

**TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2014**

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**TOPIC:** **Biotech Funding Trends: Is the Glass Half Empty or Half Full?**

**PANELISTS:** **Eric Gertler**, Executive Vice President and Managing Director, Center for Economic Transformation, New York Economic Development Corporation  
**Carl Gordon**, PhD, Partner, OrbiMed  
**Reid Leonard**, PhD, Managing Director, Merck Research Ventures Fund  
**Gregory Simon**, CEO, Poliwogg Holdings, Inc.  
**Harri Taranto**, Partner, Symphony Capital LLC

**MODERATOR:** **Brady Huggett**, Business Editor, Nature Biotechnology

The biotech IPO boom of 2013, which saw 52 companies go public, was a historic year. (It was – I haven't crunched the numbers myself yet, but it's probably the second best year for IPOs in biotech history.) At the same time, the M&A market continued its surge as there were 14 VC-backed exits with values greater than \$100 million, the highest number in a decade. Will these exits and 2013's strong financial performance in the public markets revive early stage VC funding? How can biotechs access alternative funding sources, such as corporate venture capital, crowdfunding and venture philanthropies?

This program convenes a panel of six experts to discuss the state of biotech funding, examining trends in both early- and late-stage investing and discussing opportunities for innovative funding models. Topics of discussion include:

- Analysis of recent biotech funding data from the private and public markets
- Perspectives from VC firms about their investment strategies for 2014
- Opportunities for innovative funding models, such as crowdfunding and venture philanthropies, to stimulate early-stage growth
- New York City's recently announced Early-Stage Life Sciences Funding Initiative, a funding collaboration between the City, pharma companies and VC partners
- How corporate VC funds, such as Merck Research Ventures Fund, are leveraging novel partnerships to spur innovation across different stages of development