



## Discussion Session - Investor Insights

*Leading investors representing venture capital, angel investment, technology transfer, and corporate strategic partners share insights on the current investment climate and outline the key factors that capture their attention when reviewing investment opportunities.*

*Panelists include:*



(Moderator) **Michael T. Nelson, J.D., Ph.D. - Partner, Cooley LLP**

Michael Nelson's practice focuses on advising emerging and growth-stage life sciences and technology companies, and the funds that invest in them, on matters relating to corporate finance, corporate governance, licensing and other intellectual property-based transactions and mergers and acquisitions.



**Mark Lupa - Managing Partner, Buff Gold Ventures**

Mark holds a BS from Northwestern University, an M Phil from the University of Sussex, England in Biomedical Engineering and a PhD in Pharmacology from the University of Lund, Sweden. He conducted neuroscience research for fifteen years at institutions worldwide, including at UCSF and the University of Colorado, before bringing together the founding team of Tabernash Brewing, an early craft brewery in Colorado. Mark was a founding board member, CFO and then CEO of Tabernash Brewing, which merged with Left Hand Brewing in 1998, and he remains on the board at Left Hand. He was a partner at Tango, a private investment firm, before becoming founder and Managing Director of High Country Venture, a venture capital firm in Boulder, Colorado. Mark has served as founding member of the Board of Directors of Taligen Therapeutics, Mosaic Bioscience, Sinopsys Surgical, Trisalus Life Sciences (Surefire Medical), VetDC and Vitro3d. Currently, Mark is Managing

Partner at Buff Gold Ventures, an investment firm focusing on Deep Tech startup companies coming out of the University of Colorado.



**Juan Cueva, Ph.D. MBA - Senior Director, Early Innovation Partnering, Johnson & Johnson Innovation**

Juan Cueva, PhD, MBA is Senior Director, Early Innovation Partnering at Johnson & Johnson Innovation, California. In this role, he focuses on pharmaceutical innovation in support of the neuroscience and discovery and product development & supply businesses. His charge is to identify licensing, collaboration, and investment opportunities highly aligned with Johnson & Johnson business strategies by building relationships with entrepreneurs, venture investors, and key opinion leaders.

Previously, Juan was Investor and Board Observer at Action Potential Venture Capital where he led sourcing, research, and due diligence in bioelectronic therapeutic technologies. Juan has also held various roles in venture capital and management consulting, as well as key operational roles including Business Development Manager at Ultragenyx Pharmaceuticals. Juan is a proud mentor to underrepresented students and professionals in STEM-related fields and is a board member for the Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley.