

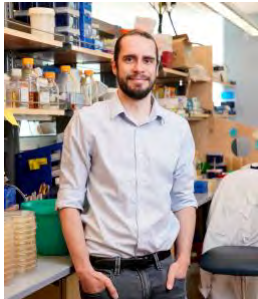


**RUTGERS**

**iJOBS Virtual Site Visit: Pfizer**

Monday, December 12, 2022

3:00 PM



**Andy Weiss, PhD**

Principal Scientist

[Andy.Weiss@pfizer.com](mailto:Andy.Weiss@pfizer.com)

Andy is a German expat that has been living in the United States for the last decade. In 2022, he joined Pfizer's Molecular Biology group in Bacterial Vaccines and Technology as Principal Scientist. Before becoming part of Pfizer, he completed his postdoctoral studies at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in the laboratory of Dr. Skaar. Here, Andy investigated bacterial pathogenesis and host-pathogen interaction with special emphasis on *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Clostridium difficile*. During his time at VUMC, Andy served as president of the Vanderbilt Institute for Infection, Immunology, and Inflammation Postdoc Association, and was supported by the Ruth L. Kirschstein and American Heart Association postdoctoral fellowships. Andy received his PhD from the University of South Florida in 2017 and his master's degree from Dresden University of Technology in Germany. Collectively, Andy has contributed to 36 peer-reviewed publications and holds one patent.



**Ashlesh Krishna Murthy, M.D., Ph.D**

Director of Bacterial Vaccines and Technology

[Ashlesh.Murthy@pfizer.com](mailto:Ashlesh.Murthy@pfizer.com)

Ashlesh Krishna Murthy, M.D., Ph.D. trained as a physician in Bangalore, India and obtained a PhD in Cell and Molecular Biology from the University of Texas. At Midwestern University in Downers Grove, IL and Glendale, AZ, he was promoted to the rank of Professor of Pathology with tenure, and also served as Associate Dean for Research for 5 years. In early 2022, he joined Pfizer as Director of Bacterial Vaccines and Technology. Murthy's research in academia focused on vaccine development against mucosal bacterial pathogens including *Chlamydia*, *Francisella*, and *Vibrio*. He has published over 50 peer-reviewed manuscripts and 2 U.S. patents and was continuously funded by Federal, State, and private agencies. He also serves on U.S. and Australian federal grant review panels and as an editor and reviewer for reputable journals.



**Oggy Sekulovic, PhD**

Senior Scientist

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I am a Senior Scientist at Pfizer, currently operating in the Bacterial Vaccines unit. I have a broad background in the field of molecular microbiology and microbial pathogenesis. I hold a MSc and PhD degrees in Microbiology from Université de Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada. I gained further research experience during my HHMI-funded postdoctoral training with Pr. Andrew Camilli at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston. At Pfizer, I am proud to support our collective efforts in having the best-in-class vaccines. More specifically, I drive animal models for bacterial vaccine development.



**Hal Jones, PhD**

Director in the Bacterial Vaccines & Technology group

[Hal.Jones@pfizer.com](mailto:Hal.Jones@pfizer.com)

Hal Jones is a Director in the Bacterial Vaccines & Technology group and has worked for Pfizer (and predecessor company, Wyeth) for 22 years at the Pearl River, NY site. He manages two core functional groups, Clinical Microbiology and Hybridoma Development, that support all the research groups in the department. Hal received his Doctorate in Molecular Microbiology from Emory University Medical School (Atlanta, GA) and followed on with a Post-Doc at Washington University Medical School (St. Louis, MO). Doctoral research focused on regulation of transcription and sporulation in *B. subtilis*, and his post-doctoral work concerned pathogenesis and virulence factors in *E. coli*. Prior to joining Pfizer, Hal spent 3 years at a small start-up Biotech in Corvallis Oregon as a Director of a research group and was involved in building the company and securing research funding. Hal has published over 40 peer-reviewed manuscripts and numerous reviews.



