

**LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE'S ANNUAL INNOVATION NIGHT,
PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UC SAN DIEGO,
TO TAKE PLACE VIRTUALLY ON OCTOBER 14**

***EVENT TO RECOGNIZE COMPANIES WORKING ON FRONT LINES OF FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19
WITH SPECIAL APPEARANCES BY ADMIRAL BRETT GIROIR, M.D., UNITED STATES ASSISTANT
SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, SAN DIEGO MAYOR KEVIN FAULCONER***

***KEYNOTE CONVERSATION, "CREATING ART IN THE TIME OF COVID," TO FEATURE:
DR. CHERYL ANDERSON, FOUNDING DEAN OF UC SAN DIEGO'S HERBERT WERTHEIM SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN LONGEVITY SCIENCE
CHRISTOPHER ASHLEY, LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE'S TONY AWARD-WINNING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR;
PRADEEP K. KHOSLA, CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO;
JEFFREY SELLER, TONY AWARD-WINNING PRODUCER OF BROADWAY'S HAMILTON;
DR. ERIC TOPOL, FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF THE SCRIPPS RESEARCH TRANSLATIONAL
INSTITUTE AND PROFESSOR, MOLECULAR MEDICINE, AND EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT
OF SCRIPPS RESEARCH***

La Jolla, CA – La Jolla Playhouse is pleased to announce its 13th annual **Innovation Night**, presented in partnership with **UC San Diego**, will take place virtually on **Wednesday, October 14, 2020** from **4pm to 6pm PDT**.

Innovation Night is San Diego's premier networking event that brings together leaders from the region's biotech, life sciences, high tech, clean tech, defense, telecommunications and associated industries for an extraordinary event hosted by La Jolla Playhouse – a leader in creating the most cutting-edge and innovative theatre for San Diego and beyond. The San Diego community enjoys one of the largest innovation economies in the world, producing major medical, pharmaceutical, diagnostic, biologic and wireless products that have led to breakthroughs in healthcare, technology and more. Innovation Night celebrates this culture the ingenuity while supporting the Playhouse's new play development and education programs.

This year's event, presented digitally, will recognize the efforts of the countless San Diego companies and organizations working on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19. The event will also include a welcome from **San Diego Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer** and **Joseph Panetta**, CEO of Biocom. Special invited guests include **Admiral Brett Giroir, M.D., United States Assistant Secretary for Health**, and acclaimed actress **Sharon Wheatley**, original cast member in the Playhouse-born Broadway hit *Come From Away*.

Innovation Night 2020 will feature the keynote conversation, "**Creating Art in the Time of COVID**," with a panel including **Dr. Cheryl A.M. Anderson**, Professor and Founding Dean of The Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science at the University of California, San Diego; **Christopher Ashley**, The Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse and Tony Award-winning director of the Playhouse-born *Come From Away*; **Pradeep K. Khosla**, Chancellor, University of California, San Diego; **Jeffrey Seller**, Tony Award-winning producer of *Hamilton*, *Rent* and many others; and **Dr. Eric Topol**, Founder and Director of the Scripps Research Translational Institute, Professor, Molecular Medicine, and Executive Vice-President of Scripps Research. This prestigious panel will discuss how the arts have moved to digital programming, how they are adjusting to social distancing, and what future testing and vaccines might mean for a return to live theatre, on-campus education, sporting events, and other large public gatherings.

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“As a leader in innovation on stage, La Jolla Playhouse is proud to host this extraordinary annual event, bringing San Diego’s flourishing community of science and technology innovators together for creative exchange. And this year we’re pleased to be able to offer Innovation Night in a virtual format, allowing us to welcome participants from all over the world,” noted La Jolla Playhouse Managing Director **Debby Buchholz**. “Over the last thirteen years, Innovation Night has raised more than \$2 million to help enhance the Playhouse’s own ‘R&D’ efforts, such as our signature Without Walls (WOW) series of immersive, site-based and digital theatre, all while facilitating partnerships among artists and leaders in San Diego’s life sciences, biotech, high-tech, clean-tech and telecommunication industries.”

