

Stephen Munk, Ph.D. joined the Biodesign Institute at ASU as its Deputy Director in October of 2017. Steve is involved in strategic planning for the Institute, identifying new programs, and business operations associated with Institute including basic research, applied research, and advanced technology development programs as well as commercialization opportunity identification. He develops and manages relationships with external partner organizations and serves as an Institute representative for various committees and agencies. He is experienced in drug discovery, development, and manufacturing both as a scientist and as a manager. Prior to joining ASU, Steve was the CEO and President of Ash Stevens Inc., a full service Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) development and manufacturing organization. Under his leadership, Ash Stevens received twelve FDA approvals to manufacture innovator drug substances. These approvals include the oncology drugs bortezomib (Velcade®), busulfan (Busulfex®), clofarabine (Clolar®), and 5-azacitidine (Vidaza), ponatinib (Iclusig®) and ixazomib (Ninlaro®). Ash Stevens received six NIH research contracts under his leadership including four competing renewals. Prior to joining Ash Stevens in 1997, he worked at Allergan, Inc. as a medicinal chemist and co-team leader of the adrenergic drug discovery team responsible for commercializing Alphagan® to treat glaucoma.

He received his B.S. in chemistry at Arizona State University, and then earned his Ph.D. in organic synthesis at The University of California at Berkeley with Henry Rapoport and subsequently completed an American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellowship with Dale Boger at Purdue conducting studies involved in the sequence selective interaction of small molecules with DNA using the tools of molecular biology. Dr. Munk's work has been summarized in a number of publications and patents. He is a co-author of the 2016 book "Managing the Drug Discovery Process: How to Make It More Efficient and Cost-Effective". Dr. Munk served as an Adjunct Professor of Chemistry at Wayne State University and on the Henry Ford Community College Biotechnology Advisory Board. He served on the Steering Committee of the Chemistry in Cancer Research Working Group of the American Association for Cancer Research (CICR-AACR; 2008-2010; 2011-2013; Chairman, 2014), the SOCMA Board of Governors (2010-2013), the Board of Directors of MichBio (2008 – 2014; Chairman 2010 - 2014), the State Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) affiliate. He has been on the Board of AZBio since 2018. He also served on NSF Graduate Fellowship Application review committees. Steve currently is on the Board of Directors for TSRL Inc. and iMetabolic Biopharma as well as the Scientific Advisory Board of Systems Oncology.