KASBP NJ/NY
Korean American Society in Biotech and Pharmaceuticals
NEW JERSEY / NEW YORK

PRESS RELEASE

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KASBP NJ/NY Hosts “From Unmet Need to Patient Access” Conference

From the lab to the patient: exploring the full journey of drug development in one place

NEW JERSEY, October 12, 2026 — The New Jersey/New York Chapter of the Korean American Society in Biotech and Pharmaceuticals (KASBP) held a drug development conference themed “From Unmet Need to Patient Access” in New Jersey on October 10 (local time), co-hosted with SK biopharmaceuticals and its U.S. subsidiary, SK Life Science.

Approximately 170 professionals from industry and academia, including representatives of SK biopharmaceuticals and SK Life Science, attended the event. Participants discussed the full path a new medicine takes from the laboratory through clinical development and regulatory review to the patients who need it, along with the key challenges, decisions and opportunities for collaboration at each stage.



Attendees of the KASBP NJ/NY conference “From Unmet Need to Patient Access,” co-hosted with SK biopharmaceuticals, gather for a group photo in New Jersey on October 10.

Organized by KASBP NJ/NY, the conference went beyond showcasing the achievements of any single product or company. Instead, it examined drug development as one continuous journey, highlighting the scientific, clinical, regulatory and business judgments required at each step before a new medicine reaches patients.

At the center of the program was SK biopharmaceuticals’ cenobamate (marketed in the U.S. as XCOPRI®) — a case in which a Korean company carried a drug candidate from discovery and R&D all the way through U.S. FDA approval and direct commercialization in the U.S. market. By sharing the key decisions and real-world experiences behind that journey, the conference offered attendees practical, first-hand insights.

From R&D to Patient Access

The program was organized into three sessions: Discovery & R&D, Clinical & Regulatory, and Commercial & Beyond.

In the Discovery & R&D session, faculty from New York Medical College and Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School addressed unmet medical needs in epilepsy and the challenges of developing new therapies. SK biopharmaceuticals then shared the major turning points, decisions and practical lessons from cenobamate's research and development.

The Clinical & Regulatory session explored key considerations from clinical trial design through approval, focusing on the U.S. FDA's new drug review and approval process and the clinical development of cenobamate.

The final session, Commercial & Beyond, discussed the strategies needed for a new medicine to move beyond FDA approval, reach patients and achieve sustained growth — covering drug pricing and market access, U.S. commercialization, business expansion and broader patient access.

The "Lessons Learned" session, which shared SK's experience developing and commercializing cenobamate in the U.S., drew particularly strong interest, as it gave attendees a rare opportunity to hear directly about real-world experience and the trial and error behind drug development.

KASBP: A Platform Connecting Experts

Through this conference, KASBP NJ/NY created a platform connecting the Korean and U.S. pharmaceutical and biotech ecosystems, bringing together experts from academia and industry to discuss the entire drug development process.

"Sharing the journey of a Korean company that took a new medicine from initial discovery all the way to U.S. FDA approval and local commercialization is a truly meaningful opportunity for Korean American scientists and pharmaceutical and biotech professionals," said Min Suk Kang, President of the KASBP NJ/NY Chapter.

"This conference was not designed to showcase the success of a particular product," Kang added. "It was planned as an opportunity to look together at the questions and decisions required at every stage — research, clinical development, regulatory approval, market access and commercialization — before a new medicine reaches patients. I hope it gave everyone, from graduate students and researchers to industry professionals and entrepreneurs, a chance to reflect on where their own research and careers fit within the long journey of drug development."

"Building on this gathering, KASBP NJ/NY will continue to connect academia and industry and serve as a bridge between the Korean and U.S. biopharmaceutical ecosystems, creating more opportunities for collaboration and exchange," Kang said.

KASBP NJ/NY plans to continue offering programs focused on key issues in the pharmaceutical and biotech fields, where experts from academia, industry and other disciplines can share knowledge and experience and discover new opportunities for collaboration.

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About KASBP NJ/NY

The New Jersey/New York Chapter of the Korean American Society in Biotech and Pharmaceuticals (KASBP) connects Korean American scientists and pharmaceutical and biotech professionals across the region. Through conferences and its Linkups networking series, the chapter builds bridges between academia and industry and between the Korean and U.S. biopharmaceutical ecosystems.