Once registered, Innovation Night participants will have access to the digital networking section, Mix and Mingle, to upload their contact information and begin reaching out to fellow attendees. On October 7, additional sections of the event will open, including access to peruse the Innovation Gallery spaces and the La Jolla Playhouse Behind-the-Scenes offerings. On October 13, **La Jolla Playhouse Digital Without Walls (WOW)** performances will become available for viewing. On October 14 at 3:30pm PST, participants can join Happy Hour with Seven Caves Spirits, followed by the keynote session, “Creating Art in the Time of COVID-19,” at 4:00pm.

The event will once again feature a special **Innovation Gallery**, where companies can host an exhibit in the Playhouse’s virtual gallery space, either as a Gallery Exhibitor (\$5000 sponsorship) or as a Startup Exhibitor (\$1000 sponsorship), each of which offers a host of benefits, including the opportunity to exhibit in the Innovation Night Gallery, free tickets to the event, recognition in Innovation Night materials, and more. These interactive spaces include the opportunity for companies to share videos, downloadable documents, and even host a live Zoom-like chat during the event, to interact in real time with attendees.

The event is hosted by the Innovation Night Committee. Chaired by **Tim Scott**, Co-Founder and CEO, TEGA Therapeutics, the committee includes **Denise Bevers**, Co-Founder, KindredBio; **Randy Clark**, Chief Administration Officer and Chief Human Resources Officer, Sempra North American Infrastructure; **Ed Dennis**, Chancellor, Chair in Chemistry and Biochemistry and Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry and Pharmacology, UC San Diego; **Brian Dovey**, Partner, Domain Associates; **Susan Dubé**, Founder and CFO, Sorriso Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; **Mick Farrell**, CEO, ResMed; **Luke Gulley**, Account Executive, Show Imaging, Inc.; **Mike Krenn**, President and CEO, The Beachhead and Connect with SD Venture Group; **Joe Panetta**, President, CEO, and Member, Board of Directors, Biocom; **Don Rosenberg**, Executive VP, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, Qualcomm, Inc.; **Ivor Royston**, CEO and President, Viracta Therapeutics, Inc.; **Susan Tousi**, SVP, Chief Product Officer, Illumina; and **Mary Walshok**, Associate Vice Chancellor for Public Programs and Dean of Extension, UC San Diego.

Innovation Night Premier Sponsors include: **Cooley, Dowling & Yahnke Wealth Advisors** and **Qualcomm**. Additionally, Gallery Sponsors include: **Arcturus Therapeutics**, **Biocept**, **Biocom**, **CONNECT**, **Illumina**, **KindredBio**, **NuVasive**, **ResMed**, **SDG&E**, **TEGA Therapeutics**, **Thermo Fisher Scientific** and **Viracta Therapeutics**. Corporate Attendee Sponsors include: **Arena Pharmaceuticals**, **Bristol Myers Squibb**, **CalciMedica**, **Law Office of Annie M. Ellis** and **Silicon Valley Bank**; Startup Exhibitor Sponsor: **San Diego Blood Bank**; and In-Kind Sponsors include: **CEG Interactive**, **San Diego Business Journal**, **Central San Diego Black Chamber of Commerce**, **Seven Caves Spirits** and **Show Imaging**.

To register for Innovation Night, please visit <https://innovationnight.swoogo.com/2020>. For more information on becoming an Innovation Night sponsor or securing space in the Innovation Gallery, please contact Rebecca Goodman at rgoodman@ljp.org. All proceeds from sponsorships and ticket sales benefit innovative theatre at La Jolla Playhouse.

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La Jolla Playhouse's Without Walls (WOW) program is a dizzying array of interactive and site-inspired theatre that attracts energetic art lovers, thrill seekers and families. Full of diverse offerings, WOW shows have one thing in common – they are an invitation to rethink theatre in intriguing and playful experiences. The Playhouse's [Digital Without Walls \(WOW\) series](#) was created specifically for this moment when we're all sheltering in place, offering groundbreaking theatre that re-imagines the relationship between artist, audience and story in a virtual space. From intimate, one-on-one experiences to collective events, these brand new online WOW productions bring world-class artists directly into patrons' homes, fostering human connection and allowing art to flourish.

