Cytokinetics is a late-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on discovering, developing and commercializing first-in-class muscle activators as potential treatments for debilitating diseases in which muscle performance is compromised and/or declining. As a leader in muscle biology and the mechanics of muscle performance, the company is developing small molecule drug candidates specifically engineered to increase muscle function and contractility. Cytokinetics’ lead drug candidate is tirasemtiv, a fast skeletal muscle troponin activator, for the potential treatment of ALS. Tirasemtiv has been granted orphan drug designation and fast track status by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and orphan medicinal product designation by the European Medicines Agency for the potential treatment of ALS. Cytokinetics retains the right to develop and commercialize tirasemtiv, subject to an option held by Astellas Pharma Inc.

Cytokinetics is also collaborating with Astellas to develop CK-2127107, a fast skeletal muscle activator, for the potential treatment of spinal muscular atrophy, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and ALS. Cytokinetics is collaborating with Amgen Inc. to develop omeceamit mececarbil, a novel cardiac muscle activator, for the potential treatment of heart failure. Amgen holds an exclusive license worldwide to develop and commercialize omeceamit mececarbil and Astellas holds an exclusive license worldwide to develop and commercialize CK-2127107. Both licenses are subject to Cytokinetics' specified development and commercialization participation rights.

Robert Blum

Robert Blum has been President and CEO of Cytokinetics since 2007 and previously held roles of increasing responsibility since starting the company in 1998. Previously, Robert led Business Development and Commercial Development functions at COR Therapeutics from 1990-1998 and began his industry career at Syntex Corporation (Roche) and Marion Laboratories (Sanofi).

Robert served on the faculty at the Center for BioEntrepreneurship at UC San Francisco. He co-chaired the BIO Business Development Committee and has been an investor/consultant to emerging biopharmaceutical companies for over 30 years. Mr. Blum served on the National Board of the American Committee of the Weizmann Institute of Science and established the Blum Family Venture Philanthropy Fund to propel basic science discoveries at the Institute directed to incubate start-up’s and propel innovation for the Israeli life sciences economy. In addition, he established the Tikkun Olam Youth Science Prizes for Bay Area schools designed to further science education in the spirit of repairing the world. Robert served on the Board of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco and founded and chaired its Business Leadership Council. He also served on the Boards of San Francisco's Contemporary Jewish Museum and the Anti-Defamation League and now serves on the Board of Jewish Children and Family Services of San Francisco. Robert was named a Henry Crown Fellow of the Aspen Institute and is a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network. Mr. Blum received B.A. degrees in Human Biology and Economics from Stanford University and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.