



Szczepan Baran, VMD, MS — Chief Scientific Officer, Instem & Co-Founder, Digital Preclinical Society

Szczepan Baran, VMD, MS, is a veterinarian, scientist, and leader in **AI-driven preclinical drug development**. He is currently **Chief Scientific Officer at Instem**, a Boston-based SaaS provider for preclinical R&D, where he leads scientific and AI strategy across **in silico predictive modeling, translational safety analytics, and data-driven drug development**

solutions  [Instem+1](#). His work focuses on embedding AI into day-to-day preclinical workflows to generate **regulatory-ready evidence** that accelerates decision-making from

discovery through submission  [LinkedIn](#).

Professional Background

Baran spent the last decade building the **regulatory infrastructure for AI-driven preclinical science**, not from within the technology, but at the policy table where standards are set. He served as **Head of Emerging Technologies at Novartis** and **Chief**

Scientific Officer at VeriSIM Life  [Instem+1](#). He is now **Co-Chair of the FNIH Validation & Qualification Network (VQN)**, which sets evidentiary standards for **New**

Approach Methodologies (NAMs) acceptance by the U.S. FDA and EMA  [Instem+1](#). He also co-founded and co-chairs the **3Rs Collaborative's AI Initiative** alongside the U.S.

FDA, bridging AI, translational science, and evolving preclinical evidence expectations  [Instem](#).

Leadership & Advocacy

Baran is **Co-Founder of the Digital Preclinical Society**, a community advancing digital

transformation in preclinical research  [LinkedIn](#). He is also **President of the 3Rs Collaborative**, promoting the 3Rs principles (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement) in

research  [LinkedIn](#). He has pioneered initiatives like **Tech4Pets**, bringing human-grade

health technology into veterinary care  [LinkedIn](#).



Philosophy & Impact

Baran's principle is “**practical AI, stronger evidence, sharper decisions, real-world impact**” — aiming to make preclinical evidence biologically relevant, analytically credible,

and fit for purpose for both human and veterinary patients  [LinkedIn](#). He emphasizes moving beyond AI hype to **scientific validity, regulatory confidence, and**

submission-ready outcomes  [LinkedIn+1](#).

Current Role at Instem

At Instem, Baran's mission is to **turn the industry's inflection point in AI adoption into infrastructure** that supports more patient-relevant drug development. His leadership strengthens Instem's ability to deliver **submission-ready preclinical data** and expand its scientific and regulatory footprint, including a five-year extension of its U.S. FDA research

collaboration through 2031  [Instem+1](#).

In short, Szczepan Baran is a bridge between **cutting-edge AI, translational safety science, and regulatory standards**, shaping how preclinical research is conducted, validated, and brought to market.