

Joan Lau is Chief Executive Officer of Spirovant Sciences, a Philadelphia biotechnology company focused on treatments and cures for inherited respiratory diseases. She co-founded Spirovant (then called Talee Bio), envisioning the potential for advanced gene therapy to treat cystic fibrosis and other patients in need. Under her leadership, Spirovant gained the prestigious scientific support of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, was the winner of as the Philadelphia Alliance for Capital and Technologies' Healthcare startup of the year and was acquired twice in one year, most recently as part of a \$3 billion transaction with Sumitomo Dainippon Pharma. She has been recognized as the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year in Greater Philadelphia and a Woman of Distinction by the Philadelphia Business Journal.

Dr. Lau co-founded and served as Managing Partner of Militia Hill Ventures, a firm focused on building and growing life sciences companies. She previously held roles as President and CEO of Azelon Pharmaceuticals a clinical stage biotech; President and CEO of Locus Pharmaceuticals, a computational chemistry discovery company; COO of Immunome, an antibody discovery company; and various leadership roles at Merck, including R&D drug development and business development. Tirabrutinib (VELEXBRU®) was discovered, developed and licensed by Locus under her leadership.

Dr. Lau is an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania and has non-profit board experience in entrepreneurship, STEM/biotech, and social justice organizations. These include board appointments with the Kimmel Center, Penn's School of Social Policy and Practice; the Roy & Diana Vagelos Program in Life Sciences Management; the Temple University Masters in Biotechnology Program; president of The Alliance for Women Entrepreneurs; and the national board chair of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, a global LGBTQ+ advocacy organization.

Dr. Lau earned an MBA from the Wharton School of Business and a BSE in Bioengineering, both at the University of Pennsylvania; and a PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. She and her family live in Philadelphia.