**Presenter Bios**

JASNC Annual Conference: “From Innovation to Expansion: The Power of Biotech and Global Investment

**Christopher Chung**

**Chief Executive Officer, Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC)**

Christopher Chung has played a key role in strengthening economic ties between Japan and North Carolina as CEO of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC) since 2015. Under his leadership, EDPNC has helped attract major Japanese investments, including expansions in biotechnology and advanced manufacturing, reinforcing North Carolina’s position as a key destination for Japanese businesses.

Previously, Mr. Chung held leadership roles at the Missouri Partnership (2007–2014) and the Ohio Department of Development (1997–2007), both of which included engagement with Japanese investors. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of The Ohio State University, he majored in Japanese and economics and pursued graduate studies in public policy.

Recognized for his contributions to economic development, Mr. Chung serves on the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the U.S. Investment Advisory Council, where he advises on foreign direct investment, including U.S.-Japan business relations.

He resides in Raleigh, North Carolina, with his wife, Emily, and their daughters.

**Sarah Gaskill**

**Head of External Relations, FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies, FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies**

Sarah Gaskill serves as the Head of External Relations for FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies, where she leads initiatives to strengthen community partnerships, enhance workforce development, and support economic growth in North Carolina. She plays a key role in representing FUJIFILM’s regional operations and fostering relationships with key stakeholders in the biotech and life sciences sectors.

With over 20 years of experience in economic development, talent strategy, and corporate engagement, Ms. Gaskill previously led global talent acquisition initiatives and served as President of the Morrisville Chamber of Commerce and the Morrisville Innovation Foundation, driving business recruitment and retention efforts for Fortune 500 companies in technology, healthcare, and pharmaceuticals. She also held leadership roles at the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, focusing on economic growth and regional partnerships.

Ms. Gaskill remains a committed leader in the Triangle region, serving as Chair of the Regional Transportation Alliance, a Board Member for the Wake County Community Foundation and the North Carolina Business Committee for Education, and a Trustee of William Peace University, her alma mater. She also serves on the RTP 3.0 Advisory Committee and the Holly Springs Arts Council.

**Becky Levine**

**Director, Community Engagement and Public Affairs, Kyowa Kirin North Carolina**

Becky Levine serves as the Director of Community Engagement and Public Affairs for Kyowa Kirin’s first North American manufacturing site in Sanford, NC. In this role, she fosters relationships with academic institutions, industry leaders, civic organizations, and local stakeholders to enhance economic, social, and cultural opportunities in the region.

With 35 years of experience in healthcare communications, Ms. Levine has worked across biopharmaceutical companies, clinical research organizations, and academia, specializing in medical writing, corporate branding, media relations, patient advocacy, and community engagement. Her expertise lies in crafting narratives that highlight scientific advancements and their impact on human health.

Ms. Levine holds a B.A. in English Literature from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and an M.A. in Print Journalism from the University of Maryland, College Park. She resides in Raleigh, North Carolina, and has two adult daughters living in San Diego and Boston.

**Kiyoshi Tanigawa**

**Executive Director, Keidanren USA**

Kiyoshi Tanigawa serves as the Executive Director of Keidanren USA, where he leads efforts to advance U.S.-Japan economic cooperation from its Washington, D.C. office. With over two decades at Keidanren, he has played a vital role in shaping Japan’s international business policies, advocating for trade, innovation, and regulatory reforms that strengthen economic ties between Japan and the United States.

Previously, Mr. Tanigawa was responsible for Japan’s energy and climate change policy at Keidanren, working closely with government and industry leaders to address global challenges. He has also contributed to key discussions on industrial policy, international trade, and Asian economic relations.

Mr. Tanigawa earned his B.A. in Economics from the University of Tokyo and holds master’s degrees from the University of Tokyo, Columbia University, and the London School of Economics, supported by Fulbright and Rotary Foundation scholarships.

**David Robinson**

**Honorary Consul of Japan for North Carolina & Chairman, Japan-America Society of North Carolina (JASNC)**

David Robinson has been a key figure in U.S.-Japan relations in North Carolina, serving as Honorary Consul of Japan and Chairman of the Japan-America Society of North Carolina (JASNC). His legal career has focused on facilitating Japanese business investment in North Carolina, advising companies on regulatory compliance, cross-border trade, and corporate integration.

Mr. Robinson has played an active role in North Carolina’s Japan-related institutions, including serving on the Board of Advisors for the NC Japan Center and as a former Deputy Director of the Center. He has also been involved in numerous international business and legal organizations, working to strengthen economic and cultural ties between Japan and North Carolina.

A dedicated leader in the Japan-America community, Mr. Robinson has spent time in over 60 countries and brings a deep understanding of global business practices. He and his wife, Sue, reside in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he continues to advocate for strong U.S.-Japan relations.

**Andrew Wylegala**

**President, National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS)**

Andrew Wylegala has dedicated much of his career to strengthening U.S.-Japan relations and now serves as President of the National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS). His passion for Japan began as a high school exchange student in Saitama Prefecture and as a member of the Japan-America Student Conference, experiences that shaped his lifelong commitment to fostering cross-cultural ties.

He served as Minister-Counselor for Commercial Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo (2012–2017), promoting U.S.-Japan trade and investment. His diplomatic career also included assignments in Hong Kong and Seoul, where he worked on economic policy and commercial affairs. He later taught economics and industry analysis at the National Defense University and led the American Chamber of Commerce in Taiwan, strengthening regional business relationships.

Now based in Washington, D.C., Mr. Wylegala looks forward to expanding NAJAS’ work in building grassroots connections between Japan and communities across the United States.