

Stanley T. Crooke, M.D., Ph.D.

Founder, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board

Dr. Stanley Crooke is founder, chairman and chief executive officer of n-Lorem, a nonprofit foundation focused on providing treatments for patients with nano-rare disease patients (1 to 30 patients worldwide), which he initiated in January 2020. Prior to n-Lorem, Dr. Crooke founded and was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer and Lead Scientist of Ionis Pharmaceuticals. During his tenure at Ionis, he led the scientific development of a new platform for drug discovery, antisense technology and the creation of one of the largest and more advanced development pipelines in the biotechnology industry, and commercialized several antisense drugs including, SPINRAZA® (nusinersen), TEGSEDI™ (inotersen) and others. Early in Dr. Crooke's career, he led the creation of the first broad anticancer program in the industry at Bristol-Myers, bringing numerous anticancer drugs to the market in the first five years of his career. He then assumed responsibility for worldwide R&D (president) at SmithKline Beckman (now GSK). During his tenure at SKB, Dr. Crooke led the restructuring of R&D and the development of several drugs that were commercialized.

Dr. Crooke has also contemporaneously led a successful academic career becoming a full professor at Baylor College of Medicine and the University of Pennsylvania Medical School where he trained a number of Ph.D. students and won several teaching awards. Dr. Crooke has been an active scientist throughout his career as well.

Dr. Crooke has received a number of awards, most recently, the Indiana University School of Medicine Steven C. Beering Award, the Prix Galien Roy Vagelos Pro Bono Humanum Award, the American Chemical Society's E.B. Hershberg Award for Important Discoveries in Medicinally Active Substances, the Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Oligonucleotide Therapeutics Society, the Scrip Lifetime Achievement Award and the 2019 Massry Prize.

Dr. Crooke received his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees and house staff training at Baylor College of Medicine, where he currently serves on the Board of Advisors. In 2021, Dr. Crooke has been named Distinguished Alumnus of both Baylor College of Medicine's Graduate and Medical schools and named one of the 20 of the most influential biopharma R&D executives by Endpoints News. He has published nearly 600 scientific publications, edited more than 20 books, has numerous patents, and led the development of more than 23 drugs that have been commercialized.

Sarah Glass, Ph.D.
Chief Operating Officer

Dr. Sarah Glass is the chief operating officer of n-Lorem Foundation. Sarah received her Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics at Ohio State University where she trained in rare inherited cancer syndromes. She has over 20 years of experience in clinical development and research across academia, pharmaceutical companies, and CROs. Sarah brings significant strengths and experience as an accomplished research geneticist, rare disease drug developer, and clinical trialist. She is acclaimed for forging key strategic partnerships across rare disease sectors and has driven efficiencies to decrease patient/ caregiver burden in clinical research. Most notably, Sarah combines professional expertise and training with the perspective of a parent. This allows Sarah to not only personally understand the challenges faced by our patients and their families, but also to translate this understanding into n-Lorem's paradigm shifting platform solution for the ultra-rare community. Outside of n-Lorem, Sarah volunteers as chair of the DYRK1A Medical and Scientific advisory board and is engaged in many rare disease organizations to ensure collaboration in reaching our common goals.

Joe Gleeson, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer

Dr. Joe Gleeson is the chief medical officer of n-Lorem Foundation. Joe graduated from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, then trained in pediatrics, neurology and neurogenetics at Children's Hospital, Boston and Harvard Medical School. He has been a faculty member at University of California San Diego School of Medicine and an attending physician at Rady Children's Hospital San Diego since 1999. From 2008-2019, he was an investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. From 2014-2015, he was the Hess Professor and head of the Laboratory for Pediatric Brain Disease at Rockefeller University, and director of mendelian sequencing at the New York Genome Center. Since 2015, he has held the Rady Children's Hospital auxiliary endowed professorship of neuroscience and served as director of neuroscience research at the Rady Children's Institute for Genomic Medicine. He is an investigator with the Simons Foundation for Autism Research Initiative, and an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine.

Julie Douville, Ph.D.

Vice President, ASO Discovery and Development

Dr. Julie Douville is the vice president of ASO discovery and development at n-Lorem Foundation. Prior to n-Lorem, Julie was at Charles River Laboratories from 2007 to 2022 as the director of infusion, parenteral administration and neurotoxicology, where she specialized in cerebrospinal administration, and in the development of antisense oligonucleotides, gene therapies and other therapeutic entities. In this role, Julie oversaw several IND-supporting programs for indications including ALS, Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's, Angelman's Syndrome, Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy, and many others. Working with academic investigators, she personally oversaw the toxicology program for milasen, the first personalized ASO treatment that was customized for a mutation in a single patient, which was approved for clinical use by the FDA in 2018. Julie led several additional n=1 preclinical programs, in addition to being involved on many other rare disease programs for which she developed strategies for acceleration of the preclinical phase. She has taken part in key discussions with regulatory authorities in the FDA and EMA, helping to establish precedents for the U.S. guidelines around individualized antisense oligonucleotide treatment. Julie carries a strong background in GLP preclinical development, and in-depth knowledge of ASO-associated toxicities, especially in the central nervous system. Julie received her Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology from the University of Montreal.

