

Keynote Speaker

Local Innovation, Global Impact

MR. HERVÉ HOPPENOT, chairman and chief executive officer of Incyte, opened his presentation with his intentions for the evening: to educate the crowd on what's going on behind Incyte's walls. "Our goal is relatively simple. What we are trying to do is change the practice of medicine," Hoppenot explained. "Now, it's an ambitious goal, but we do it by providing physicians with new products that do not exist, developing them, and making them available."

Since Incyte's foundation in 2002 in Wilmington, the company has grown from employing twenty scientists, chemists, and biologists at the DuPont Experimental Station to employing over 2,500 worldwide, transforming into a global organization with a robust portfolio of treatments across Oncology and Inflammation & Autoimmunity. Incyte currently has employees in North America, Europe, and Asia.

Incyte presently has eight products commercially available for use, used to treat various forms of cancer, autoimmune diseases, and dermatological conditions. Hoppenot highlighted one drug, listed under the brand name Zynyz. Every biologically-created drug must follow its generic name with a unique four-letter code, to which Zynyz's is retifanlimab-dlwr. Those last four letters are the key; a slight nod to the state in which the product was made. Hoppenot emphasized with pride that this is the first drug named after a state – another first for the First State.

Hoppenot proudly shared that over two million people worldwide



have been treated by Incyte's products. The process, however, is not an easy one to complete; it takes, on average, 10+ years to develop such products. Incyte currently has twenty-four new compounds at some stage in this process. These compounds are designed to treat blood, skin, liver, GI, lung, head and neck, and endometrial cancers; and vitiligo, eczema, and rare skin conditions. There are also several partner programs focused on fighting rheumatoid arthritis, COVID-19, alopecia areata, and more.

Hoppenot also emphasized how impactful helping the community has been for

Incyte. They are active with many groups that are dedicated to helping the community at large, including the Cancer Support Community of Delaware, the B+ Foundation, and the Cancer Care Connection. "I must say, the activities of these groups ... are incredible," said Hoppenot. "And when you see the number of patients who are struck by cancer and end up in all kinds of difficult situations, you realize how small things can solve big issues."

He closed his remarks with a final call to action. "Our commitment for the future is simple because a lot of it is simply continuing what we are already doing; we are creating and testing around 20,000 new products every year," concluded Hoppenot. "We will also work on making Delaware a center for BioPharma innovation, not just with Incyte, but with other companies. ... It is really important for us as a company, because having colleagues doing the same thing as us is clearly going to help, but also because it can solve big health issues around the world."

Board Member of the Year

EACH YEAR, a board member is recognized by State Chamber staff as Board Member of the Year. Jason Gonzalez, senior manager of government affairs at DuPont, is this year's honoree for his advocacy for the organization and its staff. He has been a member of the DSCC Board of Governors since 2017 and joined the Board of Directors in 2019.

