Q&A INTERVIEW WITH
Mary Rozenman
Chief Financial and Chief Business Officer
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Describe Your Typical Working Day

My day starts around 6:30 a.m. with the morning routine of getting two adults and two kids (one 3-year-old and one 8-month-old) ready for the day. Sometimes I’m a little tired if the baby woke up in the middle of the night. My nanny arrives by 7:45am and I’m out the door to the office between 7:45am and 8am, arriving by 8:30am. I usually take a call in the car on the way to make use of the time.

My days are typically packed with a range of internal and external meetings. Internal meetings focus on company building matters, scientific reviews or technical reviews with our teams, or strategic discussions on potential new projects or collaborations. At insitro, we are working to transform how drugs are discovery and development through the application of machine learning to in-house generated biologic data sets at scale. This is a massive effort that takes a lot of cross-functional collaboration. As the CFO and CBO I am a critical voice in many discussions given my responsibility for our finance, strategy and business development efforts, as well as portfolio management. External meetings are often with current or potential future partners, collaborators, service providers or job candidates.

Our office is completely open so I have a standing desk amid a sea of brilliant machine learning gurus, stem cell biologists, drug hunters and automation or data engineers. It’s an incredibly exciting and invigorating space. On rare occasions, I get to sit at my computer and think or read but often I’m pulled into discussions on topics that team members are boiling over with excitement.

The energy and culture at insitro is very special, highly dynamic and collaborative. By 6 p.m. I typically head home (often doing personal or family calls in the car), spend time with my husband and kids, sometimes cook (but always eat) dinner and get the kids to sleep. After that, I try to unwind a bit but often pick up work for some quiet time to read and think about the things I didn’t get to during the hectic day.

2. What made you choose this career path (and do you feel it is well represented by women)?

I have wanted to help those that are sick from a very young age, having grown up with a family member who didn’t have access to necessary quality medicines. Always more of a scientist than a medical doctor, I studied organic chemistry as a Ph.D. student and became committed to a career and live devoted to bringing better medicines to patients in need.

I touched every piece of the pharmaceutical value chain as a consultant at McKinsey & Company, invested in biotech advancing new therapeutics as an investor at Longitude Capital, helped build Aimmune Therapeutics and bring the first ever food allergy medicine to FDA approval and am now building my second company with the goal of applying world class machine learning and data generation at scale to discover and develop medicines better, faster and cheaper.
3. On International Women's Day, what developments are you seeing for women in health? Women's health and diversity in clinical trials, for instance, are issues rising up the health agenda. What are your views on these and other emerging issues for women in health?

I am passionate about STEM education for women at “the top of the funnel” and proactive strategies to bring more women into the biotech C-suite and onto private and public biotech company boards of directors “further down the funnel.” I believe that having diverse perspectives in operating, executive and board ranks will help biotech and pharmaceutical companies do more good for patients in need.

4. What do you think will be the most transformative issues and trends facing the pharmaceutical sector in the US in the years ahead?

Machine learning and artificial intelligence have made an incredible impact on many sectors and aspects of our lives, but not our healthcare system and certainly not the medicines available to us.

At insitro, we are committed to being the leading company working to transform how drugs are discovered and developed through the application of machine learning. I am very hopeful that insitro and other great companies working in this important space will make great progress and bring significant benefit to patients and the U.S. healthcare system in the years ahead.

To gain further insights from Mary Rozenman, Insitro, and other industry thought-leaders, join the FT US Pharma and Biotech Summit.

Now in its 2nd year, this annual gathering will provide a fresh perspective on the crucial issues impacting the pharma and biotech industries today, gathering a bigger audience of thought-leaders and influencers from the US pharmaceutical industry for a day of insightful discussions, meeting industry colleagues and exploring new business opportunities.

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