

Dr. Yabannavar is currently at the Gates Foundation as Senior Program Officer working on mission to make vaccines and biologics available in poor countries. He is a senior executive with 36 years of process & product development, manufacturing and project leadership experience in biopharmaceuticals (including antibodies) and vaccines. In Gritstone Bio (Emeryville, CA) for 5 years as Executive VP, Chief Manufacturing & Technical Operations Officer, as well as Chief Technical Development Officer overseeing supply of personalized vaccines for cancer immunotherapy and vaccines including next generation mRNA products suitable for mass scale immunization against infectious diseases such as Covid-19. Worked as VP of Global Technical Operations – Vaccines, Biologics/Therapeutic Proteins & Sterile Operations at Merck (West Point, PA) for 4 years. Previously, Senior Vice President of Manufacturing Ops. & Technical Development at Emergent working on BARDA funded projects. Prior to that, he was the Transition Head of Technical R&D in Novartis Pharmaceuticals in Emeryville, CA following Chiron acquisition. At Chiron, Dr. Yabannavar led process development and clinical product manufacturing activities for biopharmaceuticals and vaccines. Prior to joining Chiron, Dr. Yabannavar was at Schering-Plough Corp. (Union, NJ), developing and commercializing processes for recombinant proteins, antibodies and antibiotics.

Dr. Yabannavar received his Ph.D. in (Bio)Chemical Engineering from MIT (Prof. Daniel Wang's lab) in 1988. He has made over 25 presentations at International conferences and published 10 papers and authored 2 patents. He was the Chair for the Biochemical Engineering XV Conference held in Quebec City (Canada) in 2007. He has served as a member of the Advisory Board for the Chemical Engineering and Materials Science Department at U. California, Davis (Davis, CA).