



**zēlosDx**

## MCB SEMINAR SERIES

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### **A NEUROSCIENCE RENAISSANCE: LAUNCHING BLOOD-BASED BIOMARKERS FOR BRAIN DISEASE**

**ZelosDx** is a Tucson-based company that is commercializing blood testing products to help researchers make breakthrough discoveries in brain health and disease. **Our WINDOW INTO THE BRAIN™ technology is based on the concept that phagocytic cells in peripheral blood present a novel tool for a rapid and low-cost diagnostics of brain health.** It is our business goal to provide such a tool to the clinical research community to enable breakthrough discoveries in disease onset and progression, drug development and patient care. It is well known that phagocytic cells are recruited to inflamed brain tissue where they engulf debris resulting from disease or trauma. More recently it has been shown that such debris is also generated in cognitively normal brains. ZelosDx was the first to demonstrate that phagocytic cells carrying brain biomarkers can reenter the blood stream, presenting **a novel source of molecular biomarkers for neurodegeneration in the aging, diseased, or traumatized brain.**

#### **Speakers:**

**Marie Wesselhoft, President, Cofounder, and Board Member** spent the last fifteen years involved in the southern Arizona bio start-up community. She is President & Co-founder of ZelosDx. Marie was a Mentor-in-Residence at the University of Arizona and she previously served as the Director for the University of Arizona Center for Innovation Business Incubator. During her 20-year career at Baxter, she held several senior management positions including General Manager of the diagnostic business unit. At Baxter she launched multiple \$25-50 million diagnostic product lines. Early in Marie's career she was a hospital laboratory director for one of the Humana facilities in the Chicago healthcare market. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a B.S., in Medical Technology, and attended the University of Chicago Business School and the University of Arizona McGuire Center for Entrepreneurship.

**Vanessa White, M.S., Research Scientist/Lab Manager**, brings a rigorous process-oriented and engineering approach to bio problems. She began her career in medical diagnostics after completing a Professional Science Masters (PSM) in Applied Biosciences from the University of Arizona in 2014. Following completion of her B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, she was with Astronautics Corp. of America in Wisconsin for three years, working in design, verification, and FAA certification of airborne electronics products. Then Vanessa spent the next three years at Dedicated Computing.