**Kayla Weiss, PhD**

Microbial Immunologist

[Kayla.Weiss@pfizer.com](mailto:Kayla.Weiss@pfizer.com)

Kayla Weiss is a microbial immunologist researching vaccine candidates for the last eight years. Kayla received her PhD in immunology from the University of Iowa in 2014 where she researched the role of T cell immunity against human respiratory viruses and viral activation of innate immune cells inducing lung immunopathology. Following completion of her graduate studies, Kayla continued her training at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in a Mycobacterium tuberculosis genetics laboratory investigating the efficacy and mechanism of attenuated strains as vaccine candidates in pre-clinical animal models. While completing her post-doctoral research fellowship, Kayla also was a CUNY adjunct assistant professor teaching the undergraduate immunology and virology courses. Upon completion of her training, Kayla joined Pfizer Vaccine Research and Development where she has been leading a team for the

last four years in developing biofunctional assays. The team develops these assays to quantify human antibody functions elicited by vaccination and supports clinical testing in a regulated environment.



**Isis Kanevsky, PhD**

Senior Director of the In Vivo Immunopathology team

[Isis.Kanevsky@pfizer.com](mailto:Isis.Kanevsky@pfizer.com)

Isis is an immunologist with > 20 years of experience in basic research and animal models of infectious disease. Isis obtained a PhD in Veterinary Science and Immunology from Penn State University and completed her post-doc at the Trudeau Institute in Saranac, Lake NY. Up to that point all her research experience was in large animal models (bovine and porcine), so for her post -doc she switched focus to small animal (rodent) models and study of human immunology / infectious disease at the Trudeau Institute in Saranac Lake, NY. After 3 years, Isis accepted a tenure track position at Virginia Tech in the department of Dairy Science where she received tenure in 2012. At Virginia Tech, her lab focused on investigation of host-pathogen interactions using in-vitro and in-vivo cell-culture and large and small animal models. Isis has contributed >25 peer reviewed publications and maintained a research program through securing funding (\$1,000,000+) from government and industry sources. Isis was awarded The 2012 Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Technology (PECASE) – highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on outstanding scientists and engineers in the early stages of their independent careers. After 10 years as a professor, In 2016, Isis moved ‘home’ to NYC and accepted position as Principal Scientist in Bacterial Vaccines at Pfizer. At Pfizer, Isis is Senior Director of the In Vivo Immunopathology team supporting development of bacterial and viral vaccines, and anti-viral therapeutics through pre-clinical research.

**Interesting Fact:**

Isis enjoys traveling and in addition to various locations in Europe has visited Japan, New Zealand, and Russia. Isis speaks Russian and prior to returning home to NYC, used to ride a motorcycle to work everyday.



**Molly Borst**

Senior Manager for Site Affairs and External Engagement

[Molly.Borst@pfizer.com](mailto:Molly.Borst@pfizer.com)

Molly Borst is the Senior Manager for Site Affairs and External Engagement for Vaccine Research and Development in Pearl River, New York.

She holds a BS and MS in Geoscience from Montclair State University in Montclair, NJ. Her area of research is Antarctic Geology, and she has co-authored papers on provenance characteristics of glacial-marine sediment from the East Antarctic margin. In 2022, she received a certificate in Business Communications from Cornell

University and is currently pursuing her MBA (virtually) at Louisiana State University. Borst previously worked for the world's largest chemical manufacturer, BASF Corporation, for more than a decade. At BASF she led Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) educational outreach serving more than 650,000 students. She also led charitable giving efforts and mentored summer interns and participants in the PhD rotational program. Prior to her time at BASF, she worked for 7 years at the Liberty Science Center, leading Guest Operations and later moved into Learning & Development and Public Programs. Molly is a first generation college student with a passion for helping others. She is also a mother of two energetic young scientists, Conrad (almost 7) and Charley (newly 4).