

ADFW

ABU DHABI FINANCE WEEK

27-30 NOV | 2023

- Venue: ADGM, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- Asset Abu Dhabi GP x LP Programme
27th Nov, 2023
- International Family Office Congress
28th Nov, 2023



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Propel Bio Partners is a life science and healthcare-focused fund, co-founded by Richard Kayne and Leen Kawas in 2022. Kayne has broad experience in capital markets, deal sourcing, and fund strategies. He currently serves as the founder and co-chairman of Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors with \$34 billion under management. Kayne had several successful ventures including Kayne Anderson Rudnick, an investment management firm he co-founded and grew to over \$10 billion in assets before selling it in 2001. Kawas brings extensive experience in drug discovery, clinical development, finance, and commercialization through her experience at Athira Pharma. She led the advancement of multiple late-stage clinical programs and took the company public in 2020 raising over \$400 million. She was the first woman in 20 years in Washington State, and one of only 22 women founders in the US to take their company public.

Propel is building a diverse portfolio of clinical-stage companies that are developing differentiated products and have a strong commitment to executing the core strategies. The fund is focused on micro, small to mid-sized companies with meaningful catalysts that we believe can fundamentally change their market valuation, across the public and private sectors. Despite the broad pull-back on the biotech sector, the life science and healthcare industry provides significant investment opportunities for those with substantial industry knowledge, deep science, and operational and financial analysis capabilities, driven by innovations that address critical unmet medical needs. The fund is backed by a team of industry experts specialized in biological sciences, medicine, FDA and regulatory, operations, and commercialization.

Propel's active investment and due diligence are guided by a long-term conviction with near-term catalysts that provide a continuous process to evaluate the science, team, processes, and business strategies. Propel's vision is to advance human health with disruptive technologies - driving investment strategy with science and business expertise.

- Specialized investors with operational expertise and knowledge advantage
- Extensive capital market and investment expertise with co-founder Richard Kayne
- Sourcing advantage across the biotech and capital networks
- Value-added investment: in addition to capital, Propel provides companies with access to a network of experts to guide business and clinical strategies and optimize the probability of success
- Opportunity to participate in unique deals in publicly-traded companies

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Richard Kayne

General Partner

Richard Kayne is a successful investor, entrepreneur, inventor, and strategist who brings a rich history of experience and expertise to his role as Partner of Propel Bio Partners. He currently serves as the founder and co-chairman of Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, an alternative asset manager with \$34 billion in assets under management. He was also the founder of Kayne Anderson Rudnick, a traditional investment management firm that grew to over \$10 billion in assets under management before selling it in 2001. Today, the firm has about \$80 billion in assets under management.

Mr. Kayne's accomplishments are primarily due to his practice of fostering successful partnerships, building extensive networks, and maintaining knowledge and sourcing advantages. He is the former chairman and current trustee of the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) Foundation and is the former co-chairman and current trustee of the investment committee of the Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles. Mr. Kayne began his career in the mid-1960s as an analyst with Loeb, Rhodes & Co. in New York and was a principal of Cantor Fitzgerald & Co., Inc., where he managed private accounts, a hedge fund, and a portion of the firm's capital.

Mr. Kayne earned a BS in statistics from Stanford University in 1966 and an MBA from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1968.



Leen Kawas

Managing General Partner

Dr. Leen Kawas brings her deep expertise to the fund, helping to assess life sciences opportunities by drawing on her experiences in drug discovery, operation, clinical trial methodologies, regulatory strategies, commercialization, and financing. These skills were instrumental to her success as the former CEO of Athira Pharma as well as her ability to raise about \$400 million and lead the company through an IPO. They will continue to serve her well in her role as Managing General Partner for Propel Bio Partners.

Dr. Kawas has won many awards and recognitions for her leadership and accomplishments including: Endpoints 20(+1) under 40 (2021), Life Science Entrepreneurial Achievement Award (2020), French-American Foundation Leader (2019), Alzheimer's Cure Coin Award (2019), Biospace 7 Millennial Influencers in the Biotech Industry (2019), GeekWire Startup CEO of the Year (2019), 40 under 40 in Life Science Leader (2017), PharmaVOICE 100 honoree (2017), Association of Washington Business Entrepreneur of the Year Award (2016), EY Entrepreneurial Winning Women (2016), Puget Sound Business Journal 40 under 40 Award (2016), EY Entrepreneur of the Year Finalist (2016), and GeekWire Young Entrepreneur of the Year Finalist (2016). She was named one of Seattle's Most Influential People by Seattle Magazine and one of the Women to Watch in Life Sciences by the Washington Biotechnology and Biomedical Association in 2015.

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Xue Hua

Managing Partner

Xue Hua, PhD, is a biotech leader with clinical research, operation, and regulatory experience. In her previous role as the Vice President of Clinical Development, Research at Athira Pharma, she built the clinical team from ground up, and led a patient-centered research program from 2015 to 2022. She led all aspects of Fosgonimeton's (ATH-1017) Phase I – III clinical trials for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease dementia, and dementia with Lewy bodies.

Building on her 15+ years research experience in neuroimaging, neurology and data science, she incorporated new technologies in clinical trial design, focused on biomarker strategy and adaptive design. She has developed innovative operational models that bring science and operations together, focused on patient experience, data quality, and lean operations. She believes that innovations on how trials are designed and operated play a pivotal role to accelerate the pace of drug development, by providing meaningful and actionable answers efficiently. Prior to joining industry, Dr. Hua was an assistant professor at University of Southern California, developing imaging technologies to aid diagnosis and evaluation of Alzheimer's disease and other neurological disorders. She received her PhD in Biomedical Engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles.