PRESS RELEASE · NOVEMBER 17, 2026

Lotus Neuro Appoints Jay Stella, MBA, as Chief Business Officer

Biopharma dealmaker with three decades in the Boston–Cambridge ecosystem, including the device-plus-therapy combination at Akouos, joins to lead business development and partnering.

MIAMI – NOV. 17, 2026 – Lotus Neuro, a clinical-stage biotechnology company pairing focused ultrasound with leading therapeutic modalities to treat focal neurologic disease, today announced the appointment of Jay Stella, MBA, as Chief Business Officer. Mr. Stella reports to Founder and Chief Executive Officer Arjun "JJ" Desai, MD, and will lead the company's corporate and business development and alliance management.

Mr. Stella brings three decades of biopharma experience, nearly all of it in the Boston and Cambridge ecosystem, with assignments in Japan. He began in neuroscience on the business side of Biogen's multiple sclerosis franchise, then spent 15 years at Millennium and Takeda, moving from CMC and preclinical development into business development. He went on to lead corporate strategy and business development at Akouos, where, on an interim basis, he also led the program for the surgical device that delivered the company's AAV gene therapy into the cochlea. He also played a key role in the company's sale to Eli Lilly. Most recently he was Chief Business Officer at Strand Therapeutics, where he also served as acting Chief Financial Officer.

At Lotus Neuro, Mr. Stella will lead strategy and execution on partnered deals, from diligence and structuring to licensing, co-development and platform collaborations. He will partner with R&D on portfolio and asset strategy, work with Dr. Desai on corporate development and investor relations, manage key alliances including Insightec, and represent the company at partnering meetings worldwide.

> "Lotus has a three-body problem: the value lives in the combination of a therapeutic, focused ultrasound and the blood-brain barrier. Jay has lived a version of this before. At Akouos it was a therapeutic, a bespoke catheter and the round window of the cochlea. Different membrane, same problem. He builds deals that are simple and fair, and he lifts up everyone around him."
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> ARJUN "JJ" DESAI, MD · FOUNDER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, LOTUS NEURO

> "Great therapies are bought, not sold. Our job is to find the partners whose delivery problem Lotus already solves. Focused ultrasound gives medicines a way into the brain without changing the drug, and that makes Lotus a natural partner for companies across modalities. I'm excited to help build those partnerships."
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> JAY STELLA, MBA · CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICER, LOTUS NEURO

Mr. Stella holds a degree from the University of Vermont and an MBA from Boston University. He serves on the board of Reforest The Tropics and mentors founders through MIT's Venture Mentoring Service. He is based in the Boston area.

ABOUT LOTUS NEURO

Lotus Neuro is a clinical-stage biotechnology company advancing brain-targeted therapeutics through precision, low-frequency focused ultrasound. Spun out of Insightec in December 2025, the company pairs a clinically validated platform for opening the blood-brain barrier with medicines of any modality, opening the barrier only where the disease is and letting it close again. Its initial clinical focus is neuro-oncology, with programs and partnerships in neurodegeneration and other focal neurologic disease. Lotus Neuro is headquartered in Miami. Where Barriers Fall. Learn more at lotusneuro.com.

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This press release contains forward-looking statements about Lotus Neuro, Inc.'s technology and development plans that are subject to risks and uncertainties, and actual results may differ. Lotus Neuro's technology is investigational and has not been cleared or approved by the FDA.

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