Laurence Mignon, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Clinical Development

Dr. Laurence Mignon is the executive director of clinical development at n-Lorem Foundation. Laurence has more than 20 years of experience as a seasoned academic researcher and clinical developer with a passion for rare diseases. Most recently, Laurence worked at Ionis Pharmaceuticals both in the Translational Medicine group and the Neurology Franchise Clinical Development group. In those roles, she implemented a novel genomic study to better understand genotype-phenotype associations and disease pathways, initiated the first clinical study in myotonic dystrophy type 1 and was a key member of the clinical team that brought SPINRAZA® (nusinersen), a disease-modifying therapy for patients with spinal muscular atrophy, to the market. Prior to Ionis, Laurence worked at Orexigen Therapeutics on the development of an obesity medication and at the Neuroscience Education Institute developing Continuing Medical Education material aimed at deconstructing the mechanism of action of psychiatric medications for psychiatrists, primary care physicians, and registered nurses. Laurence's broad and diverse experience allows her to be strategically creative in her approach to deal with uncharted challenges. Laurence received her PhD in Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics from Loyola University Chicago and was a researcher for 6 years in the Department of Neurology at UCLA in the laboratory of Marie-Françoise Chesselet, studying properties of muscle-derived stem cells and the role of the serotonin pathway in Parkinson's disease.

Kim Butler

Senior Director of Operations

Kim Butler is the senior director of operations at n-Lorem Foundation. Kim is a broadly experienced administrative assistant who has been employed by Ionis Pharmaceuticals since 2014. During her tenure with Ionis, she has been promoted several times and has assumed substantial managerial responsibilities. Additionally, she is accountable for leading the training of all administrative personnel and leads the management of administrative activities for Ionis. Currently, Kim is the senior administrative assistant to the Chairman and CEO of n-Lorem and has played an instrumental role in the formation of the foundation. Prior to joining Ionis, Mrs. Butler served in senior administrative positions in several organizations and has help found and participated in a number of charitable efforts. She is active in a wide range of civic service groups such as the American Legion and a frequent volunteer committed to serving the needy empathetically.

Megan Knutsen, MS

Director, Clinical Operations and Project Management

Megan Knutsen is the director of clinical operations and project management at n-Lorem Foundation. Megan brings a unique background of more than 20 years of experience as a clinical project manager, epidemiologist, and molecular biologist across pharma, biotech, CROs, and academia with a specific focus on rare diseases, oncology, and gene therapy. It is this combination of experience that drives Megan's passion for a role at the intersection of science and translational clinical research. Developing and managing the n-Lorem portfolio requires innovative thinking beyond what is done in traditional drug development. In her role at n-Lorem, Megan manages the portfolio by overseeing project management and operations of each patient program from application through treatment, ensuring efficiency, consistency, and organization at every step in between. Megan also manages several external collaborations of strategic importance to n-Lorem. Megan received her Master of Science in Epidemiology with an emphasis in Public Health Genetics from University of Washington, holds a professional certificate in Clinical Trial Design and Management from the University of California, San Diego, and is a licensed Clinical Genetic Molecular Biologist Scientist by the state of California.

Konstantina Skourti-Stathaki, Ph.D.

Senior Director, Discovery & Research

Dr. Konstantina Skourti-Stathaki is the senior director of discovery and research at n-Lorem Foundation. Konstantina has a strong passion for RNA research and her drive and mission is to utilize it to save people's lives. Prior to n-Lorem, Konstantina led the RNA Biology and Technology team at MiNA Therapeutics. In this role, she specialized and oversaw pre-clinical RNA Therapeutics drug discovery, specifically target identification and validation, oligonucleotide design and targeting, and mechanism of action studies. She led the strategic planning of new targets and shaped key early decisions on the drug discovery process of rare disease targets. Konstantina also co-lead programs from drug discovery to IND filing. Prior to her industry position, Konstantina spent 15 years in academia and her expertise is on RNA biology and biochemistry, transcription and epigenetics. Konstantina did her Ph.D. at the University of Oxford where she made the pioneering discovery that naturally formed RNA/DNA hybrids control transcription and chromatin in mammalian cells. She was then awarded a prestigious Sir Henry Wellcome independent post-doctoral fellowship which she spent at the University of Edinburgh, UK and the Max Delbrück Centre for Molecular Medicine in Berlin, Germany, where she pioneered how RNA structures affect stem cell homeostasis and DNA damage repair. Konstantina has a strong track record of innovative research including numerous high impact factor peer-reviewed publications and patent filings.

Amy C. Williford, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Communications and Donor Relations

Dr. Amy Williford is the executive director of communications and donor relations at n-Lorem Foundation. Amy is a seasoned communications professional who is well versed in translating complex scientific concepts and ideas into concise and easy-to-understand concepts. A scientist by training, Amy supported multiple high-profile communications programs as the associate director of corporate communications at Ionis Pharmaceuticals. She also managed and built relationships with pharmaceutical partners, institutional investors and private shareholders. Prior to joining Ionis, Amy worked at a public relations agency, where she managed and led communications for a range of companies across the biotechnology industry, and built long-standing relationships with key media, investors and analysts. Amy received her Ph.D. in chemistry from The Scripps Research Institute, where she studied the selective binding of transcription factors to DNA.