

PDHC at an INFLECTION POINT

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PDHC AT AN INFLECTION POINT: A VISION FOR 2026 AND BEYOND

When the Peptide Drug Hunting Consortium (PDHC) was founded, it emerged from a simple but powerful idea: peptide drug discovery advances fastest when knowledge is openly shared and when experienced practitioners actively mentor the next generation of scientists. Progress accelerates when scientists, engineers, and innovators are connected across disciplines, organizations, and geographies. From the beginning, PDHC has been a community built on curiosity, generosity, and shared technical passion.

Today, PDHC stands at an inflection point.

We are fortunate to have an exceptional and deeply experienced membership across our Entrepreneurial Advisory Board (EAB), Executive Business Network (EBN), and Editorial Advisory Board. This breadth of expertise is one of PDHC's greatest strengths. As we move forward, the opportunity, and the need, is for these leaders to interact more intentionally across the EAB and EBN, collaborate around shared themes, and take ownership of their respective domains. The next phase of PDHC requires a shift from advisors to architects: individuals who not only offer insight, but help shape programs, content, and direction.

In 2025, execution necessarily relied on a small number of committed leadership team members. In 2026 and beyond, PDHC's impact will depend on broader engagement, shared responsibility, and collective ownership from across this community.

In 2025, we saw extraordinary grassroots engagement, from scientific discussions and educational content to global participation across academia, biotech, pharma, and emerging technology platforms. That momentum affirmed the original premise of PDHC.

CHRONICLE ABSTRACT

The Peptide Drug Hunting Consortium (PDHC) enters 2026 at a dual inflection point: for the peptide field, as medicines and enabling technologies reach new levels of clinical and translational maturity; and for PDHC itself, as a growing organization. Built on a foundation of shared knowledge, mentorship, and community-driven exchange, PDHC has grown into a global network spanning academia, biotech, pharma, and emerging technology platforms. With this growth comes the opportunity, and the responsibility, to evolve from a volunteer-driven community into a durable platform with clear leadership, sustainable funding, and shared accountability.

In this President's Vision, Charles Johannes outlines how we will accelerate peptide drug discovery by leveraging the collective genius of the PDHC network and a deliberate integration of our diverse scientific, entrepreneurial, and translational expertise. Reflecting on lessons from 2025, including the transition to nonprofit status, the article defines priorities for 2026 focused on leadership engagement, high-quality programming, responsible funding, and clear pathways for contribution. Ultimately, PDHC's impact will be measured by the success of its members: advancing science, enabling entrepreneurship, and translating peptide innovation into better medicines.

It also revealed an important truth: if PDHC is to reach its full potential, it must evolve from a volunteer-driven community into a durable platform with structure, resources, and shared accountability.



As I step into the role of President, I want to share my vision for PDHC in 2026 and beyond, and importantly, invite the community to help shape and build what comes next.

WHY PDHC MATTERS

Peptide drug hunting succeeds when the right biology is matched to the right modality and when translation is deliberately engineered. It requires tight integration of chemistry, biology, computation, and development, along with access to the people, resources, and capital needed to move discoveries from insight to impact. Progress in peptide drug hunting depends on collective genius: the deliberate integration of diverse expertise, perspectives, and experiences across the community to generate insights and solutions that no single laboratory, company, or discipline could achieve alone.

PDHC exists because the most meaningful advances in peptide therapeutics happen when ideas move freely, when technical lessons are shared honestly, and when emerging scientists learn not just what works, but why. Equally important, progress depends on entrepreneurial science, the ability to connect scientific insight with resources, capital, and pathways to translation. Our mission is to catalyze progress by connecting people, elevating knowledge, and accelerating translation. Thus we will link researchers with industry partners, venture capital, technology transfer offices, and other enablers of innovation, in service of better medicines.

This mission has defined PDHC since its inception. Our ability to deliver on it must now grow.

REFLECTIONS ON 2025

The past year demonstrated what a motivated community can accomplish. PDHC benefited from strong participation across industry and academia, a willingness of leaders to share hard-learned lessons, and a growing appetite for deeper technical discussions.

Beyond PDHC itself, 2025 was also a consequential year for peptide drug discovery. Advances across metabolic disease, oncology, and targeted delivery continued to validate peptides as medicines with differentiated engineered pharmacology. These developments underscored both the maturity of the field and the pace of innovation, reinforcing the value of timely knowledge exchange, mentorship, and cross-sector dialogue.