[La Jolla Playhouse](#) is a place where artists and audiences come together to create what's new and next in the American theatre, from Tony Award-winning productions, to imaginative programs for young audiences, to interactive experiences outside our theatre walls. Founded in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer, the Playhouse is currently led by Tony Award winner Christopher Ashley, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse, and Debby Buchholz, Managing Director. The Playhouse is internationally renowned for the development of new plays and musicals, including mounting 105 world premieres, commissioning 52 new works, and sending 33 productions to Broadway – including the hit musical *Come From Away* – garnering a total of 38 Tony Awards, as well as the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre.

Participant Bios

Dr. Cheryl A. M. Anderson is a Professor and Founding Dean of The Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science at the University of California, San Diego. Dr. Anderson's research focuses on nutrition and chronic disease prevention in underserved populations using observational epidemiologic study designs, randomized clinical trials, and implementation science. Her research projects include the California Teachers Study; studies of stable carbon isotopes as novel dietary biomarkers for sweetened foods; clinical trials addressing lifestyle and behavioral factors for obesity reduction; and the RESOLVE to save 100 million lives D&I initiative. Her body of work addresses the effects of dietary patterns, sodium, and potassium intake on blood pressure and cardiovascular diseases; behavioral interventions for adherence to dietary recommendations; and identification of nutritional risk factors and for progression of kidney disease and development of cardiovascular events in individuals with chronic kidney disease. Dr. Anderson is the Director of the UC San Diego Center of Excellence in Health Promotion and Equity. She was a member of the 2015 US Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, and served on the National Academy of Medicine's Food and Nutrition Board. She is the current Chair of the American Heart Association's Epidemiology and Prevention Council and immediate past chair of the Nutrition Committee. She was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2016.

Christopher Ashley has served as La Jolla Playhouse's Artistic Director since 2007. During his tenure, he has helmed productions of *The Squirrels*, *Hollywood*, *The Darrell Hammond Project*, *His Girl Friday*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *A Dram of Drummhicit*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Restoration*, and the musicals *Diana*, *Escape to Margaritaville*, *Freaky Friday*, *Chasing the Song*, *Xanadu*, *Memphis*, which won four 2010 Tony Awards including Best Musical, and *Come From Away*, for which he won the 2017 Tony Award for Best Director of a Musical. He also spearheaded the Playhouse's Without Walls (WOW) series and the Resident Theatre program. Prior to joining the Playhouse, he directed the Broadway productions of *Xanadu* (Drama Desk Award nomination), *All Shook Up* and *The Rocky Horror Show* (Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Award nominations), as well as the Kennedy Center Sondheim Celebration productions of *Sweeney Todd* and *Merrily We Roll Along*. Other New York credits include: *Blown Sideways Through Life*, *Jeffrey* (Lucille Lortel and Obie Awards), *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*, *Valhalla*, *Regrets of Only*, *Wonder the World*, *Communicating Doors*, *Bunny Bunny*, *The Night Hank Williams Died* and *Fires in the Mirror* (Lucille Lortel Award), among others. Ashley also directed the feature films *Jeffrey* and *Lucky Stiff*, as well as the American Playhouse production of *Blown Sideways Through Life* for PBS. He is the recipient of the Princess Grace Award, Drama League Director Fellowship and NEA/TCG Director Fellowship.

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Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer became the 36th mayor of San Diego on March 3, 2014, on a campaign message of bringing San Diego together and restoring integrity to City Hall. Mayor Faulconer leads the city under his platform of "One San Diego," an inclusive city government that creates opportunities and improves the lives of all residents in all neighborhoods. His administration is focused on reforming government into a responsive and results-driven organization that efficiently and effectively serves the public. Mayor Faulconer has bolstered public safety, expanded services like parks and libraries across the city, and tripled the miles of roads repaired annually to meet his aggressive goal of fixing 1,000 miles of streets over five years. He has prioritized new funding and programs to reduce homelessness, making housing more affordable, growing San Diego's innovative and binational economy, and creating good-paying jobs for San Diegans.

