of Bioengineering and Therapeutic Sciences
University of California, San Francisco School of Pharmacy

Dr. Roy is a bioengineer whose work focuses on smart medical devices, with an emphasis on implantable and wearable systems.

He is Technical Director of The Kidney Project, a nationwide effort focused on creating a small, surgically implanted, freestanding bioartificial kidney to treat kidney failure.

He is a Professor in the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Department of Bioengineering and Therapeutic Sciences, a joint department of the UCSF Schools of Pharmacy and Medicine, and Director of the UCSF Biodesign Laboratory.

Dr. Roy is also a founding member of the UCSF Pediatric Device Consortium, whose mission is to accelerate the development of innovative devices for children's health and the Engineering Lead for UCSF Surgical Innovations, and a faculty director of the UCSF-UC Berkeley Master of Translational Medicine program.

Dr. Roy earned a B.S. degree, magna cum laude, with general honors for triple majors in Physics, Mathematics (special honors), and Computer Science from Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio. In 1995, he earned an M.S. in Electrical Engineering and Applied Physics and in 2011, he earned a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences, both from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Aijun Wang PhD

Co-Founder, VasoBio

Vice Chair for Translational Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Department of Surgery
Co-Director of the Surgical Bioengineering Laboratory
Cancellor's Fellow in Entrepreneurship, School of Medicine
University of California, Davis

Dr. Aijun Wang is a co-founder of VasoBio Inc, a University of California, Davis (UC Davis) based medical device startup company. Dr. Wang is a Chancellor's Fellow, currently an Associate Professor of Surgery and Biomedical Engineering at UC Davis. He is also a Principal Investigator at the Institute for Pediatric Regenerative Medicine (IPRM) / Shriners Hospitals Pediatric Research Center, Northern California.

Dr. Wang's research focuses on developing tools and technologies that combine molecular, cellular, tissue and biomaterial engineering to promote regeneration and restore function for a variety of surgical conditions and diseases. Dr. Wang has been serving as PI or Co-PI on several major grants supported by NIH/NICHD, NIH/NINDS, the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), the University of California Center for Accelerated Innovation (UC-CAI), the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program of California (TRDRP), Shriners Hospital for Children and other foundations. Dr. Wang has published over 110 peer-reviewed papers, filed 14 patents, and received numerous awards, including the Deloitte QB3 Award for Innovation, the Tony Phillips Research Award from the Children's Miracle Network (CMN), the Basil O'Connor Starter Scholar Research Award from the March of Dimes Foundation, and the NIH/NHLBI Technology Development Award.

Dr. Wang received his Ph.D. in biology from Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, and had undergone postdoctoral training at UC Berkeley Department of Bioengineering and Berkeley Stem Cell Center, with a postdoctoral fellowship from California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM). He has been a faculty member of UC Davis since 2012.

Alexander Yevzlin, MD

Professor of Medicine

University of Michigan School of Medicine

Dr. Yevzlin is currently Professor of Medicine and Director of Interventional Nephrology at the University of Michigan. Dr. Yevzlin has presented and published over 150 abstracts, invited lectures, and manuscripts. He is an internationally recognized leader in the field of Interventional Nephrology, having edited the first three textbooks on the subject, and is a past President of the American Society of Diagnostic and Interventional Nephrology.

In addition to his academic contributions, Dr. Yevzlin has been involved in the invention, design, and reduction to practice of multiple medical devices in his role as chief medical officer, chief science officer, and founder of multiple start-up biotech companies.

Dr. Yevzlin graduated magna cum laude from Dartmouth College. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Michigan and fellowship in Nephrology at Northwestern.