

YANJUN (KEENE) WEI

Chief Executive Officer Viwit Pharmaceuticals



Camille and Henry Dreyfus Lecture Series

Wednesday, April 15th

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Steele 006

“Science, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship: Viwit’s Evolution and Practice”

Abstract: Viwit Pharmaceuticals has grown from a 100 m² laboratory focused on borane chemistry into an integrated organization spanning both the industrial and innovation value chains. Its capabilities evolved over time into APIs, specialty generics, ophthalmic innovative therapies, targeted radiopharmaceuticals, and targeted LNP-based RNA platforms for in vivo cell and gene therapy. The company has established three manufacturing sites, achieved successful GMP audits from both China NMPA and US FDA multiple times, and built an integrated system covering R&D, manufacturing, and commercial operations.

Throughout this evolution, scientific innovation has been the primary driver, with entrepreneurial leadership enabling its translation into scalable business outcomes. Drawing on this experience, the discussion examines five key dimensions of entrepreneurship: strategic decisions, team building, scientific innovation, commercial operations, and corporate culture, highlighting the associated challenges, lessons learned, and achievements, and illustrating the integration of scientific insights with entrepreneurial execution. Through this talk, reflection on decision-making, persistence, lifelong learning, and the meaning and attitude of life will also be shared and discussed.

Bio: Keene (Yanjun) Wei, Ph.D. is the founder and CEO of Viwit Pharmaceuticals, an integrated biopharmaceutical company spanning discovery, FDA-compliant manufacturing, and commercial operations, and VitsGen Therapeutics, which focuses on targeted radiopharmaceuticals. He also serves as Director of the Shandong Key Laboratory for Targeted Radionuclide Drug Conjugates.

Dr. Wei received his B.S. from Peking University and his Ph.D. from Dartmouth College. He has been a member of the 12th, 13th, and 14th Shandong Provincial People’s Congresses, with leadership roles in the latter two terms. He is a recipient of special government allowances from the State Council of China and the Shandong Provincial Government.

An inventor on over 100 patents (filed and granted), Dr. Wei has led the development of multiple technology platforms across chiral chemistry, specialty generics, metal-based therapeutics, radiopharmaceuticals, and LNP-based RNA systems for in vivo cell and gene therapy. His honors include national and provincial awards recognizing scientific innovation, entrepreneurship, and industrial impact.

He holds several professional and advisory roles, including Vice President of the Shandong Association of Young Medical Workers and advisor on pharmaceutical safety assessment. He is a regular invited speaker at leading international conferences, including the US Targeted Radiopharmaceuticals Summit (TRP US), the Global Radiopharmaceuticals Development Summit, and the In Vivo Cell Therapy Innovation Summit.