At the same time, 2025 revealed the limits of informal structure. Leadership bandwidth was stretched, and execution depended heavily on a small number of contributors. PDHC also undertook the essential transition to 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, a step critical for long-term credibility and impact, but one that temporarily constrained funding flexibility.

These are not failures; they are signals. They tell us that PDHC has reached a scale where enthusiasm alone is no longer sufficient. To amplify impact, we need clearer roles, better resourcing, and a more intentional operating model.

2026: FROM COMMUNITY TO PLATFORM

In 2026, PDHC will focus on building the infrastructure required to support long-term impact. This vision rests on four pillars.

1 Leadership with Clarity and Accountability

PDHC will continue to evolve its leadership structure to support the organization we are becoming. As our mission and activities expand, leadership roles will be clearly defined, purpose-driven, and aligned with strategic priorities. Authority and responsibility will be thoughtfully distributed to enable effective decision-making and sustained momentum.

Contributors will be invited to articulate how they would like to engage and where they can lead, support, or build. PDHC is strongest when individuals step into roles that reflect their strengths and interests, and when those strengths are intentionally integrated across the organization to unlock our collective genius.

2 Programs That Create Signal

PDHC will prioritize high-quality, technically meaningful programming. This includes flagship webinars featuring industry, academic, and technology leaders; structured discussion formats that encourage real exchange; and expanded PDHC Chronicle content. Accessible science summaries will be developed in part through community-



facing initiatives, such as the proposed Social Hour for Social Change, which emerged from leadership discussions around science communication and public engagement. These efforts will help members communicate peptide science to broader audiences, broaden engagement, and support PDHC's outreach and funding efforts.

Our goal is to make PDHC a trusted signal source, a place where the peptide community comes to learn, challenge assumptions, and stay current.

3 Funding the Mission Responsibly

To sustain and grow these efforts, PDHC must be financially supported. In 2026, PDHC will actively pursue funding aligned with its mission, including support from industry partners, philanthropic organizations, and family offices that value scientific education and translational impact. As PDHC professionalizes as a nonprofit organization, funding efforts will be anchored by clearly defined leadership roles, articulated goals, and shared accountability for outcomes.

Funding will enable scaled programming, including initiatives that translate peptide science for public audiences; improved infrastructure and communications; support for leadership and operations; and travel and engagement that broaden PDHC's reach. Transparency, independence, and community trust will guide all funding decisions.

4 Clear Paths to Contribute

PDHC's strength lies in participation. In 2026, we will make it easier for members to engage meaningfully, and we will ask members to explicitly define how their expertise, time, and perspective can contribute to PDHC's goals. Contribution may take many forms, including writing, organizing events, mentoring, fundraising, or leading new initiatives, but in all cases it will be grounded in clear ownership and intentional impact.

If PDHC matters to you, there will be a clear way to contribute.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE IN 2026

By the end of 2026, success for PDHC will be measured not by scale alone, but by substance and outcomes. We will have an engaged leadership team with clearly defined roles, regular interaction across the EAB and EBN, and shared ownership of programs and outcomes. For members of the Executive Business Network, success will include increased connectivity that leads to new business opportunities, partnerships, and informed strategic decisions. For entrepreneurs and startups, success will be reflected in clearer pathways to capital, more informed engagement with venture investors, and stronger connections to industry and technology transfer ecosystems. PDHC will deliver consistent, high-quality programming that informs and connects the peptide community, supported by sustainable funding and transparent governance. Most importantly, PDHC will function as a trusted platform where knowledge, experience, mentorship, and commercial insight actively flow between generations of peptide drug hunters. When PDHC members succeed, scientifically, professionally, or entrepreneurially, PDHC itself will have succeeded.

LOOKING AHEAD

PDHC is entering a new phase, one defined by intention, execution, and shared ownership. My role as President is to help create the conditions for collective genius to emerge, where knowledge, experience, and judgment are combined across the community to drive progress.

This is an invitation. To participate. To contribute. To help shape an organization that supports peptide drug hunting not just for today, but for the next generation.



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[HTTPS://PEPTIDEDRUGHUNTING.ORG](https://peptidedrug hunting.org)