ADM Brett P. Giroir, M.D., was sworn in as the 16th Assistant Secretary for Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on February 15, 2018. The Assistant Secretary for Health leads development of HHS-wide public health policy recommendations and oversees several of the Department's core public health offices – including the Office of the Surgeon General. His office leads many critical national initiatives, including an historic new plan to end the HIV Epidemic in America, the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, the revised Common Rule and a cross-agency effort to improve the outcomes of patients living with sickle cell disease. In addition, ADM Giroir serves as Senior Adviser to the Secretary for Opioid Policy, responsible for coordinating HHS's efforts across the Administration to fight America's opioid crisis. ADM Giroir is a pediatric critical care specialist and physician-scientist, who has served in a number of leadership positions in the federal government as well as academia. He was executive vice president and CEO of Texas A&M's Health Science Center from 2013-2015, and professor of pediatrics and engineering, having earlier served as vice chancellor of strategic initiatives (2011-2013) and vice chancellor for research (2008-2011) for the Texas A&M University system. Prior, he was professor of pediatrics and endowed chair at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center from 1993-2003, and was the first chief medical officer of Children's Medical Center of Dallas (now Children's Health). ADM Giroir's federal service includes directing the Defense Sciences Office of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) from 2006-2008. He joined the office in 2004 as deputy director and also served on the Department of Defense's Threat Reduction Advisory Committee, both during his tenure at DARPA and thereafter. From 2014-2015, he chaired the Veteran's Choice Act Blue Ribbon Panel to reform the U.S. Veterans Health System. ADM Giroir has authored or co-authored more than 100 scientific publications, editorials and book chapters. He is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the U.S. Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service, the American Heart Association's President Lyndon Baines Johnson Research Award, and the American Society of Nephrology's President's Medal. ADM Giroir was the nation's high school debate champion in 1978. He received a bachelor's degree in biology, magna cum laude, from Harvard University, and a medical degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

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Pradeep K. Khosla, UC San Diego's eighth Chancellor, is an internationally-renowned electrical and computer engineer recognized for his seminal contributions in secure software, intelligent robot systems and design. He provides vision and strategy for the university, leading a campus with more than 35,000 students, six undergraduate colleges, five academic divisions, five graduate and professional schools, a preeminent Health System and the prestigious Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Khosla has positioned UC San Diego to define the future of the public research university by activating the institution's first-ever Strategic Plan and launching the Campaign for UC San Diego—an ambitious and bold \$2 billion endeavor—aimed at transforming the university, physically and intellectually. Khosla has expanded college access and affordability for underserved populations, initiated campus-wide interdisciplinary research initiatives to foster collaboration and solve societal challenges, and strengthened university and community relationships and partnerships to drive regional impact. Khosla previously served as Dean of the College of Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. Several awards have recognized his leadership in education and research: the ASEE George Westinghouse Award for Education, the W. Wallace McDowell award from IEEE Computer Society, and the ASME Computers in Engineering Lifetime Achievement Award. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Engineering.

Since 1999, **Joseph Panetta** has been President & CEO and a Board member of Biocom, California's largest and most-experienced leader and advocate for the life science industry. Biocom works on behalf of over 1,300 members to drive public policy, build an enviable network of industry leaders, create access to capital development, introduce cutting-edge STEM education programs, and create robust value-driven purchasing programs. Mr. Panetta works with a professional staff of 60, with offices located in San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco Bay Area, Tokyo, and Washington, D.C. and has a continuous staff presence in Sacramento. Their broad membership benefits apply to biotechnology, pharmaceutical, medical device, genomics and diagnostics companies of all sizes, as well as to research universities and institutes, clinical research organizations, investors and service providers.

