Life Sciences Innovation: From Internal to External

Dr. B.T. Slingsby
Founder & Managing Partner, Catalys Pacific, LLC

The expanding sector of life sciences innovation is one of the most exciting, productive, and advancing fields in the world. Japan ranks second in the world by country for R&D expenditure, number of patents, and number of published papers in peer-reviewed journals in life sciences. However, many question whether the current R&D ecosystem for life sciences in Japan is robust enough to sustain such productivity.

At the turn-of-the-century in the United States and Europe, there was a transformative shift in how companies approach research and development of innovation in life sciences: from “Internal R&D” to “External R&D.” Today in Japan, the majority of life sciences companies continue to maintain an internal model of R&D; however, this is about to change.

This lecture will focus on the historical shift towards an open innovation model and the current need for a similar shift in Japan. It will introduce intimating data and trends in life science innovation particular to pharmaceuticals and ask how Japan can better create a more robust open innovation ecosystem.