LambdaVision is a UConn startup founded by Professor Robert Birge. The company is developing the first photoactive, protein-based implant to address and restore vision in patients with severe end-stage retinal degenerative diseases, including retinitis pigmentosa (RP) and age-related macular degeneration (AMD). LambdaVision’s subretinal implant uses the light-activated protein, bacteriorhodopsin (BR), to convert light energy into ion gradient that is capable of replacing the function of degenerate photoreceptor cells (rods and cones) in the retina.

Dr. Wagner has been actively involved with the company since its inception in 2009, and has been leading the company on both the research and developmental side, as well as with its commercialization. Her combined understanding of the science and business side of this venture has been pivotal in bringing the technology forward. During her talk, Dr. Wagner will discuss some of the recent research and development and commercialization efforts at LambdaVision and share her experiences and challenges with starting and leading a company.