Tim Scott is co-founder and CEO of TEGA Therapeutics, a glycobiology company focused on lysosomal storage disorders and recombinant heparan sulfates. He previously was co-founder and President of Pharmatek Laboratories, a contract development and manufacturing company (sold to Catalent Pharma Solutions in 2016). Prior to that, he was Senior Vice President at Active.com (IPO 2011). Mr. Scott serves on the Board of Avelas, a bioscience company working to create better outcomes for cancer patients with its activatable cell-penetrating peptide technology. He previously served on the board of Zacharon Pharmaceuticals (sold to Biomarin 2014). Mr. Scott is Executive Board Chair of CONNECT, a non-profit organization helping to create and scale innovation companies in San Diego. He also serves on the board of BIOCOM, a non-profit organization supporting the needs of bio/pharma companies in California. At UC San Diego, he serves on the Dean's Advisory Council for the Division of Biological Sciences. In the community, Mr. Scott serves on the boards of La Jolla Playhouse, the San Diego Blood Bank, and Outside the Lens, a non-profit providing photography and digital media programs for underserved youth. Mr. Scott earned his B.A. in Biochemistry from the UC San Diego. He earned his J.D. from the University of San Diego and is a member of the California Bar.

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Jeffrey Seller is the winner of four Tony Awards for Best Musical: *Rent* (1996), *Avenue Q* (2004), *In the Heights* (2008) and *Hamilton* (2015). He also produced *De La Guarda* (1998), Andrew Lippa's *The Wild Party* (2000), Baz Luhrmann's direction of Puccini's *La Bohème* (2002), *High Fidelity* (2006), the Broadway revival of *West Side Story* (2009), Sting's *The Last Ship* (2014) and *The Cher Show*. Mr. Seller, with colleague Kevin McCollum, created the first ticket lottery for *Rent*, which revolutionized popular ticket prices on Broadway. Mr. Seller directed the first production of *Fly* at Dallas Theater Center in 2013 and *The Man in the Ceiling*, by Jules Feiffer and Andrew Lippa, at the Bay Street Theater in 2017. In 2018, he was executive producer of the NBC series *Rise*, based on Michael Sokolove's book, *Drama High*. Mr. Seller grew up in Oak Park, Michigan and is a graduate of the University of Michigan.

Dr. Eric Topol is the Founder and Director of the Scripps Research Translational Institute, Professor, Molecular Medicine, and Executive Vice-President of Scripps Research. As a researcher, he has published over 1,200 peer-reviewed articles, with more than 280,000 citations, elected to the National Academy of Medicine, and is one of the top 10 most cited researchers in medicine. His principal scientific focus has been on the genomic and digital tools to individualize medicine. In 2016, Topol was awarded a \$207 million grant from the NIH to lead a significant part of the Precision Medicine (All of Us) Initiative, a prospective research program enrolling 1 million participants in the US. This is in addition to his role as principal investigator for a flagship \$35M NIH grant to promote innovation in medicine. He was the founder of a new medical school at Cleveland Clinic, Lerner College of Medicine, with Case Western University. He has over 280,000 followers on Twitter (@EricTopol) where recently he has been reporting insights and research findings for COVID-19. Besides editing several textbooks, he has published three bestseller books on the future of medicine: [The Creative Destruction of Medicine](#), [The Patient Will See You Now](#) and [Deep Medicine: How Artificial Intelligence Can Make Healthcare Human Again](#). Topol was commissioned by the UK 2018-2019 to lead planning for the National Health Service's integration of AI and new technologies.

At **UC San Diego**, innovation and creativity are central to who they are and what they do. Students learn that knowledge isn't just acquired in the classroom – life is their laboratory. UC San Diego is an academic powerhouse and economic engine, recognized as one of the top 10 public universities by *U.S. News & World Report* and ranked *number one in the nation* for public service by *Washington Monthly*.

Sharon Wheatley originated the role of Diane in the La Jolla Playhouse-born Broadway musical *Come From Away* and appears on the cast album. Her previous Broadway credits include *Avenue Q*, *Les Misérables*, *Cats* and *The Phantom of the Opera*. Also a writer, her published memoir *'Til The Fat Girl Sings* is available on her website www.sharonwheatley.com and on Amazon. Sharon is joyfully mother to Charlotte (20) and Beatrix (10) who make life worth living.

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